

stated it with great emphasis and very dogmatically, but with all deference and respect I beg leave to differ, not perhaps wholly but at least in part. A similar statement was made by one of the witnesses before our committee. The witness detailed the various social services for which he was responsible in his own organization, such for instance as protection against accidents, accident control, sickness benefits and that sort of thing. He said that the cost of these services had been passed on by him to the consumer. I challenged it at the time; I asked him if it was not a fact that these social services which he had given in the limited community to which he referred had paid for themselves. He immediately corrected his statement and said yes, that certainly the cost of his accident insurance, his sickness provision and the care of his staff and so on had not been passed on entirely, at all events, to the consumer; that it had paid for itself. It is true that the consumer is the last well out of which we must draw. But in computing the cost of this measure to the consumer, as you put down on one side the price that will be charged against the payrolls of the dominion, on the other side you must list the value in a better satisfied working community and all that goes with greater security to working people. Of course the figures are large in the gross, but in the individual case they are small, and when you contemplate the very small figures involved I very much doubt whether in the last analysis anything will be passed on to the consumer. But nobody knows.

It has been said that this concession to the working people will only result in further demands. Well, I suppose the working people are not likely to be easily satisfied; nobody else is. I presume we shall have further demands in consequence of this concession. But hon. members must remember that we have had workmen's compensation laws in effect. We have had further demands, but nobody has run to excess. We have old age pensions, we have mothers' allowances, and we have the present forms of relief. Surely if granting something in the way of a social service but adds to the demands upon parliament, we should already have been swamped by these demands. Why should we anticipate greater difficulty in resisting unreasonable demands upon this particular fund than we have in resisting unreasonable demands in the various categories I have mentioned? And more might be added. Of course we shall have demands: let us hope that we shall be able to satisfy some of those demands as time goes on and they appear to be reasonable.

I have in my hands a telegram addressed to me by the Seamen's Union. It is somewhat similar to that already read by the hon.

member for Cape Breton South. I should like to put myself on record, with him, as saying that I wish this group—and also the stevedores, and I might mention many more—had been included in the bill. The reason why these particular men were not included is that they are seasonal workers—very much so. It was felt by the department and those who have studied it that were they included the bill would be greatly complicated, much more than it is at present, and that it is wiser under the circumstances to take the steps that seem clear rather than enter upon doubtful steps which might vitiate the whole bill if we tried to go too far at once.

But we have provided in this bill a means whereby we may extend it as time goes on. The advisory committee and the commission may take the initiating steps which will in due season include these and others now exempted from the measure. Meantime it is, as someone said, a first class start on what we hope to accomplish from year to year. Of course as time goes on the measure will be bettered.

Another point which has not been mentioned in the discussion in the house is that this bill is an admission on the part of parliament that the disastrous conditions of unemployment that have prevailed in Canada in the past will continue in the future. I do not think it is. It is true that because of the stupidity of ourselves, this generation, we have not successfully wrestled with or solved that terrible problem of unemployment. We have not even discussed the fundamentals of the problem, we have weakly set it aside. The time is coming when the business people of this community, the great middle class, must tackle that problem courageously; no matter where the chips may fall, we must settle the question in due season.

I want it understood, by my constituents at all events, that in voting for this measure I do not give up the hope that has been with me as long as I can remember, that the time will come when the Canadian people will attack this problem effectively and abolish the anomaly of an industrious and progressive people, living in the midst of great resources, yet with large numbers of their population unable to support themselves by their labour. Stupidity, nothing else! Nature intended that we should all be busy and that we should make our living by applying our labour to the resources of nature. But in some way or other we have got into a jug-handled condition—stupid beyond measure—in which we waste practically half the productive power of our people. Perhaps we of this generation have not enough intelligence or brains to solve that problem; I hope our children will be wiser.