

particularly in Saskatchewan. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Perley), in the course of his address the other day, stressed the maladministration of relief in Saskatchewan. I come from a portion of Saskatchewan where for the last thirty years it has been found necessary to have relief administered or assistance given at some time or another to some of our people in that part of the province, and the relief has always been administered through the rural municipalities of western Canada until 1930, when that system was changed. A relief commission was then set up by the then cooperative government, which was dominated by Conservative members and led by a Conservative premier. I have every respect for the gentlemen and the ladies who composed that relief commission in Saskatchewan, but I cannot say the same for the relief inspectors who were travelling throughout the country administering the relief. We had that system of relief by a commission in Saskatchewan for five years, and when the hon. Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner) in this government, who was then leader of the opposition in Saskatchewan, issued his manifesto to the people of that province before the provincial election of June, 1934, he stated that if he were returned to power one of the first acts of his government would be to scrap that relief commission.

I could tell many stories, Mr. Speaker, about maladministration of relief in Saskatchewan, under the relief commission, by the inspectors who travelled the length and breadth of the province, but I would hate to stain the pages of *Hansard* with the corrupt practices which they followed prior to the provincial election of 1934. At that election the people of Saskatchewan definitely decided that they did not want the administration of relief by a commission; for not one member of the Anderson administration, the so-called cooperative government, was returned to office. I think that speaks very well for a system of relief administration in Saskatchewan through the rural and urban municipalities. We had this latter system of relief tried again for four years since 1934; then we had another provincial election in June last, and the people of Saskatchewan definitely endorsed the policies of the Liberal government for the administration of relief through the rural and urban municipalities of Saskatchewan.

There has also been considerable criticism of the labour policies followed in Saskatchewan in connection with certain government projects. In the constituency I have the honour to represent we have had, during the

past three years, several large projects carried out under the administration of the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, and they employed each year several hundred men. In 1938, on the various projects in my constituency, there were at one time between five and six hundred men working. I should like to take a few minutes to explain to the house just how the labour policies were worked out on the larger projects in the southwestern part of Saskatchewan.

We held meetings at which we organized our labour policy. It was decided by the Minister of Agriculture that wherever possible on these projects local labour was to be used. So, in order to use local labour to the greatest extent possible, we drafted certain areas around these projects, from which areas local labour was to be drawn. We then set up a registration employment office for labour. The labour was drawn from that register in the order of registration as the labour was required on the various projects. No credentials were needed either from the provincial members or from the federal member as a condition of getting a job on any one of these projects. Everyone was given a job regardless of political affiliations. I should like at this point to pay a tribute to the Minister of Agriculture for the excellent manner in which he has administered the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act policy in Saskatchewan. We feel that it is going to rehabilitate that province so that the farmers will be able to make a living and carry on.

I should like for a short time to direct attention to one particular branch of work which has been carried on under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, and really administered by the experimental stations. Here I would pay a tribute, first, to the great work which the superintendents of the experimental farms at Swift Current, Indian Head, and Scott, Saskatchewan, have done in extending control of soil drifting, re-grassing and the different cultural methods in the drought area. Under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act it is possible for the farmers to organize themselves into agricultural improvement associations. These associations, in cooperation with the experimental farm in each district in which they are organized, are kept in close touch with all the developments in the control of soil drifting, re-grassing and other methods.

Last spring, when I was home during the easter recess, I had occasion to drive through the district south of Tompkins. Tompkins is a town on the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway about sixty miles west of Swift Current. South of Tompkins was an area of about 30,000 acres on which during 1936