

That would be a step in the right direction. I am here to-day to plead the cause of the suburban worker, the man who has been forgotten. My hon. friends in the far corner of the chamber to my left sometimes plead the causes of different groups, but they have not yet seen fit to plead the cause of the suburban worker. Instead of having miles and miles of waste land outside our cities I suggest that a policy such as I have described could be adopted. If the municipalities had the power we are giving the provinces they would soon solve the difficulties of the industrial and suburban worker. The municipalities have had to pay for good roads, for power and for transportation for the benefit of the people, and they have been glad to do so. As I say, if under section 4 the government would make provision to help municipalities of 40,000, 50,000 or 100,000 people, they would be doing a great deal towards solving the problem of employment and kindred problems. The youth of the land would receive work.

May I point out that this action has been taken in Denmark and other countries and I am wondering why it cannot be done in Canada. The suburban dweller in England is being helped. We know that in Canada the railways have fallen down all along the line. If instead of spending hundreds of millions of dollars in the duplication of our railways we had studied unemployment, as it was studied in the United States ten or fifteen years ago, we would be in a better position. We know that the Baltimore and Ohio railway postponed improvements until days of depression. If when our railways were spending money like water we had spent money in studying unemployment and familiarizing ourselves with the different phases of unemployment, we would be better off than we are to-day. Our socialist friends, who sometimes stand behind different causes, would do well to take up my suggestion. It would mean more work for the unemployed, would result in an improvement of land, and would be a source of revenue for railways and suburban services. I hope this feature of the matter will be considered in the agreement with the provinces as proposed in the bill. It would mean production for the consumers in the city and would give a home market for the small truck farmer and market gardener.

Montreal has had this commutation ticket service for many years, and I believe it is the only city in Canada which has had it. Further, I hope the minister, and through him the government, will consider with the provincial representatives the cancellation of

charters of shark loan companies which to a great extent have been responsible for the unfortunate conditions in which some people find themselves. When federal government authorities are discussing the matter with those of provincial governments I suggest that they should consider high mortgage rates, bank rates, insurance rates, and all matters of this kind which have helped to bring about unemployment in the various provinces.

The bill before us is said to be a conservation measure, and if that is so we want conservation all along the line. At the present time there are eight or ten government departments doing conservation work with the result that we have no conservation policy, except that which appears on paper, and it is not worth a snap of the finger. Hon. members will have read what was said last Friday by President Roosevelt of the United States upon the occasion of opening a large building. He spoke about the conservation of the lands and natural resources of a country, and of the duty of the hour for conservation.

This is a bill having to do with natural resources, and in it there is a proposal to make an agreement with the provinces. If we are going to have an agreement, then let us do something which will preserve the wealth of the products of our forests, soil, lakes and mines. Let us do something in a practical way.

As I read section 4 I find that there may be agreements with corporations and with individuals. The government may make arrangements with individuals engaged in industry regarding the expansion of industrial employment. I should like to learn from the minister the exact meaning of the section. Does it mean that he may walk into an industry and compel it to take on more men than from an economic point of view would be practicable? Does the bill carry that meaning? Is it going to interfere with business or with the corporate direction of business? Is that what is proposed in the agreement with industries? If an agreement is to be made with a corporation, what kind of corporation will it be? Will the agreement be in restraint of trade? I say that if we are going to interfere with industry in that way we will create more unemployment.

In connection with the corporate direction of industry the statement is made that unemployment is a persistent factor in modern economic life. The industries and plants in Canada which can give regular employment to all of their employees, even in times of prosperity, are very few indeed. We shall