

notwithstanding the copious rains of the last thirty-six hours it will not be possible for any harvest in the way of grain to be reaped in a very substantial area.

The government of the province of Saskatchewan being primarily responsible for relief measures for those directly affected, is carrying on a survey, and the results of that have, in part, been communicated to this government. It is believed that within a very short time all the relevant information will be in our possession, but it is clear that the tremendous heat has not only affected the possibility of the continued life of live stock over a substantial area, but that 5,000,000 acres of land have been adversely affected so far as crop is concerned, and probably more.

Under those circumstances parliament has never been hesitant in granting relief by way of financial and other assistance to countries beyond our borders when such a disaster has overtaken their people, and before this house rises it is the purpose of the government to submit to parliament a measure that will, we believe, at least in part, show the desire and purpose of the Canadian people to assist those who are less fortunate than the inhabitants of other parts of Canada at this particular crisis in their history.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: The extent to which that assistance will extend, depends, it is needless to say, upon the character of the information disclosed as the facts are more fully ascertained, but that it is tremendously serious goes, I think, without question, and I fear that perhaps it is the greatest national calamity that has ever overtaken this country. I hope that my fears are groundless, but I am confident from the information that has been given us that at least 100,000 people are directly affected, and their herds as well.

Obviously it has a direct bearing on the problem with which it will now become intimately associated, that of unemployment, and when dealing with this matter it is the intention of the government, after we have disposed of the business on the order paper and such other measures as we have to consider, to submit to parliament measures that we hope will enable us successfully to grapple with that difficulty during the coming winter and the balance of the year that is before us.

I think I could not do more than say that notwithstanding these disquieting symptoms of the manifest difficulties that must confront any government charged with responsibility at this time in connection with these and allied matters, the faith and confidence

that we have in our country is in no sense shaken, and although the trials and tribulations we face may be many and varied, we still have the confident belief that with the resources of our country and the perseverance and courage of the people we will be able to work out our manifest destiny upon the northern half of this continent. For that purpose I trust that whatever may be our beliefs politically, we may cooperate not only in rendering assistance to those stricken in the provinces, in the manner in which I have indicated, but in endeavouring to take care of the other situations which have developed in this country by reason of universal conditions prevailing throughout the world.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the country shares the profound regret of this house that a condition has arisen in western Canada of the serious character to which my right hon. friend has just referred, and I am equally sure the country will receive with satisfaction, as this house has received it, the assurance just given by the Prime Minister that the seriousness of this condition is fully appreciated by the administration and that the government is taking care to provide the necessary measures to meet it satisfactorily.

Referring to the introductory remarks of my right hon. friend, may I say that I share his view both as to the past and the future of this country, a past which has been very great and a future which we hope and believe will be greater still. I share his regret that the present is not what we would like to see it and I appreciate, and in fact have said all along, that the reason conditions in Canada are not as we should like to see them is in the main the result of a world condition. However, there has unhappily been added to that condition this, which I imagine is peculiar to our own country, of the serious damage which has been done the crops in a portion of western Canada.

My right hon. friend has spoken of the desirability of cooperation in a great national emergency such as the present. May I say to him that this cooperation will be given in the fullest measure and with the most hearty accord by all hon. members on this side of the house. I hope that if we venture to make one or two suggestions, my right hon. friend will not feel that those suggestions are made in a critical way, but rather as something which it is believed will be helpful and in its nature constructive.

In that regard may I say to him that it is now apparent that very large sums of