

Economic Rehabilitation

The Department of Labour and the unemployment insurance commission are continuing to work closely with the provincial department and others concerned in this matter, and studies are also being made of the local areas that fall or might fall within one or other of the three categories of communities I have mentioned. Fortunately as far as we can see ahead in this year of 1956, I do not think there will be the necessity for the assisted movement of many unemployed persons from the maritime provinces to the other parts of Canada.

Many things related to this resolution have been touched upon in the debate in this house since January 10 last. I hope this resolution itself will receive discussion, as was mentioned by the hon. member for Cape Breton South when he introduced it. Even though the work going on under the sponsorship of the Minister of Labour does not in any sense carry out that great picture that he presented a little while ago, nevertheless it is something—even if it is only a thumb in the hole of the dike—to keep the hole from becoming too great. When the discussion is completed I would hope that the hon. member for Cape Breton South might feel that his purpose has been accomplished and be disposed to let the resolution be withdrawn.

Mr. A. J. Brooks (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak for just a few minutes on this resolution. It is so nearly similar to a resolution which was discussed in this house two weeks ago that I fear one could find himself repeating many of the things which were said at that time if he did not watch himself carefully.

The hon. member who introduced the resolution spoke about ghost towns, or the possibility of ghost towns, in his own province and in other parts of Canada. I am happy to say that in New Brunswick we have no ghost towns. Mining, of course, is something in connection with which I suppose you can expect ghost towns. One of the finest examples in Canada is that of Dawson city up in the Yukon, which I believe at one time had a population of 15,000 to 25,000 but which now has a population of 200 or 300 owing to the fact that the industry upon which it was built has petered out.

I believe there are also ghost towns in northern Ontario. But we do not need to worry so much about cities like Dawson city up in the north. That is a thing of the past. As far as ghost towns in Ontario are concerned, as the minister mentioned a moment ago, the fact that we pay to move people from the maritime provinces to Ontario to get work would indicate that there must be

plenty of work in the province of Ontario for the people who would come from mining or other areas. I do not think it is as much a problem there as it is in the maritime provinces.

The solutions suggested in the hon. member's resolution I would say are merely of a temporary nature. The motion suggests the movement of men from one province to another, and recommends the giving of instruction to those people who have lost their employment so they can take other employment. In my opinion this is only a palliative, and so far as we are concerned in the maritime provinces we hope there will be some more permanent solution of our problem than is suggested in the resolution, though I am very much in favour of the suggestions as temporary measures.

The minister has spoken about the town of Marysville in New Brunswick. We all remember the great problem these people had a few years ago when they lost their industry which, as he said, had been there for 80 years. Many people were thrown out of employment. The minister gave the history of the situation, but I just want to say that we cannot help but feel great admiration for the people of that town who rehabilitated themselves more by their own efforts than by the efforts of the province or the dominion.

There was another town in New Brunswick that, in a way, suffered as much as Marysville, and that was Milltown. I have mentioned this before, but the employees of the factory in Milltown would not accept defeat. When the head of the textile industry in Canada said they would have to close their mill the workers said no, it would not be closed. They said they would put up the money themselves to carry on, with assistance from the town. I think everyone is very happy to know that today this factory is carrying on much as it did before, and the people have almost completely rehabilitated themselves. I mention these two instances to show how much can be done by the determination of people when they wish to overcome their difficulties.

My main argument today, Mr. Speaker, would be the same as it was two weeks ago when another resolution concerning decentralization of industry was before us. I say these temporary measures are not enough. Something of a more permanent nature is needed. The maritime provinces are losing their people and losing their industries. This is the result of policies not of this government particularly but of governments since the days of confederation. It is the result of our rail rates and defence production, as I mentioned here the other day. If carefully reviewed, and I think they will be carefully