

Unemployment Relief

whether my information is correct, but I am told that the Minister of Marine's program includes the deepening of the Richelieu river. This deepening of the Richelieu river is of more interest to my riding than to any other riding in Quebec. The Liberal party had begun the deepening of this river under Sir Wilfrid Laurier's government, but, in 1911, when the Conservative party assumed power, the work was discontinued. I am aware that the hon. Minister of Marine has the honour of representing the beautiful riding of Chambly-Vercherès and that this county is interested in this undertaking.

I trust that the hon. Prime Minister will not forget the province of Quebec, because everybody remembers the pledge he gave on the market place, at Maisonneuve: that if he were placed in office he would treat Quebec as a spoiled child. As one of the members of that province, I look forward to the carrying out of his pledges.

Mr. DURANLEAU (Translation): Mr. Chairman, in reply to the first question of the hon. member for St. Johns-Iberville (Mr. Rhéaume), I wish to state that the government made inquiries from municipalities having a population of over 10,000 people, in order to ascertain the extent of unemployment existing in this country and to receive suggestions in connection with the works to be undertaken throughout the country to relieve unemployment.

I hope that the hon. member for St. Johns-Iberville does not question the sincerity of the government's intention in regard to this emergency. We intend to relieve unemployment throughout Canada, in Quebec as well as in the other provinces; everywhere we shall find unemployment we intend to do our best to bring relief. Whether the counties, where unemployment exists or where urgent work is needed, be represented by Liberals or Conservatives, the government, I wish to state, intends to place all on the same footing, whatever be their party ties. As to the suggestions received by municipal authorities, whose answer were so very prompt, I wish to convey to the hon. member that the government will take the matter into consideration when the time comes to distribute the funds in order to carry out works in those parts of the country.

As to the second question asked by the hon. member: the deepening of the Richelieu river my views on the subject are well known. I believe that this river should become a means of transportation from the St. Lawrence to lake Champlain, and I trust that I

[Mr. Rhéaume.]

shall have the support of my colleagues in connection with this matter, as soon as it is found possible to act. If we can appropriate some amount of this \$20,000,000, which I hope will be voted by this House, so as to begin, say for instance, the work in connection with a dam that will have to be built between Chambly and St. John's. If this is possible, I shall be the first to recommend and endeavour to obtain such an undertaking. Let me assure the hon. member for St. Johns-Iberville that the government is well disposed towards his county as well as towards all other counties of Quebec and the other provinces.

Mr. RHEAUME (Translation): I wish to thank the hon. Minister of Marine. If I made these inquiries, it is because I promised my colleagues in the council of the town of St. John's that I would try to obtain, if possible, an answer with reference to the questionnaire. I again thank the Minister of Marine and shall report to the council the statement he has just made: that the province of Quebec is very well represented in the government. We shall judge you by your acts.

Mr. ARTHUR BETTEZ (Translation): I received, this afternoon, from the council of the city of Three Rivers, of which I have been a member for the last 17 years, ten of which as a councillor and seven as mayor, a copy of a resolution asking the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) or the Minister of Immigration (Mr. Gordon) whether the government had the intention to enact a special law to prohibit British or American immigration until the end of the present crisis. There are two reasons for asking this question: first, because we have in Three Rivers a paper mill and another industry which, at present, are bringing people from England to replace citizens of Three Rivers; secondly, we have a paper mill run by an American concern which, after closing one of its mills in the United States brings into Canada American citizens to replace our own. I wish to inquire from the Prime Minister or the Minister of Immigration whether the government intends to enact a law with reference to this matter.

As I have received no answer to the questions embodied in this first resolution, I shall further inquire from the Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett), or rather from the Minister of Railways (Mr. Manion) whether it is the intention of his department to build a branch line linking the Canadian National with Three Rivers. At present, we have the services of but one railway. I must add, sir, that Three Rivers is the only town of any importance which is served but by one railway. It strikes me that