

SUBJECT

NAME AND DATE OF NEWSPAPER

*The Montreal Gazette April 8/30***STEWART TRIES
TO CHECK STORM
AGAINST LEADER****Minister Makes Conciliatory
Speech on Unemployment****TAUNTED BY OPPOSITION****Premier's Words Still Flung at
Liberal Ministry by
Conservatives**

By F. C. MEARS.

(Gazette Resident Correspondent.)

Ottawa, April 7.—Premier King's too zealous words last week about "Tory" governments in the provinces will not down. On the resumption of the unemployment debate in the House this afternoon and in the midst of a conciliatory speech by Hon. Charles Stewart, Minister of the Interior, those remarks came up again to haunt the Ministry.

After Mr. Stewart had declared that, first, unemployment was a municipal responsibility, that when it became too great for them the provinces should step in, and when it became too heavy for the provinces they could appeal to the Federal Government, the aid to be given on a basis of one-third from the municipality, one-third from the province and one third from the Dominion, Hon. Dr. R. J. Manion (Fort William) reminded the minister of the Prime Minister's words.

Hon. Dr. Manion—"In view of the statement made by the Prime Minister the other day, what would be the use of any province under a Conservative Government appealing to this Government?"

Mr. Stewart—"All I can say to my honorable friend is that he will have to judge us by our past."

Dr. Manion—"Not by your statements."

H. B. Short (Conservative, Digby-Annapolis)—"The country will decide."

Mr. Stewart—"We are quite willing to let the country decide; we will take our chances with the country. In the past this Government, in connection with old age pensions and farm loans, adopted a policy of co-operation with the provincial governments. As regards unemployment, if we are to hand money of the taxpayers of Canada over to the provinces, surely we have a right to make some inquiries as to its disposition."

Dr. Manion—Or as to their politics.

Mr. Stewart—I say nothing about their politics.

Dr. Manion—The Prime Minister says that.

Mr. Stewart—Generally speaking, I think it is a safe and sane policy for any government to pursue to spend, under their own direction, the money they collect from the taxpayers. No one can quarrel with that, and I think it is a safe and sound proposition. That has been the position of the Government in the past and I have no doubt it will be the position of the Government in the future.

BETTER CHECK URGED.

Mr. Stewart urged a more adequate system of registration as a check on unemployment and as a question to be dealt with at the coming conference on immigration. "In this way," he said, "if men who have settled in any given municipality or any particular part of the country move from that locality into a city, as they frequently do from farms, railways and elsewhere, it will be possible to fix the responsibility of the municipality from which they come. Something of that kind would help materially to prevent some of the cities from being made the mecca of many of our unemployed who do not rightfully belong in them."

Dealing with the relationship of immigration to unemployment Mr. Stewart, as acting Minister of Immigration and Colonization, intimated that one solution of unemployment would be to keep immigration down to a minimum. He declared that this Government had entered into an agreement to bring out about 1,200 trainees, but the Government had difficulty in placing even one-half of these and it was now obliged to see that the incoming of these trainees was reduced to a minimum.

Mr. Stewart said further: "We have a conference to be held on immigration, one of the things that is claimed to have some effect on unemployment, and I see no reason why this question should not there be discussed. It might be well to bring together the presidents of the two railway companies and other large employers of labor, who are interested in this question, as we are interested and are desirous of alleviating what is more or less a serious situation, for some of those who are unemployed every winter. The provinces will also be represented at that conference. The municipalities, largely, will not."

"I do not claim that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government, but we wish to be helpful as far

as we can in this matter, as in other matters, and to have it discussed, to see how far we can go in preparing the schemes that will be effective in reducing unemployment in this country, having regard particularly to the industries that are employing a large number of workers, some of whom find themselves out of employment during the three months I have mentioned."

Mr. Stewart was followed by W. G. Ernst (Conservative, Queen's Lunenburg), W. K. Baldwin (Liberal, Stanstead), and W. K. Esling (Conservative, Kootenay-West). Earlier in the afternoon a debate was started on the question of higher pay to the Hansard reporters. E. J. Young (Liberal, Weyburn), chairman of the Committee on Debates, had moved House concurrence in the report of the committee calling for a higher level of salaries to these reporters, explaining that these had been omitted from the Beatty report. While some speakers paid a high tribute to the efficiency of the Hansard repertorial staff, others opposed favorable action on the committee report at this time, E. J. Garland (Progressive, Bow River) urging that this be left in abeyance until the House had had an opportunity of discussing the recommendations of the Beatty Commission, and on the motion of J. S. Woodsworth (Labor, Winnipeg North Centre), debate on this matter was adjourned.

The unemployment discussion is likely to conclude with a division tomorrow night.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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