

should tend to prevent the congestion of markets, and the reason he supported the recommendations of the Minority Report in regard to Unemployment was that he believed that these proposals were not merely in the right direction, but that they form a unified scheme of proposals which would do more than any other practical proposals which he had seen to put an end to the congestion of trade and the depression and unemployment which ensued. If they were to work in this direction, to achieve this desirable end, they could only do it in one or other of three ways.

Either they must reduce the effective supply of labour or they must increase the demand for labour, or they must regularise that demand for labour.

The proposals of the Minority Report seemed to him to reduce the over supply of labour in that they proposed to remove large numbers of children and young persons from competing in the labour market, to reduce the competition of married women, to remove certain elements of incompetence at the bottom of all the trades, and otherwise, by taking out of our industrial system large numbers of invalids and aged people to reduce the chronic over-supply of labour in the labour market. They would stimulate the demand for commodities through taxing the superfluous wealth of the rich and spending it in the name of the State in supplying work and wages. More important still would be the indirect action of the scheme in improving the organisation of the labour market. If they could remove those waste elements from the competition of the labour market they would enable every Trade Union to organise more effectively, and so raise the general standard of wages.

Lastly, it would help to regularise the demand for labour, partly because working-class expenditure would itself be more regular than expenditure on luxuries, and partly because it proposed to utilise the machine of State action in setting going a current of public industry to counter-balance the irregular action of private enterprise.

The chairman then called upon Sidney Webb, LL.B., to read a paper on "The Organisation of the Labour Market."

The paper submitted by Mr. Webb was as follows:—

The Minority Report makes a new departure in the Unemployed question. All previous proposals, whether by Municipal Authorities or philanthropists, have taken for granted the continual existence of periodical Unemployment in mass; and have dealt only with the relief of the workman when he had become unemployed. This is even the common interpretation of the Right to Work Bill, though I think that measure capable of a wider scope. But the Minority Report goes a step further. It declares this chronic Unemployment to be a disease of society, demanding not merely the relief of the