

ments, some of the comforts, and some of the benefits of life. The world owes every man a living—that is the doctrine of the labouring man—and the world is provided with a living for every man. But what kind of a living? We all cannot be professional men; we all cannot be parasites, as they are termed, upon the exertions of others. Some must be the starters; some must be the originators; some must be the producers in order to support the fabric of society.

Now, I believe that people generally would be willing to pay for commodities produced on the farm, not pre-war prices, but say 50 per cent addition to the prices prevailing before the war. If that were done, I think it would to a great extent stay the exodus from the farm to the city. I believe that the cities should not be given so much representation in Parliament, but that the representation should be more widely distributed throughout the country. I think there should be more inducements in that respect to remain on the farm.

Another great evil is that the public are too much devoted to sport. Take up a newspaper and what do you find? There is a little item in the corner about the vagaries of Parliament, or the extortions of the Government if the paper happens to be on the other side, or about the ministers not properly expending the public revenues by way of salary or otherwise, while three-quarters of the paper are devoted to sport and divers automobile activities and contrivances. Now, that should not be; neither should the whole mind of the public be occupied with sport to the exclusion of everything else. Sport and amusement are proper in their place; but remember that we have new exigencies, that the late war has changed our whole social fabric, and that the people must devote themselves more to labour and production, to economy, and to the restoration of what has been disturbed and wasted by war.

Then, again, a comprehensive remedy is for all classes—the farm producer, the merchant, the mechanic, the labourer, all classes, including the professional class—to reduce their costs and expenses, to reduce the price of all that we produce by every process. Labour being the very large ingredient in the aggregate, the reduction must begin with the labouring man. He must be prepared to reduce the cost of labour in the interest of the labouring man himself and in the interest of the public.

Hon. Mr. ROCHE.

Hon. JOHN STANFIELD: Honourable gentlemen, at this late hour in the Session I do not intend to occupy more than a very few moments. I am sure the House will agree with the remarks just made by the honourable member from Halifax. I do not, as a rule, believe in post mortems, but there are times when they have to be held.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY: They are necessary, too.

Hon. Mr. STANFIELD: In the past and in the present, we have been too fond of "passing the buck," to use a slang phrase. To a certain extent the manufacturer is to blame, and labour is to blame. If leaders of organized labour, instead of holding out for the high wages they are getting to-day, would advise the labour men to get together and have a show-down—I do not mean a strike, but a talk between the manufacturers and the labour men—I think they would readily see that labour has to come down somewhat in order to enable this country to prosper.

I intend only to touch, and very shortly, on the railway situation, more especially in regard to freight rates, which have more to do with unemployment, perhaps, than a great many other causes. In my judgment, reduction in freight rates is more important to the Western farmer than a reduction of the tariff. But in order to bring freight rates down there must be a reduction of wages. What do we find to-day in connection with the Canadian Government railway? Unorganized labourers employed as temporary men are having their wages reduced; men are being laid off; engineers are being reduced to foremen; foremen are laid off until they become workmen; but has there been any reduction among the officials? I received a telegram yesterday from the matron of the station of the town in which I live, stating that she had received orders that her services would be no longer required after the 15th of this month. That woman has done good work for, I think, \$40 a month. That action has been taken on the ground of economy. I do not blame the District Superintendent for that, but I blame the head men in Toronto.

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STANTON: Why, if they do not need her?

Hon. Mr. STANFIELD: Why do I blame them? Because, on looking over the workmen's time-table, I find a new official, called a Relieving Superintendent, between Mont-