

of the people of Canada, known as "Canada is Coming Through." The way I arrive at these figures, I may say for the information of the minister, is this: I take the percentages; I know that each one per cent represents about 8,000 or a little less, and I allow for the amount less. The number employed last first of January less, then, on the first of January, 1923, is some 20,000. It is true that there were about 45,000 more than on the first of January, 1922. That is a fact. But there is not much to be cheerful over in that respect; 1921 represented all over this continent, indeed over the world but especially on this continent, the dip of the after-war reaction. The United States suffered equally with us and as a result millions of their workmen were roaming the streets. The United States has recovered, and steadily recovered. We had a very slight recovery in 1922, but we have gone back, and we are going back still. We have to-day 16 per cent less employed in Canada than on the first of January, 1920. That 16 per cent would represent approximately 125,000 people.

Mr. MURDOCK: Does the right hon. gentleman know that he is quoting from only one side of the figures, and those figures secured from his friends the employers, and prepared, I think it can be shown, for a specific purpose? The right hon. gentleman is not giving the figures that have been secured from the labour organizations and from other sources, and which should be given in order to show the correct status.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Nothing could have been more helpful than the interruption of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Murdock). He has impugned as seriously as he can do anything, the publications of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, and he tells me I am not justified in standing in parliament and depending upon the official records of a department of this government. These records he says, are prejudiced. Instead of relying on those figures, he says I ought to base my statements on the report of the trades unions of Canada. Well, I have some trade union reports before me, I had almost forgotten about them; and, though out of turn, perhaps I could not do better than refer to them just now. These were brought to light on the day parliament opened this session, so they are very recent. I quote from a newspaper report of 6th February, of a meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labour Council:

Unemployment statistics for forty unions were submitted at the Montreal Trades and Labour Council last evening, showing that out of 48,000 men covered by these unions, 9,324 are out of employment, and 22,463 are working on short time.

[Mr. Meighen.]

That is, sixty per cent either out of employment or on short time. I go on:

The extent of unemployment was greater than in the same period last year—

"Substantial progress"!

—and a very serious condition of affairs existed among the working classes of the city. Aside from the reports of institutions the committee had been informed from other sources and individuals that more calls from distressed people for personal aid had been received than during last winter or the winter preceding.

The report concludes:

Whatever may be said about the need for a greater population in Canada, it cannot be denied that thousands who were born in this country are unable to find in it the opportunities for earning a livelihood. No more substantiation of this is necessary than figures given by the Secretary of Labour of the United States, Mr. James J. Davis. In the three years, 1921-1924 there legally entered the United States from Canada over 400,000 people, but according to Mr. Davis 850,000 persons clandestinely entered the United States in the year 1923-1924 alone, much of which came over the Canadian border.

I would think it would. It goes on:

The Dominion Labour Bureau of Statistics estimates that through immigration and births in the past three years there has been added to our population 700,000.

Seven hundred thousand people added through immigration and births in three years. It goes on:

In the United States' estimate there has legally and illegally entered that country from Canada over 700,000.

I do not see very much more sunshine in the reports of the trade unions than I do in the reports of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. It might be added that the index figure now is 83.9 showing that more than 16 per cent less are employed now than on the 1st January, 1920. I would like the corresponding figures to be produced from the United States and to ascertain if there has been 16 per cent, or even 1 per cent reduction in the same period in that country.

Now I want to read the other references in the Speech from the Throne of a year ago, and show what has been left out this year:

Though the general economic situation still reflects the consequences of the World War, the records of production, trade, transportation, employment and public finance have been uniformly increasingly favourable.

I have shown the record of public finance. It has been uniformly increasingly worse. The record of transportation I have before me, and that record shows that to the end of November last, the latest figures that could be procured—I cannot find the figures at the moment, and I am willing to let it go on Hansard at this, but I know it is more—there was some 8,800,000 tons or \$23,000,000 worth of transportation less in those eleven months than in the eleven months preceding. Trade also in its total is less, though the favourable