

Unemployment Continuance Act

expenditures under federal aid amounting to some \$26,000 or \$27,000 more than the amount involved in the projects approved by the Department of Labour. How in the face of this can the provincial government continue spending still further beyond the amount involved in the projects so approved? Under those conditions, with the knowledge I have of the loose way in which this money has been expended in my province, might I be permitted to say to the Minister of Labour that, if the government will not change its methods of expending that money in the provinces, he have an official of his department examine very carefully the projects submitted before one dollar is spent, and that, if the accounts submitted to the New Brunswick legislature show that there was expended under federal aid by them \$26,000 more than is involved in the projects approved, the provincial government be called upon to reimburse that amount to the federal exchequer.

There are other matters to which I should like to refer, but I do not wish to delay at any greater length the passing of this measure through committee. We have been accused of obstruction. May I say to the Prime Minister and his followers that as regards my opposition to this measure, obstruction has been furthest from my mind; but if my hon. friends opposite wish to issue the challenge to us and go to the country on it, we are prepared to meet them and to take our chances then. We have endeavoured to enlighten the people of Canada as to the manner in which the federal government is attempting to usurp the powers that belong to parliament and to parliament alone.

If I may judge from what I have heard said by those whom I have met during the Easter holidays, Conservatives as well as Liberals, they contend that the government has gone too far in usurping those powers; that apparently it mistrusts parliament; that it wishes to have in its own hands the carrying out of matters under this act. Some years ago we heard of a "whisper of death;" now we hear a whisper going among the people, asking: What have the government in mind? Why are they adopting such drastic measures? Why do they wish to become absolute as a cabinet in carrying on relief work? Many of our Conservative friends are beginning to be anxious, suspicious.

Mr. JONES: We are not worried.

Mr. VENIOT: My hon. friend says: "We are not worried." I think he will have a greater worry than I when the time comes for us to explain our conduct to our electors.

[Mr. Veniot.]

I suppose the hon. gentleman need not worry very much. He is one of those who has benefited by the reduced stampage given by the government of New Brunswick.

Mr. JONES: That statement is absolutely incorrect and my hon. friend knows it.

Mr. VENIOT: The hon. gentleman says that is absolutely incorrect. Did he not cut on crown lands?

Mr. JONES: Not one stick, nor did I receive any benefit from anything I operated on my own private land.

Mr. VENIOT: I shall take the hon. gentleman's word for that, but let me say this, that the firm of Jones Brothers apparently is doing some business with the Department of Indian Affairs. My hon. friend will not deny that, and he will not deny that in 1926, before a court of disclosure, he swore that Jones Brothers was himself and himself alone.

Mr. JONES: I never made any such statement.

Mr. VENIOT: My hon. friend did.

An hon. MEMBER: Take it back.

Mr. VENIOT: I cannot take back what I said, because I have the record of the court.

Mr. JONES: The hon. member cannot produce any record that will verify his statement.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hanson, York-Sunbury): The hon. member must accept the word of the hon. member for Royal.

Mr. VENIOT: The Chairman says that under the practice of the house I must accept the statement of the hon. member for Royal. I obey the practice, but I stand by the sworn statement given before the court by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. BENNETT: Surely the hon. gentleman should not be allowed to do this sort of thing.

Mr. VENIOT: I shall take back the statement I made, but I say that I have in my possession such a record, and I do not have to take that back.

Mr. QUINN: What about the pronouncement from Athabaska?

Mr. VENIOT: That is the first crowing I have heard since Athabaska spoke. I am sure other Conservative back benchers will not brag very much when they look at the record of the vote. It takes my hon. friend from down east—