

Relief Act, 1933—Mr. Gordon

Mr. GORDON: Not earmarked for the trans-Canada highway.

Mr. BRADETTE: Could the minister give any amount that was spent on the building of the trans-Canada highway?

Mr. GORDON: Not at the moment, but I will take note of the interrogation and I think I can give the information later.

Turning to Manitoba, direct relief there is borne, the same as it is in the other provinces, on the three way basis between the dominion, the province and the municipality; and fifty per cent between the province and the

dominion in unorganized districts and indigent municipalities, after they have been so reported upon by the province and approved of by the dominion. The total disbursement in regard to the dominion's share of direct relief in the province of Manitoba to date amounts to \$911,056.18. Then in Manitoba, by reason of the extension of public works which had been started under the legislation which preceded this act, work was carried on, and I will ask leave to read into Hansard the details of the number of individuals and the man days and wages paid during the time the work was in progress:

Month—	Individuals	Man Days	Wages paid
May	579	11,477	\$ 59,561
June	719	21,393	104,788
July	795	43,288	261,008
August	782	32,274	249,236
September	561	24,339	206,171
October	561	16,235	94,725
November	37	11,946	93,577
December	80	3,610	14,453
January	45	3,477	5,209

Representations were made to the government, with respect to certain municipalities in western Canada, to the effect that they were unable to cope with the relief of many thousands of single homeless transients who, it was represented, were neither residents of the municipalities nor of the province itself. It arose, as hon. members know, largely through the rather rapid filling up of western Canada with people from other lands. I am not going to criticize the efforts of those who preceded me with respect to that situation. The results, however, which might have not arisen had conditions not become such as they are, was that many many people, single men and some women, found themselves without a home, without family ties of any kind, and were just drifting here and there; and it became apparent to this government that they could not be classed as residents of any municipality or any province. That being the case the federal government undertook to take care of this class of needy persons during the present winter. Early in October we were fortunate enough to secure the services of Doctor W. J. Black for a short period in order to assist the province and the federal government in organizing this relief, the management of the Canadian National Railways being good enough to let us have Doctor Black for this purpose. Early in October Doctor Black went to western Canada and, in conjunction with the municipal and provincial authorities, was instrumental in setting up commissions of public spirited men in each province who undertook to administer

[Mr. Bradette.]

this relief. The commission was appointed by the provincial government in each instance. In Manitoba the committee is composed of W. H. Carter, chairman; G. W. Northwood; and A. MacNamara, who I believe is one of the assistant deputy ministers in the Manitoba government.

Mr. BROWN: May I ask the minister if the Dominion government is contributing any part of the money which is being paid to hired men on the farms? I understand the Manitoba government is sending out men on the farms and is paying them \$5 per month. Is the Dominion government bearing any part of that expense?

Mr. GORDON: I had not heard that the Manitoba government was paying \$5 a month to men on farms.

Mr. BROWN: Well, the money is being paid from some place.

Mr. GORDON: I have seen it stated in the press in some cases that the Manitoba government is paying and has paid \$5 a month to men on the farm.

Mr. BROWN: That is a fact.

Mr. GORDON: It may be a fact—I do not know it to be a fact. But I do know that the Dominion government has paid it all up to date. The province may be doing it as well. That is the situation,—the Dominion government is paying all of that \$5 a month.

In Saskatchewan the relief commission has assumed this responsibility in addition to its