

of thing. The minister to-night is asking us to do what? He asks us to repeat for another year this same method of dealing with the expenditure of public moneys. He asks us again, in the measure he is introducing, to give to the government the right to make for this next year whatever expenditures they please in as many directions as they please so long as they are prepared to allege that the expenditures are for the purposes of unemployment relief. They are unwilling to give to parliament in advance any detailed statement of the objects on which the moneys are to be spent, or to permit us to exercise the same control over expenditures for unemployment relief purposes as we continue to exercise in regard to all other expenditures out of the public treasury. I say that that is wrong, and that in the face of a statement such as has been given by the minister to-night, which discloses the colossal amounts these expenditures have reached, the ministry cannot expect those of us who wish to see parliament exercise the control which it should exercise over the expenditure of public moneys, support any measure which gives to them that blank cheque power for another year.

It may be that the ministry have no other policy, and that they will insist on having their way, but I tell them that they are digging their own graves in proceeding in that fashion because they are destroying what is fundamental in the control of public expenditures, and in the carrying on of responsible government in this country. I am not going to repeat the arguments I have made in previous years. They have been presented so often and so forcibly that hon. members must know them by heart.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say that, if the "hear, hears" mean, as I assume they do, that what I am saying is perfectly true, they would seem to indicate how completely oblivious of their obligations to the people generally, and to the public welfare, hon. gentlemen opposite have become.

The measure the minister is introducing is but an effort on the part of the ministry to obtain another blank cheque from which to make expenditures in largest part for the purpose of the dole, and not for the purpose of providing work for the unemployed. The resolution before us is much broader than appears from its wording. In reality the measure asks us to give to the ministry power to make whatever agreements they please

with the provinces. We are being asked to give that power without, in the first instance, having the agreements submitted to the house, and without knowing what their provisions contain. Then, it asks further that the ministry shall be free to use moneys as they please in connection with the national parks; in connection with the stricken areas of the different provinces; in defraying costs of the sale and distribution and production of the products of the field, farm, forest, sea, river and mine, and that the ministry shall be free to lend money to any province on such terms as may be agreed upon; to guarantee the repayment of moneys borrowed by such provinces; to assist any province in any way that may be deemed necessary or advisable in order to provide for the relief of distress and the support and maintenance of those requiring assistance; and to lend money to and guarantee the payment of money by any public corporation or undertaking. The minister has not told us very much to-night concerning the moneys spent to assist corporations. I hope however that, when we reach the committee stage on the bill, he will give us that information. I suggest to the minister that, when we reach the committee stage, he should have his deputies here, so that it will not be necessary for him to say that he will give us the information to-morrow or at some other time. We shall want full information before the bill is proceeded with. The minister has given us certain information, but he has not given us all we want. We should like to have full particulars.

I wish now to touch upon one other feature. The minister has made no allusion to any permanent measure to deal with future unemployment. The ministry has no policy with respect to unemployment as a national problem. Last session we were led to believe that the government might have something to offer by way of a policy of unemployment insurance. We have not had a word to-night from the minister concerning such a policy. For several days the following question has been standing on the order paper in the name of the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill):

Will the government be in a position at this session to bring down legislation dealing with unemployment insurance as referred to by the right honourable the premier, in debate in this house on November 22 last?

The government have not seen fit to answer that question. It was asked some time ago in the hope, I assume, we might have had the information when we came to discuss the resolution now before us. The fact that no