

Unemployment Relief

would be about \$29,000,000 a year. I suggest that such remarks as those of the hon. member for Wellington North and the hon. member for Wood Mountain, indicating that we are asking for more than our share, are not conducive to the building up of national unity.

The hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) is not in his seat at the moment, but I want to express my agreement with him when he says that the people of his constituency who need help should have it. I do not believe he wished to be unfair to Saskatchewan when he suggested that we have had a great deal of money. Possibly the sum of \$56,000,000 for Saskatchewan in a ten-year period sounds like a great deal of money. But if in a province or a community there are families where the children go to bed hungry, I do not care how many millions of dollars have been given in the past ten years; I believe it is the concern of this government to see that the necessary policies are carried out so that the provincial government can take steps to see that children do not go hungry. I like to think of Canada as a great family.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Would the hon. member allow me a question? I am distressed to hear him say that children go to bed hungry. Will he state that at any time during the last ten years, since relief was first instituted by the Bennett government, in September, 1930, anybody in Saskatchewan has starved or has been in actual want? I would be disturbed if that were the case. I know it was not the intention of R. B. Bennett and his government that anybody in Canada should be in want, and I cannot for a moment believe that it is the intention of anybody on the other side of the house since 1935 that anyone shall be in actual want. I can scarcely credit such a thing. But what I do believe is that there should be a tightening up of the whole position; there should not be any question of playing political favourites or of vote-catching in connection with this matter. That is something which distresses me, too. Human suffering should never be made the basis for the bartering of votes. I want to say that just as emphatically as I know how.

Mr. NICHOLSON: I appreciate very much the remarks of the leader of the opposition, and I really believe that members of this house do not know the conditions that exist in my constituency. I do not believe the Minister of Labour has any idea of the suffering in northern Saskatchewan. There are many people in the cities who really do not

[Mr. Nicholson.]

know what it means to have a budget such as the hon. member for North Battleford has had for several months. Speaking the other night she gave the government the benefit of the doubt in telling of the allowance for their family, and I want to say most emphatically that at the present time there are in Saskatchewan not one, but hundreds, yes, thousands of people who are not getting enough food for their children. I have two letters to which I might refer. The hon. member for Wood Mountain objected to my reading letters from my constituents, but I do not think I am doing my duty unless I let the committee know the conditions that exist in that section. This is a letter here from a married woman who worked in England in a munition factory for four years during the last war. She and her husband live in Canada. She tells me that on the day she wrote there was no flour in the house. She has offered her services again for work in a munition factory, but so far she has received no reply. I know she would not be accepted anyhow, because she is not physically fit for such work. She would not have a chance in the world.

Mr. McLARTY: I think my hon. friend is aware that the provincial government proposed sending an investigator and asked the labour department's representative in Saskatchewan to cooperate. I wonder if the hon. member would give these names to the investigator so that we can make a definite check on it.

Mr. NICHOLSON: When I began my remarks I expressed my appreciation of the cooperation which the minister and his officials have given, and I have already submitted this communication. As a matter of fact, the minister's department took the matter up at once and telegraphed to Saskatchewan, but the leader of the opposition asked me if I had any specific cases and I felt obliged to refer to this matter. I do not wish to take up the time of the committee by dealing with specific cases, but I had these two that had been attended to at once by the minister's department. I assure members of the committee, speaking from a wide experience over a period of ten years in northern Saskatchewan, that the people who are being reestablished from our cities and southern Saskatchewan are not having proper clothing. If hon. members had the privilege of spending a week or a month in those northern areas they would be surprised. While in Hudson Bay junction, I wrote to friends in eastern Canada and sent them pictures which I had in the house the other day, and with the greatest possible speed they sent generous