

*Relief Act, 1933—Mr. Gordon*

Mr. GORDON: Yes. Just at this juncture I may say that I have recently received from the chief colonization officer of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company a complete statement of what was done on merely the advice and direction of the officers of the railway over a comparatively short stretch of road in Ontario.

Mr. BRADETTE: Would the minister state how many settlers have been settled in the different provinces?

Mr. GORDON: I can provide that information. A little more than 1,500 families have gone from urban centres and are settled and are getting along very well along one branch of the Canadian Pacific in Ontario, according to a letter that I have received from the company.

As I said a few moments ago, I do not suggest that this is by any means a complete solution of the difficulties that confront us, but every able-bodied person who understands farming—and I am told that it requires much experience and skill, particularly under present conditions, to make things go—who is moved out of the industrial centres or taken off the unemployment shelves makes just that much more room for those who know nothing about farming but are industrialists and have to look for a revival in industry for their hope for the future.

The Dominion government has continued since May 1, 1932, to contribute to direct relief on the same basis as under the 1931 act, and has also agreed to contribute fifty per cent to the cost of operating board camps wherein the unemployed may be cared for and given useful work in return for subsistence and a small cash allowance. Later this was superseded in the western provinces by an agreement in respect to single, homeless unemployed persons. In order that the house may be apprised of what was done across Canada, I think I would do well to deal with each province in turn from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

First, let me refer to the province of Prince Edward Island, which we all know, is very small, with a population of only about 90,000 people. Relief has been carefully administered by the government of that province. I note that total federal disbursements towards direct relief in Prince Edward Island up to the fourteenth instant have amounted to \$9,301.86. This figure, however, does not represent the total cost, inasmuch as accounts in many instances do not reach the department for several months after the contraction for or payment of the sum. In all figures which I shall give concerning direct relief,

[Mr. Howden.]

this fact must be borne in mind: accurate figures will not be obtainable until possibly some time after March 31, when the present legislation expires and the statutory report is tabled. At that time we shall know what the expenditures for direct relief for the present fiscal year have been. As a matter of fact, on the fifteenth of this month I signed recommendations to council for the payment of some accounts for direct relief for some of the municipalities of the province of Quebec, and may I explain that those liabilities were incurred under the 1930 legislation. It would appear that the people at that point were not pressed for money. The federal government contributed, further, in the province of Prince Edward Island to the cost of reconstructing the Falconwood hospital which had been destroyed by fire. In this instance the dominion's contribution amounted to \$5,328.24, being fifty per cent of the total labour cost of \$10,656.49. That is, with the direct relief disbursements, the total disbursements in Prince Edward Island to the fourteenth instant amount to \$14,630.10. As I have explained, some accounts do not reach us until some months after the actual expenditures have been made by the province or municipality. However, we have kept in close touch with the relief activities across the dominion by arranging with the provinces to estimate as closely as possible at the end of each month the amount of relief which has been given during that month. Our experience has been that frequently these estimates are in excess of the actual expenditures. Nevertheless they give an approximate figure concerning relief actually dispensed.

Now we come to the province of Nova Scotia. Direct relief in Nova Scotia is carried on by a three way contribution, 33½ per cent being contributed by the dominion, the province, and the municipality respectively. The full disbursements to date for direct relief in Nova Scotia amount to \$213,628.25. Some other projects were carried on in Nova Scotia which I shall briefly outline.

First, repatriation of miners to their native homes, involving a total expenditure of \$19,893.53, to which the dominion contributed \$7,957.41. The situation which arose was shortly this: After the last investigation and report by Sir Andrew Rae Duncan, and following recommendations made in that report, certain mine shafts and collieries were closed. Some miners had been induced to come to New Waterford on the understanding they would receive continuous work. By reason of the closing down of these works they were thrown out of employment. They knew