

we are inviting unemployment in Canada. I undertake to say that if the honourable gentleman sent out a questionnaire to-day to all of the cities of over 10,000 he would receive replies stating, "We have at least 250,000 or 300,000 unemployed." It is easy to be unemployed when one sees a chance of getting a dole.

As to the distribution of this money in municipalities of under 10,000 population, in the country districts, I think the Government must exercise the greatest care in the distribution of this money, because if it does not, the \$20,000,000 will be far from what is required to provide for the unemployed during the coming winter.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: In reference to the reimbursement of municipalities for moneys spent on unemployment, I should like to ask the Minister how far back that goes.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The year 1920.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: No. Let us understand.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: The last ten years?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: That is when it began.

Hon. Mr. GRIESBACH: The point is this. It may be possible for provinces and municipalities to dig up bills for the past twenty years and in this way to swallow up the whole \$20,000,000. Is this money to be used to reimburse provinces or municipalities for any money expended in the past? If so, how far back does it extend?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I am not a lawyer, but my conception of the Bill is that it will be effective from the date upon which it receives the Royal Assent. I do not understand it to be retroactive.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: Can the honourable Minister point to any place in the Bill where it says that municipalities will contribute a certain amount when moneys are paid to them by the Federal Government in connection with the relief of unemployment?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I may point out to my honourable friend that every dollar that is to be expended is to be expended for unemployment, and if municipalities make contributions and spend money for unemployment relief, and represent that they need assistance, their requests will be investigated and assistance will be given them in defraying their expenses.

Hon. Mr. LOGAN.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: But that is no answer to my question. As has been pointed out by the honourable gentleman from Edmonton (Hon. Mr. Griesbach), the Bill says that money may be used in "granting aid to provinces and municipalities in any public work they may undertake for relieving unemployment and reimbursing expenditures made by provinces and municipalities." Reimbursement includes the repayment of moneys expended by the municipalities. The Minister of Labour ought to know, and I hope he does know, what he is going to do. When the honourable member from Cumberland (Hon. Mr. Logan) asked him whether the municipalities would contribute, he said yes. Then he said the statute provided for it. There is nothing in the statute that provides for any contribution either by the province or the municipality, except by implication.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: May I point to section 3 of the Bill, where it says that money may be expended in:

assisting in defraying the cost of distribution of products of the field, farm, forest, sea, lake, river and mine; granting aid to provinces and municipalities in any public work they may undertake for relieving unemployment.

If a municipality undertakes work for the purpose of relieving unemployment, the Federal Government may, under this Act, assist it from this fund.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: Continue the reading from the Bill:

—and reimbursing expenditures—

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: It means in part, because there is no expenditure to be made unless the municipality undertakes some responsibility.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: But what does "reimbursement" mean? Is it the intention of the Minister of Labour as the administrator of this law to say that it will be only part of the expenditure, or that it will be dollar for dollar of the expenditure made by the municipality to relieve unemployment?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Not being a lawyer, as I said a moment ago, perhaps I do not draw the same meaning from technical language that my honourable friend does. My honourable friend very well understands, I am sure, that the Federal Government does not intend to pay for any portion of the cost of any work that it has not previously agreed to participate in. If a municipality or a province desires to carry on the relief of unemployment by creating employment, the Federal Government may by agreement par-