

CHALOULT SAYS WORKING WOMEN REDUCE FAMILIES

Quebec, March 15.—(CP)—The question of female employment in war plants as a factor in reducing the size of the Quebec family and denuding the populations of rural centres will come in for further discussion next week in the Quebec Legislature.

The matter was brought up last night after René Chaloult, Independent member for Quebec Centre, said employing women in war plants was "the surest way to destroy the family—Quebec's sole means of survival."

Several members agreed with Mr. Chaloult who introduced a motion calling for production of documents exchanged between provincial and federal authorities on women employed in war plants.

Prime Minister King, Defence Minister McNaughton and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation had "launched and carried out a campaign to drive women away from rural centres and encourage them to enlist in the armed forces or work in war industries," Mr. Chaloult said.

Women, who left their villages to work in war industries, would never go back home. It is the Federal Government's duty to advise mothers of the "dangers" awaiting their daughters in urban centres.

Serious Exodus

Exodus from rural centres, where the population has steadily decreased since 1870, Mr. Chaloult added, was "a more serious problem than conscription. Conscription is a problem which will be solved when the war ends; the other will worsen when the last shot has been fired."

Opposition to women working in urban industries—"war plants or others"—was expressed by Hon. Laurent Barre, agriculture minister, speaking on the motion for the Duplessis Government. He said that woman's place in Quebec was "on the farm, with her children and husband."

Women working in urban industries was "an evil," Adelard Godbout, Liberal opposition leader, said. However, he added, if Quebec women left their rural homes "regretfully" they did so to help Canada's war effort the best way they knew how—working in war plants. Everybody should be proud of them.

No one should blame Quebec women for the present situation, Andre Laurendeau, provincial leader of the Bloc Populaire, said. It was caused by Canada's economic and social system "ineffective in protecting families."

Principle of the motion was supported by David Cote, sole C.C.F. representative and member for Rouyn-Noranda, who said women were forced to accept employment in urban industries because fathers did not have "the financial means to support large families."

149
WAR
EUROPEAN
1939
CANADA
WOMEN
MUNITIONS

117-847-883