

to look to a neighbouring country for room for our people. It has been stated by an authority in colonization matters that the northern part of one province alone can give a living to 300,000 families.

I think that careful study should be given to the possibilities of a back-to-the-land movement, especially at the present time, when we are finding it so difficult to take care of the unemployed. In the Province of Ontario, the Government has removed squads of young men to the north to help in the building of the transcontinental highway; but the relief given in that way is only temporary, for after they have been separated from their homes a few months they will flock back to the cities and help to make the problem as bad as ever. On the other hand, if our Governments would sincerely endeavour to open up new lands in the north and give financial assistance to families, the resulting relief would be permanent. I happen to come from one of the largest industrial centres in Ontario, and I am sorry to say that conditions are such there that I hesitate to quote figures for fear of startling honourable members. But I will state this, that I am a member of a relief committee in one of the border municipalities, where from 75 to 85 per cent of the people are living on public funds. Such a state of affairs is more than alarming. Of course, I realize that the situation is partly due to the fact that we have been trying to take care of about 22,000 people who formerly worked in the City of Detroit, and many of whom we have had to feed this winter.

As a doctor, I believe that back-to-the-land movement is one of the most effective remedies that can be prescribed for our national ills. It would not be necessary for people to take the treatment three times a day, before or after meals, for in most cases one treatment would, I think, work a permanent cure.

Next Thursday in the City of Montreal there will be opened a national congress on colonization, which will last two days. I intend to keep in touch with what goes on there, and I hope that later on in the course of this session I shall be able to give to honourable members some more detailed and more practical information as regards this vital problem.

The Address was adopted.

The Senate adjourned until Thursday, February 11, at 8 p.m.

Hon. Mr. LACASSE.

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 11, 1932.

The Senate met at 8 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

NEW SENATOR INTRODUCED

Hon. John Alexander MacDonald, of St. Peters, Cape Breton, N.S., introduced by Right Hon. Arthur Meighen and Hon. J. McLean.

DOMINION INSURANCE COMPANIES STATUS AND POWERS BILL

FIRST READING

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN introduced Bill C1, an Act respecting the Status and Powers of Dominion Insurance Companies.

He said: This is a companion to the Bill respecting British and Foreign Companies, which was introduced two days ago.

The Bill was read the first time.

The Hon. the SPEAKER: When shall the Bill be read the second time?

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: To-morrow.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: If the right honourable gentleman saw any advantage in our taking the second reading immediately, in order that the public, and particularly the parties specially interested, might examine the Bill before it is referred to the Committee on Banking and Commerce, to which probably the right honourable gentleman will desire to send it, we might take the second reading to-morrow with the consent of the House. The discussion of the proposed measure might well be postponed until the Committee meets. I do not suppose there will be any discussion on the principle of the Bill.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I am grateful to the honourable senator for the suggestion. The reason I mentioned to-morrow was that I anticipated that the second reading of the companion Bill will be moved then. I should be very glad if the House would follow the suggestion of the honourable senator and permit the second reading of this Bill also to-morrow, because I know it would be wise to allow time to intervene before the Committee takes the Bill into consideration, in order that those specially interested in insurance might have an opportunity to peruse the Bill and to be heard.