

*Unemployment Relief*

without hesitation that we have not advised the province of Saskatchewan that we will diminish the percentage of our contribution to their relief. We are prepared to meet our share on the same basis as we have before. If the hon. member would care to place his question on the order paper, I shall be glad to give such information as soon as it is available.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Would the minister not bring it down voluntarily?

Mr. McLARTY: I shall be glad to bring it down if we have the information. As to the matter of administration, as my hon. friend knows, that has for some time been under the direction of the province. It illustrates what has been complained of, namely, the unfortunate situation that exists when the dominion contributes the money and the province has the administration. As my hon. friend knows, not only is his recommendation one that has been brought to the attention of the department at the present time, but the dominion-provincial commission have made a similar recommendation. It is a matter that I think deserves consideration, but it could not receive consideration in time to be incorporated in this bill.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Mr. Chairman, in rising to discuss this particular section, I should like first to express my thanks to the minister and the officers of his department for dealing so promptly with all the problems which I brought to their attention. By telegram and airmail they have communicated with the proper authorities in Saskatchewan with respect to these cases, and I assure the minister that I appreciate that very much. In spite of that, reports still come to me from my constituency indicating that people on relief are going to be cut off. Just this morning I received from a relief recipient in my constituency this mimeographed sheet which was attached to his relief order for the month of June. It reads:

This notice is to advise that the grocery order for August will be the last one issued to you.

Northern Areas Branch.

The individual to whom this was sent is living under the northern reestablishment plan. Regardless of how good a crop there might be or how good the price might be, I consider it would be quite impossible for these people to live through the next year on the returns from their farm, and I feel sure that the minister will continue negotiations with the province of Saskatchewan in order that the people who have no way of getting through the next few months will not have to live under the threat of having their food cut off.

[Mr. McLarty.]

While I am on my feet I should like to refer to some remarks that were made by the hon. member for Wellington North (Mr. Blair) in discussing this bill the other day. He said:

Western farmers have talked until I am tired of listening to them.

As one member who has spoken of the problems of the west, I assure hon. members that so long as there is a single individual in my constituency who is going hungry in this land of plenty, my voice will continue to be raised to see that the necessary action is taken to remedy that situation. The hon. member for Wellington North went on to say:

The Ontario farmer is tired of listening to that sort of speech, and I say to western farmers, "The time has come when, if you cannot live in the west, you had better get out. If you are dried out year after year, get out and go somewhere where you can live."

I am sure the members of this committee realize that a suggestion of that sort cannot be taken seriously. The evidence placed before this committee by the minister indicates that there are thousands and thousands of people who would be affected by such a suggestion; and if I were to ask where would these people go, I am sure the hon. member for Wellington North would be the last man to say that in his constituency there are places where these people might become self-supporting in a few years. Speaking a year ago, the same hon. gentleman, discussing another aspect of this unemployment relief measure, and speaking of the unemployed, said:

But when I go to your city bums from the street I cannot get a man in fifty. You might think you could, but just you go and hire some of these yaps on the streets and you will see what you have got. In the country I can get men that have a spine, but I cannot when I pick up these travelling transients.

Observations of that sort with respect to the unemployed, with respect to people in western Canada who have been asking for assistance, are doing a great national disservice. I tell the hon. members of this committee that the people in western Canada do not want charity. They are not asking for something for nothing. The chairman of the Alberta wheat pool, speaking a year ago at the conference in Winnipeg under the chairmanship of Premier Bracken to discuss western problems, pointed out that all you had to do was to travel through western Canada, view the farm homes and draw your own conclusions. He said:

You city dwellers, take a trip by rail or highway through the west, and as you go along note every farm home you see, and figure out how many of those homes appear to you as places in which you would like your family to live. Look over the average farm home