

Mr. POOLE: While it may be beyond the power of this government to provide employment, it is not beyond the power of the government to take care of the men. The average wage on the railways will be thirty-five cents an hour, and on the assumption that the men are employed for six months they will get \$400, out of which they must provide for everything, and in addition must keep themselves during the other six months of the year. That is what we are up against. I am not very much concerned whether the government finds employment for the people next winter. If the minister has in mind such schemes as we have had in the past, for instance, giving farm help \$5 a month, then I believe this is a reflection on the intelligence of the government. Such a scheme has been tried and found wanting, and it is something which should be resisted by every red-blooded Canadian, because after all it is getting back to feudalism. It is not progress; it is going backwards when you give a man a pittance of \$5 a month to work on a farm. So long as the government concentrates its attention on employment, very little will be done; it should concentrate its attention on providing a living for the people of Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Does my hon. friend suggest that the government should not seek to find measures for providing employment for the unemployed?

Mr. POOLE: I do not think that is the problem which confronts us. Employment itself is not virtuous; employment is only a means to production; that is all. We have the goods and that is why people are not employed. What we need to do is to monetize the goods, and to do so without putting Canada into debt we must utilize the national credit.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The government's policy is to endeavour to find employment for men who are unemployed. If my hon. friend's view is that such is not the right policy I regret that we have to differ with him as to what is wisest. Certainly, however, with respect to the question of unemployment in Canada today, the government is of the view that its first duty, the first obligation of the state, is to endeavour to assist those who are unemployed to find profitable employment.

Mr. POOLE: What would be the purpose of employment? Would it be because employment is a necessity or would it be to provide wages?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. POOLE: That is all right, but I do not think the hon. gentleman who interrupts has scratched below the economic surface. Some believe that people live to work; we do not.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. POOLE: The only purpose of work is to produce, and in this country we have the goods but we have not the purchasing power. I understand the difficulties that the government faces in this transitional period, but I would ask the Prime Minister this question: He speaks of providing employment, and I am trying to get his point of view. Is it because employment in itself is virtuous? Is it because it is absolutely necessary?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The policy of the government is to endeavour to help men to obtain employment in order that they may earn an honest living. If any man is not prepared to work with that object in view the state should not recognize any further obligation towards him. But so long as a man is willing and ready to work it is at times such as the present clearly a duty of the state to help him to find means of getting profitable employment which will enable him to make an honest living for himself and to provide for others who may be dependent upon him.

Mr. POOLE: Provided he was willing and ready to work and work was not there, what would the government do then?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have answered that question; I have pointed out that such is the position many are now in. In the country there are, unfortunately, thousands of men who are out of work and who are ready and willing to work if they can find employment. While they are unable to get work the state up to the present has been supplying relief, but every man in whom there is true manhood will prefer work to relief. What the government of the day is seeking to do is, therefore, to provide means whereby those who are unemployed will be enabled to find work.

Mr. POOLE: May I ask another question. I know it is quite a long story but I would ask the Prime Minister this question: Why is it that people cannot find work now? Is it not because we can produce without those who are now unemployed? Is that not true?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I do not think anyone can produce without working and I do not think anyone can hope to live at the expense of the state without working. It is