

Unemployment at Transcona

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member should ask his question, not read a communication. The communication could have been sent to the minister in charge without it being necessary to read it in the house.

Mr. BENNETT: There is nothing to indicate that it is correct.

Mr. HOWDEN: Is the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) or the government aware of the conditions which exist in the town of Transcona and, if so, in view of the fact that the federal government is subscribing largely to the relief of these people are they in a position to take such steps as will ameliorate or relieve the conditions?

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the federal government has not in any way changed its attitude towards those in need throughout Canada. It has been said by myself on many occasions in this house that the federal government is ready and willing, and I trust will always be able, to make contributions from time to time towards the relief of those in need as the need arises. Serious difficulties have arisen in the province of Manitoba. For instance, in the city of Winnipeg our department is advised, and I have no reason to doubt the correctness of the advice, that in their relief operations the province of Manitoba have not subscribed any money whatever since last May to take care of the provincial share of relief. The dominion's contribution has been made with regularity as accounts have been presented and I believe the dominion's share has been turned over to the city. The city has been obliged to finance the province of Manitoba with respect to their share. I am afraid that the same condition probably exists in Transcona although I have no complete or detailed information in that regard. I am not going to criticize those administering the affairs of the province but they have a very distinct responsibility and I am just wondering whether they are putting forth every effort available to them to assume and discharge the responsibility which is theirs. I shall inquire into the matter referred to by the hon. member and if there is anything further that this government can do, they will do it.

PENSION LEGISLATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. ALFRED SPEAKMAN (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. MacLaren). A short time ago a question was asked as to whether it was

[Mr. Howden.]

the intention of the government to introduce during this session legislation based upon the report of the committee which has just completed its labours in investigating the administration of the Pension Act. The answer then given was that the matter was under consideration and I should like to know whether a decision has been arrived at and, if so, if we can expect the introduction of pension legislation during this session?

Hon. MURRAY MacLAREN (Minister of Pensions and National Health): The answer I gave a week or two ago was that I thought it was likely that legislation would be brought down. The position is still the same.

Mr. SPEAKMAN: A final decision has not been arrived at?

CANADIAN EXCHANGE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. G. COOTE (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Rhodes) with reference to a statement which appeared in the Wall Street Journal of February 2. It reads:

Montreal funds moved up to a high for the day of 15 $\frac{1}{16}$ per cent discount, which compares with Wednesday's low in London of 20 per cent. It was rumoured throughout the market that one of the large Canadian banks was giving support to the exchange, but whether it was operating for the account of the Canadian government could not be ascertained.

I should like to know if this bank was operating on behalf of the Canadian government or whether the government has conducted any such operations in support of our exchange in New York?

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): I have not seen the article in question but I have no hesitation in assuring my hon. friend and the house that a transaction of that character would be solely a banking transaction, it would have no reference to the government at all.

CHARTERED BANKS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. G. COOTE (Macleod): On November 17 an order was passed in connection with the returns made by the chartered banks. When may we expect this return to be brought down?

Hon. E. N. RHODES (Minister of Finance): I will make immediate inquiry. I imagine that the return must be ready and I shall probably be able to bring it down on Monday.