

responsibility, and quarrel as to whether clothing should be provided by the city or the provincial authorities, or whether, perchance, it should come from the dominion, while all this time thousands of people are suffering physically, mentally and through moral degeneration because of their anxiety and the dislocation in their lives which has come in this way. This is what the Prime Minister goes on to say—

An hon. MEMBER: From what is the hon gentleman reading?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am reading from a report of a speech given by the present Prime Minister in Calgary on June 12, 1930. He says:

I propose that parliament shall formulate a definite plan for permanent relief, and that parliament, as representing the people, shall deal with this national problem and provide amelioration for the condition in order that next winter the Canadian people may not be facing the crisis that is upon us without having a remedy at hand.

That I propose to do. I have delayed saying that until I have come to my own city, amongst my own people of this western country, and the western country applies equally to the east as to the west. This dominion must deal with the problem that is no longer local or provincial, but affects the life of the men and women of Canada and affects the civilization of this country.

I do not think I need add very much to that. The Prime Minister in his speech nearly three years ago laid down some general principles that are as applicable to-day as they were in 1930. It seems to me that it is the responsibility of the government to put those principles into practice.

I have nothing whatever to say in adverse criticism of many of the details as presented by the minister to-night, but I believe he should bring down to the house some very definite plan of relieving the distress of the people in a much more adequate way than it is being done to-day, and further, the government should not delay even beyond this session in providing some sort of plan which would prevent a great deal of the unemployment that is now affecting this country.

May I add just a word? As far as I see the situation, I doubt very much whether under the system that exists this is possible. I do not want to put up to the government an impossible proposition, but they have again and again said: It is quite possible that we may have prosperity under this system. Then it is their duty to see that the prosperity is worked out. They have taken the ground that there is something temporarily

wrong with this system; that if they are given the opportunity they can arrange that the men, women and children have a decent opportunity in Canada. Then I say: Here is their opportunity; either they have to make good under this system and provide at least food, clothing and shelter adequate for the maintenance of a decent standard of living on the part of the people of this country, or they must recognize the fact that their system is failing under their very eyes.

Mr. J. A. BRADETTE (North Timiskaming): I feel, Mr. Speaker, that this is the time and the place to make some remarks on the general principles of the bill which we are now being asked to extend, and also to mention some facts bearing on the situation nationally or locally as viewed by a representative of this house.

When I spoke on this measure last year I said then that I was under the impression that it was simply a palliative measure and that it would not long remain the law in this country. I am therefore disappointed that this house is now being asked to renew the provisions of this bill for another year. This measure is not a very popular one so far as northern Ontario is concerned. In my section of the country the people want work, not charity or doles. They are out-and-out Canadians willing and able to work, and all they want is the chance.

The minister at the end of his remarks mentioned, rightly or wrongly, that one year's experience of direct relief administration had proven that it was the more economical method. Personally I believe in the principle of unemployment relief which this parliament inaugurated two years ago, of providing public works, the building of roads and so forth, as much the better plan, because it is work the people want. The minister also said that direct relief is now being administered more economically than when it was first inaugurated. However, I believe, and I think the majority of the people of northern Ontario believe, in the principle of providing work for the unemployed through the undertaking of public works throughout the length and breadth of this country. The present system does not go to the root of the trouble. Our settlers and miners and working men in northern Ontario do not want to become mendicants. They do not want to have to go before some organization, municipal, provincial or national, and beg for a subsistence. It is contrary to the Canadian spirit and to the British spirit. No true Canadian wants to do that.