

and the Government already has done a little, it hopes, to help in reaching a solution of the difficulties in the days that lie ahead. It is not easy to devise a policy for the relief of unemployment, or to create an unemployment insurance scheme or anything of that sort as a panacea or cure, because Parliament, or the Government, like the physician, must ascertain the primary causes before it can intelligently apply a remedy. The Government has acted upon the suggestion made last summer, that, inasmuch as 1931 is the decennial census year, provision ought to be made for taking a census of all the unemployed in Canada and ascertaining their former employment, their sex, their age, the length of time they have been out of work, and a number of other relevant facts, so that when the census is completed there will be concrete and reliable information to assist the Government authorities, and the economists who are doing research work, to form accurate conclusions as to what can be done towards discovering something to effect a permanent cure.

Within the borders of our own country, as well as in many other countries, I presume, there are many citizens who feel that the passing of a Bill will entirely remedy a grievance. In many countries that sort of experiment has been proved by experience to be a serious hindrance rather than a help to national welfare. One need only instance the unemployment insurance legislation passed in the Motherland. I was one of those who were greatly pleased with that scheme, as I believed it would operate successfully. For a time it undoubtedly was a splendid thing, but as the years went on and unemployment increased the plan was found to be entirely inadequate; and, as all honourable members know, the resulting burden upon the British Government and people has become a matter of grave national concern. I think Canada should endeavour to profit by the experiments of other countries, and thereby avoid schemes that experience has shown to be inadvisable.

The Right Honourable the Prime Minister has announced the Government's intention to put through a technical education Bill along the lines of the legislation that was abandoned in 1929. I was pleased, and indeed a little surprised, to find that in 1927 the Government of every province in Canada went on record—as is disclosed in the files of the Department of Labour—urging the continuance of that legislation. The present Administration are satisfied that the results achieved in the ten years that the Act was in force justify the passage of another such measure

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for the promotion of technical education and vocational training for the rising generation throughout this Dominion.

The old age pension legislation is a more difficult matter. The Prime Minister has indicated the intention to deal with it, but no decision has yet been made as to how far the measure will be carried this session. The question of jurisdiction between the provinces and the Dominion will have to be carefully considered before final action is taken.

The Speech from the Throne dealt with other matters, which I shall not attempt to discuss in detail at this time. Extended reference has been made to them in another place, and I commend to every honourable member of this Chamber a careful perusal of the statements made by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister yesterday. Dealing with criticisms of some of his actions and utterances at the Imperial Conference, he declared that these were exactly in keeping with the principles laid down, in discussions with the British Government, by one of Canada's great statesmen of former days, the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

I submit, honourable senators, that my honourable friend the leader on the other side of this House (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) in his speech last night said very little that demands a reply. He condemned only the Government's tariff policy, which he considered to be an erroneous one. He quite frankly and properly expressed his views on that subject, but I do not intend to enter into a tariff debate at this time. I should like to congratulate my honourable friend upon the manner in which he addressed the House. I consider the theme of his speech was a model of the way in which subjects should be dealt with by honourable members of this Chamber at all times, inasmuch as the underlying motive was the welfare of Canada rather than political considerations.

In passing, may I remark that although I do not profess to be a patriarch in this Chamber, I have had the pleasure of sitting here for some years, and I believe that some honourable members of the House have had such a wide experience in and are so well informed about public affairs and business and professional matters, that if they would take a more active part in our discussions the Senate would become even more useful than it now is. There are numerous questions of public interest to which some honourable members, from whom we hear all too infrequently, might address themselves either in the House or in committees, and I am sure that if they did so good results would be felt throughout the Dominion. Nothing is farther from my mind than the criticism of any honourable member,