

*Appeal to Bennett re Grant*

January 17, 1933.

The Right Honourable R. B. Bennett, P.C., LL.D.,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
O t t a w a .

My dear Prime Minister,

This year I happen to be Chairman of the Federated Charities of Montreal, and I have been urged to write you concerning the possible reorganization of direct relief methods throughout the Dominion which, according to press reports may be dealt with at the Federal-Provincial Conference in Ottawa to-day.

I believe the "charity" organizations would support the proposal which I hear is likely to be made. I <sup>am</sup> told there is a probability that this matter of relief ~~would~~ be taken out of the hands of the "charity" organizations and placed under the control of public bodies or commissions. If that is done, it will only work if the right type of personnel is selected to administer the relief. This is a matter of fundamental importance. It is reported that provincial commissions of business men are to be appointed. Unquestionably, in any administrative work business principles should prevail, but in this matter of relief there is a good deal more than that. Any assumption that business men are best qualified to conduct a programme of relief is in my opinion not warranted.

Whatever form of organization is the result of the Federal-Provincial Conference, the Social Agencies feel that the actual administration of the relief should be placed in the hands of trained social workers or individuals who have had practical experience in the field of social work administration. There is an idea prevalent that anyone can administer relief; that is not correct, if the matter is to be dealt with in the wisest way. Those