

lative Assembly of Manitoba to the effect that unemployment is essentially a national problem, and one which should receive the assistance, close co-operation and financial aid of the Government of the Dominion of Canada; and

Whereas at a conference between the representatives of provincial governments and the Government of the Dominion of Canada, held at Ottawa on September 5, 6 and 7, 1922, and at a similar conference held at Ottawa on September 3 and 4, 1924, resolutions to the foregoing effect were also passed; and

Whereas, for the following reasons the assistance, co-operation and financial aid of the Government of the Dominion of Canada is necessary in working out the solution of the problem of seasonal and general unemployment:

(1) No province or city can individually undertake to provide work for the unemployed during periods of depression without making that province or city the "Mecca" for the unemployed located beyond its boundaries, and thus taking upon its shoulders the problem of others.

(2) That investigations reveal the fact that unemployment is greatly aggravated by the flow of new immigrants into Western Canada, many of whom have been admitted as agricultural labourers, and who have undertaken farm work for a short time only or not at all, and who are now located in our urban centres, either unemployed or holding jobs that might otherwise have gone to some of those that are unemployed. Since immigration into Canada is in the sole control of the federal authorities, and is a problem which to a great extent is caused by immigration, it is, therefore, one which demands federal attention.

(3) The placement services maintained by transportation companies have directed many of the new immigrants into other than agricultural work, and have been very active endeavouring to find jobs of any nature for men brought out. This has had the effect of depriving men already here from obtaining work available, and men are now stranded and on the hands of local authorities. This condition has been allowed to develop by the Dominion Government, which is a good reason why it should share in dealing with the problems thus created.

(4) Many of the men who are unable to find work are in such situation because of war experiences and war disabilities, even though not in receipt of pensions, and constitute an after-war problem and are a federal responsibility.

And whereas, the Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Premier of the Dominion of Canada, wrote the Hon. John Bracken, Premier of the Province of Manitoba, a letter dated at Ottawa on January 8, 1930, which read in part as follows:

"Should it appear that the provinces of the Dominion and their respective municipalities are not in a position to cope with unemployment within their respective jurisdictions, and we are so advised by the several provinces, we shall be prepared to consider what course it may be most advisable to take, in order to cope with a national problem of the kind."

Be it therefore resolved:—

(1) That this House is of the opinion that unemployment is essentially a national problem, beyond the power of individual provinces to cope with satisfactorily, and we respectfully urge the Government of Canada to grant assist-

ance, co-operation and financial aid to the provincial and municipal governments in dealing with unemployment on an equitable basis.

(2) That this House is of the further opinion that unemployment of ex-service men is a national problem, and we respectfully urge the Government of Canada to care for and assume responsibility as a national undertaking for the care of such persons.

And the Question being put, it was agreed to unanimously.

That is the record of the Manitoba Legislature. Now, following that session of the Legislature—

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: May I ask a question before the honourable gentleman gets away from that? The passing of that resolution and the action that my honourable friend has just quoted indicate on the part of the Manitoba Legislature a marked departure from the principle enunciated by the previous Government and also laid down by this Government in the first words of Bill 2:

Whereas unemployment, which is primarily a provincial and municipal responsibility—

Is not that action of the Manitoba Legislature only one exception taken to the principle declared by the previous Government and by this Government, that the municipal and provincial governments had primary responsibility in the matter?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I thought my honourable friend intervened to ask a question, but I do not yet perceive what his question is. May I proceed with the inquiry he made yesterday? Then I shall answer his present question if he so desires.

The resolution I have read was adopted by the Manitoba Legislature on February 3, at the urgent request of municipal authorities who had attended the conference, in which representatives of Manitoba and the other Prairie Provinces participated. The next thing that occurred was a request on the part of provincial and municipal governments for the opportunity and courtesy of a conference with the Government at Ottawa. That conference was accordingly arranged for, and was held on February 26. I have in my hand the minutes of that meeting, dated March 1, 1930, which were obviously compiled from shorthand notes taken during the proceedings. There were present at that interview with the Cabinet on February 26 the representatives of municipalities in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and of the provincial governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. It would be perhaps uninteresting and would take up entirely too much time to read the 27 pages of the record