

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Oh, no.

Mr. MacINNIS: I rather regret the statement made by the Prime Minister in reply to the member for East Hamilton (Mr. Mitchell) in connection with the six-hour day. It is not that I expected the Prime Minister would give any assurance that we might look for any legislation on the subject, but the implication of his remarks that there are a great many people in the country who do not wish to work is in glaring contrast with his statement in 1930, when he went all over this country directing attention to the fact that there were so many unemployed, and that all they wanted was an opportunity to work. If since 1930 the unemployed have deteriorated possibly the government is more or less responsible for this lamentable condition. The right hon. gentleman also said that the general tendency to-day was not to see how many hours we could work, but how few hours. I believe that is quite true. If it is not true, I believe we might well despair of the progress of the human race. It is rather significant, I think, that we have the unemployed at the two extreme ends of society. Those at one extreme end seem to enjoy their unemployment very much. As a matter of fact they live on the best while they are unemployed. They go to the mountains in summer and to the seaside resorts of the southern states in the winter. In short, they are well looked after—by those who work and produce.

While the government at the present time state they have no intention of bringing down legislation with respect to a six-hour day, let me say that this administration are doing many things that they had no intention of doing in 1930, and they will do many things in the next few years that they have no intention of doing this year. And still they will not be able to keep ahead of the game. We are in a fast moving world, and he is a bold person who will say what he will or will not be prepared to do in the next few years. We must never forget the fact which is drawn to our attention so often, that the situation in which we find ourselves is a world situation. Let us not forget that in the industrial world at the present time, without including India, China, Russia or Japan, there is a population of 30,000,000 unemployed. Yet we are improving our machinery every day and restricting the opportunities for work. That cannot go on without some adjustment being made in industry itself. A few days ago I read a report in the press that in Ontario men had offered to go to work for five dollars a month and their board.

I do not think that is any indication that the people of this country do not wish to work. If there was any reason to suppose that such was the case I think it could be disposed of very easily by pointing out that when there is work available there is no difficulty in this or in any other country in reference to unemployment. Sooner or later the hours of labour will have to be reduced. This has never been done by legislation. When under certain conditions the workers had the power to reduce their hours of labour it has been done. Possibly some day they will come to the conclusion that if they are to get what they want they will have to organize and take the necessary measures themselves.

Mr. MITCHELL: Some time ago the Minister of Labour mentioned that the government were going to send men to Jasper park and another national park in the west to work at five dollars a month. What policy has been decided upon in this regard, and how many men are likely to be employed?

Mr. GORDON: With respect to the national parks under our control, I have no recollection of stating that we were going to hire men to work in them for five dollars a month and their board and lodging. Certainly if occasions arise where men have no employment and are going to suffer hardship, if representations are made by those more intimately concerned, such as the provinces, this government will take such appropriate action as would seem necessary in the circumstances.

Mr. MITCHELL: May I ask whether the government are still determined to employ men in these parks during the coming summer? I have had a number of communications from the west, from Calgary and Edmonton in particular, asking as to the conditions surrounding work in these parks.

Mr. GORDON: Undoubtedly men will be employed in these parks during the summer.

Mr. HEENAN: The Minister of Railways gave some figures with regard to the employment of railway men. I have some figures here taken from government reports, which I should like to give the committee. In 1929 the number of persons employed on all Canadian railways was 187,846, while in 1931 the number was 154,000, a decrease of 33,846.

Mr. MANION: The other figure was just double that. These figures agree with what I just stated.