

Unemployment Continuance Act

Mr. REID: There is another matter I should like to have cleared up. The figures I have given were supplied to me by the Minister of Labour, and if any hon. member doubts them I have a spare copy. They are also contained in the report of the dominion director of unemployment relief, and I state emphatically that the amount is \$1,800,000. If my hon. friends turn to page 11 they will find that the dominion contribution to the province of British Columbia is \$1,374,985.50. That is the total money the dominion will pay for all municipal works. Then in the next column we find the dominion expenditure for provincial works is \$24,129.50, for provincial highways, \$1,098,870.50, for trans-Canada highways, \$502,000. If hon. members care to add these figures they will find that my statement is correct, and that the total program in the province of British Columbia is roughly \$3,000,000, half of which is payable by the dominion, or the sum of about \$1,600,000. Why, therefore, should \$1,800,000 have been sent for provincial undertakings only?

Mr. BENNETT: The whole \$3,000,000 had to be provided by the dominion.

Mr. REID: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: So that the sum which British Columbia has received, \$1,800,000, is still \$1,200,000 short of what is required to enable British Columbia to discharge its obligations to the municipalities and provide for its own work. It is because they are unable to get the money that we were to loan them that they are in their present predicament. That is what I meant when I spoke to the hon. gentleman before.

Mr. REID: I still maintain the province have \$200,000 more than is coming to them for their program of unemployment relief work.

Mr. STEVENS: No.

Mr. REID: Yes. They could easily have paid the municipalities because they have received plenty of money with which to pay. The reason the moneys have not been paid is known to nearly everybody in British Columbia. However, I shall leave that phase of the matter and address a few questions to the Minister of Public Works, in spite of the fact that the Prime Minister has said that we are delaying the progress of this bill. I am going to ask the Minister of Public Works regarding some expenditures under the direct relief program. I ask the minister for particulars concerning a building which was erected at Salmon Arm at a cost of \$22,000.

[Mr. Stevens.]

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): At what page does my hon. friend find that item?

Mr. REID: At page 67 of the report of the dominion director of unemployment relief.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): The building has not yet been constructed.

Mr. REID: Has it not been constructed?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): No.

Mr. REID: But there is an appropriation made?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): That public building was in the schedule of authorized works, but after investigation there was a decision not to undertake the work.

Mr. REID: Is there any intention to undertake it?

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): Not under the unemployment relief program; it will have to come in the regular estimates.

Mr. REID: I see there are many items for public buildings erected in Ontario. Have any of those buildings been constructed? I have a reason for asking these questions.

Mr. STEWART (Leeds): With the exception of a building in the city of Windsor upon which construction has begun, I do not think any public buildings have been constructed under the provisions of the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act. Other work consisted of repairs, alterations and improvements, which were undertaken because representations were made that carpenters, plumbers and other tradesmen needed work. To afford them some relief we made repairs to public buildings on a pretty generous scale. As my hon. friend will see, these repairs were made to public buildings throughout Ontario and the other provinces wherever we could do the work within the time.

Mr. REID: I am fairly well satisfied by the minister's answer, because when I wrote the department with respect to a post office at New Westminster I was informed that no new buildings would be undertaken under the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act. It is interesting to know we are all being treated in the same way. Yesterday afternoon the minister gave the house a letter, dated November 25, that was sent to all district engineers telling them that no applicants, for employment should be discriminated against on political or religious grounds. Among the many projects which I submitted to the dominion director was one for work at White Rock amounting to \$6,300. On hearing that