

*The Address—Mr. A. C. Stewart*

really serious about. These statements do not help. They do not build up morale. They never built it up in the army or out of it. This is his statement as reported at page 98 of *Hansard*:

It is rather frightening when you think that we have just come through a major conflict.

According to the hon. member's statement only 10 per cent are unemployed in Cape Breton South. I continue with his remarks:

The unemployed in Canada were the ones who fought it. A few years after their return, with a threatening international situation and the possibility of another war, whom do you think those fellows are going to shoot at the next time?

They have had one experience. They are human, and many of them are the boys who came back from this war.

As the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis) well knows, the unemployed of Canada did not fight the first war. Very, very few in our battalion, or any of the battalions, were unemployed. Nor did the unemployed of Canada fight the last war. Only a very small percentage of the soldiers, sailors or airmen who fought in the last war were unemployed—a very small percentage, indeed.

In addition, by his own admission, 90 per cent of the Cape Breton workers are employed—and I venture to say most of them are returned men. Furthermore, in my own branch of the Legion, and I think in every branch of the Legion, as every hon. member can say, when the question is asked, "Are you unemployed?" I have yet in the last year to hear of any legionnaire in the city of Yorkton or vicinity who has answered by saying, "I have no employment."

So that situation is not at all as it is painted. It is exaggerated, and purely for political purposes. In addition, so far as Yorkton is concerned, according to the figures 95 per cent of the unemployment there is seasonal. Eighty-three per cent have applied for and obtained unemployment insurance. We are told the government is about to bring before the house certain provisions to increase the number who may come under the Unemployment Insurance Act, and that provision will help many of those who are at present unemployed. I believe, with respect, that the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) has adequately covered the situation, and that nothing more need be said in connection with it.

So far as the attitude of the people is concerned, while I do not know what other hon. members have found, in my constituency, which is largely rural and composed of farmers, there has been no complaint about prices. My constituency is composed largely of people from other lands, many of whom

[Mr. Stewart (Yorkton).]

are of Ukrainian ancestry. They have made developments, and are educating their sons and daughters in our universities. They are improving their farming methods—and it pleased me to see the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Decore) rise in his place at the last session and point out that the three prize winners at the world grain fair were from Vegreville and of Ukrainian ancestors.

These people are advancing. What was the attitude of those farmers when I returned to my constituency? I never had one delegation of farmers complaining about prices—not one. I never talked with a farmer who was worrying about the pork market—not one. He knew he could go into pork in two or three months, and get out of it again, if he wished to—and they are still raising pork. I never heard one complaint about cattle prices—and I have raised a great many cattle. Cattle prices are good; they are very satisfactory, and will continue so, so long as we can keep the embargo removed by the United States. Incidentally, Canadian cattle sold there last year amounted to only one and a half per cent of the cattle butchered in that country. That is a very small percentage. If the cattle market in my district is sound, farming in that district is also sound.

In that connection the only complaint I received—and I object to all this depression talk—was in connection with eggs. I took that up immediately with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner). I received a request from the president of the Saskatchewan poultry association, which is composed of representatives of all branches of the poultry industry in that province, and includes the producers, the co-operatives, the produce dealers, the hatchery men, the feed manufacturers and the poultry division of the university.

When the announcement was made later by the Minister of Agriculture that a floor price of 38 cents a dozen had been fixed I received a letter written by the president of this association while on the train on his way to the Niagara Falls convention. The last paragraph is significant, and states:

The announcement was received yesterday of the support price being invoked for eggs. To me, again personally, the price has been very well chosen. The reasons are that an efficient operator can cover practically all, if not all his expenses and overhead costs, but with so low a present margin that he will not expand his operations, while the less capable manager will curtail or cease operation, and so bring in a reduction in production, and some measure of stability for the future.

Thanking you for your assistance in securing this welcome solution.

And that is signed by D. L. Davis of Vanscoy, the president of the Saskatchewan poultry association. They do not get the prices