

of giving relief, and we have placed this motion on the order paper in the hope that the government will substitute for it a better scheme.

I know that the old country scheme has been condemned, but I would like to say this: Several years ago I had the opportunity of travelling for some day with the Empire Parliamentary Association delegation which toured this country. I was very much interested in the unemployment scheme of Great Britain, and inquiries were made privately from these men, and the question was also raised publicly. Every member of that delegation who spoke with regard to the matter said that Great Britain to-day simply could not get along without unemployment insurance. Lord Peel, the head of the delegation, said that he was heartily in favour of it, and Liberal members and Labour members all agreed. In fact, several of the most prominent members of the delegation confessed that had there not been unemployment insurance in Great Britain following the war, Great Britain would have had a revolution on her hands, that it was only their unemployment insurance that had saved Great Britain from the revolution that had taken place on the continent. The hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Speakman) suggests that the members of the delegation should have been charged with inciting to riot for having made such statements as that.

Yesterday there was considerable discussion in this house of Remembrance day. I did not participate in that debate, but I could not but recall having received a few days ago a letter from one of the returned men. I should like to put a portion of his letter before the house, as it indicates the appalling position in which a great many men in this country find themselves to-day. My correspondent says—I shall quote only the pertinent extracts:

I was in France and Belgium in the Canadian Expeditionary Force infantry. . . . Born in England 1895. . . . Came to Canada 1906. . . . Thirty-seven years of age. . . . Married. . . . I sleep in a box car to save rent.

He refers to his experience at the front:

The horror of the flash of steel . . . the baying of maddened men . . . the blood-curdling roars of bayoneted men . . . the hideous faces upon the doomed, cut-off from any back up. . . . the mania to murder and the mania to survive . . . silence which men keep after the bloody slaughter . . . the wading over dead and wounded bodies . . . the standing up to the waists in cold water in winter . . . vermin . . . hunger and thirst . . . this is the remembrance of one who heard the call in 1914.

It is nothing to the grim struggle of to-day against hunger, unemployment, fear, and police

terrors. Organization is smashed ruthlessly by our police . . . the press poisons the public to cruelty to all distress . . . the churches ignore the corruption of capitalist society . . . thousands of veterans robbed of their pensions by red tape . . . wandering . . . freight cars their bed . . . back doors their existence . . . employment, just like a vision.

A way must be found to change this old order, because crime will get us yet. We must survive, crooked or otherwise . . . It is impossible to get a decent living and I am starving . . . I am ready for arms even at the expense of death; so long as my sacrifice brings to someone else what I died for, I am amply repaid.

I will join the militants . . . I don't expect a bite without a fight.

One or two gentlemen laugh, but I think most men here will not feel like laughing at that. It comes out of the heart of a man who to-day is simply desperate.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: Why not give his name?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I think the house will recognize that the hon. gentleman who interjects that question is so far removed from the spirit in which I have brought this forward that they will pay very little attention to his interruptions.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Is he in favour of an equal distribution of health as well as of wealth? I would support him in that.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am not discussing what this man may do. He is desperate, and his is not an isolated case. That is the position in which thousands of men find themselves to-day—returned men, as well as men who stayed in this country and worked along during the war, men who constitute the basis of society to-day. I cannot see how we can ignore the plight in which they find themselves. As my colleague said, we are sometimes accused of not bringing forward constructive suggestions. This suggestion of unemployment insurance to meet the present needs is an eminently constructive suggestion. I do not say that it is going to cure unemployment. I admit that it is only a palliative. I am not sure that we are not almost beyond the stage where we can enact this unemployment insurance, because the situation has become so desperate, but I am pointing out some of the things that might yet possibly save the situation.

I would urge that unemployment is not simply temporary in character. We have had it, as the Prime Minister himself admits, in times past during cycles of depression. I believe that it is inherent in the present economic system. The Prime Minister might not