

*Unemployment Insurance*

Gardiner) to establish proof in my mind. I quote again, and this is an interesting one also:

Relief from, rather than an increase in the burden of the cost of government, reductions rather than increases in taxation . . . must be delivered, if commerce and industry are to revive.

I shall hurry on to another one or two. This is an interesting one because he refers to world war I. It is as follows:

Who, with a knowledge of what was accomplished in the years of war, and in the years of strain and stress which immediately followed, will venture to say that a government with vision and determination will not be able to effect, in times of peace, a nation-wide co-operative effort equal to any previously achieved? . . . Are privations and sufferings, the loss of occupation, and the inability to secure employment, not just as great, where they arise from economic causes in our own country?

Then he goes on to refer to the many projects. They were even going to paint farmers' fences for them. The excerpt reads:

. . . The country would welcome, above all else, a comprehensive scheme of urban and rural improvements. Such a scheme would appropriately include the clearance of slum areas, housing programs, the painting and repair of buildings and fences, both in cities and the country; and of scenic development, which would serve to make all Canada a country second to none for tourists.

**Mr. Ferguson:** Whitewash themselves.

**Mr. Shaw:** It continues:

Indeed all projects might readily be made to contribute to these ends.

History records, Mr. Speaker, that in October of that year the Conservatives were swept out of office and the Liberals were swept in, but history also records the statistics to which I have referred. History records that in 1939 we were catapulted into war, and we were not far advanced into that period of war, a couple of years—the Minister of Agriculture may not agree with that and I may be out two or three days—

**Mr. Gardiner:** You are always out a little.

**Mr. Shaw:**—when there was created a terrific demand, as has been so often pointed out in this house by the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Quelch), for almost everything that we were capable of producing, and manpower suddenly became an asset instead of a liability. The war ended in 1945. There was still a seller's market in the country, and a backlog of demand for capital and consumer goods. People still had their accumulated savings. Money was being paid out for reconversion, and foreign credits in the form of money we had loaned were being expended in Canada for goods which were shipped abroad. Marshall aid dollars were also being spent here. That was 1945. This is 1950. In other words, this is where we left off in 1939.

There is almost the same number of unemployed today as there was at that time. It was not the record of the Liberal government in this field which put them into office, nor was it, I dare say, their record in any other field. It was not their record that enabled them to win the succeeding elections. The next one will be the test.

**Mr. Hatfield:** A different story.

**Mr. Shaw:** They will not be faced with the situations that existed in 1939, 1945 and 1949.

**Mr. Gardiner:** You have made that suggestion every session since I have been here.

**Mr. Shaw:** It is rather unfortunate that one should have had to continue coming back for ten years in order to keep reminding the government that these suggestions will still have to be made.

**An hon. Member:** Twenty-five dollars a month.

**An hon. Member:** Give us a solution.

**Mr. Shaw:** It is a tragic thing when it takes a war to bring us out of such a condition as that which we suffered from in the ten years prior to the outbreak of war. Booms and depressions, with a war thrown in here and there, seem to me essential and necessary to enable policies such as those pursued by this government to work, at least in a measure. Before I left home to come down here for the present session I could not help hearing the grumbings that were rising throughout parts of the country. Farmers were becoming acutely disturbed as a consequence of the future facing the industry reflected through what has happened in our trade relations. It was pointed out to me that in the local employment office at Red Deer they had 609 registered unemployed in January. They were fearful because they could see coming upon us the shape of things which were upon us prior to the outbreak of the last war.

So far as the present legislation is concerned it will provide a certain amount of assistance to a great many workers. I admit that, but it is a drop in the bucket, as someone has said. Take the prevailing prices today for food, clothing and shelter, take the cheque which a man with a wife and three or four kiddies receives from the unemployment insurance fund when he becomes unemployed, try to draw up a budget for him, and see how far you will get. Moreover, the fund is certainly exhaustible, and the benefit is definitely limited.

We will support the measure in the absence of sound concrete policies which, as we have asserted time and again, must be put into operation if a balanced economy is ever to