

The federal government has made an offer in that respect which awaits the general ratification of all nine provinces.

As I said previously, the federal government has instituted unemployment insurance and a national employment service. Further to that, should all provinces join in, it is ready to pay eighty-five per cent of the cost of unemployment insurance benefits to persons able and willing to work, who are not entitled or who have ceased to be entitled to unemployment insurance benefits; in other words, to put it bluntly, to pay eighty-five per cent of the cost of direct relief. Here again, the best way to deal with it is to plan the economy of the country in such a way that there will be a minimum of unemployment.

This is where the government's development and public investment programme comes into the picture. It is extremely important, to my mind, that the public works programme in the country should be gauged from a central focal point, and this can be done properly only by the federal government. This is the reason why the federal government has offered the provinces planning grants, public investment projects, has agreed to extend grants, public investment projects, has agreed to extend its national resources and development programme and research programme, and has proposed to give assistance to projects such as roads to open new areas, roads of national importance, and roads for the promotion of tourist traffic. I suppose every one of us knows of more than one instance where this suggestion would be of tremendous assistance to the people. I for one, in my own constituency, have a large area which could be described as the entire southeast section of Manitoba, which is in extreme need of drainage. I admit there are great difficulties. The cost of doing a good job of draining the entire section of the province has been estimated at as high as one million dollars.

It goes without saying that the province has not been in a financial position in the past to spend that much money. It has tackled the problem and has given local drainage here and there. I believe the work started and contemplated over a period of years adds up to practically a quarter of a million dollars. Eventually I suppose the province will complete the job, but it will be far more costly done by bits and pieces and it will take many years.

If assistance could be given to the provincial government for the drainage of that area, the work could be completed in a few years. It would mean that the entire area would be a productive area in a few years and, instead

[Mr. Jutras.]

of being a source of expense to the province, would be a source of revenue for both the provincial and the federal governments.

In the same district, a move has been on for over twenty years to get the tourist highway project, known as the Piney highway, which would be a source of great tourist revenue to the province and to Canada. It has been recognized by authorities and a great many people as a scenic highway, and our friends to the south have repeatedly, year in and year out, made representations to Canadians to have this road built so that they may be able to come to Canada. It goes through an area extremely rich in wild life, big and small game. It is full of possibilities. It has been started by the province, but the province has made but a start. This is a perfect example of what could be done. If the federal government could give some assistance, I am sure this project could be successfully concluded in a very short time. I am positive that the revenue from it would be far in excess of the investment made. The more we delay developments of this kind, the more we delay the full expansion of the country.

In addition to these benefits, under an agreement with all the provinces the dominion would continue, of course, to pay family allowances. It would, further, pay an old age pension to all those seventy years of age at the rate of \$30 without the means test and would assume the total payments and administration of the pension. On top of that, it would contribute fifty per cent of the cost of pension to those from sixty-five to sixty-nine years of age, at the rate of \$30 a month, including administration. It would contribute sixty per cent of the cost of any specific item in a provincial health insurance scheme. It would provide additional grants in relation to general public health for preventive medicine. It would contribute fifty per cent of the cost to lower the age from forty to twenty-one years for blind persons, increase the maximum allowance to \$30 and provide for treatment. Finally, it agreed also to give loans at cost for the building of hospitals in the provinces. These are the suggestions made to the provinces should the other provinces join in.

Mr. Speaker, there it is in black and white, how the federal government has already partly met the problem of 1937 and how it suggests it can be met fully. It asks little from the provinces. It promises stability to the provincial governments, and, above all, it promises a great deal to the people of the provinces. Not one of the provinces has been able to give to its own people the health and social services