

to assist the provinces and municipalities. As was pointed out yesterday by the ex-Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe), during the period of the war, when the Prime Minister of the day asked parliament to vote a large sum of money to meet an emergent condition, the Prime Minister gave to the commons a full statement of the various objects on which it was intended to spend the money that he was asking parliament to appropriate, and gave an indication of the amounts which would be allocated to the different purposes.

Next, there is the item of bridges. Hon. gentlemen opposite must have in mind certain bridges which they intend to construct out of this amount. Surely we are entitled to know what these bridges are. It cannot be in the minds of hon. gentlemen opposite to consider an application for a bridge that may come at any moment; they must have some bridge or bridges in mind—possibly the bridges that my hon. friend promised would be built at Halifax or Caughnawaga or some other locality.

An hon. MEMBER: Saint John.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, the bridge at Saint John. A number of promises have been made for the construction of bridges. If those bridges are to be built out of any part of this \$20,000,000, then the House of Commons has a right to know it when it is appropriating this money for unemployment relief.

Next are mentioned canals. What canals do hon. gentlemen opposite propose to build or construct? Is any portion of this money to be used in connection with developing the St. Lawrence waterway? I think my hon. friend should tell us whether he intends to use any portion of this money for the purpose of the St. Lawrence waterway system. What canals has he in mind in connection with the appropriation for which he is asking?

Then there are harbours and wharves. What particular wharves are to be built, what harbours are to be assisted out of this money?

Then we come to a different class:

Assisting in defraying the cost of distribution of products of the field, farm, forest, sea, lake, river and mine.

Does that mean that there is to be assistance granted to railway companies for moving coal? Does it mean there are to be additional subventions for the purposes of the marketing of wheat? What are the particular objects that are to be served under that heading by any part of this appropriation?

I think, Mr. Speaker, that in these two particulars we are face to face with what constitutes the most important of all the obligations which the House of Commons has to meet.

The \$20,000,000 to be used for the purposes described must be raised in the form of taxation sooner or later. The Prime Minister ought to be very definite as to whether this amount of money is immediately to be secured from taxation, or whether he proposes to raise it in the form of loans. Inasmuch as it is money that will have eventually to come out of the pockets of the people, it is certainly our duty to take every precaution to see that whatever constitutional practice has shown to be essential in order to prevent waste or extravagance in the expenditure of public moneys is strictly observed.

That brings me to another point to which I should like to direct special attention, namely, the necessity of the exercise of great care in the auditing of the expenditure of all these public moneys. My hon. friend has just indicated in his remarks that it is not the intention of the government to attempt to follow these moneys to the point where they reach those who are receiving assistance. I think that is entirely wrong. These moneys are being spent to aid persons who are unemployed. I would submit with all deference to the government that any return that is made to parliament ought to include the number of persons who have received aid out of this vast sum, and also the amount of that sum that has gone in wages to the persons so assisted. Unless that information is given, the country will have no way of knowing whether the moneys that are being appropriated now to the extent of \$20,000,000 have found their way into the pockets of needy artisans and others who unfortunately are out of employment, or whether for the most part they have gone into the pockets of individuals who may be given contracts for the particular purposes set forth in the bill. I would ask my hon. friend to consider that aspect very carefully.

May I say to the Prime Minister that after what he heard in the discussion yesterday he should feel that special care should be taken in connection with any moneys which may be handed over from the federal treasury to the provincial governments for use in any way. If there ever was a shocking incident narrated in parliament it was the one that was told us last evening by the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Hurtubise) in which he presented to the house an affidavit of a humble labourer who swore he was obliged to choose between his political convictions and committing perjury before he could receive money for work which he had done for the government of the province of Ontario. In order