

ance the Prime Minister brought forth his program that year of appropriations for public works, and his amendments to the customs tariff, that were going to bring us out of the depression and into the bright sunlight of prosperity. I am quite positive that whatever the benefit of the agreements come to at the Imperial economic conference may be, they will be just as futile in meeting the present economic situation of Canada as was the legislation of 1930. It is therefore very necessary that we should have assurance that we shall have more than an academic discussion of unemployment and the other pressing questions that are facing the country at the moment.

The people of the province of British Columbia, and particularly the citizens of Vancouver, are beginning to feel that they are at their wit's end, that there is nothing further that they can do. Yet we have nothing concrete from the government as to what is going to be done in regard to unemployment. There is a phase of the unemployment situation that is only now beginning to be seriously felt. Up to the present time a great many people have been able to pay their rent, or if they were not, their landlords were able to keep them on, but now they have reached the limit of their resources; not only those who are unemployed, but many who are employed, on the wages they are receiving to-day, cannot afford to feed a family and pay rent as well, and the landlords cannot afford to wait any longer. Therefore it is very essential that we should have some assurance that we shall have ample discussion, not merely an academic discussion, of a program that will deal with the situation now facing the country.

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Speaker, I have no right to make any further observations, as I have no right to reply. But I would ask this chamber to remember that this session ordinarily would not meet until March, 1933. It is meeting now solely because of undertakings given at the Imperial economic conference, and the action taken by the government of Canada is the same action that is being taken by the governments of other parts of the empire. In England they called their session earlier, although it was very inconvenient to do so, and not as early as perhaps they would like to have done. And similar arrangements are being made in other parts of the empire. So that we are proceeding with the business for which this session was called at this time rather than next spring. And we will proceed on that assumption.

[Mr. MacInnis.]

I have not heard of any effort being made to lessen or limit the volubility of hon. members with respect to the speech from the throne. I have only this to say to the former Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) that, in connection with the speech from the throne we are pursuing the course that has been pursued in England, because long ago the waste of time involved in adjourning from Thursday until Monday to begin the debate on the address was realized. That is something that had to be overcome. Then when the discussion did take place it was not to interfere with government business. No precedence is given the debate for that reason; it becomes a special order when this house passes a resolution that the debate is to have precedence over other discussion. We have not asked for a special order, in the sense in which I am using it, not in the sense the hon. gentleman did; this house has not passed any such motion, it has not been invited to do so, and it will not be invited to do so as far as this government is concerned at this time. The matter will proceed, and as to its being put down upon the order paper as a government order, as His Honour has explained, the government, in that respect, is in no sense responsible. It is a special order as the term is used in the rules of the house; it is not special in that any order giving it precedence has been passed. I know of no reason why hon. gentlemen cannot avail themselves of the fullest opportunity for discussion in the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne. But most parliaments have learned that those discussions are not very useful, however ornamental they may be, as they will subsequently be renewed with respect to concrete matters of legislation.

Motion agreed to.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I desire to present the public accounts for the year ending March 31, 1932. It will be recalled that in the speech from the throne it was anticipated that these would not be ready until parliament had reassembled next year. While the Auditor General's report is not ready, the public accounts have been completed by the printers and I therefore table them.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND FARM RELIEF

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Labour): I desire to lay on the table orders in council Nos. 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212 and 2213, passed pursuant to the Relief Act, 1932, and all relating to the expenditure of money.