

whom I could get in contact with I put the question, "How do you like national health insurance and"—at that time—"unemployment insurance?" I was in this store at Southsea the day when Their Majesties the King and Queen went to Portsmouth to review the fleet. I went there too; it was a wonderful demonstration. In this small store I came in contact first hand with the benefits which flow from a national health insurance act. The operator of the store is the brother of a Mr. W. Butler, a very fine citizen who lives in my riding. He had in his store on that day four clerks; he was doing a real business. While I was chatting with him a young man came in, and Mr. Butler said to him, "Hello, Jack, I am glad to see you around again. When will you be able to come back?" I have forgotten whether the day of the week was Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday; in any event the young man replied, "I will be in on Monday." I said to him, "What has been wrong with you?" He said, "I have been sick three weeks." I said, "Well, how could you live?" I had not thought of a young man like that being in receipt of benefits under the national health insurance act. "Oh," he said, "I got along fine. I had my medical attention; it was paid. If I had had to go to hospital—which I didn't—that would have been paid. My doctor waited on me, and he was paid by the state, too; and while I have been off I have been getting eighteen shillings a week." That made a great appeal to me on account of my long association with thousands of working men, whose interests are always closer to my heart than any other interests, because they are or have been the least able to get their just dues. They cannot set their price unless they go on strike, which none of them want to do. They have been the least able to protect themselves. The case of this young man is an example of over twenty million workers in England who are under the benefits of this act. Is it not marvellous? And they have piled up tremendous resources which will take care of withdrawals for sickness for years to come, because nothing piles up faster than contributions to national health insurance paid by a whole population en masse. It may be beside the question for the Prime Minister to deal with it, but I venture to say that if he would take time, when he replies, to look up the figures relating to unemployment insurance, he would find that Canada has laid up a substantial number of millions of dollars in unemployment insurance payments. The same holds good with regard to national health insurance; we have nothing whatever to fear and the people have a great deal to gain.

[Mr. MacNicol]

The example I gave of the young man in Butler's store at Southsea is only one of several I could mention, because I came across the same thing in many places. I am strong for this, as I was for unemployment insurance, because I believe that after this war we shall have to have a sound system of immigration. I have been over many thousand unoccupied square miles of this country, and I do not believe that we as Canadians can hold very much longer this vast area locked up between the forty-ninth parallel, the Arctic, the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, without letting others in to help in its development. After the war we shall have to have immigration to build up the country. I look back to the years around 1907, when the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, with whom I was personally acquainted, established a great immigration policy which helped to build up this country. I believe, whatever anybody else says, that this country would never have won the glory which it won from 1914 to 1918 but for that immigration policy which brought in that new blood from the old land. We want more of that blood. I should like to see a million enter Canada after the war. But we cannot get working men here from Britain unless they know that they are coming to a country which provides the same boons and benefits that they enjoy over there—national health insurance and other acts of that kind. We need these people; they will return to this country everything which we lay out to bring them here; but they will not come here unless they can come to the same social conditions which they enjoy in the old land.

I will go one step further and suggest this to the Prime Minister for consideration when he frames his bill, that if and when people come from the old country after the war to settle, who have been paying into unemployment insurance and national health insurance there, we make a reciprocal arrangement with the old country government that they will pay to us for their nationals who may come here the money that has been paid on their behalf, so that we shall be able to take care of them from the time they arrive here. I think we shall have to have something of that kind.

Last summer I met with a number of incidents which convinced me that the medical profession were cooperating with the government in the consideration of the framing of a national health insurance bill. I cannot say I read of labour unions being called in. Perhaps they were; I think the government would not overlook them. If they were not, I recommend that in the framing of the bill the labour unions and those who have a knowledge of labour and the rights of the great