

paid out in direct relief and in unemployment schemes by the federal government since August 7, 1930. The total of the figures there given is \$71,316,596. Those are moneys which have been spent out of the federal treasury once and for all. But they are only a part of the money which the federal treasury has paid out, because the minister himself has given a statement in which he said that, in addition to moneys which have gone on direct relief and on certain unemployment schemes, the government has been advancing money to the provinces, some of which possibly will be repaid but some of which may never be repaid. Paid or repaid it will all come out of the pockets of the people in the form of taxes. Speaking in this house on November 25 last—I go back as far as that because it is the last quotation I have from the minister; if he has anything further to give I shall be glad to get it—he gave the house the following:

In the four western provinces, either by way of direct non-recoverable advances or in recoverable loans, the Dominion government has supplied the sum of \$73,844,130.98.

For all of Canada this government has provided the sum of \$115,631,733.80 up to date for the purpose of tiding the provinces, the municipalities and the people generally over this trying period.

One hundred and fifteen millions—and it will be considerably more than that at the present time; \$115,000,000 is what this government had paid out to November last—\$115,000,000 in less than two and a half years. And that does not include what the provinces and municipalities have paid out in addition. I wonder if hon. members have any appreciation of what that amount of money is in relation to the administration of the affairs of Canada as a whole. Prior to the year of the great war, the total expenditures of Canada out of consolidated account never equalled the amount of \$115,000,000. In the fiscal year 1912-13, the total expenditure for the administration of all the affairs of Canada did not reach \$113,000,000, that was much the largest total expenditure of any year up to that time, and yet this government in a little over two years has spent out on account of unemployment relief alone over \$115,000,000. And the amount up to the present is very much larger.

Mr. GORDON: That includes loans to provinces.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, but the minister says that many of them are not recoverable, and all of them relate to the general financial situation throughout Canada.

The point I wish to draw attention to is  
[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

this, that all of that money has been obtained from this House of Commons by the ministry of the day, not as a result of estimates brought to parliament where the different projects on which it was proposed to expend public money could be carefully scrutinized, and where the entire scheme of expenditures could be reviewed by members coming from all parts of Canada with a view to seeing whether the proposed expenditures were justifiable or not, but, with the exception of the \$20,000,000 which was appropriated in the first session of this parliament, all of this money has been obtained by blank cheque. In the first session, the ministry asked \$20,000,000 from parliament to do with as they pleased in the matter of unemployment relief. They got that \$20,000,000. The next session they came to parliament and asked, not for \$20,000,000 or \$50,000,000 or \$100,000,000, or for an amount they were prepared to name, but for the right to spend by order in council whatever they wished to spend. From that time on, this parliament has been completely ignored, although the expenditures which the ministry has made out of the blank cheques they have secured have in a little over two years been the equivalent of the total expenditures of Canada in the year immediately preceding the great war. I say, Mr. Speaker, that that brings home, as perhaps nothing else could, the force of the argument which was urged so strenuously from this side of the house, that, in dealing with these great questions of public expenditure, no parliament, which cares a whit for the well-being of the people and for the taxation which the people are called upon to bear, can afford to part with its control over public expenditure; for, in so doing, it is parting with the control of parliament over taxation, which is parliament's supreme duty.

Hon. gentlemen opposite have compelled this House of Commons to surrender its right to control the expenditure of that vast sum of money, have compelled it, in fact, by use of the closure, and all that we have as a result is the picture, so called, which the minister has given us of the situation to-night. I say to the minister and to the government that they have in the most shameful way taken advantage of the very critical situation in this country to-day, to deprive parliament of its rights and of its duties and of its responsibilities. They have taken away the rights and responsibility of parliament, by taking unto themselves autocratic powers in dealing with public funds just in the way that most pleases themselves. I think the time has come again to call a halt to that sort