

rather concise account of the matters that I have outlined, and a great deal of detailed information with which I will not now take up the time of the House. When honourable members receive that information they will be in possession of all the details of the plan and will see how it has worked out.

I want to say in passing that, as the Minister in charge of the administration of the Unemployment Relief Act, I am trying to work it out on a basis that will be absolutely equitable to all the people in all parts of Canada, and I am gratified at the very hearty and friendly co-operation that has been shown by the provincial and municipal authorities in this matter. Every government, municipal, provincial and federal, regardless of its political complexion, has manfully endeavoured to do the job, and, regardless of whether it met with the approval of everybody or not, has tried its best to relieve distress through the medium of co-operation.

Another condition that existed shortly after the new Government took office, and that I think might properly be referred to at this time, was this. It was obvious that there were far more people in Canada than could be usefully and gainfully employed, and that the numbers of unemployed were rapidly increasing; therefore, if a cure for unemployment was to be found, it was necessary that the cause of it, or one of the causes, should be adjusted. It is patent now to everybody who reads, that during the eighteen months prior to the last general election, approximately 160,000 people came to Canada's shores from other lands. At the same time, the exodus of our own people, which had been going on for a number of years—and to that I am taking no exception, because it is a man's inalienable right to go to the place where employment opportunities and prosperity seem greatest—that outflow of population, principally to the republic to the south of us, slowed up and finally ceased because of the growth of unemployment in that country. For many months after most of the emigration from Canada had ceased, the tide of immigration continued, and even grew; consequently Canada found herself in the position of having to curtail the inflow of new population until such time as our own native sons and the people who had come here in good faith from other lands to establish themselves in this new country should become self-supporting. So, on the 12th of August, as I recall it, within about a week of the time when the Government took office, steps were taken, of which some people did not approve—especially those who wanted

to get into Canada—to curtail immigration into this country, and the figures now show the results. That curtailment did much to retard the growth of unemployment.

Other features also enter into the picture, one of them being the fact that about one million Canadians who had gone to the United States during the previous decade, finding themselves out of employment because of the natural desire of the American employer to give the preference to American nationals, began drifting home. When Parliament last September voted \$20,000,000 to create employment opportunities in Canada, many Canadians outside the boundaries of this country felt that their opportunities of getting something to do, in order to provide for their dependents, were better in Canada than elsewhere; consequently a substantial number returned. This aggravated the Government's difficulty in coping with the unemployment situation.

Conditions have gradually improved. The improvement, it is true, has been slow; but, notwithstanding statements that have been made on political platforms, and elsewhere, I do not think it was to be expected that unemployment would be abolished within a certain number of days or weeks. The substantial improvement in the situation is due not only to the opportunities created by the co-operative action of governments, federal, provincial and municipal, but also to the tariff adjustments made during the special session last fall, which will be fully discussed during the present session and need not be dilated upon now.

There is in times of business depression, or business stagnation, a tendency for the public mind to become uneasy, then distressed, and perhaps even openly rebellious. That has occurred before. I am thoroughly convinced that had Parliament not met last September and taken the steps it did to enable the Government to aid the provinces and municipalities in relieving distress, there would have arisen in Canada ere this a situation that would have been very difficult to control. Unemployment is probably the darkest shadow that hangs over the head of the wage earner in any country, and the fear of unemployment is probably the greatest cause of gray hair, in the heads of women particularly. So it would appear to me highly desirable that all governments should give more attention to trying to find a permanent solution of the problem than has been given to it by governments in years gone by.

Many economists, many great teachers and preachers, many labour leaders are in these days turning their minds to this problem;