

Unemployment Relief

would be treated as municipalities in this respect. That is, would the interest on their outlay be paid from the time the work was begun until the time it would reasonably be completed?

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend from Medicine Hat (Mr. Gershaw) realizes how difficult it would be to deal with every detail or to do other than to endeavour to lay down a general principle. So far as the railways were concerned they were asked to prepare a list of the works which they might reasonably undertake within the immediate future. This refers to work which otherwise they would not undertake for a considerable period of time. The measure of assistance which might be given obviously has not been determined. To some extent however it depends upon the amount involved by way of cost, and the estimated increased cost of doing work in the immediate future which they had not intended to do until a later date. I cannot answer the question with any degree of precision, but I think I know what my hon. friend has in mind. I trust the matter will be given favourable consideration by those who have it in charge.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I wish to ask the Prime Minister two questions. First, from the figures supplied to the house by the hon. gentleman I learn that during the winter there will be approximately 14,700 unemployed in British Columbia, and that in the province of Alberta there will be about 6,000. Is any portion of this \$20,000,000 to be used for the construction of an outlet from the Peace River area to the Pacific coast?

Mr. BENNETT: That depends upon the report to be received from the railway company, which has not yet come to hand. It may be that that will be done; however, as parliament will be reconvening at a not too distant date after the new year it was thought that whatever might be necessary could be attended to at that time.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): If I understand the Prime Minister correctly the money vote in connection with highways is partly for new construction, partly for increasing the quality of the highways, and partly for maintaining the highways after the approved standard has been acquired. May I ask the Prime Minister if he has considered the question of granting compensation to those provinces which have already fulfilled to a complete degree their portion of construction?

Mr. BENNETT: He certainly has. I am sure the hon. gentleman would be the first

[Mr. Gershaw.]

to say there is no claim for compensation there.

Mr. REID: There is one question I would like to ask the Prime Minister. Will the municipalities have to receive approval from the provincial government before doing any relief work on municipal roads or will they be granted a contribution equal to or in proportion to the sum they propose to spend for relief?

Mr. BENNETT: I endeavoured to make it quite clear to the hon. gentleman that it was not proposed that the federal authorities should deal with the municipalities. That would be quite impossible and wholly at variance with the situation in that regard. Whatever action may be taken for relief as distinguished from work would be dealt with in accordance with what the hon. gentleman has said. The province would contribute one dollar, the municipality would contribute one dollar and this fund another dollar.

Mr. REID: I ask the question because of the experience we have had in the municipalities to get relief from the different governments.

I was going to make a suggestion regarding the buying of goods in Canada. I learn from the remarks of the Prime Minister that some encouragement will be given the Canadian National Railways to proceed with construction. In the west they are contemplating the installation of oil burners to the exclusion of coal. I would suggest that the coal consumption be revived or kept where it is so that work may be started on Vancouver island and in other coal fields instead of sending our money to the south.

Mr. BENNETT: In answer to my hon. friend I would say that it would be improper to interfere with the management of the railways in the conduct of their business. On the other hand I would say that every effort is being made and will continue to be made to ensure the use of Canadian coal by railways. To that end a proposal in connection with the use of coal as far east as Fort William which was submitted to me when I was in the west has engaged the attention of those who will be able to give me a report. Every possible effort to ensure the use of Canadian made goods will be made by the measures which will be submitted to this parliament at a not too distant date.

Mr. BEAUBIEN: May I tell the Prime Minister that at a public meeting the Conservative candidate in the county of Provencher said that if Mr. Bennett was returned to power the national highway would pass