

about the back to the land scheme. Theoretically it is perfect; there is no one who is not pleased to hear that men who were formerly farmers are coming back to the land, or that farmers' sons are leaving the cities to return to the rural districts. Theoretically this is splendid, but practically it does not always work. In fact, when miners or people who have a particular trade are out of work, even if they have been brought up on a farm, if they have left it for several years, they are quite at a loss when they return; they must be well taken care of and given special grants and help in order that they may be successful in their new manner of living. There are some people who believe that people can be taken from the cities and placed in the wilderness in order to form new parishes. This is a mistake, because farmers should be grouped; when they are close together, they are strong, they have their real family life. Where there are farms for sale, they should be bought by some government, either federal or provincial, in order that we may do for the unemployed something like what was done for the soldiers after the war. We must not forget that unemployment must be fought in the same way as the enemy had to be fought during the war and the fight must be well organized in order that success may result. If some government, federal or provincial, takes credit for bringing people back to the farm, that is all right, but what is more important is to keep people on the farm. We must see to it that the farmers do not leave the land in times of distress when farm products are being sold so cheaply. Very few farmers so far have become discouraged, but if conditions do not improve; if they do not get enough money out of the dairy business or the sale of cattle or their various farm products, they will become discouraged and will say: What is the use of staying on the land? People praise our virtues, our good qualities, but we are working like slaves and deriving no benefit. We have no money to bring up our children, to send them to school; we cannot enjoy any of the pleasures of life; we have to work from early in the morning until late at night, and if we consider the low prices that are paid for our products, we are not receiving reasonable wages for our work. That is the main problem.

We cannot expect unemployment to be solved by the Minister of Labour alone even if he gives all his time to his functions. The question will have to be settled by the co-operation of the best brains in the cabinet. The Minister of Labour will have to discuss

[Mr. Pouliot.]

the matter with his colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, in order that tariffs may be adjusted to meet the needs of the farmers. I am not speaking of the sittings of the council where all the ministers meet. The Minister of Agriculture will also have a word to say on the subject. Indeed, they cannot solve the problem by themselves; they will have to get the assistance of the best brains of the heads of their departments in order that some scheme to improve conditions in this country may be evolved. The situation is most serious. At the present employment is being sought by those who are out of a job. Amongst those out of a job are many who formerly lived in the country; for instance, the farm hands who have no home of their own but worked for some farmer who had not enough sense to look after the maintenance of the old homestead. During the prosperous years a farmer who had a very large acreage would hire hands from different places to help him in his work, and particularly was that the case in the west until machinery replaced man power to a very large extent. Many men would go from Quebec and Ontario to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta to help the farmers at harvest time, but to-day there are very few farmers in the west who are employing help from the older provinces because they use machinery, believing that it is quicker and more economical. The result is that these farm hands are unemployed.

There is another class, as my hon. friend from Charlevoix-Saguenay so wisely mentioned, the lumber jacks with their large families in the province of Quebec, and the situation must be the same in Ontario, particularly in the northern part of the province which had the honours of the evening yesterday. There are many lumberjacks who used to earn substantial wages by working in the shanties in the winter, and afterwards they would drive down the logs and cut wood. Coming down on the river drive there was great festivity, but they earned enough money to pay for the festivity and had enough left to live on for the rest of the year. But now the lumberjacks are getting only one dollar a cord for cutting wood, and they cannot live very long on that. Furthermore, the cut of timber has been very much reduced on account of the very low price paid for it, and these lumberjacks are not now earning enough money to buy good clothes. Their plight is very bad. They must be considered with the farm hands as amongst the unemployed.

In every rural community also there are artisans, carpenters, masons and so forth, who