

the work was under way I paid a visit to the district and found six men on the job—men who I knew were not actually destitute or in need of relief. The foreman told me he had received his position from the district engineer at New Westminster, Mr. Worsfold. I proceeded to New Westminster and asked Mr. Worsfold who had given him the names of those men on the ground that they required relief. After a little hesitation he told me the local Conservative committee had done so. When I pressed him he admitted that he had got the names from the defeated Conservative candidate who had secured them from the Conservative organization. I claim that is a direct breach of the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act. I know that in past times there have been such instances of party patronage on both sides, I am frank to admit that, but under this statute a man's religious or political convictions were not to be held against him in the granting of relief. Some men appealed to me for relief and I referred them to the local Conservative committee. When they went there they were told they were out of luck. The minister may ask why I did not write him at the time with regard to this irregularity. Directly I knew of it I appealed to Mr. McGeough, of Vancouver. He found my statements were correct and he objected to those men being put on the job, and towards the end the irregularity was rectified to some extent. Then the local branch of the Legion was given power to list men. I have absolute proof of what I say; I am not speaking from hearsay. I would ask that the minister investigate this matter, and if he finds what I have stated is not correct I shall be glad to make a retraction in this house.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): In some way, directly or indirectly, it came to the attention of the department that there was some complaint in connection with this work. If I misunderstand my hon. friend I shall be very glad to be corrected, but I do not understand him to say that any of the men should not have been so employed. The report I have received is that the investigating officer went to my hon. friend and asked him to give the names of men to be put on this work, but he declined to do so.

Mr. REID: I certainly did. That is not my function, Mr. Chairman. I submit that it is not the duty of a member of parliament to furnish the names of men who should be given employment. Had I done so I would have been challenged in this house for giving the names of Liberals. I told the engineer, "It

is your duty to go to the municipal authorities or to the municipal hall and find out what men are destitute and in need of employment." I take pride in saying that I did not suggest one name to him. I am glad to see that the minister has had some report, because the facts are exactly as I have stated them.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The facts are exactly as I have stated them, too. My hon. friend is now seeking to leave the impression that there was some political intrigue in connection with this work.

Mr. REID: I am not blaming the minister, I am blaming the district engineer.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The officer who employed the men engaged on this work acted perfectly fairly when he asked my hon. friend to nominate men. Surely there can be no complaint as to that?

Mr. REID: When I objected to the district engineer going to the local Conservative patronage committee to name men for the job I said to him, "You will hear more of this," and left his room. He ran out to me at the elevator and pleaded with me not to take any action.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hanson, York-Sunbury): Shall the section carry?

Mr. VENIOT: Mr. Chairman, before this bill passes I wish to refer to certain remarks made by the right hon. Prime Minister. If I caught his words correctly, he said that accounts on finished work in conjunction with the provinces and the municipalities had not been paid up to date by reason of the fact that this bill had not yet gone through this house.

Mr. BENNETT: That is so with respect to a large number of them.

Mr. VENIOT: It is not true of the county of Gloucester, nor is it true entirely of the province of New Brunswick, because the auditor of the provincial accounts has shown that at the end of the fiscal year of the province, October 31, there was somewhere around \$170,000 of accounts submitted for payment with respect to work completed. The federal contribution of \$7,500 for work done in the town of Bathurst had not been paid up to Easter, although the accounts were submitted some time ago. The information given the secretary treasurer of the town of Bathurst was to the effect that as soon as the order in council could be passed the Dominion government would forward the \$7,500 to the provincial government, who in turn would forward it to the town of Bathurst. When I was home at