

fine timber areas in North Battleford while in his riding he has not sufficient to make one third-class tie. If he knows as little about timber as he has demonstrated this afternoon, I doubt if there is sufficient timber in his own makeup to make even one cull tie. Further, may I say that the next time the hon. member encounters a dust or silt storm down in Saskatoon we cordially invite him to come up north where there are many fresh water lakes. We will endeavour to cleanse him thoroughly before he returns.

The heart of the hon. member seems to be bleeding for the settlers north of St. Walburg, but if he wants to help them the best thing he can do is to go to the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) and to the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) and try to obtain for these poor settlers who are trying to carve out a living on the frontier the railroad which they have been promised. South of the Beaver river forty-four miles of roadbed is prepared and ready for steel, but no effort has been made to give these people the railroad which it was promised would be finished by 1932. From present indications, not a mile of steel will be laid this year. Beyond the Beaver river, twenty-five miles is graded and ready for the steel but still no attempt is being made to complete this railroad. The result will be that these settlers for years to come will be without the railway facilities promised to them by the Liberal government. Had that government been returned to power, these people would certainly have received the railway consideration to which they are justly entitled.

Hon. CHARLES STEWART (West Edmonton): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to the affidavits submitted and the allegations made by the hon. member for Saskatoon (Mr. MacMillan) except to say that had these affidavits been handed to me when I was acting as Minister of the Interior, I would have ordered an immediate investigation. That would not have been the first time an investigation of this character was conducted in the department. These files are now in the possession of the Saskatchewan government and it would be an easy matter for that government to investigate the charges made by my hon. friend. I would suggest that he get in touch with the provincial government and request an immediate investigation. Mr. Smart who was in charge of the office at Prince Albert is now the superintendent of a national park in Manitoba; all the other officers concerned are somewhere in the vicinity of these alleged transactions, and

there should be no difficulty in carrying out an investigation. The report of the ties purchased by the Canadian National Railways is available and will disclose whether they were burned or green timber. The hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh) has indicated that the contractors mentioned in the statement are responsible people and if any mishandling has occurred, recovery could be made.

Mr. A. A. HEAPS (North Winnipeg): Mr. Speaker, before the motion is submitted to the house, I have one or two observations to make. According to the terms of the resolution, the problem of unemployment is one of the most important with which parliament has to deal; but during the debate this afternoon we have listened to speeches which have really nothing to do with this serious matter. Apparently the question in the way it has been discussed for some time, has been boiled down to one affecting a particular locality, either in eastern Canada or in Saskatchewan or in some other part of the dominion. Unfortunately unemployment is not local but national and can be dealt with only in a national way.

I should like to say first of all that I have every sympathy with the last part of the resolution. I am very anxious to see the government take immediate action and state its policy in regard to this question. I also realize that from the time this motion first came before the house, quite a number of things have happened and a different slant has been given to the subject. I see by the papers to-day that within the next few days a conference between the federal and provincial governments will be called to discuss how unemployment is to be dealt with, and therefore I prefer to leave my remarks to a subsequent occasion when I shall be able to discuss that aspect of the matter more intelligently.

My main purpose in rising to-day is that I do not desire to see this question of unemployment discussed in the party spirit in which it has been debated during the past few weeks. I am always afraid, when the party spirit begins to manifest itself, as it often does in the house, that unemployment may be lost sight of altogether and when it comes to a question of what the Liberal party did here or the Conservative party did there, we forget entirely about the large number of people who happen to be out of work. The amendment as set forth by the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan) takes up almost a whole page of Hansard, and more