

fore with a view to making safer the working conditions of the employees. To my mind, the situation that faced manufacturers and other employers of labour in New Brunswick prior to the introduction of the Workmen's Compensation Act is similar to that which now faces employers of labour all over this country, in relation to the dole, or what might be termed unemployment insurance.

I should like to suggest to the honourable the Minister of Labour the importance of warning business men of the necessity to prepare themselves for the recurrence of depression, for it seems clear that periods such as we are now experiencing run in cycles. It is refreshing to honourable members on this side of the House to hear honourable gentlemen opposite state that some of the unemployment now existing is not due to the fiscal policy of the country, but that we are in the midst of a periodical depression. I believe that this is true, and therefore it seems to me all the more important that we should consider carefully any legislation which may be looked upon as a precedent in the future. Twenty million dollars is a large sum of money to appropriate from the exchequer of this country, even for such an important object as the relief of unemployment. The importance of what we are doing here should be brought home to our minds by the fact that we are sitting in a special session of Parliament, legislating under unusual conditions. I think the Government should endeavour to do all it can to prevent the recurrence of conditions such as we have in this country to-day. Perhaps the general situation would be relieved to some extent if large corporations were a little more conservative in declaring dividends and in providing for reserves. Any tendency of that kind would be more favourably received by the majority of our people than legislation of the sort we are considering to-day. Many economists tell us that in the future we shall have other cycles of depression and unemployment; that the return to prosperity, which we all hope will be within a reasonably short period, cannot be permanent. Therefore, although I am casting my vote in favour of this Bill, I do not wish it to be considered as a precedent when we are faced with similar conditions in the future.

Like the right honourable the junior member from Ottawa (Right Hon. Sir George E. Foster), I sympathize greatly with the Minister of Labour because of the difficulties with which he will have to contend in disbursing this money. I presume that the allotments will be principally at the discretion of the Department

of Labour, and I have every confidence that the honourable the Minister will, in so far as he is able, direct the expenditure in the proper and most effective channels; but I do not feel so sure that once the money gets beyond the control of the honourable the Minister of Labour it will be so properly used. I do not suggest that there will be any actual misappropriation, but I fear that not all the \$20,000,000 will be used for the particular purpose that we have in mind.

I have a suggestion to make to the Minister of Labour, though perhaps it is not of great importance. I happened to be head of the Government of the Province of New Brunswick at the time, some years ago, when the honourable the Minister of Labour first occupied his present position, and when he established the Labour Bureaus throughout Canada. At that time the Government of New Brunswick was asked to contribute towards the expense of those offices. I believe that some of those bureaus are not carried on for the purposes for which they were established. I believe that their functions should be enlarged and made more useful, so that employers and employees might come more closely together, and employers, when they required labour, might go to those offices. We might go to the full extent of compelling employers to register their requirements in advance in the Labour Bureaus. The man who wishes to hire labour, or may need to do so in the future, does not register his requirements there as he should. There is no denying the fact that in this crisis, as we might call it, which is just arising, there are many labourers in this country who have not had proper notice that their services would be dispensed with. The system of registration should show when employers are going to dispense with large numbers of men because of conditions that are likely to arise.

Speaking only from local knowledge, I do not think the arrangements for dealing with applicants are as convenient as they should be. When a labourer is out of work he has first to tramp about to see whether he can pick up some employment. As a last resort he comes to the Labour Bureau and registers. The applicants for work have to go out through the same door at which they entered, instead of being able to go out by another door.

I should also like to say to the Minister of Labour that in the use of this money which we are voting, the Labour Bureaus should be utilized to a greater extent than they are at present. When this money gets into the hands of Provincial Governments and municipalities politics are bound to play some part in the employment of labour on public works