

Mr. HACKETT: That may be true; there were no taxes then. But to-day there is offered a very large quid for their quo: good roads, means of education, freedom from fear of attack from any enemy and the elements. I do not think that taxes should be an insuperable source of worry to them.

The hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Hanbury) only a few moments ago made reference to education. He thought it would be well to send some of the unemployed youth into schools that they might learn something of the methods useful in searching for gold or other minerals. I am of the opinion that a very radical change must be made in the education of the Canadian people, and that some day that change will come about. At the present time if a person hazards any criticism of our educational system he is immediately castigated. The fact remains however that careers in the city, and especially the intellectual careers, are overcrowded. Metallurgy, electricity, mechanics and chemistry have become gods on whose altars children have for years been yielded up as offerings by deluded parents. The time has come when we must look to rural careers as an outlet for natural increase of our population. There are great openings in the rural centres, great openings which have been left void for two or three generations. That is one of the reasons for the difficulties now experienced on the land. Nearly everybody who had youth, energy, talent or ability left the land, with the result that to a large extent the land has been left in the possession of the aged, the impotent and the indolent. That observation may be turned against the person who utters it, and it may be described as an impolitic utterance. It might be interpreted to mean that one is inclined to scoff at those living in the rural sections of the country. Far from it. The statement is made in the hope that it may give to the rural sections new blood; they need the assistance of those who are condemned to inactivity in the cities. I believe that if the surplus population of the cities could be moved towards the country there would be generated an activity on the soil which would bring relief and a solution to many of our fiscal difficulties and economic problems. It would reestablish equilibrium in our population; it would give back a measure of prosperity to the countryside itself by sending back to it some of the youth and enthusiasm which for the last twenty or twenty-five years have been drifting unswervingly and constantly towards the cities.

I am therefore hopeful that in any plan of public works which may be evolved the possibility of rehabilitating the countryside and of

sending people back where they can earn a livelihood will not be entirely overlooked. I trust that the constitutional objection may be overcome by a generous attempt on the part of all concerned to overcome it, and by a realization of the great peril in which the integrity of Canada stands, if it be not overcome.

Mr. MARCIL: Some weeks ago when the Prime Minister moved for the appointment of a select committee to inquire into price spreads the hon. member for Queens-Lunenbourg asked that it be extended to fisheries. I immediately supported his contention. A few moments ago the Prime Minister said that some assistance has been given to the fisheries of the maritime provinces, and that conditions there are being inquired into. I should like to know if something has been done regarding the fisheries of the province of Quebec which, at the present time, are in a very bad state.

Mr. BENNETT: I did not hear the last part of the hon. member's question.

Mr. MARCIL: I should like to hear from the minister whether anything has been done regarding fisheries in Quebec. I understand an investigation is being made into the fisheries of the maritime provinces, and that some assistance has been given there. I should like to know if something can be done for Quebec.

Mr. BENNETT: I used the word maritime as applying to Quebec as well because Quebec is usually referred to by many of us at least as being a maritime province. When we speak of the lower provinces we say "the three maritime provinces." What I have said with regard to fisheries has equal application to the whole of that part of Canada producing fish, and even to the internal part producing fish from the lakes.

I should like to say to the hon. member for Stanstead that the hon. member for North Timiskaming is correct in his suggestion that as soon as the present Minister of Labour took office in 1930 he was of the opinion that some effort should be made to move men back to the land. Two plans have been formulated. One is the plan under which the federal government itself takes responsibility for the transaction when the arrangements have been made for the land that may be available for that purpose. The other is purely a relief measure. There has never been any constitutional difficulty. There has been no trouble on that score, and if the city of Montreal through the province of Quebec puts before the government proposals looking towards the absorption on the land of a num-