

Unemployment Relief—Glace Bay

telegram which I received this morning from the town of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, reading as follows:

The town has summarily suspended all relief work on Friday throwing 140 men completely idle and consequently 600 men, women and children have no prospect of food for next week. Town officials claim they have no responsibility in the matter as dominion and provincial governments have discontinued their contribution to relief. The street department have decided to hire 15 selected workmen from those dismissed to carry on the work performed by the unemployed. So little consideration was given that the town did not complete the weekly work schedule. Can anything be done by you to help us?

Is there any understanding between the municipal, provincial and federal authorities on the question of caring for those in need of relief who at present are on the relief rolls? If so, what is the understanding; if not, will the government relieve the situation described in this telegram?

Hon. N. A. McLARTY (Minister of Labour): The hon. member for Cape Breton South was kind enough to give me notice of his intention to ask this question. Unfortunately I received that notice only as I was coming into the house, and consequently have not had an opportunity to verify any of the facts beyond the information contained in the telegram. I would say, however, that it is my impression—and I should like an opportunity of verifying this—that the federal government did not at any time make a contribution to the municipal works mentioned in the telegram. In the next place I would say that the federal government, as the hon. member well knows, has withdrawn from the field of direct relief and has left that matter where it originally belonged—with the provinces and municipalities.

I can, however, communicate to the provincial government the fact that the attention of this house was directed to this matter. That is all I can do, and that I shall be glad to do.

CANADIAN FORCES

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF MEMORANDUM BY
GENERAL MCNAUGHTON ON SUPPLY
OF SKILLED MEN

On the orders of the day:

Hon. H. A. BRUCE (Parkdale): May I ask the Prime Minister if the government will lay on the table of the house the memorandum submitted on or about September 11, 1939, by General McNaughton, concerning the supply of skilled men and tradesmen to the armed forces and to industry.

[Mr. Gillis.]

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I have no doubt there is such a memorandum, Mr. Speaker, but first I will have to inquire into that, and then ascertain whether it is appropriate that it should be laid on the table. If it is appropriate to do so it will be brought down.

SUPPLY

On the order:

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion of the Minister of Finance that Mr. Speaker do now leave the chair for the house to resolve itself again into committee of supply, and on the proposed amendment of Mr. Senn.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): May I say just a word about an understanding which I believe has been arrived at between the whips of the different parties, and which I am informed would mean that while we are going into committee of supply nominally to debate the motion of the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Senn), which relates to agriculture, it is understood that the house will discuss agriculture estimates as they concern wheat payments, without prejudice to the amendment moved by the hon. member, this in order to enable the Minister of Agriculture to discuss, before we adjourn, that phase of the agricultural situation, which is regarded as a very important one.

Mr. COLDWELL: This will not in any way interfere with the amendment of the hon. member for Haldimand?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Not at all.

Mr. A. H. BENICE (Saskatoon City): I have desired an opportunity to discuss the wheat policy, either during this debate or in supply, and I must confess that I prefer to do so in connection with the debate on the motion of the hon. member for Haldimand—

Hon. J. G. GARDINER (Minister of Agriculture): I think we are a little out of order, Mr. Speaker. I understood we were to go into committee to consider the wheat question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion before the house is that I leave the chair for the house to resolve itself again into committee of supply, to which motion an amendment has been moved.

Mr. GARDINER: My understanding of the arrangement reached on Friday evening was that at this stage we would be permitted to go into committee without prejudice to the amendment moved by the hon. member for Haldimand, in order to continue with the discussion of the wheat question which was in