

to say once again to the minister in all seriousness that this is the first time in the world's history that a war is being fought in an age of abundance. Consequently all the principles that have applied in past wars are not likely to apply in this war. We have always thought that when war came on, unemployment disappeared; but just to show how different are the experiences of this war, I should like to read a short paragraph from this evening's *Ottawa Citizen*, with regard to conditions in Great Britain, where, above all nations in the world, one would expect to see the disappearance of unemployment. This dispatch is dated London, August 5:

The United Kingdom's unemployed increased by 60,431 between June 17 and July 15 to 827,266, according to ministry of labour figures issued to-day.

That does not necessarily mean that Canada's unemployed are going to increase in number, but it does mean that unless conditions exist in Canada which do not exist in Great Britain, in all probability the number of our unemployed will increase. There are in Canada conditions which do not exist in Great Britain. We have resources which are not to be found there. Wherever there are resources, people should be employable upon those resources; but if we are not using the right means to put people to work, then as far as the effect on our unemployed is concerned, we might just as well not have those resources. The result is that even where there are bountiful resources, there may be an increasing unemployment problem. Particularly is there danger because of the great amount of taxation which has been placed upon the country and because of the large contributions we are urging people to make.

I do not want to labour this point, but I wish to do my full duty in setting forth the dangers which I think exist in Canada. It must be understood that in order to employ people, industry must be able to sell goods. If industry cannot sell goods, it cannot employ people; and if we take out of the hands of the people the money with which they have been buying food, clothes and various other articles, there is going to be difficulty in selling goods and consequently difficulty in employing people to produce goods. This means that unless we increase war production at a tremendous rate, so as to absorb the people thrown out of employment, we are going to have an increase in unemployment. What I am afraid of is just what was pointed out by the hon. member for Vancouver East, that there will be a gradual increase in the suffering endured in this country until the condition will become almost unbelievably bad. That

will have a reaction upon our morale, and will place us in a genuinely dangerous position.

I just want to point this out to the minister. I am not saying he is responsible; I think he is doing his part well. But, as the hon. member for Cape Breton South has pointed out, there is a number of provincial officials who have not become much more realistic than they have had to, who have allowed themselves to be deceived and deluded, who have become hard-boiled, callous, tough, and all that sort of thing. As a result, this suffering goes on right before their noses, to the point where it may bring this country to an inflammable state, which certainly would be disastrous from every angle. If we can show wisdom; if we can be fore-armed; if we can develop our foresight to be as good as our hindsight, as the saying is, perhaps it will be all to the good. I earnestly believe that there is danger of our overlooking a serious condition of suffering.

I might mention just one or two matters which cause me to worry. In perhaps every third mail I get a request for work from someone in my constituency. Always the indication is that there is no work to be found for these people, although they may be young men or women. I have set out to find work for them; and I would just about as soon look for a needle in a haystack as look for a job in Canada at this time. As long as this situation exists, there is something radically wrong with conditions in this country. If we were absorbing our unemployed as we should be, there would not be people writing me from away out in my constituency for very small jobs. Jobs should be available there, but apparently there is none.

There is one other matter about which I am greatly alarmed. I know half a dozen people right here in the city of Ottawa who are relatively young; that is, they are about thirty-nine or forty, certainly under forty-five years of age. These people are in a position to do a good day's work, but they cannot find work although they have been looking for it now for weeks and weeks. There is a tendency on the part of the civil service to say, "We will not take people when they get beyond a certain age". When we were boys—of course the minister and I are just boys yet—we expected people to do a good day's work at sixty-eight and seventy, and they did. I have seen men of seventy stand up to the hard work of the hay field and grain field; I have seen them work on the thresher; I have seen them hauling, stooking, stacking, and all that sort of thing. That is a clear indication that men far beyond forty-five years of age are able to do a good day's work, but for some