

whether or not it is his intention to deal with those matters at this session; he made no reference to them. I submit that unemployment is one of the most important matters with which the country is faced. Two years ago a special session of parliament was called to deal with this important problem, and to-day we have more unemployment than we had at that time. If there was need of a special session then there is much more need to-day.

Cities in the west are almost desperate, they have not been able to obtain any clear undertaking as to the manner in which the Dominion government will give relief during the coming year. As a result they are at their wit's end to know how to carry on financially. My own city of Winnipeg last year spent over \$900,000 of the city's own funds for relief. That must be multiplied by three if we are to have the amount necessary in the city of Winnipeg alone. Other western cities are in very much the same position. Provincial governments are not able to handle the situation; they do not know how to arrange matters for the coming year.

I should like to make special mention of the recent edict banning riding on freight trains by people stranded in different localities. For a time the authorities permitted this practice; in their efforts to find work men were allowed to travel in this way. Then notice was issued that on a certain date this method of travel was to be stopped. The result was that some men tried to hurry to their homes or elsewhere for the winter. Others stayed to carry on the work of the harvest which is not yet fully completed. Only yesterday I had a resolution sent me from my own party, the Independent Labour party of Winnipeg, urging that the government should grant free transportation of the unemployed to their own homes. That seems reasonable. For a time these men were allowed to travel on the freight trains. Whether or not the government connived at it, certainly a great many municipal authorities urged the unemployed out of town, practically forcing them to ride on the freight trains. A number of men have told me that the authorities issued instructions that the unemployed had to ride the freight trains and get out. I do not think this condition ought to go on for many weeks. The freeze-up is coming, and these men ought to be suitably provided for. It seems to me that the provinces have a right to know what the government is going to do in the matter.

Then there is the larger question of the general depression, of which unemployment is only one phase. I believe the depression is

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

as great to-day in western Canada as it was two years ago, and almost as great as it was one year ago. True, we have had a fairly good crop in certain sections, but that crop is not bringing sufficient returns to pay for the cost of putting it in and taking it off. The result is that the money going to the farmers is mortgaged. It seems to me that without going into this matter at further length the Prime Minister ought to assure us that there will be no adjournment of this session until these matters are fully discussed, and until he has stated very definitely what he will do with regard to the whole situation. In the judgment of a great many of us the legislation implementing the agreements arrived at by the Imperial economic conference is not as important as the immediate relief of our own people. It is quite possible that the government may take advantage of its large majority to force an adjournment at the conclusion of that business, so that we would have no opportunity of discussing matters vital to the interests of the ordinary citizen. I ask the Prime Minister to give this house an assurance that before we adjourn we may have the fullest information with regard to the attitude of the government concerning these matters that affect the welfare of the people of Canada.

Mr. ROBERT GARDINER (Acadia): Mr. Speaker, if passed, the motion now before the house would give government business precedence. Because of the agreements at the Imperial Economic conference I presume such procedure is necessary, and in so far as I personally am concerned I have no objection to giving preference to the agreements for a time. We will not know of what they consist until Wednesday next when the Prime Minister, as he stated a few days ago will give information to the house. However, while those agreements may be of importance my judgment is that they will but touch the fringe of the economic difficulties with which we in Canada are faced. While we are quite willing to expedite the passing of these agreements, if they disclose nothing of a controversial nature, at the same time I should like to impress upon the Prime Minister and his colleagues that the real problems with which we in this parliament should deal are inside Canada, and not outside of it.

During the last election campaign the Prime Minister in discussing problems before Canada took exception to the then Prime Minister depending upon conferences to meet the economic problems of the day. On many occasions statements made by the Prime Min-