

great danger, of which we have ample evidence, of serious delay in the presenting of its report, and this commission is no exception in that regard.

In addition, there is always the possibility that a government may attempt to still criticism against it by referring to the fact that the matter is under consideration by a commission which will report in due course. One commission dealing with a subject of this kind is bad enough; but when there are two commissions whose reports must be waited for, that is going just a little too far as regards the commission form of government in this country. There used to be in Toronto a belt line railway. Perhaps a number of hon. members will remember that old railway which went around the city. You got on at one point, paid your fare and made a circle right around until you arrived back where you started. Riding on these old street-cars, you had, when you came back to that original point, to pay another fare or get off. So far as this government's policy with respect to unemployment and agricultural distress is concerned, I would liken it in some respects to the old belt line railway. When the people of Canada have taken that circular ride and come back to the original starting point, they will not pay the fare; they will not get off; but they will change the motorman and the conductor who are running the line.

Pursuing this analogy a little further, may I point out this sequence. Prior to the election of 1935, the Liberal party sought a mandate to cure these cancers in our economic and political body. They received that mandate in the election of 1935. They then proceeded to form a government. The government decided to appoint a national employment commission. Then the national employment commission started to work. Afterwards, before the report of that commission was brought down, we had another commission, the royal commission on dominion-provincial relations, but still no report. Later there came the report of the national employment commission, which represents the stage we are at to-day. Now we are asked to wait until the royal commission on dominion-provincial relations has made its report before any real, strategic move can be made to deal with this great problem. I predict that when the Rowell commission's report has come in, the government will again meet and discuss it; a decision will be arrived at that nothing can be done about this question until the people have been again consulted, and another election will be upon us. In other words, we will have travelled all around the circle of the old belt

line with regard to unemployment and agricultural distress, and will be back exactly at the place we were when we started out.

The report of the national employment commission does not, in my opinion, present a true picture of our national difficulties. Few hon. members represent a constituency more normally prosperous or better balanced than that of Peel.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. GRAYDON: I shall except the constituencies of all those gentlemen who have said, "Oh, oh". The condition of the people in the constituency I represent shows the scars of unemployment and agricultural distress and the depression in general to an extent which I confess I do not like to see. I shall hand to the Minister of Labour to-night a few photographs taken in a southern part of the constituency of Peel, showing some of the housing conditions with which we are faced in a township at the lower end of that constituency. These pictures were given to me by an unemployed man who has been on relief for quite a long time. The visits which most of us have made from time to time to these poorer homes have familiarized us with conditions in a much more vivid way than the figures and statements of the national employment commission could possibly do.

Few hon. members live more closely in contact with the working man and his family than I do. If I were given to boasting I think I would boast about my position in that regard; for only those who day by day, week by week, and year by year are up against the facts of unemployment and the consequences which follow in homes and communities affected by it, can really understand the nature and magnitude of the problem. As one sees day after day the effects of the depression, I often wonder, great as were the trouble and distress inflicted on the country by the great war, whether the scars and wounds of that struggle were so very much worse than those which have been left by this tremendous depression which has struck not only Canada but the world at large. One can hardly view such conditions and go into homes where such conditions are to be found without having brought to mind the words uttered by Abraham Lincoln after having seen a female negro slave sold in one of the southern slave markets of the United States. What he said to himself at that time, as subsequently recorded by a great historian, was, "If I ever have a chance to hit this thing I will hit it hard". And he hit it hard, so