

Unemployment Relief

Mr. RALSTON: I have spoken of political patronage and things of that sort, but I say that we are dealing here with another situation altogether; we are considering the question of relief. I should think that my hon. friend would be the first to realize it, and I hope the government will not—I do not think they will—allow this matter, to use the expression of a gentleman who is not now with us, to become a political football.

I want to show my hon. friend what does occur, and what will occur in connection with this fund unless he is careful to safeguard it. Here is a notice which appeared in the Antigonish Casket a short time ago:

Notice—To Conservative committees—Mr. H. A. Rice, Canso, has the federal patronage in Antigonish and Guysboro county. Mr. Rice has appointed me to look after the patronage in Antigonish county.

I request the Conservative committees in each district of the county to send to me their recommendations for all appointments in their district, such as old age pensions, mothers' allowances, changes in officials, road foreman, or any recommendations that are to be made. If the applicant applies through any other source it will be referred back to the district committee.—Hon. J. F. MacLellan.

This gentleman was a member of the legislative council. Now, I quote that to show my hon. friend the condition that exists in Nova Scotia, and I suggest to the hon. gentleman that he should take care to see that this fund shall not be so administered that the Hon. J. F. MacLellan may require anyone who is an applicant for a job in connection with the money which is voted under this bill to apply through the medium of his committees. It should be administered in some other way.

With regard to the miners, my hon. friend has been pretty general in his statements, but I want to refer him to an advertisement and a representation which was made to the people of Nova Scotia and particularly to the people of the island of Cape Breton during the election, in order to show him that he and his government are being looked to not simply for relief but for the thing which he definitely promised, and that is to "end unemployment," by providing "work for all who are willing to work."

Mr. ERNST: Be patient.

Mr. RALSTON: I thought my hon. friends would begin before long to ask for patience. They were quite ready to promise to have it done within three days after the election. Here is the advertisement, which appeared in the Sydney Post of July 25:

[Mr. Bennett.]

Starvation? Last winter was bad. This summer is worse. When summer is bad, what will happen next winter? Starvation? The King government has brought us to this. Bennett will give you work, and give you work at once. He will call a special sitting of parliament, right after election, to deal with unemployment. This way—by cutting out U.S. and Russian coal and giving our miners more work.

I want to ask my hon. friend if there is any proposition before this house to shut out United States coal.

An hon. MEMBER: Wait and see.

Mr. RALSTON: I am waiting for the Prime Minister to say.

Mr. BENNETT: When the hon. gentleman has concluded his speech, I will reply, and not before.

Mr. RALSTON: I am asking the question, and the Prime Minister can answer it later, as to whether in the legislation which will be brought down there is any proposition to shut out United States and Russian coal. The advertisement continues:

By cutting out U.S. steel, and giving our steel-workers more work. By cutting out New Zealand butter, apples, meats, etc., and giving our farmers a chance. By encouraging the neglected fishermen, and cutting out Japanese crab meat, etc., and giving our fishermen a chance.

To bring this change about, a change from starvation to prosperity, we must have a change of government—from King's evil to Bennett and the blessings of more work and wages.

It concludes with:

Vote for the Conservative candidates
Dr. Lewis W. Johnstone, Cape Breton North-Victoria.
Finlay MacDonald, K.C., Cape Breton South-Isaac D. Macdougall, Inverness.
Dr. John A. Macdonald, Richmond-West Cape Breton.

Note the promise, "He will give you work at once." That is one of the reasons why I asked my hon. friend whether anything really definite was being done with regard to the coal industry. He himself on various platforms deprecated the importation of American coal. Is he going to do anything about that importation of American coal? Is he going to shut it out? He has not even told us yet whether he is going to take Nova Scotia coal from the east to the west. There is an order in council in force now. Will that order in council be continued or extended?

An hon. MEMBER: It will not take nine years to do it.

Mr. RALSTON: If he does it he will only follow the example of those on this side of the house. We did it three years ago.