

percentage basis was abandoned and grants in aid adopted as a substitute. Following the recommendations of the national employment commission, we have attached to the grants in aid a maximum percentage rather in order to avoid the periodic and somewhat disturbing revisions of grants in aid from one quarter to another.

I think it must be recognized also that there has been a marked improvement in the unemployment situation. The hon. member for Danforth (Mr. Harris) suggested that there is a real need at this time for a strong man or a superman.

Mr. BOUCHARD: With a strong voice.

Mr. ROGERS: I am sure he will not misunderstand me when I remind him that he was a supporter of an administration which certainly in his view and in the view of many people in this country was headed by a strong man, a man who, some people believed, was a superman. I should like to give my hon. friend the unemployment record for those years. I should also like to remind him of the fact that this record occurred during the years following the changing of the tariff policy of this country at an emergency session. The result of that policy was not an improvement in employment, but rather a marked increase in unemployment.

Mr. HARRIS: Will the minister give the world record for that period?

Mr. ROGERS: Here are the number of unemployed for the months of December in successive years:

1930..	413,000
1931..	543,000
1932..	675,000
1933..	623,000
1934..	571,000
1935..	546,000
1936..	502,000
1937..	381,000

In the past year there has been an improvement of 120,000. Not only that, but the relief lists show that there have been removed from the relief rolls and added to the wage rolls of this country a number very close to 100,000. You cannot go back to any year from 1929 in the present time and find as great an improvement in a single year.

Mr. EDWARDS: Has the minister the figures for December, 1937, and January, 1938?

Mr. ROGERS: The figure for December, 1937, is 381,000. I believe there will be a further opportunity to-morrow to continue this discussion in connection with another motion.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.

Wednesday, March 2, 1938

The house met at three o'clock.

DIVERSION OF WATER

CORRESPONDENCE TABLED RESPECTING KENOGAMI RIVER PROJECT

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): I wish to lay on the table a copy of a communication dated March 1, 1938, from the Prime Minister of Canada to the Premier of Ontario regarding the Kenogami river diversion project.

HARBOUR COMMISSIONS

EXTENSION OF JURISDICTION OF WINNIPEG AND ST. BONIFACE HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

Hon. C. D. HOWE (Minister of Transport) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 32, to amend the Winnipeg and St. Boniface Harbour Commissioners Act.

He said: The purpose of the bill is to extend the jurisdiction of the Winnipeg and St. Boniface harbour commissioners to the waters of municipalities, contiguous to the cities of Winnipeg and St. Boniface, which desire to be brought under the act.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

QUESTIONS

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

MONCTON, N.B., PUBLIC WHARF

Mr. BROOKS:

1. Were tenders called for the recently constructed warehouse on the public wharf at Moncton, New Brunswick, or was the work done by day work?

2. If by contract, what was the amount of each tender, and to whom was the contract given?

3. Who was appointed foreman on this work, and what amount did he receive for his services?

Mr. CARDIN:

1 and 2. Work done by day labour.

3. (a) Reid McManus; (b) \$255.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND RAILWAY

Mr. McCULLOCH:

What was the total cost of changing the narrow gauge to the standard gauge on the Prince Edward Island railway?

Mr. HOWE: The total cost of converting the line, according to the accounts, was \$1,786,565.22, of which \$1,200,570.11 was charged to capital account and \$585,995.11 to