

effect should be added to the bill. I can see no reason why if hon. members so desire that should not be done. So far as accounting is concerned of course the Auditor General's office, as heretofore has been the case in connection with matters of this kind, will be responsible for all expenditures out of the consolidated fund. So far as pointing out where the money will be expended or its ultimate designation we are certainly in no better position to do that in the present case than in cases where loans are made to the harbour commissioners at Three Rivers, Montreal or Quebec. Nor are we able to indicate with any degree of precision how the money will be expended or to what point it will be directed. These are matters within the control of the harbour commissioners themselves. We provide them with the money, and they issue their securities and make their expenditures. There are other matters of a similar character. In this instance the moneys will be expended by the authorities who are responsible to the people, namely the municipalities and the provinces, because the Dominion cannot undertake expenditures for purposes not primarily within its constitutional jurisdiction. In view of the discussion which took place in committee I do not think I would be warranted in further taking up the time of the house. I move the second reading of the bill.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING
(Leader of the Opposition): To the principle of the bill as outlined by the Prime Minister no exception whatever can be taken. Indeed with the principle I think all in this house are in most hearty accord. Parliament has been summoned for the purpose of dealing with a problem of unemployment which the government contends has reached the proportions of a national problem, and it was to be expected that the first measure which would be introduced at such a session would be a measure in the nature of relief by the federal government of a situation which had assumed proportions of so serious a character. To the purposes as such to which this grant may be applied, namely, to constructing or extending public works and undertakings, railways, highways, assistance to provinces or municipalities that are unable themselves to cope with the situation, again no exception can be taken. I wish to make it very clear that so far as the opposition is concerned, we are in accord with the government on the principle of the bill, that principle being the granting of assistance towards the relief of unemployment by the

federal government in an unemployment situation which has become national in character.

The preamble of the bill, as my hon. friend has just stated, sets forth that unemployment is primarily a provincial and a municipal responsibility. That has been the position that has been taken, so far as I am aware, at all times in this parliament by all parties herein. The government, of course, assumes the responsibility of stating that the problem is at the present time a national problem, and also responsibility for the grounds on which it has reached that conclusion. My hon. friend has not given to me in the correspondence respecting unemployment that I asked for any information which would indicate that he has received from the governments of any of the provinces direct information to the effect that the situation within its borders with respect to unemployment has become such that the province itself is unable to cope with it. I do not think that any communications whatever from the governments of any of the provinces with respect to unemployment have been laid on the table of the house. If I am wrong in that, I hope that my hon. friend will correct me. Parliament and the country had reason to expect that in a situation which is described as the preamble of this bill does describe it, as presenting a national problem, there would have been some representations from at least some of the provinces of the Dominion with respect to unemployment existing within their boundaries.

May I again make quite clear, in the second place, that the objects mentioned as those which are to be furthered by the moneys appropriated under this bill are all objects which in themselves are wholly worthy and quite proper to be furthered in justifiable circumstances by this parliament. It is part of the duty of the federal parliament to establish public works and public undertakings. Parliament has it within its jurisdiction to build railways and canals, wharves and national highways to defray the cost of the distribution of products. These are all objects that properly fall within the jurisdiction of the federal government. No exception will be taken by any of us on this side to any of the objects or purposes to which grants may be applied as mentioned in the measure, provided they are justified as serving the purpose of the bill itself.

As to the amount that is required for purposes of relief, there again I think the government must accept full responsibility for the figures set forth in the bill itself. Yesterday, in discussing the resolution, I drew the