

to industry to do what the minister hopes it will do in the way of providing employment. I have read in connection with this sentence the Glass bill that was introduced in the United States Congress, and I assume from this sentence in Bill No. 19 before us that the intention here is also to assist industry in a financial way in providing employment. I know something about industry. I know that the Liberal government which went out of office in 1930 and the Conservative government which followed it, after the commencement of the depression, invited industry to keep its men employed and give as much work as possible notwithstanding the fact that there was only limited sale for the products of industry at that time.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. MacNICOL: When the committee rose at six o'clock I had begun to make a few remarks on the last sentence of subsection 1 of section 4. I was about to say that in my opinion industry will go the limit in assisting the minister and the government in providing jobs wherever possible under what is expected from this bill. When the depression itself started I said that industry at that time had responded to the request of the two previous governments, and I believe it will respond to the request of this government to keep as many men employed as it possibly can. The industrialists accomplished this in the first instance by fixing up their plants. Anyone who makes a tour of the industrial institutions of Ontario to-day will find, what he would never have found to the same extent prior to the depression, that these concerns have been renovated from top to bottom and are in a state of thorough repair. Nearly all companies kept their men on for the purpose of carrying out that work, and I remember very well that they made up a great deal of stock; their storerooms were full of stock of all kinds. At the moment there are certain lines of industry that are enjoying a fairly substantial amount of business and I do hope that their business will increase. I have no doubt that some of these industries will be able to take on men. But there are other lines that have impaired their capital structure by carrying out the program to which I have just referred. I know a number of these myself, and just how these companies will cooperate with the government I do not know. When the minister refers to the section again I should like to hear from him exactly what

he has in mind in connection with such firms. There are other firms, some of them I regret to say very large, which have suffered severely as a result of the depression. I will not say that any government is to blame, for the depression has got past any question of any government being responsible for it, and it is our duty now as Canadians to help the government in every way we possibly can to pull the country out of the depression.

I do not care to mention the name of the particular plant I have in mind; it would not do any good to do so because the plant is in the hands of the liquidator. But in the last ten days, when making a survey of industrial plants, I visited a large plant that had formerly employed about a thousand men, and that plant is to-day in the hands of a receiver. I have already referred to the bill introduced in the United States by Senator Glass, I believe. I tried to find the bill during the dinner hour but I could not place my hands on it. The purpose of that bill was to try to keep in operation companies that could be kept going without any severe strain on the country, through financial assistance afforded them in the meanwhile. If the sentence in the section to which I have referred contemplates anything of this kind I believe a great deal of good will result from it, though of course I am not in a position to say where the government would get the money to do all that; that is a problem for the government. Certainly there are many companies—I know of many myself—which to-day are hanging on by their teeth, so to speak, and if this bill can give them some assistance so that they may continue in operation I believe a great deal of good could be done in that regard and employment provided.

In the United States they are having the same problem that we have to deal with. I forget the name of the congressman or the senator who recently introduced a bill for the purpose of assisting companies to bring their machinery up to date. Naturally during a depression machinery deteriorates to a great extent through lack of use for one thing and owing to age for another. If times improve the question we shall have to face is: Will our plants be in ample shape to compete with plants in the United States which, according to reports from that country, have been re-equipped through government assistance and made efficient for world competition? If there is in this section anything that will help Canadian industry in that direction it will serve a twofold purpose: It will provide something for the companies that manufacture machinery and at the same time it will