

Government Organization

industry cannot pay the workers wages high enough to ensure the consumption of its products.

The external market cannot by itself absorb the whole Canadian production, since while selling abroad, our country in turn has to import, and this hardly puts out of balance our national production.

The purpose of developing industry is to make more jobs available. This is at least what I understood from the minister's speech. However, we cannot certainly do so through industry, because, when a new industry employing fifty or so people is established, two or three others might have to close down, thus laying off hundreds of workers.

If, for instance, an average industry manufactures \$20,000 worth of raw materials every week and if its payroll comes up to \$1,500, I ask the minister whether the \$1,500 paid in wages can possibly buy \$20,000 worth of products. I think there lies the crux of the problem and the minister did not give this matter any consideration. He did not indicate any solution to that serious problem of modernization.

We are in favour of it, but people have a right to live. And because high salaries are paid and techniques are kept up to date, no industry can spend enough on salaries to provide jobs for all workers so they may be able to earn a decent living.

Even if we find new openings abroad, there will always be some unemployment in Canada, which is due precisely to science, progress and technology.

The minister and his department should intervene in that field and undertake concrete studies in order to find solutions to the problem. The minister will say that his job is to look after industry, manpower, the unemployed and that all the rest concerns other people. Yet it is his business as well as other people's. In fact, it concerns us all since we are here to govern humanely and to serve individuals. Canadians have fundamental rights on production, conservation and consumption.

Mr. Chairman, unless we take this problem in hand, we will never be able to operate industry and distribute all the money families need to live properly in a country like Canada where science is so advanced that industries hardly hire workers now.

In view of our economic conditions, industries must absolutely become automated, they must use more advanced methods because manpower, besides being costly, has all kinds

of requirements that the machine does not have. In order to survive, industry must at all costs have recourse to scientific means and lay off people who on account of new technology will have no place there.

I think that the minister should take note of these suggestions and use his powerful brain in order to find solutions to the various economic, industrial and technical problems which we have to face.

After all, we must enable our citizens to live. Exports will not solve the Canadian problem, because it will enable other countries to become industrialized and as soon as they are, we will no longer have markets abroad. As soon as peace will be restored in the world, when, for example, the Americans will no longer be at war, our markets in the United States will practically be eliminated. We have a steady market there, because Americans are at war and thousands of men are destructive to enable others to build.

I will point out to the minister that we have no production problem and we were aware of that fact during the last World War. We allowed our machinery to become rusty and our labour force to be deprived of everything during 20 years and then suddenly, the problem is settled, because we have found some destructors and consumers.

The minister should realize there is an enormous surplus in all industrial sectors. In fact, some Canadian industries operate only five, six or seven months a year. They must close the rest of the year because they are unable to sell their products, or their warehouses are full. Those products are financed at 9 and 10 per cent interest rates. It is impossible to lower their price in order to sell them. Indeed, to sell the stored goods, prices must be increased. The unemployed and those who do not have sufficient revenue to buy those products have no purchasing power because of the general increase in the cost of living that our wonderful economic system has brought about.

The fault is not with the production. Let us do as we did during the war; let us arrange for consumption and production will look after itself. Industry will get organized; it will have no use for the great government experts and for all its agencies. Industry used to thrive and it still can. But when industry faces an economic problem like overproduction, new departments are established, two are combined in an effort to solve the problem. Some people say: Industrialists do not know what to produce. They have inadequate