

scheme would be the result of agreements between the dominion and the provinces and as I understand it, under subsection 2 of section 4, no such agreement would be valid until it had been approved by resolution of this House of Commons. I should like to know whether the government intends to make agreements with the provinces to take care of this problem which will probably become acute before parliament meets again. Will the government take care of this matter by making the necessary agreements with all the provinces and having those agreements approved by parliament before we prorogue? Are we going to be sure that these people will be looked after or are we going to have to say after prorogation, as was pointed out by the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. McGeer), that our hands are tied? From what the minister said, I take it that this matter is going to be dealt with, but I should like to know whether he is quite satisfied that subsection 2 of section 4 will not prevent us from dealing with it.

Mr. ROGERS: Under the terms of this bill when it is passed agreement will be made with the several provinces, and I would anticipate no difficulty in inserting in the agreement a provision for a farm placement scheme in a particular province. I may say that at the present time all the provinces have not adopted a farm placement scheme; it has been adopted only by the three prairie provinces.

Mr. McGEER: On behalf of the city of Vancouver I took this matter up with the provincial government in Victoria, and I was informed that they could do nothing with reference to their association with municipal problems until such time as they could find out what could be done with the dominion government. They were not prepared to entertain any proposal for cooperation between the provincial government and any municipality until they knew the policy of the dominion government. This means that at the moment we cannot deal with the provincial governments.

We are told that the camps are to be closed, and I am afraid that there can be very little real merit in the minister's suggestion that a few months' work on the railways will provide the unemployed who were in the camps with a sustenance allowance for the winter months. Even though a man had worked in the past, after working at these wages and being thrown out of employment he will find himself destitute. These men will crowd into the cities if there are no camps to go to. At the present time

we have something more than the mere unemployed and destitute to deal with; we have to deal with public opinion. On my return to Vancouver I was surprised to learn that the police in that city were trying to enforce the bylaws which prevented the holding of tag-days and that sort of thing. They arrested certain men and brought them before a magistrate. The magistrate said that these men were entitled to earn a living; that as far as he was concerned, sitting as a magistrate, he was not going to be a party to persecuting them and that he would not punish them. Public opinion was overwhelmingly in favour of that sentiment.

The problem of the municipalities is not merely that of taking care of the unemployed; it concerns the protecting of the life and property of the individual. Law enforcement falls upon the municipal administrators. If you are going to close these camps and not provide an adequate program of employment, there will develop in the cities, particularly in British Columbia in which there is during the winter months a heavy concentration of unemployed from all over the west, a situation which will prove to be of grave and serious concern for the peace, order and good government of these cities and the liberty and security of every individual in them. It was because of this that I asked the government what agreements they had in mind other than those with the railways. I assumed that under the latter part of subsection 1, of section 4, which provides for agreements with corporations, partnerships or individuals engaged in industry respecting the expansion of industrial employment, provision would be made for some program of employment being developed. However, I take it from the minister's answer that no such program is in contemplation; that the only agreements being considered are the general ones with the provinces providing for some contributory form of assistance. It may be laudable and advisable to close these relief camps, but I contend it is a desperate and dangerous thing to do if no adequate program of employment is developed in the meantime to carry these men through, not only the summer months but the winter months as well.

Mr. ROGERS: I think I have assured the committee already that we shall take every possible means of ensuring that the employment of these men will continue as long as possible. I want to put to the committee and to my hon. friend the implication of the figures I gave a few moments ago. It was announced that the allowances in the relief camps would be increased to \$15 per month