

*Unemployment Relief*

to know whether or not the provincial governments to which we are going to contribute will discriminate in the choice of their employees because of political persuasion.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): Oh, we do not do that; those are your tactics.

Mr. HEENAN: Mr. Chairman, this is not strange. I said before and I say again that there were no more rotten politics in the world than those practised by the government of the province of Ontario during the past federal election. We do not need to search for evidence of that. The people of my riding elected me to protest against those rotten tactics.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): It was a bad mistake, then.

Mr. HEENAN: It may have been a bad mistake. If we want other evidence we may take the words of Mr. J. J. Carrick, an old time Conservative.

Mr. MANION: He was the Liberal candidate in Port Arthur in the last election.

Mr. HEENAN: I refer to the year 1926 when he was Conservative candidate. This gentleman sent a wire to the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, because he could not get any attention from the Prime Minister or the ministers of the cabinet in that province. The following is a telegram which he sent to the Lieutenant-Governor:

The honour of the crown is being besmirched by the Port Arthur Conservative machine. An announcement of the Nipigon pulp limit tenders is being withheld from the public to be used here for the advantage of the machine candidate. No party owns our government resources, they belong to all alike, Liberal and Conservative, and should not be used for the advantage of any party. The Conservative machine advertises that Hon. James Lyons, Minister of Lands and Forests, will address a meeting in the Colonial theatre here Friday and will have a message "re the sale of pulpwood to our mills." The announcement of any government tenders have always been made through the press. Why should Mr. Lyons come here to make the announcement on the public platform except to influence votes for the Conservative machine candidate? Mr. Lyons spoke at Hornpayne and Sioux Lookout and promised them road grants, bounty on iron ore, and to survey agricultural lands, to influence votes in this constituency. The provincial Conservative machine are intimidating their employees in this constituency and coercing their support to the machine candidate with a threat of dismissal. On behalf of the self-respecting citizens of this constituency I respectfully enter a protest to you as our Lieutenant-Governor of the province of Ontario.

That was the telegram sent in the year 1926 by an independent Conservative candidate

[Mr. Heenan.]

who saw the rottenness of the whole situation, and wired to the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. BENNETT: You do not happen to have the answer, I suppose? The answer is not there, is it?

Mr. HEENAN: He did not answer it.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): I would like to know what connection it has with this debate.

Mr. HEENAN: I will agree that so long as the people of the province of Ontario wish to allow their premier to invest their funds in that way, they have a perfect right to do so. On this occasion however we are going to vote Dominion funds and we want to take care that they are not used in the same way.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): That is very funny.

Mr. HEENAN: I have lived in other countries before. I lived down in the tropics where there is peonage, but I never thought I would live to see the day under the British flag where men would be treated as peons as they were during the last Dominion election in the riding I represent. Men were brought into the polls who had lived or worked in the constituency for about a month. They were lined up on the sidewalks before the poll. The Conservative candidate, the engineer and the road foreman stood on each side of the sidewalk and called them by number. After ascertaining their number on the roads they found their names on the payroll and as they were going into the poll those labourers were asked if they desired to continue working for the Ontario government. However I will have more to say on that point before the session is over. When I reflect that those men were paid the magnificent sum of twenty-five cents an hour and board for ten hours a day and were carried to the polls in that way, as one of the members of this house I want to say that I am prepared to stay here until Christmas to see that those men receive a square deal. There was a resolution of this house passed in 1900 to the effect that money grants of any description would carry with them a fair wages policy. The fair wages policy in Canada to-day rests with the Minister of Labour of the Dominion house, and should be inserted as a condition of these grants. If we are going to give grants to provincial governments which employ men under conditions of slavery, we should see to it that the men are given proper wages and the eight-hour day.

Mr. POULIOT: As the hon. the Prime Minister has come back to the house to-day