

REDUCTION OF RELIEF GRANTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. E. WILTON (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) if the federal fifteen per cent cut in relief grants to the provincial governments, passed on to the municipalities, applies only to the month of April, or is it made as a permanent cut? If so, is there any possibility of the cut being restored in view of the many protests made against it?

Hon. NORMAN McL. ROGERS (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the fifteen per cent cut applies for the month of April inasmuch as it was indicated to us by the provinces that it was desirable that they should be advised as soon as possible of the policy which would be followed by the dominion government in relation to grants in aid during the coming months. There has been no assurance given as to the continuance of the present grants, its restoration or its further reduction. That matter is receiving consideration.

Mr. WILTON: Might I further ask the minister if the government took into consideration the fact that the municipal tax budgets were struck on the basis of the original grants?

Mr. ROGERS: Mr. Speaker, I take it that my hon. friend has completed his question. The increased grants which prevailed during the months of December, January, February and March applied only during the winter months, and the order in council made that clear beyond any question; so that if the municipal councils struck their budgets on the basis of the continuance of the grants which prevailed during the winter months they did so without any assurance whatsoever that those grants would be continued during the ensuing months.

Mr. WILTON: Thank you.

ELLSWORTH ANTARCTIC FLIGHT

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. A. MUTCH (Winnipeg South): Mr. Speaker, I would ask if it is the intention of the government to honour Mr. Herbert Hollick-Kenyon, noted Winnipeg airman who flew Lincoln Ellsworth in his recent epic antarctic flight; also Mr. J. H. Lymburner, an associate of Mr. Hollick-Kenyon and an outstanding Canadian.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): My hon. friend was kind enough to tell me of his intention to ask this question, but I have to reply to him that thus far the government has not had an opportunity to give the matter consideration.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

ADMINISTRATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF AND PROVISION FOR NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The house resumed from Monday, April 6, consideration in committee of Bill No. 14, respecting the establishment of a national employment commission—Mr. Rogers—Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre) in the chair.

On section 6, paragraph (a)—Registration and classification.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Johnston, Lake Centre): When the committee rose last evening we were considering paragraph (a) of section 6 of Bill No. 14.

Mr. POULIOT: Mr. Chairman, there is one problem which faces Canada along with all other countries, the problem of youth. There is also another problem which faces all countries, namely, the problem of the re-establishment of soldiers in civil life. For eighteen years all countries have done their best to try to settle the soldier problem, but if we are to judge from the legislation about to be submitted to us and if we take into account the appointment of a special committee of this house to study the very important question of pensions for soldiers and their dependents, the problem is still acute. Up to the present the debate on the problem of youth has been rather academic, but it is most urgent that a close study of it be made. It is very difficult for a young man who is not an ex-soldier to be appointed to any position to-day because of the preference given to returned soldiers. One of my colleagues told me this afternoon that he had gone to the Langevin block to see about the appointment of a young man of twenty-one who was on the eligible list for mail carriers in one of our cities. The gentleman in charge of this matter told him that although this young man was well qualified it would be impossible for him to get anything for three years because thirty-three returned soldiers had preference over him. This problem is more acute because nearly eighteen years have passed since the close of the war and nothing has been settled. The children of soldiers have grown up and want these jobs but they cannot get them. They complain of this discrimination, but what can be done? I am taking the liberty of making a suggestion to the government, and especially to the very able Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers). Is the government willing to appoint a committee of the house to be composed of members from each province to study this problem of youth? It seems to me that the question is a most urgent one which will become more serious as the years