

Supply—Labour

No matter how orthodox the Minister of Labour may be, no matter how highly distasteful it may be to him to consider matters pertaining to—

Mr. Mitchell: Don't be orthodox; be sensible.

Mr. Blackmore: I am glad the minister said "sensible". I will hold him to that word.

An hon. Member: Not too strictly.

Mr. Blackmore: No matter how sensible he may be, I think he must have some respect for Professor Plumptre's remarks.

Mr. Mitchell: I do not care who he is; if he is making the implication my hon. friend is trying to make, I think he is wrong, even if he is a professor.

Mr. Blackmore: In other words, the minister just cannot be sensible about anything with respect to money.

Mr. Mitchell: Let me just say this to my hon. friend: If it is not hard to get, it is not money.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Mitchell: I know that my hon. friends say "oh, oh"; but a printing press never in all history raised a potato or grew a blade of wheat.

Mr. Knowles: What about the hair on your head?

Mr. Mitchell: Yours too.

Mr. Blackmore: You see the situation, Mr. Chairman. The minister cannot possibly see any means of improving the financial and economic conditions of Canada except through taxation. In other words, if we in Canada once get to the point where we have more production than the people in Canada can buy, the minister must throw up his hands in utter helplessness, and go down into a vast depression from which no one has any idea as to how we shall ever emerge.

Mr. Low: Then look at his labour problems.

Mr. Blackmore: I wish he could once come to realize that the thing that makes a nation wealthy, the thing that ought to make a nation prosperous, is production; and that when you get to the point where you are producing in a country more food, clothing, shelter and everything than you need, then you have reached the point where everybody should be able to go into a sort of Garden of Eden and have all that he needs.

Mr. Low: But you should make money hard to get.

Mr. Blackmore: But here is where the minister's theory will lead him. Just as soon as

we get to the point where we have more production than we can consume, then prices begin to fall, production begins to fall off, employment falls off, and people go onto the unemployment lists just as they were in the 1930's. When the income of all the various producing organizations throughout Canada falls you cannot get as much in taxes from them, and the result is of course your revenues fall off. They come down to a mere dribble compared with what they were in the war, and the minister has not a single idea as to what to do about it. It will be hard enough for him to get money, all right; there will not be very much money then.

The minister likes to be sensible. Will he tell us whether the money that he was able to get during the war when revenues were at a high level, were buoyant, as the Minister of Finance would say, was just as good as the money that he could get during the depression? It was a lot harder to get during the depression. I think the minister will agree the money during the war was just as good, if we could have kept prices down, as the money which we got during the depression, which was hard enough to get. I do not think I should say any more along that line. I just wish to draw to the attention of the committee the fantastic paradoxes that the minister has got himself into by insisting on being a sensible man, and yet maintaining that in a state you cannot create money.

Mr. Low: He wanted to have fun.

Mr. Blackmore: I realize he wanted to have some fun but it was a useful bit of fun to me. I think I shall refer to it once in a while. I quoted from Professor Plumptre's remarks to the effect that the Dominion of Canada itself created \$200 million in the year 1939, and created it out of nothing.

Mr. Low: That was not good money.

Mr. Mitchell: I do not want to prolong the discussion but I say to my hon. friend that Germany created a billion dollars in 1923 and there were a quarter of a million suicides the year after. I was there; I know what I am talking about.

Mr. Blackmore: The minister reminds me of the Hon. C. A. Dunning, a former minister of finance who was in the house when I first came. You could not begin to talk of these things when Mr. Dunning was here without having him protest. The answer to what I am saying is not to bring in Germany's unfortunate experience, which can be explained easily enough. It is not appropriate that I explain the German inflation. I know about it. I know what caused it, and it was not the kind of thing that the