

I do not believe it is competent or proper for this house to cast aspersions upon the electorate of Ontario in the choice they have made of a government. I could, if I were like-minded, point out in exactly similar terms the attitude taken by Conservatives with respect to a Liberal administration in at least one of the provinces. I refrain from so doing. It serves no good purpose, it does not advance the interests of the unemployed, it does not secure assistance or relief for those who are suffering deprivation.

I have to-day, as indicating the trend of public opinion, received three telegrams, two of which came to my hand after the house adjourned at six o'clock. The first is from the Premier of Alberta, in these words:

Press to-day published resolution reference unemployment. Resolution apparently purports limit Dominion contribution to useful and suitable work for unemployed. Respectfully urge that on account climatic conditions in western provinces from past experience we believe suitable work cannot be found to entirely take care unemployment especially in smaller municipalities. To avoid congestion unemployed in larger cities with subsequent unrest and agitation by Communistic leaders and for other reasons believe that to substantial extent direct relief will be necessary. Will you kindly consider therefore providing for federal contribution to municipalities and province as in nineteen twenty-two and three in legislation unless government has other means making such provision. Kind regards.

J. E. Brownlee.

That is from the premier of the province of Alberta, and under our constitution primarily it is for the provincial and municipal authorities to familiarize themselves with these problems in order that they may speak with authority in the premises. Of the two telegrams I received after six o'clock the first reads as follows:

Viewing as we do with considerable alarm the present unsatisfactory position with regard to unemployment we respectfully urge that nothing be allowed to interfere with immediate action being taken to alleviate the crisis. We desire to express our appreciation of the announcement already made by you of the policy of the government.

Canadian Credit Mens' Trust Associaion  
Limited, Henry Detchon, General Manager.

The other is from the Winnipeg Board of Trade, and certainly the president is not a political friend of ours. This is the telegram:

We appreciate action being taken to relieve unemployment by undertaking of public works and urge that all possible measures be expedited during present session.

Now, those three messages certainly were unsolicited. One makes a suggestion that I had already dealt with in my observations to this house; the other two suggest expedition,

and one of them also mentions a crisis. I do say, after listening to the speeches that I have heard since eight o'clock this evening, that in the minds of a considerable number of the members of this house no such condition exists, and the very observations they have made conclusively prove, if I would take them as meaning all they say, that there is no unemployment in their particular constituencies and that relief is not desired. I have said, and I say again, that to suggest that a government, whether it be municipal, provincial or federal, would for a moment disregard the appeal of suffering humanity because on a previous occasion they had manifested a tendency to vote as they please with respect to matters that affected the welfare of Canada, or of their province or of their city, is to say something that I think no member should say with respect to a fellow Canadian. But I do not believe, whatever may be said in the heat of political campaigns and of the measures that are resorted to by both parties to secure support, that my fellow Canadians would be derelict in their duty. If I were like-minded I could tell a story to this house which would eclipse any story told here to-night, but I am not so minded because I have confidence in my fellow Canadians, whether Liberals or Conservatives, and I am certain that a Dominion government charged with responsibility for the welfare of our citizens would not for an instant allow political considerations to sway them from their duty to their fellow Canadians.

I have been amazed this evening at the very palpable effort made to have the discussion continue until eleven o'clock in order that this resolution, every phase of which was presented yesterday and discussed thoroughly this afternoon, should be dragged on and on and then have members stand up and say, "We desire to expedite the business of the house." First an ex-minister of the crown talks about the way in which Canadian National estimates were submitted, and his friends suggest following the same course. Here on page 36 of the report of the select standing committee on railways and shipping will be found a statement by the president of that great enterprise, in answer to a question, that sometimes it would be necessary to switch expenditures from one portion of the country to another, because having regard to the welfare of the undertaking it was impossible in view of the conditions existing to make allocations to a particular section and indicate the amounts required. Here we have a crisis, at least I so regard it, and the measure adopted to meet it is broad and