

*Supply—Defence—Relief Camps*

on a question of this kind—no hon. member, I say, has admitted that at any time in the last four years the world has been going through a very serious crisis. No hon. gentleman has suggested or admitted that Canada is merely participating in a world wide crisis. But I make this statement, that Canada has come through the crisis better than any other country in the world, and I make no exception to that statement. I do not except Great Britain or any other country. According to the figures given out by Great Britain and by the United States, the two countries with which we most frequently compare ourselves, Great Britain has more unemployment according to population than we have to-day. Her figure is 2,500,000 and her population is four times ours. In other words, on that basis, we should have about 600,000 unemployed, whereas we have been 450,000 and 500,000. And in the United States it is admitted by the government itself that they have 10,000,000 unemployed. Indeed it is claimed by Green of the Labour group over there that the number of unemployed in that country is between 11,000,000 and 12,000,000, which is twice as large as ours, per thousand of population. There have been 30,000,000 unemployed throughout the world, yet Canada has taken care of her unemployed better than any other country.

The hon. member for Quebec South is usually pretty fair, but he is playing good politics; I will not question that. But he attacked us in regard to the relief camps and he called them slave camps. I do not think that was worthy of him. His predecessor of the same race who went to the provincial house used to talk about slave camps and I thought we were rid of that word when he left us, because it is ridiculous. If it is slavery to take boys who are running around getting into mischief, who have nothing to do, who have nothing to engage either mind or hand, and to bring these boys into camps and feed, clothe and shelter them, and give them a little money to spend while they are working in these camps—if that is slavery, then I know of millions of people in various parts of the world who would love to indulge in slavery of that kind.

Mr. POWER: They gave the same excuse when they took the negroes from Africa.

Mr. MANION: And as the Minister of Finance says, they go voluntarily to the camps; they are not driven there. One of my hon. friends from one of the Vancouvers complained bitterly because one of these men

[Mr. Manion.]

had been called an agitator and had been turned out of the camps. He went under an assumed name to five or six different camps and was kicked out of each one. He must have been a rotten agitator and I imagine he was well kicked out. But he asked to get back into the camps; he kept changing his name, begging his way back into the camps, and he must have liked them. I am not trying to introduce politics into this. But because I speak in a firm or fairly emphatic voice I am accused of playing politics, though my hon. friends can talk any way they like and that is not politics. I am merely stating the Canadian point of view when I say that I do not think it is good for this country that anyone should be continually describing conditions in Canada as if we treated our unemployed worse than other countries have treated theirs, when as a matter of fact we have treated ours better. No one can become so excited on this question as the hon. gentleman who has just sat down. One would think that he was the only man in this chamber who was interested in the Canadian people who are unemployed. I make this statement without fear of contradiction, that there is not a gentleman on the other side of the house or on this who is not just as much interested in the unemployed and in the poor as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre—no one on either side of the house, either the lady member or any hon. gentleman.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Chairman—

Mr. MANION: Keep your seat; I have the floor.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I would ask that that expression be withdrawn. There is nothing I said that warranted such a statement.

Mr. MANION: I have nothing to withdraw. The hon. gentleman has stood up forty times in my hearing and in a loud and emphatic voice talked about the unemployed and the injustice done them. He works himself into a passion, and if he were full blooded he would burst a blood vessel; but he is not a bit more interested than anyone else in the unemployed except to appeal to the group who are unemployed, and appeal in a demagogic way. He is not a bit more interested in the unemployed than is any hon. gentleman either on the other side or over here.

And when he starts talking about peace, can he tell me one person in all this country who suggests anything but peace? Is there anyone in Canada who does not want peace?