

My honourable friend's next question was:

Has the Labour Department or the Bureau of Statistics any data covering unemployment, seasonal or other, as it has existed in past years in various localities?

So far as I know, no definite record covering unemployment has ever been kept. My honourable friend, who was a member of the late Government for nearly nine years, can probably answer that question as well as I. The only information on file in the Department of Labour extends back over a period of almost twelve months. It is voluminous, but does not indicate the number of unemployed in various localities. The only information in that connection that may be regarded as reasonably authentic is that which has been received from the regular weekly reports sent in by the Employment Service offices. Usually those reports refer to the condition of unemployment, the demand for labour, the number of unemployed who have registered, and the number that have been placed in positions, but there is no accurate record of the number actually unemployed. The Employment Service Council of Canada, which met in Ottawa on August 21, passed a resolution urging that a census of the unemployed be taken, and the Prime Minister has announced in another place that the recommendations of the Council have been accepted and adopted by the Government. Resolution No. 12 as submitted by the Council reads:

That this Council urge upon the federal authorities that provision be made for an adequate census of the unemployed in Canada in connection with the 1931 decennial census.

Mr. Coats, the head of the Bureau of Statistics, was present at that meeting and stated that not only was it possible to make such a census, but steps had already been taken for the preparation of forms for the purpose of obtaining such information in the decennial census next summer. An attempt will be made to survey the unemployment situation and ascertain how many persons are out of work, what their vocations are, how long they have been idle, and other relative matters.

The next question asked by my honourable friend was:

Has the Government any data showing the number of unemployed who in past years have been assisted by local authorities in towns or cities?

The only answer I can give is that the Department of Labour has no information on this point; but, if it is of any interest to the House, I may say that when the previous depression existed, in the winters of

1920-21 and 1921-22, the total of the Federal Government's contribution was \$1,845,000. Each of the provinces and each municipality that petitioned for relief bore one-third of the cost; so a sum between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000 was expended on unemployment relief at that time. But there is no record of the number of persons who were assisted.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: May I ask my honourable friend whether there is any record of the places where these moneys were expended?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: I can give the figures for the various provinces. Alberta got \$117,000, British Columbia got \$402,000, Manitoba \$249,000, New Brunswick \$4,800, Nova Scotia \$10,600, Ontario \$900,000, Quebec \$76,000 and Saskatchewan \$83,000—a total of approximately \$1,845,000. The amount for each province is stated in round figures.

Perhaps I can give a little information which will answer the question asked by my honourable friend from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock) yesterday. He said:

I have undertaken to read rather carefully what my honourable friend refers to, but that does not give me the information that I am asking for. If we in this House are entitled to that information, I still insist that I should like to see the concrete evidence that municipalities or provinces did ask for financial assistance to deal with the unemployment problem. Personally I doubt it, with all due respect to what I have read.

I shall not delay the House by relating details, but I should like to refer to one incident which I think will form a reasonably accurate answer for my honourable friend. There are eleven large files from which information may be taken, but, as I have said, I shall make but one reference here. On January 31, 1930, there were gathered together in Manitoba a number of delegates representing cities and provinces of Western Canada, and on that occasion a number of resolutions were adopted. In consequence of the apparent seriousness of the unemployment situation as set out by the gentlemen representing the Prairie provinces and Prairie cities at that meeting, the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba on February 3 took cognizance of those resolutions and dealt with them. I read from the Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba:

By leave of the House the Hon. Mr. Major moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Haig, and the question being proposed, namely:

Whereas general unemployment in the Province of Manitoba has brought distress to a large number of citizens; and

Whereas resolutions were passed on January 23, 1923, and on February 7, 1924, by the Legis-