

maintain them until such time as work was found for them to do.

H. H. Schloesser (Fabian Society Local Government Group), seconding the resolution, said that the proposals of the Minority Report in regard to Unemployment had been embodied in the redraft of the Right to Work Bill of the Labour Party, and there was no fear of any conflict between the two sets of proposals.

H. Quelch moved and A. A. Purcell (Amalgamated Society of French Polishers) seconded an amendment, the object of which was stated to be "To take the Unemployed out of the Capitalist Labour Market altogether," and this amendment was defeated and further amendments moved by Frank Smith, L.C.C., and Louis A. Hill (Amalgamated Union of Bakers), the purport of which was to advocate the legislative restriction of the hours of labour, demanding the creation of a Ministry of Labour, and the granting of facilities for the immediate passing of a Right to Work Bill, were accepted by the mover of the resolution.

On a further amendment being moved by Alex. Gossip and seconded by F. Bramley (Furnishing Trades Association),

George Bernard Shaw said he thought they had better stick to the carefully worded resolution before them. Unemployment was a necessary condition of industry, but suppose they brought about the measure which they were advocating in the resolution, and all men waiting for work would be maintained honourably at the public expense, it would go further than some of them yet appeared to see, because there were a great many private employers who only kept people permanently employed because they did not like to face the inhumanity of throwing people out between one job and another.

If they relieved that difficulty and made it no longer an inhumane thing to take a man on casually, there were a great many employers who now kept men on permanently who would begin to employ labour intermittently. Did they realise that the great thing the Unions were doing to-day was insuring the employer against unemployment? Did they not see that one of the first results of the putting into operation of the proposals made in the resolution would be that the great Trade Unions would give up that department of activity and would throw the unemployed on the public resources? In this sense their measures would create a good deal of unemployment. They wanted to get continuous production and continuous purchasing power face to face. It was said, "Why not organise men outside the Capitalist System?" That was not possible. They would not be able to work out the system