

will involve intensified agriculture and the development and production on the farms of Saskatchewan of commodities they are not producing at the present time. It was only a day or so ago that the Minister of Agriculture made a statement at a point in Ontario with respect to the production of cheese and described how the production of that commodity had been stepped up. That is just one evidence of what will take place in the future.

In the last few years the Department of Labour has never had a real or constructive policy. Of course we cannot blame the present minister, because two or three years ago he did not head that department. To prove that the department has not approached the problem of unemployment in a constructive way, I need only refer to the first report of the Purvis commission which made certain recommendations. A great many of those recommendations were never carried out, and there has been no evidence that the Department of Labour intended to carry them out.

Resolution after resolution are coming to hand. I have received many of them from my province and other provinces in the west. I have received them from organized bodies, farmers' organizations, heads of industries, pool organizations, and other groups, stressing the point that the recommendations of the Purvis commission at least to some extent should have been carried out. I think hon. members will agree that the heads of all types of industry, and of agriculture in particular, should have been called into action a year or so ago.

I agree with what the hon. member for Winnipeg South (Mr. Mutch) said the other evening, that in western Canada much could be done to alleviate unemployment by paying some attention to the development of industry. He referred to Winnipeg in particular. I should like to call attention to what has happened in connection with the General Motors plant in Regina. Labour could be employed in industry in western Canada just as well as in agriculture. There would be a great saving in freight to the agriculturists of western Canada if certain lines of the implements of production were produced in the west.

The federal government is just passing the buck. On Friday afternoon the Minister of Labour said that he had never been asked by the provincial government to diminish relief distribution. That may be so, but I notice that to-day he tabled the details of the appropriation being asked for by Saskatchewan. That is considerably less than it was last year, which is all to the good.

Mr. McLARTY: I would not want to mislead the hon. member for Qu'Appelle. The figures I gave were the estimates made by the department, which were based on the figures that came in. I would not want to suggest that that appropriation was asked for by Saskatchewan.

Mr. PERLEY: But the minister will admit that on Friday afternoon he said that he had never been asked by the province to diminish relief distribution? I am not objecting to that, but I do contend that relief was withheld. There was considerable distress and suffering last year because relief was withheld in those areas in Saskatchewan which qualified for the bonus plan provided by the Prairie Farm Assistance Act. That relief was withheld, I believe on the direct order of the Minister of Agriculture, who has charge more or less of relief in that province. Those townships which qualified for bonuses under the Prairie Farm Assistance Act had relief payments withheld.

Mr. GARDINER: I know the hon. member does not want to make any statement which is not correct. I believe relief was paid in every municipality in Saskatchewan in which the acreage bonus was paid.

Mr. PERLEY: The provincial government stated that direct instructions were issued by the Minister of Agriculture that there would be no relief paid to those farmers who qualified for the bonus.

Mr. GARDINER: I do not think any such statement was given out. If it was given out, it was not under my instructions.

Mr. PERLEY: There was a relief distribution under the arrangement which the Department of Labour had with the provincial government and the municipalities.

Mr. GARDINER: That is the way it has been done.

Mr. PERLEY: If the minister will just bide his time, I saw letter after letter which had been sent out by the municipalities, under instructions of the provincial government, stating that farmers who had qualified for the bonus would not receive any more relief.

Mr. SLAGHT: Why do you not change your provincial government?

Mr. PERLEY: I think if they had had a fair show up there, no politics being played such as the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker) described the other evening, the situation might have been different. He told the committee how relief orders were handed out in the polling booths on election day.