

ernment with regard to that matter. Some branches of their works are already practically closed down, and I presume that the rail mills all over Canada are in a similar position. May I suggest to the Government that in conjunction with what has been done by organized labour and by the friends generally of Canada on behalf of the unemployed, there might be something the Government could do to help out rail makers and steel workers, not only in Sydney, but throughout the whole of Canada as well? Several things may suggest themselves to the Government; the probabilities are that they have already suggested themselves. One is that the Government might give advance orders for rails, for the Hudson Bay railway, the Grand Trunk Pacific, and the Intercolonial railway. Some seven or eight thousand men are out of employment. They are facing starvation, and perhaps it is not improbable that this situation is general in all the steel works of Canada. I bring this matter forward in no party spirit. I have had an intimation from a political friend of the Prime Minister that he intended to bring the matter to the attention of the Government. Anything done along that line shall receive not only my humble support, but the support of every man, woman and child who is dependent upon the Dominion Steel Company for support.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: Representations have been made by a number of representative citizens of the city of Sydney, I understand. So far as the Government is concerned, I believe that a considerable order was given, amounting to about 10,000 tons of rails. The Government would be very desirous of supplementing that order so far as it may be possible to do so, but my hon. friend will, of course, realize that the Minister of Finance has to take into account the financial condition which at the present time confronts not only this country but the whole world. It has been represented to us that orders which had been given by some of the railway companies were withdrawn or cancelled, and I have been asked to take measures of one kind or another which may enable those orders to be carried out. We have not up to the present time had an opportunity of giving to that suggestion the consideration which it deserves. The whole situation is a very complicated one, and I can only ask my hon. friend to take the assurance that whatever can be done, having regard to the situation as a whole, including the conditions in the city of

[Mr. Carroll.]

Sydney, shall receive the careful attention of the Government.

Mr. SINCLAIR: May I suggest that the Minister of Finance or the Prime Minister should instruct the banking institutions of the country not to be too severe upon their customers at the present time. I understand that orders have gone out from the head offices of almost all the large banks not to increase the overdrafts in the various branches. We all know that the manufacturers very largely depend on the banks for practically all their working capital, and, as we are giving very great concessions to the banks at this time, it strikes me that the people of the country should receive some benefit therefrom. I am sorry to say that, so far as I have been able to ascertain, the banks have been very severe. They have prevented people from obtaining the capital that they ordinarily require to carry on their regular business, and, while large concessions have been made to them, they have not made any concessions to the business interests of the country.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am informed by the Minister of Finance that he has been in communication with some of the banks with regard to the very matter that my hon. friend has mentioned. Anything that the Government can do in that regard, without undertaking to manage the business of the banks or to dictate to them, will, of course, be done.

Mr. MACDONALD: It was stated in the press that the Government would introduce legislation to enable them to deal specifically with cases where the cost of the necessaries of life was increased by those dealing in them. Has that been covered specifically by any of the Bills we have dealt with to-day?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: No, not specifically. It is thought that legislation which has been already under consideration this afternoon will be of a sufficiently comprehensive character to include any action that might reasonably be taken by the Government in that matter.

Mr. CARROLL: Is not clause 3 now covered by the Militia Act, which makes provision for the payment of the militia when on active duty and when not on active duty?

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The Minister of Finance informs me that it was thought desirable, in addition to any provisions contained in the Militia Act, to have this pro-