

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

the committee that wharves and breakwaters are essential to the carrying on of the fishing industry; they are not only a convenience, they are a necessity from the point of view both of commerce and safety. I would urge my friend the Minister of Labour and my friend the Minister of Public Works once more to look into the matter of the construction of a work at that point, primarily to furnish employment, but also—and this is very important—to furnish needed facilities for the carrying on of fishing operations.

Mr. VALLANCE: Mr. Chairman, yesterday I directed a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce, (Mr. Stevens) with respect to the grading of Garnet wheat. I notice he is not in his seat. I should like to direct the attention of the government particularly to this question. To-day is the last day of March, to-morrow will be the first day of April—spring is close at hand. When putting my question yesterday I read part of a letter—one of many I had received—regarding changing some of the grades of wheat. As the government is aware, large numbers of farmers are expecting seed from the Saskatchewan relief commission. I should like to suggest to the Minister of Trade and Commerce and to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Weir)—because I think he himself made the observation some time before the house met—that it would not be advisable this year to change the grades of wheat. For instance, in the answer I got from the Minister of Trade and Commerce he said:

I understand that the committee will be called on Tuesday next, and that Mr. Ramsay, the chairman of the Board of Grain Commissioners, and others who have been making a study will attend before the agricultural committee so that the whole matter may be given careful consideration.

What the minister is talking of there is the possibility of creating a special grade for Garnet wheat. As I pointed out yesterday, many farmers in various parts of the western provinces are growing this wheat, and the creation of a new grade for it would penalize those farmers. Therefore in view of the close proximity of seeding time I would urge upon the government that no steps be taken this year to create a special grade for Garnet wheat, but that the investigation be continued for another year, when the agricultural committee will be in a better position to suggest to the government what should be done in this regard.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the hon. Minister of Labour, first, what is the number of white collar unemployed in this [Mr. Ralston.]

country; second, what he intends to do for their relief? He does not answer. Is he asleep? The previous Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) had powerful brains in a fragile body, but his successor (Mr. Gordon) is his antithesis. On one occasion Paul Bourget received one of his colleagues of the French Academy and put him up for the night. The next morning he knocked at his guest's door at nine o'clock and was answered sharply: "Don't disturb me, I am working." At eleven thirty he knocked again, and receiving no answer opened the door, when he found his guest snoring gently. He said, "Ah, my friend, you are over-working yourself." Another gentleman, a former provincial minister afterwards a member of the federal government, was attending a dinner with a person having the serious looks of the Minister of Labour, a guest was asked by a friend, "I wonder what that most serious man is thinking about?" The reply came, "Don't worry. He is thinking about nothing!"

I am weary of hearing the Prime Minister repeatedly saying he and his colleagues are working twenty hours a day. Of course, it may be all right so far as the Prime Minister is concerned, for it may be taken as a form of punishment for his having centred upon himself public opinion during the last election when from every platform throughout the country he declared, "I will do this, I will do that for you." It was repeated everywhere. But I do not think the Prime Minister should complain. There are ten million people in this country. Suppose two million of these are electors. Well, if each one of those electors wrote to the Prime Minister for information about something, asking, for instance, who was the Minister of Labour, he would receive two million letters a year—a large number. The Prime Minister is the most decent of men. But the working hours of the ministers cannot differ greatly from what they were when the Liberals were in power. I never heard my leader when he was Prime Minister saying anything about working twenty hours a day. He was simply following the example of his great predecessor, Laurier. Sir Wilfrid was astir early in the morning, from eight thirty to nine thirty he dictated correspondence to his private secretary, then he proceeded to the east block to receive callers, at eleven o'clock attended council, at three o'clock he was in the house, and at night he also attended here.

I am getting tired of this humbug about ministers overworking. They are working so much that no one knows what they are really doing—they are always at work. There are