

way, but I do say that the extreme point of view suggested by hon. members opposite will not do our national economy any good.

Mr. EDWARDS: That is all a myth.

Mr. FACTOR: Getting back to the problem of unemployment as far as the city of Toronto is concerned, it is clearly shown that there has been considerable improvement. But in all kindness to hon. members from Toronto I say that extreme and exaggerated speeches in this house will not do Toronto any good. They will not do the province of Ontario any good or do this country any good.

Miss MACPHAIL: Ontario is used to exaggerated speeches.

Mr. FACTOR: You mean from Toronto.

Mr. SPENCE: The hon. lady means from Queen's park.

Mr. FACTOR: This government has dealt fairly and equitably with the problem of relief. It has contributed seventy-five per cent of the cost of old age pensions, has assumed the cost of pensions to the blind—

Mr. SPENCE: This government is paying the seventy-five per cent now, but the government did not start it. Why take the credit for it?

Mr. FACTOR: This government is continuing to pay the shot, and it was this government which inaugurated pensions for the blind. The total cost of old age pensions and pensions to the blind in 1937 was \$9,441,984. In the province of Ontario this government assumed the entire cost of supplementary assistance to unemployed war pensioners, which in 1937 amounted in that province to over a million dollars. This government is going to enact unemployment insurance. This government as indicated by a resolution of the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Power), is extending the War Veterans' Allowance Act to include relief of war veterans who have been in a theatre of war and who are not one hundred per cent physically fit. I ask this government that, in bringing down the estimates for the coming year, it cooperate to the fullest extent with the provincial authorities so that the taxpayers in Toronto and other municipalities may have their burden lightened.

Mr. MacNICOL: Only a change of government will do that.

Mr. STREIGHT: That will be a long time coming.

Mr. FACTOR: We have in the last few months been in a period of recession. I think the revenues of the country indicate that we

[Mr. Factor.]

are being affected by conditions in the United States, and, optimistic as I should like to be, I fear that for 1938 the relief picture may not be as pleasant as we all hope it will be. I therefore suggest that the government take this condition into consideration in making their estimates for relief for 1938.

I believe that the respective powers of the municipalities, provinces and dominion in regard to raising revenues to meet such obligations as arise from relief expenditures, while they may have been appropriate at the time of confederation, are entirely unsatisfactory in the light of present conditions. I believe that the government took a proper step in establishing the Rowell commission to investigate this problem, in order to furnish to hon. members of this house the information gathered by their investigations. There ought to be re-allocation of responsibility to meet present-day conditions, but surely the basis of any change must be accurate information, and the government have taken the initial step to obtain that accurate information. If the resolution of the hon. member for Broadview is adopted the effect would be to substitute a committee of this house for the Rowell commission. With all due respect to the qualifications and abilities of hon. members of this house I maintain that the members of the royal commission are far more suitable, far more able, and perhaps have far more time and greater capacity to undertake an investigation of this kind, and to furnish the necessary information, and I feel certain that the time is fast approaching when, based upon the information gathered by the royal commission, this administration, which I know will be in power for the next few years to come, will take the matter into consideration and so adjust conditions as to meet the problem that we are discussing this afternoon.

May I conclude by saying to all members of this house that it certainly is not in the best interests or to the advantage of our country at this time and on this occasion to snipe politically, or indulge in carping criticism of the actions of the government. This is a time for unity. This is a time for accord among all those who have the interests of our country at heart. Tremendous problems face us to-day, and the only way we can hope to solve them is, first, by having a thorough understanding of them, and, second, by unanimity in an endeavour to solve them.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, though this resolution is brought forward by a Conservative member from Toronto I feel that we in this corner cannot let the opportunity pass without expressing our support of the prin-