

Unemployment

always have this type of unemployment with us. Unemployment is the price society has to pay for progress. Present figures indicate that in this country we shall always have a large number of unemployed. Despite the figures made available by the minister may I say to him that he would have difficulty in finding an industry which, under our semi-free trade policy, can show an even distribution of production and employment throughout the whole year.

The public domain has been frittered away and the people of Canada should be conscious of the vast national domain and natural resources this country has. These should be the property of the people themselves and not that of any class or clique. This matter has been discussed for many years and all we have had is a lot of useless commissions that can serve nothing. The government should make Canada "conservation conscious," in due battle against the squandering of the public domain of resources and water power. The various departments handling this problem should be united into a large department so as to protect the birthright of the Canadian people. An agreement should be made with the provinces in this connection for joint action. I feel there is so much metaphysical language used in each section of this bill that it will get nowhere. It should be possible to have a standard form of agreement that the governor in council could make with the municipalities in matters of reconstruction, rehabilitation, agricultural settlement of suburban areas, in conjunction with the national railway, the provinces and the municipalities of the country.

It may be true that there are one or two industries where there is less fluctuation in employment than in others, but on the other hand agriculture and various types of construction are entirely at the mercy of the weather. The whole question to my mind is whether provision should not be made so that the minister could make an agreement with the municipalities or with the province with regard to the deadly level crossings, because motor car accidents at level crossings are doing more than the minister to create jobs. In Toronto so far this year there were 768 people wounded in motor car accidents, enough to fill up this chamber more than three times over. Why does not the government make an agreement with the municipalities and the provinces to do away with many of these deadly level crossings? Motor car accidents on the highways are a scandal.

I would also ask what the minister is going to do to help unemployment by lowering
[Mr. Church.]

mortgage interest rates and the rates the shark loan companies charge, yes, as much as seventy-five per cent, and that is being charged by companies incorporated under this parliament. If the minister would cancel some fifteen or twenty of these charters he would be doing something to help the poor industrial worker to save his home. Under subsection 3 are we to meet here in this house year after year to pass a resolution approving every little petty vote of money that has been spent under this bill, hold a post-mortem like we do on the previous year's estimates? If that is the kind of agreement you are going to make, you are simply going round in a circle. Here is the first of May coming on and the unemployed are all looking for this parliament to do something to provide useful jobs, but what is parliament doing. I would answer that question by saying—nothing.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. MacNICOL: The amendment, Mr. Chairman, refers to the first sentence of subsection 1, section 4?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. McPhee): It deletes all the words after "may" in the first line of the section down to the end of line 21.

Mr. MacNICOL: And it leaves in the words:

The governor in council may, subject as aforesaid, also enter into agreements with corporations, partnerships or individuals engaged in industry respecting the expansion of industrial employment.

I would like to say a few words on that sentence, but before doing so I wish to say that I was tremendously impressed by the remarks of my hon. friend from Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. McGeer). He speaks from experience and with practical knowledge of what the municipality is up against, and I must confess that that is what I find most lacking in the discussions in this house—practical suggestions made by men with practical knowledge of the subject under discussion.

When Bill No. 14 was going through this house we were told from time to time that the government looked forward to industry taking a big part in relieving unemployment by providing work in industry, and we were told that Bill No. 19 would also be operated, in conjunction with Bill No. 14, I assume, to provide employment in industry. I would ask the minister before this section carries to give the committee some indication of just what industry is expected to do under this clause and what assistance will be given