

The Address—Mr. Starr

hand, however, we find that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Sharp) is now negotiating for the lowering of tariffs. The Minister of Trade and Commerce is as busy as a bee trying to lower tariffs and eliminate industry in Canada. The new minister of industry has not yet been appointed. He is behind the eight ball; he will never catch up with the Minister of Trade and Commerce. If the Minister of Trade and Commerce carries out his policies he will eliminate more Canadian industries in two years than the new minister will be able to establish in the next five years.

Mr. Churchill: He will not have five years.

Mr. Starr: The question is, who will win, and I am betting my money on the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Is that the way to provide jobs for Canadians? I would point out to those on the treasury benches that they must give this matter very careful consideration, having in mind the manner in which many industries were established in this country in order to provide year round jobs.

One direct and tangible result of our policies in the past has been the manufacture of automatic transmissions and automobile parts in Canada. This has certainly given a great impetus to the automobile industry of this country. They talk about a standard economy in this country. The automobile industry is selling more cars than ever before. There are more people employed in that industry than ever before, and this industry affects every village, town and city across the country. Why are they enjoying such an impetus in their growth and prosperity? It is because they are selling cars. Are they exporting these cars? No, they are selling them to Canadians. Canadians are buying them, because under the Conservative government of five and a half years Canadians can now afford to buy cars.

Mr. Pickersgill: It is just the new confidence.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Gaffney: Tricky, but inaccurate.

Mr. Starr: The Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) need not go into any gyrations, because he must remember that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hays) has taken the subsidy off buttermilk.

Mr. Pigeon: To save \$6 million.

Mr. Starr: One of the basic things this country needs, and which it has needed for some time, is vocational training. We dealt with that matter very effectively when we were in office. Because of the tremendous advance made in vocational training we will

[Mr. Starr.]

have on the labour market skilled and trained young people possessing the basic qualifications which are required for jobs in industry. This is what we did in the short space of two and a half years. I think it is incumbent upon this government to see to it that when these young people emerge from vocational training, jobs will be available for them. We will make sure that we point this out to them from time to time. That is why it is urgent that the machinery of co-operation between management and labour, which we set up through such bodies as the productivity council, be not allowed to lapse into rust and disuse. We need more jobs in Canada. The best way of providing these jobs is through the co-operation of labour and management. They have a very important part to play. Therefore I hope the government will do everything they possibly can to bring about a greater degree of labour-management co-operation in this country.

Another problem is the effect of automation upon the labour force of this country, which is a terribly fearful thing to the older worker. We presented a bill designed to deal with this problem in a specific way. That bill was acclaimed by all who understood it and were interested in it. We hope that the new Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen) and the government will again bring this bill in for consideration by this parliament.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to refer for a few moments to our school building program designed to give Canadians the advantage of learning new trades and skills. I feel this is one of the basic problems confronting this country. I do not intend to go into detail regarding the expenditure which has been incurred in building these schools. I want to point out, nevertheless, that it is now giving 135,000 Canadians an opportunity to learn new trades and skills. I hope that after a careful assessment of this program, which is ending in October of this year, the present government will come to the proper decision and, if necessary, build more schools in order to provide education of this type for the people of Canada. There is no mention of this in the speech from the throne, even though it represents, in my opinion, the basic solution to the problem of unemployment.

The municipal winter works program has been effective in curbing the steady onset of seasonal unemployment, and I trust the new Minister of Labour will look sympathetically at these arrangements even though the minister of external affairs may be against them; I recall that he dismissed the program as a bagatelle when it was introduced into this house. My own feeling is that it has done well in providing jobs for Canadians each winter on a temporary basis.