

Compulsory direction of men in the industry is not received with favour in some quarters; but I feel sure, that, taking the over-all view, the miners themselves, those having previous experience in the mines, will cooperate with this government and, may I add, with this parliament, because it may be said that there is a unanimous opinion in this parliament as to the gravity of the situation and as to the policies that have been put into effect by the government.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Has the government tried the device of increasing remuneration as a reward for men going back to the mines?

Mr. MITCHELL: That, of course, is not the duty of the government but of the national war labour board.

Mr. BLACKMORE: Are they doing it?

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not think this is the place, nor am I the person, in view of the establishment and the functioning of the war labour board, to express an opinion one way or the other.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I did not ask for an opinion; I asked for a statement of fact.

Mr. MITCHELL: I think both the men and the employees understand the situation well. And if either one side or the other feels that these increases are justified in the near future, they will make some representations to the national war labour board.

Mr. BLACKMORE: The trouble is they might take too long.

Mr. HANSELL: And freeze in the meantime.

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not think anything could be easier to say than what my hon. friend has said. That is the easiest thing in the world to say. I say to my hon. friend I do not think this government can be criticized with respect to the steps it took last winter in connection with the coal industry in Canada. There was no lack of decision on the part of the government.

I did not intend to speak at length, but in passing I wished to bring this coal question to the attention of the committee. As I say, I expect to make a statement in the course of the next two or three days on the subject. I believe I have answered nearly all the questions asked.

Mr. GRAYDON: Perhaps the minister might answer the question with respect to the number of men in the department who have resigned.

Mr. MITCHELL: Seventeen out of seven thousand.

[Mr. Mitchell.]

Mr. GRAYDON: Would the minister give the names of those persons? If he has not them now, he may put them on *Hansard*.

Mr. MITCHELL: Does the hon. member wish to have them on *Hansard*?

Mr. GRAYDON: I should like to have them on record.

Mr. MITCHELL: I shall be glad to do that, then.

Another question had to do with those returned to agriculture, who were engaged in industry in the off seasons. I believe the committee will agree that it would be a waste of man-power if we did not move people off the farms during the winter months. In my statement the other evening I put on record the number of men going from agriculture into industry, lumbering, base metals and mining. Those permits expired on a certain date. An employer cannot hold them after that date. I am frank to admit that there were one or two who got under the barrier, but that is inevitable in handling tens of thousands of men. In a big and general way, however, while we gave some extensions this spring on account of the lateness of the season, we are confident that all the men who were given permits last winter at the conclusion of the farming season have returned to agriculture. What we have endeavoured to do is to intensify that swing between agriculture on the one hand and primary industries on the other.

Then, there is another point. We permit farmers to leave agriculture for sixty days without permits. As my hon. friends know, that is done more particularly in western Canada. In that part of the dominion there is a great deal of work between seeding and harvesting which is generally undertaken by farmers. I refer to work on the railways and roadbuilding generally. That is the reason why that regulation was incorporated in the selective service regulations, and we find it has worked fairly well.

Then, in respect of open permits, a man is given the open permit and finds a job. Once he has located that job he must report to the selective service office. He then obtains the ordinary permit given to people who go to work. The check is that he has to pick up his insurance book. So that it is comparatively easy to control the issuance of these permits, because a man must pick up his insurance book as soon as he starts to work.

Mr. BLACKMORE: All through the consideration of the war appropriation measure I have refrained from speaking to any great extent. I have felt that the war appropriation was money parliament was granting so