

fixed at 100, and the index figures for other years are as follows:

1927..	104.6
1928..	111.6
1929..	119.0
1931..	102.5
1932..	87.5
1933..	83.4

The index figure for the calendar year of 1933 was lower than it has been at any time since 1920. Yet this is described as being evidence of increasing employment.

Let me come now to the numbers of persons employed. The Bureau of Statistics issued a bulletin on employment dated September 1, 1930, and another dated December 1, 1933. In making my next comparison I have taken September, 1930, as it was the earliest date upon which information was compiled since the present government came into office. At that date the government received returns from 7,334 firms, and those returns indicated a combined working force of 1,023,033. What are the latest figures for December 1, 1933, the last month under the present administration for which figures are available? We find that the number of firms from which the government has been collecting information has increased to 8,428. In collecting their statistics they are now gathering information from more firms than they did in 1930. In 1930 they were collecting information from 7,334 firms, while now they receive returns from 8,428. But what is the combined working force as reported by this larger number of firms? It is 850,486 as against 1,023,033 in 1930. In other words, there are 172,547 less persons employed by a larger number of reporting firms. Yet His Excellency is told to tell this house and the country that there are evidences of increasing employment in Canada. These are the government's own figures.

Hon. gentlemen know that during periods of distress it is the larger firms that are able to carry on the longest. The smaller concerns go to the wall first. Unquestionably there are a number of the smaller firms which have not reported and, if information could be received from them, the showing would be much worse than appears here.

The government has been compiling statistics upon employment and this information has been given out to the public. I have in my hand a bulletin issued by the Department of Trade and Commerce, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, general statistics branch, giving the employment situation in December, 1933. Before quoting from this record, may I assert that to go by the figures as set forth here as they have been quoted in the press makes the whole question of the present position of

employment entirely illusory. It makes the prosperity of the country, not a prosperity as borne out by facts, but a prosperity that is borne out by a manipulation of statistics. Statistics which makes possible such action are not worthy of any department of government, and I think every department should be very careful to avoid possibilities of the kind.

Mr. STEVENS: Will the right hon. gentleman indicate from what he is reading?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have indicated it already, and I am sorry my hon. friend was not listening. This is a publication of the Department of Trade and Commerce, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, general statistics branch, giving the employment situation for December, 1933.

Mr. STEVENS: Which statistics are the official product of the bureau of statistics and not revised by the government or any officer of the government other than by the bureau itself.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. STEVENS: Absolutely. The right hon. gentleman is arguing otherwise.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The hon. minister is responsible for the bureau and he must accept that responsibility. I am now directing his attention to circumstances into which I think he ought to look very carefully and see that the right thing is done and that there is no further possibility of the manipulation of figures as is the case in the form in which they are given here.

Mr. STEVENS: The right hon. gentleman has indicated that the department over which I preside has manipulated figures. I am merely stating to him that these are the figures of the bureau.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am going to show my hon. friend the ends which these figures have been made to serve and the manner in which the bureau has functioned. I have said already that in this statement the bureau does not distinguish, in a manner which serves to make the matter clear, between employment arising out of moneys paid out of the public treasury for relief, and employment as provided by private firms. I say that, unless that distinction is made absolutely clear, the whole statistical table is illusory. There is an indication that there has been an increase as of December 1 over November 1. I read from page 1 of the bulletin as follows:

Reflecting this gain, the index (1926 average =100), arose from 91.3 on the former date to 91.8 on December 1. This is the highest figure in two years.