

or twelve hours a day fail absolutely to recognize the circumstances in which we now find ourselves.

A word first of all in connection with legitimate objectives. I ask seriously, as I have done on many previous occasions in this chamber, is the provision by government of work for its people a legitimate objective; is it sound and desirable; is it the objective of the economic system?

On that point I should like to quote from a book by the founder of the social credit principles, Major C. H. Douglas, entitled, "Monopoly of Credit." This is what he has to say in relation to the objectives of the economic system, at pages 116 and 117:

In attacking an engineering problem the first point we settle, with as much exactness as possible, is our objective. No engineer observer of the discussions which take place in political and lay circles on the industrial problems of the present day can fail to be struck with the fact that the problem itself is rarely stated with any clearness. For instance, the paramount difficulty of the industrial system is commonly expressed as that of unemployment. Therefore the suggestion involved is that the industrial system exists to provide employment, and fails. Those who are engaged in the actual conduct of industry, however, are specifically concerned to obtain a given output with a minimum of employment and in fact, a decreasing amount of employment. Consequently, those who are talking about industry and those who are conducting industry have in their minds objectives which are diametrically opposed and incompatible.

That is a pertinent quotation which should be considered by each and every individual who presumes to give advice on the subject of employment. We are seeking, I assert, to proceed in two opposite directions at the same time, and that is manifestly impossible. On the one hand, we encourage engineers and inventors to do everything humanly possible to eliminate the number of necessary hours of work. It is quite obvious to anyone; it has been stated repeatedly in this house by hon. members of every party, that one of the greatest contributing factors to unemployment in this day and age is technological, the substitution of power machinery and mass production methods. We recognize that; we say, yes, the machine obviously does displace human labour; yet the very same people who make those statements suggest that we must deliberately put people to work.

I ask, how can we proceed on that basis? Is it reasonable to proceed on that basis? The first thing we must do if we are to make any progress at all in this subject is to lay down a sound objective. To those who are worried about how to find jobs I can suggest a solution in two minutes. Instead of building our highways with the huge machinery we have to-day, whereby one man and one

machine can do the work of a couple of hundred people, let us go back to the pick, the shovel and the wheelbarrow; if the wheelbarrows are too big let us cut them in half; if the shovels are too big let us use spoons, and there will be jobs for everybody. Follow the same principle not only in the matter of building roads but in all branches of industry and you will have jobs for innumerable people, twenty-four hours a day, if that is what you want. To those who suggest that the purpose of the economic system is work in the ordinary sense, I say that if they are to be logical that is the kind of thing they will have to do and, in fact, it is the kind of thing that was done in the days preceding the war. They did it in my own constituency in the construction of the Jasper-Banff highway. Roadbuilding machinery was standing on the roadside rusting, while young men with university training were building that highway with picks and shovels, just because it is assumed that a man is not entitled to eat unless he is slugging away at something, no matter how useless it is.

I assert, therefore, that we have to come to grips with this issue. This talk of putting people to work smacks of totalitarianism, and I deny any man the right to tell me to go to work when we collectively and individually have designed machinery to do the work for us. It is contrary to economic progress and contrary to the rights of the individual. We must recognize and acknowledge that we live in an age entirely different from that of our ancestors of even fifty years ago. Let me give one more quotation from Major Douglas. Here is one with regard to the question, how many hours of work would there be available if we used machinery to maximum capacity?

Mr. MITCHELL: Who is Major Douglas?

Mr. KUHLE: The founder of the social credit principles, a Scottish engineer, one of the greatest men living to-day. If the hon. gentleman would take time to read his books he would be a little more up to date on the question of employment and unemployment and this country would be a little better off. I recommend the books of Major Douglas to him. If he has not the time to read all Douglas' books, here is a useful compilation of the best extracts from those books, entitled, "The Douglas Manual." I would be glad to lend him my copy. I was about to give another brief quotation from Major C. H. Douglas, in which he deals with the very problem that now confronts the Minister of Labour and will confront him more and more as time goes on. This applies to all those who entertain ideas of putting people, physically capable of working, to work for eight or