

Supply—Public Works

the people of that area as to where the responsibility lies. If there is a federal responsibility, in whole or in part, then the minister should say so when he answers the remarks made by members on this item and clear up the confusion. I sincerely trust that the minister will state his department's policy in this regard.

As I said before, there is no sign of acceleration of public works projects in Northumberland-Miramichi. There is little hope held out that the promised relief from unemployment through public works will lessen the number of unemployed this year, when it is at an all-time high for this season of the year. Perhaps in the future, next year or the year after, something of a more concrete nature will be provided. In the meantime, I must say there has been no acceleration whatever in this respect in the constituency which I represent.

Mr. Hardie: I do not intend to follow the minister's example of turning this committee into another election campaign. I should like to deal with some of the matters the minister mentioned in his statement. I have some questions to ask and possibly he can answer them now or have answers prepared for the time when the related items come before the committee.

The minister spent a great deal of time listing the 168 new projects that were supposed to have been started by his government this year. I wonder if he would give us a list of the projects included in that total of 168 where the preliminary work and planning was initiated since his government took office on June 10 last. I do not think it would take nearly as long to list those projects as it did to list those he cited the other day.

We have heard a great deal about acceleration on the part of the government in public works projects and about the steps it has taken to relieve unemployment. I wish to place on the record a part of the statement made by the minister on June 6 as recorded at page 901 of *Hansard*:

We have accelerated construction. This is a factor which has been almost entirely overlooked in the criticisms made from the other side of the house. For example, we have gone out of our way to promote work during the winter months.

Why should the government not go out of its way? It is its responsibility. You would think it was doing the unemployed people of this country a favour by promoting public works projects during the winter months.

In his statement the minister said that part of the public works program initiated by this government to look after winter employment was the brushing of 150 miles of road from Fort Providence to Fort Rae during the past winter. This project did

relieve some unemployment in the city of Edmonton. It did bring a little relief to some of the unemployed in the Northwest Territories, too, but we had many people in the Northwest Territories who were unemployed last winter. Fifty per cent of the labour brought in on that job had to be hired through the unemployment insurance office in Edmonton; those were the instructions the contractor received from the minister. He had to obtain half of his labour from Edmonton while people all over the Northwest Territories were unemployed. Bringing them in from Edmonton meant paying their fare from Edmonton to Fort Providence and return and at the same time people living in the immediate vicinity of the project were unable to obtain employment.

I want to ask the minister a few questions and if he cannot answer them immediately he will have an opportunity to prepare answers before the items are dealt with in the committee. My questions relate in particular to the job between Fort Providence and Fort Rae and are as follows: How many men were hired through the unemployment insurance office in Edmonton for this job? What was the average period of employment of these men? What was the cost of transportation for these men going to and from Edmonton? How many men were hired from the Northwest Territories? What was their average period of unemployment? What was the cost of transportation for men hired in the Northwest Territories? What was the total amount paid to the contractor for this job? What was the total acreage cleared on this project? This may seem to be asking for more than one should expect but I do not believe it is. The contractor obtained that job on a cost plus fixed fee basis and his costs should have been turned over to the department in detail. There should be no difficulty in supplying me the information I have requested.

In addition to that I would like the minister to tell us what was the amount paid the Indian affairs branch for the clearing of the same road west of Fort Rae and how many miles were cleared?

The building program for the Department of Fisheries at Hay River is another example I wish to bring to the attention of the minister. It was not started until late in the year, I think around November. Not one man in the town of Hay River could obtain work on that project but men were hired from Edmonton whose transportation costs had to be paid. Meanwhile, skilled carpenters in the town of Hay River were without employment. We in the Northwest Territories do not object to helping the people of Canada but it must be