

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not like the fact that these men are placed under military discipline.

Mr. SUTHERLAND: They are not under military discipline.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): The hon. gentleman has more misinformation to the square mile than any man in Canada.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I do not suggest that the men are under drill but I do suggest, from the minister's own statement, that they are under the control of military officials and that one of the reasons for this is in order that discipline shall be maintained.

Mr. GORDON: That is not what I said at all.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Law and order—you don't believe in that.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: No, I don't—

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That's right; I agree with you.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Let me finish. I believe that the fact that civilians are in distress is no reason for either forcing them or inducing them to come under anything like military control.

Mr. GORDON: I made it very clear that there was no compulsion whatever with respect to these men, and I do again extend an invitation to the hon. member to go to any one of the airways camps, visit the men there and see for himself, and he will not feel so badly.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It is clear from the minister's statement that this particular relief work is under the Department of National Defence, that officers are in charge, and that these men come under certain discipline while in camp.

Mr. BURY: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question?

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Don't make so many misstatements.

Mr. BURY: Suppose the military authorities in a certain camp employed direct relief labour to put a road through their camp. Would the hon. gentleman suggest that the workmen on the road were under military discipline in the sense that he implies?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The hon. gentleman may decide that question for himself.

Mr. BURY: I am asking you to decide it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am not deciding it. I am criticizing an arrangement of the minister.

Mr. BURY: An honest argument would force you to.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Don't be so solicitous of him over there. Peace, order and good government—he doesn't know the first thing about it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: If this is what we call parliamentary decorum then, even for a Friday evening, it is not such as is usually regarded by the public as very desirable.

Mr. MORAND: It shows the value of discipline.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The minister has suggested that costs are being reduced. May I point out that although that may be a saving immediately to the Dominion government it is not a solution of the problem of unemployment. There is no doubt whatever that a good many of our provinces are on the verge of bankruptcy. According to the statement made to-day my own province of Manitoba has not been keeping up its share of relief, and that has meant in a good many municipalities a very great deal of distress. It is only within the last few days that the city of Vancouver has been compelled to make the most rigid retrenchments, and that again has reflected itself in the treatment which is being accorded the unemployed in that city. I have had within the last few days from almost every part of Canada communications that indicate that there is still a very great deal of distress, notwithstanding the enormous amounts that are to-day being spent on relief. Let me go to the far east. Only within the last day or two I received a communication from the united steel workers' organization of Sydney, Nova Scotia, in which information is given that in a city of 23,000 over 2,000 families are on relief and about 200 single men, that the steel plant is entirely closed down and that the relief given in Sydney is as follows: A man or woman \$1 a week; a family of two, \$2; a family of three and four, \$3; a family of five, \$4; a family of six and seven, \$5; a family of eight and nine, \$6; a family of over nine, \$7. These are the rates per week. It is further stated that the single men and women, besides being asked to live on one dollar a week, are forced to submit to the indignity of being compelled to carry this dollar's worth of groceries in a bag on their backs from the relief station through the streets to their homes.