

takings is being considered I shall try to add to it an appropriation that might be useful for effecting the objects to which reference has been made.

Mr. RALSTON: I appreciate the assurance of the Prime Minister and the way in which he has received my suggestion. He will remember that the first year there was a certain number of projects under the relief vote, and I do not think he will find that much difficulty was experienced with regard to undue pressure. There was a good deal of proper discrimination shown in connection with these projects and I do not think the department was altogether flooded with applications of that kind.

Mr. BENNETT: I think there is a list of them for the second year, 1931.

Mr. RALSTON: I believe the Prime Minister will find that while there may have been quite a number of such projects the amount in dollars was comparatively small compared with some of the large votes that are being made. I know that in the endeavour the Prime Minister is going to make in regard to the Public Works vote he appreciates the fact that it is desirable to help people help themselves, and that is what this proposal does.

Mr. BENNETT: About \$2,500,000 was the sum involved in 1931.

Mr. RALSTON: For all of Canada?

Mr. BENNETT: For public works, yes.

Mr. RALSTON: I think that is very moderate.

Mr. DUFF: I regret that I cannot agree with the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth. It is quite true as he says that under the relief measure two or three years ago certain of the relief moneys were spent for public works, for repairs to breakwaters and wharves and for new ventures, and my information is that with regard to these expenditures in Nova Scotia that method was very unsatisfactory. We do not want to lose control altogether in this parliament of the voting of public moneys, and if it is the intention of the government to spend moneys for wharves or breakwaters or for other public purposes in Nova Scotia or any other part of Canada, in my opinion the amounts required should be specifically set out in the supplementary estimates, or if the Prime Minister and the government think better, a special bill could be brought in voting a lump sum of money, and attached to the bill there should be a schedule giving the places where the money was to be spent, and the amounts. I think I

voice the sentiments of the people of Canada generally as well as my own when I say that I do not like this idea which has prevailed in the past of spending money under the Relief Act without parliament or the public knowing anything about it. While I agree with the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth that there are a great many places where the expenditure of this money would be advisable in the interests of the country in order to encourage fishermen and others to prosecute their calling, I think it should be done in an orderly and proper manner. Any measures with respect to peace, order and good government should be passed by this parliament and not by the executive after parliament rises, and further, under this relief measure money should not be spent as it has been in the past by the Minister of Public Works.

Section agreed to.

On section 5—4 (now section 5)—Payments out of the consolidated revenue fund.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I think, Mr. Chairman, you have before you an amendment to this section. I gave notice of it this afternoon—that section 5 be amended by inserting the words, “and appropriated by parliament” after the word “necessary” in line 16. If hon. members will look at the present section, the old section 4 of the bill as we have it before us, they will see that it reads:

The governor in council may pay out of the consolidated revenue fund such moneys as may be necessary for all or any of the purposes of this act.

The corresponding section in the act of last year reads as follows:

The governor in council may pay out of the consolidated revenue fund such moneys as may be necessary for all or any of the purposes of this act, but the amount paid for direct relief for the fiscal year ending the 31st day of March, 1934, shall not exceed the sum of twenty million dollars.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, the limitation in regard to the amount to be spent for relief has been eliminated. This is the section that gives the governor in council blank cheque powers in regard to expenditures. The house will recall, that ever since the first bill was brought down by the present administration in 1930 we on this side took objection to giving the administration powers for the uncontrolled expenditure of public money. The committee will recall that in 1930, at the short session, we passed an appropriation of \$20,000,000, and in the 1931 legislation for the first time two new features were introduced