

apply it to gigantic units of capital taking the form of machinery, and set them to compete, you only determine that each and probably all shall be destroyed. Without the supervision of codes of some sort—such, indeed, as have grown up in all countries—those industries will not survive; they will work for their own destruction, and the country will suffer with their death. In that respect I not only hope for success of the National Recovery Act of the Government of the United States, but I do think we have a right to look confidently for that success. I do believe as well that Canada, watching at close range, can learn much from the great experiment which its courageous President is now conducting upon the stage of his country.

As to the hours of labour, it is true you do not improve the lot of an employee by merely cutting down his hours. You may give him an easier time, but you do not help to feed his family. I understand that the objective of the Recovery Act is not only to give the employee shorter hours and fewer days, but to maintain and if possible increase his wage in order that more of the fruits of his toil may come to himself, and so, as expressed by the President, enhance the purchasing power of the worker and distribute the amount of labour that is left among those who stand ready to toil.

This residual labour is diminishing all the time. When the machine was merely an appliance for helping the individual to do his work easily, that machine did not displace the individual, it merely reduced his labour; but when it takes the form of an automatic monster driven by power it does not make the worker's job easy, it abolishes the job altogether. We have now the spectacle of tremendous appliances operating for the production of what the world needs, without a single man at work. This, of course, is a rather extreme example, but towards this end we are moving steadily. We have been moving in this direction more rapidly in the last ten years than ever before, and still more rapidly in the last four years, because depression always compels the application of that practice to industry. This is the goal we are driving towards, and the world's problem is to take care of those whose only means of living has been the work from which they are so displaced.

While I am not sure that this is very appropriate to the debate,—

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: It is.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: —I feel grateful that so far there have been no

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN.

serious attacks on the Speech from the Throne. I do not claim to be its parent, nor even its godparent, but I do feel the Government is honestly striving to meet conditions in Canada as best they can be met, and I think in that effort it is at least attaining as much success as, if not more than, is being attained by other governments in the world.

Hon. J. P. B. CASGRAIN: Well, if nobody is prepared to continue the debate I suppose I must step into the breach. Very often when the debate on the Address was about to collapse, it has been my lot to start something. I remember very well the late Sir James Lougheed used to tell me when things were quiet, "For God's sake, Casgrain, start something!" I am taken somewhat by surprise, for I expected the honourable gentlemen who preceded me would address the House at greater length, and that I should have had time to co-ordinate my notes and shorten my remarks. Once when Pascal had to write hurriedly to a correspondent he concluded his letter with this apology: "Pardon the length of this letter; I had no time to be brief." A similar apology may serve my purpose.

As one of the oldest members of this House, barring my respected leader—and he does not think I am very obedient to his rule—I wish at the outset to congratulate most heartily those honourable gentlemen who have just been admitted to this Chamber. Yesterday I remembered that I had been a member of this House for thirty-four years. In looking over some papers I found a very nice letter that had been written to me by that good old Conservative member, now sitting in the House of Commons, who was active there when many of the present members were children. I refer to the Honourable R. S. White—I beg your pardon, he is not yet so entitled, but he should have been many years ago—the member for Mount Royal. Not wishing to be indiscreet, I took the trouble to send him a copy of the letter and ask him if I might read it to the Senate for the benefit of the new members, for I have tried my very best to follow the good instructions which Mr. White then gave me. Honourable gentlemen will please mark the date:

Montreal, January 30, 1900.

My dear Casgrain:—

Permit me to congratulate you sincerely upon having gained what may almost be considered the blue ribbon of Canadian politics.

I read this especially for the edification of our younger members.

My own view has always been that a senatorship is one of the grand prizes, and specially