

House the representative of his colleague the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson). It was the first time since Confederation that the same minister had represented capital and labour. (Hansard, Sept. 10, 1930, p. 76).

Mr. Bennett first move as Acting Minister of Finance was to place a sum of \$20,000,000. for unemployment relief at the disposal of Mr. Bennett, Acting Minister of Labour. That amount of money represented less than one half of the surplus announced by the Mackenzie King Government the same year.

The Bennett Government took back by his left hand nearly twice as much as they had been giving by the other. From August, 1930, to March 31st, 1931, the Bennett Government did not spend \$37,327,750.72, which had been provided for by the Mackenzie King Government in the estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1931. Moreover, of the \$20,000,000 voted for relief at the special session of 1930, the Bennett Government during that fiscal year has spent only \$14,303,603., leaving an unallotted balance of \$5,696,397.

On January 19, 1932, Mr. Bennett declared before the Toronto Conservative Business Men's Club that "every cent of the \$20,000,000 voted by Parliament for unemployment relief at the September, 1930, session had been of incalculable value". Being asked if he had made that statement, Mr. Bennett declared, on January 23, 1935, that "the question should not be on the order paper. It is not a proper question." (Hansard, p. 133) On January 29, 1935, he pointed out that he could not answer that question and added:

"With respect to the second part, the whole of the \$20,000,000. was not spent, but something over \$18,000,000. was expended before the grant lapsed. Without any notice or any chance to check it up, said Mr. Bennett, I cannot answer a question predicated upon the premise that certain statements were made by any hon. member of this house as long ago as 1932." (Hansard, p. 336).

From the March 31, 1934, report of the Dominion Commissioner of Unemployment Relief, it appears that \$14,571,000. was spent for public works and \$3,540,000 for direct relief, under the 1930 Relief Act. A sum of nearly \$2,000,000 of the \$20,000,000. was unspent.

If unemployment had really been "abnormal" in the first part of the year 1930, would not the Bennett Government have expended the total amount of estimate for that fiscal year instead of curtailing it by over \$37,000,000? Would they not have expended for relief the total amount of \$20,000,000 voted during the special session of 1930?

On September 10, 1930, Mr. Bennett mentioned that there were 117,930 unemployed. As Mr. Bennett had said that he would end unemployment, if those 117,930 so-called unemployed had been employable persons, he should have provided for work for all of them. In spite of that, on September 10, 1930, he said:

"I have the very sincere conviction however that within the next few weeks, at least it (the expenditure of \$20,000,000.) will afford a remedy to some 25,000 or 30,000 workmen, and that it will thereby effectually provide sustenance to at least twice that number of people. (Hansard, p. 71).

He repeated the same statement on September 16, 1930, (Hansard, p. 261).

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