

Furthermore, within the next three or four months we shall have a situation worse than anything we have experienced during the last thirty-five, forty or fifty years, in my judgment.

Hon. Mr. COPP: Whom are you blaming for that?

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I am not blaming anyone.

Hon. Mr. COPP: Fine!

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Undoubtedly there is unemployment in every country of the world to-day, with the exception of France. But we are concerned chiefly with the situation in our own country, and when my honourable friend takes the stand that this situation can be handled by the municipalities or the provinces, and tells me, in effect, that the Federal Government should not give any relief at all—

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Until it is asked for, I said.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: May I make a remark? My honourable friend from Saltcoats (Hon. Mr. Calder) has referred to the drifting of large numbers of unemployed persons from the rural districts to the cities. From what I have observed, fewer rural people have drifted into the cities this year than in former years.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I spoke, not of farmers, but of men who had been working in the mines and forests, principally.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: I do not mean farmers. I mean classes other than farmers. I do not think there will be as large a drift into Winnipeg and Regina—

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Why not?

Hon. Mr. FORKE: Because there was no unemployment in the rural districts last summer.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: What about November?

Hon. Mr. FORKE: It was among the industrial classes. I am not arguing that Winnipeg is able to cope with its problem; but the difficulty does not arise from the rural people floating into these cities.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: The honourable gentleman speaks of "rural people." What does he mean? Are they farmers? Farmers' daughters? Farmers' wives? Farmers' children?

Hon. Mr. FORKE: They are labourers.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: What is the farm labourer going to do from November till March?

Hon. Mr. CALDER.

Hon. Mr. FORKE: If he has worked all summer he does not need any assistance.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Where is he going?

Hon. Mr. FORKE: He can live in the city if he wishes. But there is no big flow of rural people. I do not mean farmers. I have a great deal of sympathy with what the honourable leader of the Government has said in regard to the farmers of the districts that have had crop failures. I do not think the honourable member from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Belcourt) really understands the situation those people are in, because he suggests that they can be assisted by their neighbours. The position of their neighbours is similar to their own. Whole districts are affected, and I think they can legitimately receive assistance, even from the Dominion Government.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: We have had a very interesting discussion, but after all it boils down to this main question: is the situation in Canada such that the Federal Government should come in and assist? I thoroughly agree with the honourable senator from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock), as I am sure every member of the House will, that not only primarily, but ordinarily and usually, and nine-tenths of the time, the Federal Government should not intervene; that the question of unemployment is local and provincial. But, as I say, the main question is whether there has been developed within the past year, or a lesser period, a situation that necessitates federal assistance. In my judgment the answer is yes. I have tried to give reasons. I cannot say any more on that point. It is one that every member must decide for himself.

The second point is this. The Government, in its wisdom—rightly or wrongly—is providing a fund of \$20,000,000—

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: It is Parliament, not the Government.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: Yes. Parliament is providing an unemployment fund of \$20,000,000—something absolutely unprecedented in Canada. In the expenditure of that money there lies, in my judgment, the very gravest danger, and whoever is responsible for the expenditure—I do not know who it will be—should at all times take the greatest possible precaution to see that it is a proper expenditure and that the money is accounted for.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: I do not know what machinery is necessary, but this money is going to be expended to a very large extent