

we had such a condition. And we have those who are responsible for providing the relief telling them that if they do not vote Liberal they will be hungry. The effect of that upon the institutions of this dominion I put to this committee.

Mr. ROGERS: Surely that is a reflection as well upon those who are on relief. Does my right hon. friend suggest for one moment that because a man is on relief, even if there were dictation of that kind it would be submitted to? I suggest that is an impossible statement.

Mr. BENNETT: I at once say yes to my hon. friend's question; and what is more, I know. A man with a wife and family is not taking chances on their starvation. I know about what I am speaking. I have had them tell me; I have their letters. Very reluctantly they have been compelled to take this step; but when a man looks upon his wife and children and is told that they must suffer want unless he is prepared to give allegiance to a particular party, you know what he will do. It is all right to talk in these high-sounding phrases and say this is a reflection upon them. It is human nature. The man is driven by a force he cannot possibly withstand; it is his wife and family against his convictions. So he says, "I will sacrifice the one to save the other." That spells anarchy in this country in the end.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Will the right hon. leader of the opposition give the committee the name of a single individual who stated to anyone that unless he voted in a certain way he would go hungry?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. member for Regina City is reported in the press to have said that the reason why the electors of Saskatchewan should return Liberal candidates in that province in yesterday's election was that they had obtained more money than they would have obtained if there had not been a Liberal government there and a Liberal government here; that they had been supplied with feed and fodder, clothing and things of that kind.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The right hon. leader of the opposition is now talking about something that is reported in the press. A moment ago he said he was talking of something of which he knew of his own knowledge. I ask again: Does he know of his own knowledge of any case where a man has been told that unless he voted in a certain way he would be allowed to go hungry?

[Mr. Bennett.]

Mr. BENNETT: I said I was not going to read these cases, but I shall read one letter in that respect from a man who lives in the neighbouring city of Kingston. He writes:

I heard of an opportunity to get a place at Barriefield, working at camp 42. I went to the employment bureau and was told to see Mr. A. E. Stansbury. He gave me a letter to the foreman but when I gave him the letter he only laughed, for I am known to be a Conservative, and so I was not wanted.

Mr. Stansbury's letter is now in the possession of a friend of his, whom he names.

Mr. ROGERS: What is the signature?

Mr. BENNETT: I was not going to give the signature, but I will:

I am a war veteran without pension. It is almost impossible to get work because I am not a Liberal, and am about to be put on the street for arrears in rent. I would like to ask if there is any possible way of you being able to help us by your influence to obtain work of some kind to enable my family to be able to have a home without being put out, because relief won't pay rent when we are out of work.

Yours very truly,

R. E. Rollands,  
23 Elgin Street,  
Kingston.

And there are other letters here from Kingston to the same effect. Some of them have asked me to say this, but that I should not use their names, because the effect of it would be that they would lose any possible chance of any kind to get anything to do. These are not isolated cases; I could give others. I also have a file as large as this in regard to Saskatchewan.

Mr. ROGERS: Well, Mr. Chairman, on that point, since the right hon. gentleman has raised it now, would he suggest for one moment that there were not similar cases, which presumably he would regret equally, under his own administration, and with respect to the administration of relief camps at Barriefield?

Mr. BENNETT: With respect to Barriefield I cannot say, but I do say this, that because I heard of just such evils as these to which I refer I did endeavour to prevent them. In my own community I know that effect was given to that endeavour by putting the names in a hat and having them drawn. I can assure my hon. friend to my right that he is in error when he suggests that all the names were not put there; the names of all the people who were unemployed, with the numbers, were put there. At the appropriate time I shall read what happened the next spring, when they were finishing those bar-