

to be a flat failure unless the government has a way of escape by adding a clause giving it power to make direct agreements with cities of over 50,000 population.

Mr. COLDWELL: While there seem to be many divergent views on some points, I believe that everyone in this committee is seized of the tremendous problem which faces the Minister of Labour. A few minutes ago I was looking across from my desk and saw a headline in to-day's paper. It simply stated, "The Men Are Cracking." It referred to the situation in Nova Scotia. But when I saw that headline I thought that if we as a people had the will and the determination to end this problem of unemployment and find remedies for it to the same extent as that group of noble men in Nova Scotia have the will to bore through the rock to rescue three men, we could find a way. The difficulty is that we are discussing theories and panaceas, as someone has said, when there is an immediate and real problem confronting us. I say to the Minister of Labour that although I do not believe the setting up of another commission is going to assist very much, nevertheless if the minister can succeed in marshalling the resources of this country in a manner similar to that in which resources have been marshalled at Moose River during the past few days, I am quite sure that we shall reach at least a measure of success in regard to this problem. I speak on behalf of men and women on the farms of this country who are cracking, men and women in the cities who are cracking too, men and women who are looking to this parliament for assistance at the present time, that we may be able, through a consensus of opinion rather than through a fruitless discussion of things which perhaps are not of immediate moment, to arrive at something that can be done at once to assist the people in this hour of need.

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I have the following amendment to section 2:

That section 2 be amended by adding thereto the words "and whenever used in this act, the word 'Minister' shall mean the 'Minister of Labour.'"

Amendment agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. McPhee): Shall the preamble carry?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I have an amendment to the preamble. I move:

[Mr. Church.]

That the first three lines of the preamble be deleted and the following words substituted therefor: "Whereas it is in the national interest that Canada should cooperate with its provinces, and with certain organizations and individuals in their"

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. ROGERS: Yesterday the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Douglas) directed attention to what he described as an apparent discrepancy between figures in a sessional paper and figures I had given indicating the monthly cost per man in relief camps. I told him then that I would be pleased to look into the matter, and that I felt sure there would be no difficulty in giving an explanation. On examination of the sessional paper I find that the figure quoted by the hon. member was the figure not for the relief camps maintained by the Department of National Defence but for those maintained by the Department of the Interior. The monthly figures for the Department of National Defence relief camps indicate an amount of \$36.80 for 1934 and \$39.80 for 1935. These figures agree with the daily figure submitted by me during the course of the discussion yesterday afternoon.

Preamble as amended agreed to.

Bill reported.

#### CUSTOMS ACT AMENDMENT

Hon. J. L. ILSLEY (Minister of National Revenue) moved the second reading of Bill No. 11, to amend the Customs Act.

He said: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should make a few observations on the motion for second reading of the bill. A brief explanation was given on the introduction, but I propose to have some amendments moved and for that reason believe it would be well to say a few words at this stage.

The bill deals first with the provisions agreed upon between Canada and the United States at the time of the negotiations in connection with the reciprocal trade agreement between the two countries. It will be recalled that Mr. Wrong wrote a letter to the Hon. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State of the United States. The letter is dated November 15, 1935, and in the first part of it the undertaking was given that in certain particulars the Customs Act would be amended. The first few paragraphs of the letter are as follows:

Canadian Legation,  
Washington,  
November 15, 1935.

Sir:

At the moment of signature of the trade agreement between Canada and the United States of America, I am directed by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to