

ing to their jobs in these plants, we still have a huge surplus of workers who must be provided for.

My first reaction to these figures was the question, "Well, why cannot industry expand and so employ more than this estimated number of workers?" The answer seems to be that industry can and probably will expand, but that today an increase in the production of goods does not necessarily mean a proportionate increase in the number of workers. We have to face the stern reality that, because of the steady increase in the amount of electric power used per employee, plus better tools, plus a constant flow of new labour saving inventions, the continuous trend in industry today is towards the production of more and more goods with less and less labour.

Of course, during the first years of peace there will undoubtedly be a great demand for rehabilitation equipment for the devastated countries. Much of this must go abroad as a gift, or on long term credits; but irrespective of who pays for this material there will be for some time a market for more than the normal amount of manufactured products. But again, as with the domestic market, the extra employment provided will be of a more or less temporary nature. Nevertheless it will be of great value in giving the country time to prepare for the days that lie beyond the boom period, the days when production catches up with deficit. Then will come the creation of the inevitable surplus that spells depression.

It seems to me that there is no sense in work which has not a definite objective, work which does not produce needed goods or services. To insist that any manufacturing plant shall give work, whether or not there is a demand for the plant's product, has always appeared to me to be stupid. But I do not pretend to be an economist. Perhaps I have been taking a rather pessimistic view of the long-range possibilities of employment in this country.

If we approach the problem from another angle and recognize that expansion along other lines of national industry and extension of services to the people are just as necessary as expansion in industrial plants, we can form a much more optimistic picture of the future. For example, I think we could do with a little more Government interest in our forests and mines. Speaking along this line on the 22nd of August, the Right Rev. R. J. Renison, Anglican Bishop of Moosonee, prophesied a post-war boom in that district. He said the Precambrian shield and black spruce mean hope, wealth and employment for many times the

hundred thousand people who have settled there, and that this land of gold and pulp is the hope of the future of Ontario. He based this statement on the fact that gold and pulp are among the most fundamental needs of present day economics. That this fact is appreciated by private enterprise is evidenced in the announcement made on September 7 of the intention of the Marathon Paper Mills of Canada to spend at least \$15,000,000 in construction of a new plant on the north shore of Lake Superior and to employ 1,500 men there.

The nation could co-operate with private enterprise, and do its share by carrying on more reforestation and by employing a greatly increased number of men in the care and protection of our forests. In the year 1941 alone we lost 1,745 million cubic feet of merchantable timber through fire and insects. We hear much about the cost of adequate forest protection, but very little about the huge loss to the country which occurs year after year owing to lack of adequate protection.

One of our greatest sources of new wealth, the mining industry of Canada, has lain practically dormant throughout the war years because of scarcity of material and labour. Now it only awaits the green light to become once more one of our major industries and open up another great avenue of employment. As a woman I was particularly interested in the visit to Ottawa a week or two ago of Mrs. Viola MacMillan, first woman president of the Prospectors' and Developers' Association of Ontario. The report of an interview that appeared in an Ottawa paper stated that she had come to Ottawa to learn from government officials what the plans are for power and transportation in the Northwest Territories. She said that the association of which she is president was sponsoring a ten-year plan to encourage suitable young men to go into mining, by getting them to attend prospectors' classes and helping them to get jobs. My idea is that it would be well worth while for the Government to assist in every possible way corporations and individuals who are willing and financially able to open up additional avenues of employment, and that a strong endeavour should be made now to direct people away from the idea that jobs are to be found only in manufacturing plants.

Another answer to the question "Where shall we look for additional permanent employment in the years ahead?" is to be found in the extension of needed, useful services. I would mention these three as outstanding examples: first, conservation of our natural resources; second, increased recreational facilities; third, extension of health services.