

Unemployment

a deplorable condition of mind if anyone ever comes to the point where he hopes he will get through life without working. Work is not dishonourable; it is the absence of the desire to work that is dishonourable.

Mr. POOLE: Why are so many people unemployed?

Mr. REID: The hon. gentleman made an erroneous statement in regard to the unemployed. It is not true that the men get only twenty cents a day. That is a glib statement which is made throughout the country, and it is false. They get more than twenty cents a day; they get their food and clothing. I would not make any statement as false as that.

Mr. DOUGLAS: I should like to get an answer to the question I asked. Earlier in the debate I made the statement that the average cost per man per month in total for the camps was \$50.70, and the minister called that figure in question and gave another. There is a discrepancy between the figures and I should like to have it cleared up, because after all the only thing we can go by is the information we received in sessional papers. I have before me sessional paper No. 102B giving answers to certain questions I asked on February 26. I asked how many were in relief camps during the years 1935 and 1934 and the answer was that in 1935 there were 75,082 and in 1934, 83,307. Then I asked for the total cost of operating these camps during 1935 and 1934. For 1935 the cost was given as \$8,084,059 and for 1934, \$7,462,280. The next question I asked was the cost per person per month to operate each camp during 1935 and 1934. These are the answers given in the sessional paper:

1935.. .. .	\$50 70 per month per man
1934.. .. .	\$41 52 per month per man

I did not ask for them, but the minister was courteous enough to give a list of the 162 relief camps with the cost per month per man during the years 1934 and 1935. I am quite prepared to read this list to the committee. It shows that the average cost per month per man varied all the way from \$17.20 to \$233.30. I know that these amounts include huge overheads and other contributing factors which make for high costs in certain camps and lower costs in other camps, but I object to the minister saying that the figure which I quoted from a sessional paper is not correct.

Mr. ROGERS: Will my hon. friend permit me to correct him? He made his statement some time ago and I think later on in the

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

debate a question was asked as to the cost per day per man, which I gave as \$1.28. It is quite true that there appears to be a discrepancy, but I assure my hon. friend that there is nothing sinister in that. I shall be very glad indeed to look into the matter and it may very well be that the explanation lies in the different methods of computing the cost per day per man.

Mr. BENNETT: Perhaps the explanation is in the cost of the tools, implements and materials used in some of these camps in connection with rather large undertakings. I have in mind the undertaking at Lac Seul. I have a clear recollection that the average cost of the camps never exceeded \$43.

Mr. STIRLING: I believe the highest figure was \$39.80.

Mr. BENNETT: When the return was brought down I made some inquiry but I was not able to get any definite information. I think the minister will find that this includes the cost of heavy machinery used at Lac Seul and also the cost of some of the material.

Mr. ROGERS: I shall be glad to look into the figures and correct any misunderstanding.

Mr. DOUGLAS: I think the explanation of the leader of the opposition will cover the point. In order that it may not be thought that I was trying to put too high a figure on record, I should like to quote from the sessional paper as follows:

On the basis of all expenditures made including expenditures for equipment, transportation, camp construction, provisions, supervision, allowances, medical care and hospitalization and construction materials but making no deduction for the equipment and usable goods, and materials on hand, the average cost per man month was—

(a) 1935.. .. .	\$50 70
(b) 1934.. .. .	\$41 52

Mr. TUCKER: The minister stated that in order to look after this problem as it should be looked after it might be necessary to give some consideration to the extension of the farm placement scheme. I am in entire accord with this policy, as I agree with the hon. member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Leader) when he states that if it is going to cost around \$50 per month to look after these people in camps, they could be looked after for less much better and more satisfactorily in the farm homes of this country where they would not be segregated by themselves as they are in camps. This would be a much better policy in every way than placing these men in camps. I assume that such a