

are probably more people seeking employment to-day in the principal centres of the country, than there have been on former occasions. It is not possible to get any exact statistics dealing with this matter, to show what the exact position of affairs is, but it is within the knowledge of hon. gentlemen in this Chamber that this condition exists at the present time, and that it is due to various causes, affecting not only this country, but the whole world at the present moment. The condition does not at the present time show any signs of improvement; in fact from information that we have, especially from the West, I fear that condition is rather apt to get worse than better, and it is principally from that point of view that I wish to direct the attention of the Government to this whole question, and to obtain, if possible, some idea if there is any possible way of dealing with this matter, and bringing about an improvement in the condition of things throughout the country. When there is a condition of depression throughout the country, and when work on the railroads and work for the development of the country is not as abundant as it has been, the natural condition is that people drift into the towns. Men who are best employed in the work of the country, men employed on the farms and in other development work of the country of that kind, are naturally inclined to drift into the towns, and very often, through a lack of employment get into a condition where they are not nearly as useful or as able for work at a later period as they would be if they could be looked after in some shape or form.

We hope that in this coming summer there will be a great deal of work in the country and on the farms owing to the development of the extra amount of land that has been brought under cultivation, and the crops that we hope to see this country produce this year. It is very largely on account of this that I want to ask the Government if any steps have been taken for the purpose of arranging that those men who are now drifting into the towns, and have largely filled the ranks of the unemployed in urban centres will be placed in such a position that they can find out where their services are most keenly wanted and can be made use of with the greatest advantage. This is, of course, a large question, which has been dealt with to some extent by the municipalities in different parts of the country; but the condition under which municipal-

ities suffer in dealing with a question of this kind is that they are not sufficiently in touch with one another to be able to bring about the interchange of ideas and the information which is necessary to place these men where their services are most required. If some system were adopted whereby, not only between the municipalities, but also possibly to some extent by the Provincial Governments, there could be help in arranging to give these men the information necessary to bring the employers and employed into better communication with one another, it would very materially assist in the solution of this problem. The Dominion Government is really the right authority to take up this matter and deal with it. If it is taken hold of by the Dominion Government the danger of overlapping would be very materially done away with, and a lot of probably unnecessary work would be avoided. The system of labour bureaus has been dealt with in Great Britain for a number of years. It can be shown there that the work has been very satisfactorily carried out, and that good results have been obtained through the development of those bureaus. At the time the plan was first mentioned and first organized in England, the trades unions and other associations with whose members it was proposed that those bureaus should deal, were very considerably opposed to it. Since that time they have learned to realize the value of those labour bureaus, and in subsequent years, at meetings of the trades unions and other public meetings of that kind, they have found that the assistance given to members of the unions by those bureaus established throughout the country has been very great, and they have passed resolutions putting them in the position of favouring very strongly the system as it now exists in England.

In Great Britain the Board of Trade has constituted advisory committees for the purpose of giving advice and assistance in the management of labour exchanges. The methods of dealing with country districts are the distribution at the post office of registration forms to be filled in by applicants for employment and to be posted to the nearest exchange, and this enables those people to obtain information which it is not always easy for them to obtain in other ways; and this results in bringing together the employer and employees very much more quickly and conveniently than was done before the estab-

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK.