

willing to work but who to-day cannot get work. They have their families and others depending upon them. The minister says that, when you add the additional figures, the total amounts to a little over one and one-third million. But I venture to say that, if the whole story were told, one would find the number much larger than that, because there is an honest poverty which hides its head, as the minister well knows, and the last thing sensitive self-respecting people are willing to admit to anybody, let alone to a government official, is that they are in need of relief. Therefore, we may depend upon it that those figures are the lowest at which the ministry could possibly place them and give a statement at all.

Mr. GORDON: That is hardly fair.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I add further that these figures do not include the members of thousands of families on farms in this country who are trying to hold their own, but who, as a matter of fact, are running day after day more deeply into debt. If their circumstances were known, we would discover many of those even worse off than some who are altogether unemployed, because, working as hard as they can, they find to their great dismay that the burdens they are carrying in the form of mortgages, debts and the like, are only increasing month after month. I need not enlarge on the story; it is the saddest one in the record of our country, and everyone knows something of how serious the situation is. What I want to say to the minister is this, that knowing what I have said to be the case; knowing, for example, that in Toronto, as we have been told by the mayor of that city, one out of every five is on relief; knowing, as we have been told in this house this afternoon, that in this capital city one out of every six or seven is on relief in one way or another, that these instances are only typical, and that the situation as a whole at the present time is of the amazing proportions it is, does the minister think that the government is doing its duty by the country in leaving the whole administration of this great question in the hands of a single department presided over by a minister of the crown? I submit it is time the ministry realized that while there are some things they may be able to do, there are others they cannot do; that this question of unemployment has gone away beyond them, and that it is a duty which they owe to Canada to endeavour to surround themselves by experts who will be able to see that the situation is met in a way which will be more satisfactory than has been the case up to the present time.

What did the Prime Minister say as late as August, 1931, as to the policy which should govern? Speaking to the people of Canada, he did not hesitate to lay down a very definite policy. From Edmonton on August 26, 1931, he is reported in the Canadian press as follows:

"There will be work for all who desire it," Mr. Bennett stated, and deplored the tendency of some to expect the state to provide them with a living in idleness.

"It is the duty of every citizen to see that relief does not become dole, and that a dollar's worth of effort is received for every dollar spent," Mr. Bennett declared.

The ministry have completely repudiated that policy, if indeed they ever really held it. What my hon. friend is asking this house to do to-night is not to make provision for everyone to work, but to make provision for a still larger dole. That is the substance of the request he is making of this House of Commons to-night. There I say the ministry is quite wrong. The effort of the ministry should not be to encourage a system of doles, but to find work for those who are ready and willing to work.

The minister says that he does not know where to draw the line between the individual and the state. May I say that I think the place to draw the line is not so difficult to discover? Every man who is able to work should be willing to work. If he is not willing to work, he should not be entitled to consideration from any quarter. But, if a man is able and willing to work and cannot get work or find work, it seems to me that it is the state's business to endeavour to provide work for him and, if necessity demand it, to look after him until he does get work. Anything short of that signifies some mal-organization of the affairs of the state. You cannot admit for one minute that human society is fulfilling its obligations to its members if there are large numbers who are ready and willing to work and who are left to themselves to suffer when there is no work for them to do. It may not be possible to bring about the necessary change all at once. It may take time, but at least every effort should be made in that direction. The effort should not be in the direction of providing doles. It should be in the direction of seeking to provide work.

The statements in the minister's review were so given that I doubt if anyone could get very clearly in mind just what the total expenditures were amounting to, but may I give them as found in a statement by the ministry upon another occasion? The Secretary of State (Mr. Cahan) laid on the table of the house a few days ago a return in which was set forth the total moneys which had been