

in the work, should their services be found necessary, they will be able to function even better in the future by reason of the lessons they will have learned from the mistakes of the past—because no one's activity, no matter what direction it takes, is quite free from error at times. Personally, I can say no more about the Saskatchewan relief commission, except that it was set up by the provincial government.

Mr. BUTCHER: With reference to Mr. Percy Gordon, who has been referred to two or three times during this session, can the minister tell me the nature of the office that Mr. Gordon holds and the remuneration he receives? I have a motive.

Mr. GORDON: I am advised, and I believe it is correct, that Mr. Gordon of Regina is giving his services without charge. I am so advised and, I believe, correctly. I will inquire to see whether he is being paid at all, and if he is I shall be glad to give the information to my hon. friend, although I do not believe he is getting any pay whatever.

Mr. BUTCHER: In what capacity does he serve?

Mr. GORDON: I am instructed that he is chairman of the commission.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Oh no.

Mr. GORDON: Then the hon. gentleman knows better than I.

Mr. MOTHERWELL: Mr. Black is chairman.

Mr. GORDON: I do not know the setup of the commission; I do not know even the members or their names.

Mr. BUTCHER: I want to refer to this gentleman because he has already been referred to on two or three occasions during this session. He was first referred to by the hon. member for Melville (Mr. Motherwell), and with the remarks of that hon. member I certainly see no particular reason to find fault, because I am not in a position to say whether they were correct or not. Further reference was made to Mr. Gordon by the hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Beynon) and also by the hon. member for Regina (Mr. Turnbull). I want to make some reference to him myself from a different standpoint.

Mr. Gordon has been a personal friend of mine for the last eighteen years. I know him, perhaps, a little more intimately than, I might say, any other member in this house does, and I feel I owe it to him to say what

I am going to say with regard to him at this time. I may say, in case there should be some misunderstanding, that there is no rift between the hon. member for Melville and myself in connection with this matter. What I say, I say with his approval. I am going to say it because I feel it is due Mr. Gordon. The hon. member for Moose Jaw, when referring to this gentleman, asked, "Who is this Percy Gordon?" I propose to ask the same question and to answer it from my own standpoint. He is a brilliant lawyer of the city of Regina, a most estimable man from every standpoint, a man of irreproachable character and of the utmost integrity. He is a king's counsel and was appointed king's counsel by the former Liberal administration in Saskatchewan. Certainly he is a Conservative; I am a Liberal. I did not know he was a Conservative until he had been my personal friend for eight or ten years, and he about the same time discovered that I was a strong Liberal. It made no difference to our personal friendship, and I rise to-day to pay my tribute to Mr. Gordon's character and to his reputation, and to say that I believe he is a man absolutely above reproach. I do this because I feel that friendship is worth but little if one cannot stand up and uphold the good name of a friend in his absence as one would in his presence. But I want it to be clearly understood in this house to-day that there is no rift between the hon. member for Melville and myself, because he heartily approves of this statement I make to-day as a personal statement, made because of my knowledge of Mr. Percy Gordon.

Having said so much, I want to say a few words with regard to the resolution. When speaking to the resolution that led to the revival of chapter 58 in March, I said I had three or four suggestions which I should like to make inasmuch as I thought they were constructive suggestions with regard to work that might be given the unemployed. For what they are worth, I make those suggestions now; I could not make them then because time did not permit. I want to support the suggestion made by two or three hon. members that assistance might be given the farmers not only of the west but of the east, farmers who have no means to employ necessary help. Assistance might be given by providing them with men who are out of work, paying the unemployed a small wage for their services. I also support the suggestion made by both sides of the committee that homes should be built for those at present living in wretched hovels. This would be a good service to perform and would provide work for the