

of voting a certain amount of money. In the situation that existed at that time, and after the campaign that had been waged throughout the country, the government would certainly have been fully justified in securing money, not by convening the members of this house from every part of the country, but merely by a governor general's warrant. The reason for the special emergency session, as I have said, was in the first place to redeem the letter of the promise of the government; and in the second place, as I shall try to show later, its purpose was to put through certain tariff resolutions which had nothing to do with the unemployment situation, but which had much to do with the desires of the Prime Minister.

After voting \$20,000,000 last September and following the session, a conference took place between the Minister of Labour (Senator Robertson) and certain provincial ministers, and we are told that the cooperation of a number of the provincial governments was secured to start a certain number of public works.

I am quite willing to believe that, but so far as the city of Montreal, from which I come, is concerned, most of the government works that are now going on are works which not merely had nothing to do with the voting of the \$20,000,000 at the special session but were works decided upon and for which money was voted by the King government in the previous session of 1930. By bill, Mr. Speaker, this house had voted the sum of \$50,000,000 in the previous session for the building of terminal and railway facilities for the Canadian National Railways in the city of Montreal. That is a sum more than twice the amount which this government asked parliament to vote during the special session last September for the whole Dominion of Canada. Not only is this work for which the King government provided being carried on in the city of Montreal, furnishing employment to a great number of persons, but I wish to state to the house that it is going on notwithstanding the active opposition of Conservative forces in Montreal who have done everything in their power to prevent that work from being carried out.

The King government voted \$5,000,000 for the harbour of Montreal, and a large proportion of that sum was available to perform work in the harbour of Montreal. In the month of January you could read in almost every paper in the city of Montreal, letters inquiring why certain work involving the expenditure of \$1,500,000 at the Windmill Point wharf was not being done by this gov-

[Mr. Rinfret.]

ernment or by the harbour commission. That was another instance, Mr. Speaker, of money that had been voted by the King government not being actually spent in the city of Montreal. For certain reasons unknown to me, but certainly known to my hon. friend the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau) either the harbour commission or the government delayed that work which should have gone on and been paid for out of moneys voted by the Liberal government, moneys voted in the regular course of events previous to the emergency session.

What about the tunnel under the Lachine canal? That is another work in the city of Montreal that is being credited to the unemployment program of the special session. But who is there in this house from the city of Montreal that does not know that this work has been in contemplation for a long time, and had actually been promised by the Hon. Mr. Dunning and the Hon. Mr. Crerar. I want to qualify that: It was not only promised but it was understood that the money would be available just as soon as the city authorities of Montreal would be in a position to commence the work.

Such are the works, Mr. Speaker, that are being performed, or delayed, in the city of Montreal, and for which credit is claimed by the Conservative party as a part of their program for unemployment relief. As far as we are concerned, I say that if there had been no change of government in July last, and no emergency session, not only would these moneys have been expended in the city of Montreal, but they would have been expended without the undue delay that a change of government brought about in this country.

But the real purpose of the special session, Mr. Speaker, was not to vote money which could have been appropriated in some other way, but to effect changes in the tariff. Hon. members will remember the tariff resolutions, covering 20 pages of Hansard, brought down at the special emergency session, and upon which we were asked to pass judgment without having had opportunity to give the slightest consideration to the individual tariff items. My point is that these changes in the tariff should not have been made for many reasons. I claim that the government itself had not had time properly to consider the changes it proposed, and that such changes were proposed upon inadequate information.

My right hon. friend the Prime Minister after being returned to power, abolished the tariff board. That was a body which had been established for the purpose of gathering