

not to have his employment discontinued this man felt it necessary to go contrary to his political convictions in recording his ballot, not wishing, as I have said, to commit perjury, which would have been essential in order to retain for himself the work upon which he had been engaged. If that kind of thing is happening or is likely to happen anywhere, surely we of this parliament have a special reason to take full cognizance of it. I would suggest to the Prime Minister that he consider whether it is not possible to have the Auditor General audit the accounts of the provinces or of the municipalities in so far as they relate to what may be received in the way of assistance from this federal fund. I believe that to be absolutely essential. If hon. gentlemen opposite are to be free to hand to the premier of Ontario a cheque for \$1,000,000 and permit him to use the cheque for work on the highways and other purposes which he may feel or may say will relieve unemployment, what possible check will the people of Canada have, either through this parliament or through the legislature of Ontario, on how that money is being spent? Unless a precaution of the kind suggested is taken, the bill in its present form will simply mean that we are voting \$20,000,000 to the executive here to do with as it pleases for the next six months without any further control on the part of parliament—a control which might be secured through a proper system of audit, but which up to the moment has been refused—that control will be done away with entirely so far as this parliament is concerned. Then so far as the moneys may be turned over to the executives of the provinces to be disbursed by them these expenditures will be beyond any control on the part of the legislative assemblies. The executives of provinces to whom any portion of the moneys may be given will be free to do as they please with them. Similarly, these moneys may again be transferred to the executives of municipalities, and they, in their turn, without any control on the part of their councils, will be free to use the public moneys as they think fit. Any system that will permit of millions of dollars of public money passing freely from executive to executive—from Dominion executive to provincial, and from provincial executive to municipal—without any form of adequate control or auditing is a system that should not be countenanced for one minute, and least of all should it be countenanced in connection with a measure intended to relieve human suffering and

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

human need. We do not wish by proposing any formal amendments or having any further lengthy discussion to embarrass the government in obtaining promptly the moneys that are needed to meet an emergent situation, but I do hope that the Prime Minister will regard, as a helpful suggestion, in the way in which they are meant, these words to which I have given expression, and perhaps allow some of them to find recognition in the form of amendments to the bill as it has been introduced.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. LaVergne in the chair.

On section 1—Short title.

Mr. GARDINER: I wish to call the attention of the house to one or two factors bearing on this bill. This section defines the purpose of the bill, which primarily is the relief of unemployment. It is proposed that the money to be expended shall be taken from the consolidated revenue fund. That means that the taxpayers of Canada will be responsible for providing the whole of the fund, and when I say taxpayers I include every class in Canada who may contribute by way of taxation. Now there is a class which has not been mentioned at all during the entire discussion of this question, namely, the agricultural class. We have in Canada to-day many agriculturists who are just as hard up as the unemployed who ordinarily receive wages.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member is not speaking to section 1. He would be more in order, in the observations he is making, on section 2.

Mr. GARDINER: I think I am in order on this particular section, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: That is my ruling.

Mr. GARDINER: I am dealing with the purpose of the bill, which is the relief of unemployment.

The CHAIRMAN: Order. The hon. member may speak as he is doing either on the preamble or on section 2. His remarks at present are not in order on the section before the committee.

Mr. GARDINER: I submit, Mr. Chairman, that my remarks are in order and I do not accept your ruling.

The CHAIRMAN: I rule that they are not in order. Shall the section carry?

Section agreed to.

On section 2—Grant of \$20,000,000.