

assistance commission feels no obligation to defend or condemn these differing attitudes. It wishes merely to point out that they exist.

Another reason was the fact that few of these veterans are of an age at which they can be taken into industry; that the average age of the unemployed veteran is about fifty years, and that there is very little chance of a man as old as that being placed in industry in competition with the young man looking for a job for the first time. The commission found also that the veterans make up a marginal group in the labour market; that unemployment among them will be chronic; that some will get work but others will lose their employment, and that the problem will get worse rather than better. On page 22 we find:

The commission has already hinted at its feeling concerning the future of our problem. We have no other expectation but that the problem will become graver in the future rather than less serious.

The final reason given for making this recommendation is the honour of Canada. At page 40 I believe the commissioners sum up the feeling that exists across Canada quite accurately when they say:

We feel, as we are confident the country at large feels, that no matter what Canada has done to requite the services of her veterans, her obligation to them is not discharged while one of them walks the streets vainly in search of work or while one of them is in distress.

They might have referred also to the attitude of the press. I should like to draw to the attention of the minister an editorial entitled *The Unemployed Veteran* which appeared in the *Vancouver Province* of February 28, 1938. I think this is typical of the opinion that has been expressed by newspapers across Canada. The last paragraph reads:

The new principle here is that it establishes the relief of the Canadian war veteran as the recognized obligation of the national government, and doubtless there will be something of a tussle in parliament before that principle is accepted. But surely there is good sense, as well as humanity, in this proposal, which, in the long run, only recognizes that the service which gives the veteran his claim was service to the nation.

And they might have added that there are in Canada to-day between 75,000 and 80,000 men who were wounded but whose disabilities are not sufficient to enable them to obtain pensions. These men all bear wounds upon their bodies and many of them no doubt are in the ranks of the unemployed; yet the dominion government assumes no responsibility.

And finally the commission might have referred to the transient problem which has come to a head so disastrously in Vancouver

[Mr. Green.]

during the last few days. Upon my return after the Easter recess I warned the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) of what might happen, and yet we have these men in the Vancouver post office and the art gallery. Hundreds of them have been there for five days and yet both governments are simply watching. This government is sitting still and doing nothing because it is 3,000 miles away from the scene of trouble. Among that group of unemployed transients in Vancouver who do not belong to Vancouver or to British Columbia are over 200 war veterans. They were picked out and cared for by the city for many weeks because they were war veterans and in the hope that the dominion government would assume its responsibility and take care of them. Yet there they are now; I hope they are not with those who are demonstrating, but they are among the unemployed transients in Vancouver at the present time and obviously not the responsibility of the city or province.

Perhaps the plan of this commission was not sound, but the minister suggests no alternative. The principle is sound; the plan may not be. But the minister simply says that the government is not responsible. That means hopelessness for the unemployed; it means that these unemployed veterans must wait and suffer until they reach the age of sixty and become eligible for the war veterans' allowance or until they become eligible through disability. It simply means that the fit front line man must remain on the ordinary relief rolls.

There is little one can suggest as a remedy. I do not like to be purely destructive; but with the government taking that attitude, and refusing to face the situation, there is little one can suggest. Nevertheless I do suggest this: With the principle recommended by the commission definitely rejected by the government, the government could at least extend the local committees, set up honorary local committees in other centres. At the present time there are only fifteen. The government could work out more projects for giving these men employment; put through a larger vote, instead of cutting it so that this year only \$85,000 is available, and that practically all earmarked already. And the minister could insist that the employment service of Canada be improved. We have the statement of the national employment commission that the employment service of Canada is antique. Time and again it has been recommended to the government that a dominion employment service should be set up; yet nothing is done. It is very directly the concern of this department, and