

can be called evidence—then he has made a very poor case indeed. I submit that in all fairness to my hon. friend. I think in justice not only to the provincial government but to this government, with regard to expenditures which were made by the Department of Public Works, it is only fair that I should make this general statement in reply to my hon. friend.

Mr. SHORT: As my constituency joins that of the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth, I am somewhat familiar with conditions in that part of the province. Perhaps I know a little more about those conditions than the hon. member knows, because I spend a great deal more time among my constituents than he spends among his.

I had some \$56,000 of this unemployment relief money expended on public works in my constituency, and the only complaint I heard was that too many Liberals and not enough Conservatives were obtaining employment. The trouble with my hon. friend is that his constituency has been Liberal almost constantly since confederation, and a Conservative never obtained a single dollar of public money that was spent in that riding. The Liberals have been so accustomed to spending public money that when a Conservative gets a few dollars they think it does not belong to him, and that is the whole difficulty.

The Minister of Finance mentioned the Halifax Chronicle, which sent a reporter around to the different works to see how the money was being spent. I hold in my hand a report that appeared in the Halifax Chronicle, and every Liberal in the province of Nova Scotia swears by that paper whether it is right or wrong. This article refers to one of the public works undertaken in my constituency, and it states:

Public wharf at Weymouth is completed.

Four hundred foot wharf costing \$15,000 built entirely from local labour unemployment aid.

Weymouth, February 5.—The public wharf built at Weymouth North during the late autumn and winter under the unemployment relief work act is now completed. The wharf which is 400 feet long was built under the supervision of Captain H. B. Fitzgerald of Weymouth North,—

I may say that Captain Fitzgerald is also a storekeeper. My hon. friend mentioned that a storekeeper had been acting as foreman. Captain Fitzgerald is a storekeeper, but previously he was a ship builder and he is thoroughly competent. I assume that the man in my hon. friend's constituency is the same type. Many of these men are retired captains who built vessels in their day, and

who are familiar with carpentering work of that kind. The article goes on:

—and was of great help to the people of that district who had no employment. It gave work to about 100 men, fishermen, farmers, labourers—regardless of politics or religious creeds. The men worked in shifts with about twenty-three men to a shift; besides the work on the wharf itself, the getting of timber and lumber also gave employment to the nearby mills in the getting and sawing of it.

Further it states:

Practically the whole amount was spent in this place, the money for iron for the piers was spent in Digby county.

I quote this article in order to show that as far as work in my constituency was concerned, the foremen were instructed by the district engineer to give employment to as many persons who needed it as they possibly could, regardless of politics, religious views or anything else. It seems very peculiar that in the constituency of Shelburne-Yarmouth, which adjoins mine, there should be so many complaints. As I say, I never received a single complaint except that too many Liberals and not enough Conservatives were receiving employment.

Mr. VENIOT: I'll bet you fixed that.

Mr. SHORT: No, I did not; I am not such a dyed-in-the-wool politician as my hon. friend. Every man in my constituency got a square deal.

Mr. VENIOT: Oh, yes! !

Mr. SHORT: This refers to only one of the federal works carried on in my constituency. The men were employed in shifts, twenty-three men to the shift, and over 100 men were given employment in that way. Probably another fifty men were kept busy getting out timber, ballast and supplies of that nature. This principle applied to every undertaking in my constituency; I visited each one personally and know whereof I speak. I am speaking from personal knowledge; my hon. friend from Shelburne-Yarmouth is speaking from hearsay, which he gets from party politicians in the different places where work is proceeding.

Mr. RALSTON: In the first place, I am not taking the investigation of the Halifax Chronicle, as my friend the minister calls it, one way or the other; I am bringing to the attention of a responsible minister the fact that on the information I have—and I can give the names of the specific works—the order in council has been seriously violated in respect of the men who are receiving the benefit of this money. I do not care whether or not in Digby county there is a single example, but