

and the "three thousand" scheme, whatever that may be. Perhaps they are the same, I do not know. Next there is the scheme of which I have come across traces, so to speak, here and there, and that is for loans to pay passages. I think it is some private company in Britain which finances that. If that is not the case what responsibility do we take in that connection? I have outlined all these schemes and I am sure it would be of interest to this House and to the country—and I say that in no spirit of criticism at all—to learn just what we are lending ourselves to. We are spending over \$3,000,000 in this work, and I again repeat that we want to know what is involved in connection with them.

Whilst I am on my feet, and in order to save time perhaps later on, I want to say a few words on behalf of what I might call the labour section of British Columbia, if I may presume to speak for organized labour to some small extent. At any rate I know what their ideas are, and I am familiar with some of their organizations. Here is a short letter which I took out of a Vancouver paper just recently, and which I think voices a certain point of view that is very largely entertained in that city. It reads as follows:

Sir,—I wish to draw your attention to the labor situation in the city. There are several thousand men looking for employment, men who have been in this province for years.

And remember this is dated in April when spring work is well in hand. The letter goes on to say:

Men have been told at the employment office that the jobs are being reserved for the newcomers, and a good many late arrivals from Europe have been placed, although the city has been full of men all winter and has enough men around to do all the work that is likely to be undertaken for a few years.

Just the other day twenty-five immigrants were sent up to Ocean Falls. They did not even get a chance to see the city as they were just out.

This country does not require immigrants at present. It wants capital; labor will follow.

I think that is a temperate and moderate expression of the views of organized labour in British Columbia. Moreover, I think it is true that there are large bodies of unemployed men right in Vancouver to-day. I think the relief expense for a fortnight in March ran to something like \$3,000. Of course we shall receive again the stereotyped reply "Oh, these are men who will not work." It is so easy to stifle our conscience by suggesting that these men will not work. But let me recite one or two things. I have here a copy of a labour paper published in Vancouver, the

[Mr. Neill.]

Labour Statesman, and I find in it cases of men who cannot be called professional loafers. These are all within a few months:

Detective Jock Milne arrested a man for stealing \$5. On investigation, he found that the man's wife and two children, aged ten years and sixteen months, had been living in semi-starvation, a small piece of bread being the only food in the house.

Policemen and detectives are not generally softhearted but this man was led to give to this starving family a goose he had just won in a Christmas raffle. Here is another case:

Then on December 4th 1926, — — —, Vancouver, committed suicide, by taking strychnine. He left a sick wife and five young children and a note saying he was despondent through being out of work.

Here is another case:

On December 8th, — — —, of Esquimalt, slashed his throat in four places. "Let me alone", he said to the police, "I cannot find work so I might as well die. I am fed up."

And next this case

On December 6th, — — — a Victoria man, unable to support his wife and four children, threw a stone through the window of Mitchell and Duncan, fashionable jewellers in Victoria, and calmly sat down awaiting arrest. He claimed he was desperate.

Another case is that of a man who stated that he was married, with six children, a wife, Canadian-born, and only a few cents between them and starvation. I could go on and give half a dozen more cases but I will not do so. I only read them to show that these men are typical of a certain class. If they were professional bums they would have gone to a relief agency and demanded and got relief. These are men who took their situation, and that of their wives and children, so desperately to heart that they decided to end it in another way. These men cannot be accused of being professional loafers. It only bears out the statement announced in the papers of the same date that there is a large body of unemployed men in Vancouver to-day. Now I do not object to immigrants coming to this country, I welcome them. But what the labour people say is this: We hear a great deal about protection. Protection of what? Protection of industry. The plea is put up from time to time "Do not let manufactured products from foreign countries, or even from Great Britain, come in here without imposing a protective duty in order to encourage Canadian manufactures." But when it comes down to labour which is the only asset of the worker, the working man might at least be protected from the labour of foreign countries in the matter of the only asset that he has. But is he protected? He is not. On the