

to some extent his appeal fell on deaf ears. There is a provision which perhaps my hon. friend has not noticed, namely that—

All orders in council and regulations made under the provisions of this act shall be laid before the House of Commons forthwith after the making thereof if parliament is then sitting, and if not, then such orders in council and regulations, or an abstract thereof, disclosing their essential provisions, shall be published in the next issue of the *Canada Gazette*.

If I am not mistaken—the leader of the opposition will correct me if I am—that clause appeared in previous legislation enacted by the late government, and I believe was inserted there at my suggestion in the first instance.

Mr. CAHAN: There is always a possibility of improvement. If the right hon. gentleman will look at the long speech which he made on April 3, 1930, which I well remember, in discussing unemployment, he will see that his mind, his attitude, his policy, have changed very considerably since then. We have all of us had five years' more experience. I recently read some extracts from that speech, which I remember well. The right hon. gentleman will find it in volume 2 of *Hansard* for 1930.

Mr. BENNETT: While he was still in office.

Mr. CAHAN: Yes, while they were still in office. Hon. gentlemen opposite have changed very much in their policy since that date.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Conditions have changed very much in the meantime. I think the principles remain the same.

Mr. CAHAN: Conditions no doubt have changed. For instance, after listening to the speech of the right hon. gentleman on Friday I recalled very clearly a remark he made in the previous session on March 13, 1929, in regard to unemployment, and I looked it up. If I may be permitted I will read it. The question was asked by Mr. T. L. Church, then member for Toronto Northwest:

May I ask the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) whether the government has any plan for providing useful employment to the great number of unemployed in the large cities of Canada?

Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King (Prime Minister): Up to the present, Mr. Speaker, the government has not given consideration to the matter to which my hon. friend refers.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That was true at the time.

Mr. CAHAN: Since those days there have been vast changes, and now that we are to seek improvements under an entirely new

scheme, I suggest that we are not bound by the old precedents under which such great evils have arisen as the right hon. gentleman suggested, and that we should seek to reform the process as far as possible. For myself I wish the right hon. gentleman and his government all possible success. If the government can bring about reform and improvement, if they can arrive at the successful solution of these grave problems, they will have my hearty commendation and support. I am not suggesting this by way of irritation, but I do think the hon. gentleman is in error in thinking that he has made a new departure in the text of this bill, in thinking that he is now far removed from government by order in council. I think he still continues the old system except with respect to one particular. He proposes, not under this bill but in the estimates, to place a restriction upon the amount of money which may be expended.

Mr. BENNETT: We did that twice.

Mr. CAHAN: As the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) says, we did it twice. We found that doing so created very serious problems and difficulties. The abandonment of that policy enabled the late government to maintain closer control over expenditures than we could have maintained under the policy adopted during the first two years of the Bennett régime.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Does my hon. friend recommend that we should give up an attempt to place a limitation upon the amount to be spent? Does he recommend that we should not get special authority from parliament for these various measures but rather take general authority as he did before?

Mr. CAHAN: No, I am not suggesting that at all. If I may say it with great deference, I believe that the Prime Minister is under an obsession if he believes that by getting away from the blank cheque he is overcoming all the difficulties in the way of securing a satisfactory solution of the unemployment and relief problems. The blank cheque is simply an incident and is not material.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Far from overcoming all the difficulties, we are I imagine adding to our own. We realize, however, that there is one right which is greater than the right of those who may be on relief to receive payments from the treasury; it is the right of the taxpayer to have taxes and expenditures controlled by parliament and not to have outlays of public moneys controlled by the caprice of the governor in council with possible unlimited expenditures at all times.