

of that southern politician who said, "Them's my principles, but if you do not like them, I can change them."

Let me now deal with the question of unemployment. Speaking on August 5, 1935, the right hon. gentleman said:

Ladies and gentlemen . . . unemployment is Canada's most urgent national problem. You do not need to be told that.

He repeats that in this book over and over again, and with that statement I wholly agree; it is just as true to-day as when he said it on August 5, 1935.

Mr. SPENCE: More true to-day.

Mr. MANION: Yes, perhaps more true.

On the next page the right hon. gentleman, speaking of our government, says:

One thing the government might have done, but which has never been properly done, is to have supplied parliament and the country with accurate information, year by year, as to the numbers of unemployed and the numbers on relief. There is nothing, even to-day, in the nature of national registry.

That is as true to-day as when he said it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No, no.

Mr. MANION: There has been no national registry. I spent days trying to get legitimate and accurate figures. I pointed out this afternoon that the figure which the Minister of Labour has been giving was 125,000 of unemployed on aid, whereas the actual number of unemployed is 450,000. If there is such a thing as a registry, I should like to know where it is, because I do not want to waste as much time as I have had to do in the last few days in order to get figures that are dependable.

The right hon. gentleman went on to say:

The statistical departments of the government have never been given the necessary instructions or authority to collect detailed information.

They have exactly the same instructions to-day. There has been no change whatever in the instructions to the statistical departments, and no change in their methods of keeping these figures.

On the next page the right hon. gentleman says:

In order to conceal the growing magnitude of the problem, and, at the same time, its own growing incapacity to deal with it, the government either did not seek to obtain information which, at all times, should have been available to the people's representatives in parliament, or it deliberately withheld such information as it had from them.

We are in exactly the same position now. The government may be able to get better information than I can, but I am a member

of this house and I cannot get the information. I was able to get it only after running around to the labour department, the statistical branch, the national welfare council and various other bodies, and then finally I got something in the way of an estimate that was in no way different from the estimates we had when we were in power. To use his own words, is it to conceal the growing magnitude of the problem and at the same time its own incapacity to deal with it that this government does not give us in this house the proper figures with regard to unemployment? I do not know, but I think what the right hon. gentleman says here is as applicable to his party as it was to us. Again, he says:

Taking the latest figures on employment supplied by the bureau of statistics, it can be shown that, on the most conservative basis, there are to-day over 400,000 wage-earners out of work.

I gave the figures this afternoon and, from the information that I could obtain from the labour department or from anyone else who had any knowledge of the subject, it appears that the number to-day is 398,000. That was the number of persons out of work in November, and in addition there were 64,000 young men who had attained the employable age but could find no work. That is the estimate of the bureau of statistics. I am speaking from memory, because I do not wish to take up the time of the house now to look it up. Well, we can add to that number, for the month of December, another fifty or sixty thousand, if we are to judge by our experience every December as compared with November. So that in December the number would be well above 500,000. There is no doubt about that; those are the figures given by the bureau of statistics after they had worked on the question at considerable length in order to furnish the information I desired. This 64,000 estimated by the bureau as the number of young men out of work in November, it must be remembered, is the lowest estimate, because the youth council made an estimate of 400,000 as the number of unemployed wage-earners. With the December increase the number will be over 500,000.

Further on the right hon. gentleman says:

It is not with statistics, but with human lives, that we are concerned. You cannot measure fear, privation and want, by any yardstick, or adding machine.

I agree with that, but that is as true to-day as it was then.

Is it any wonder that to-day there is widespread unrest and discontent throughout the land, and that, in the case of young and old alike, many are in a condition of despair.