

*Municipal Improvements*

as if this legislation would afford an opportunity to the farmers of that district and to the city of Montreal to avail themselves of this legislation and provide accommodation to the farmers and also the consumers of the city.

Mr. TAYLOR (Nanaimo): Before the resolution is put to the vote I desire to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) and the government upon having introduced this resolution. It marks a new era in our national economy, if I judge it rightly, and expresses a high point in our general attitude towards municipal, provincial and national development. Hitherto small municipalities had to go into the open market and pay high interest on the moneys they desired. We are now about to establish an entirely different condition, and I think in the very near future, if I am permitted the opportunity, I can show how we may scale down our national debt. We are not talking about that to-day, but I must express myself as pleased with this general resolution.

I have a feeling that political and economic sense should be taught in our schools as part of the curriculum. Too often municipalities do not hesitate to get all the money they need when markets are right, without considering the self-liquidating nature of the undertakings on which they are about to embark. I have in mind, however, in another connection the extraordinary advantage that this will be to a prominent community in British Columbia where last year the water was analysed and on six occasions discovered to be contaminated. The provincial government could do nothing; by itself the municipality could not raise the money without paying a high rate of interest. Here is an opportunity afforded that municipality to obtain money at a very reasonable rate of interest and so safeguard the health of its people and assist them to avoid disease. I am heartily in agreement with this project, and I hope others of a like nature are coming forward. According to the 1931 census, the population of Canada was approximately 11,300,000, and if a per capita expenditure of only one cent per day was made in addition to what is now being expended we could increase the total industrial expenditure each year by \$41,000,000. Those are staggering figures, when we consider that many of our people are living on the thin edge of the existence line. We must not only develop work at which these people can get higher wages; we must also discover some method by which each individual may get what he

[Mr. Dupuis.]

desires in such a way that he can pay for it without being compelled to go to charity and be placed on relief.

To my mind this is an excellent step that is being taken by the government, and I congratulate them upon it.

Mr. BARBER: I am in accord with this resolution, Mr. Chairman, but there is one question that occurs to me. A very large portion of British Columbia is not municipally organized. We have settlements springing up in unorganized districts which come directly under the government. I know of one or two points in particular where settlements have been considering the installation of water and light systems, and the nature of the industries surrounding them would indicate that there would be a good revenue from such systems. I was wondering if those settlements could be dealt with through the government, when they are not municipally organized.

Mr. DUNNING: Provision will be made in the bill in respect of areas which, having no municipal organization, are dealt with directly by provincial governments.

Mr. BENNETT: I have just one word to add. The hon. members for St. Lawrence-St. George (Mr. Cahan) and Selkirk (Mr. Thorson) raised a legal issue that may become of very great importance, but I think the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) was very wise in directing attention to the fact that the underlying policy in connection with this matter had to do with unemployment. Nothing will be easier than for this measure to be misunderstood. The hon. member for Nanaimo (Mr. Taylor) has just spoken of it as though it were something it is not at all. The hon. member dealt with something that this bill is not. This bill does not provide for municipal financing. This measure intends to do one thing, and one thing only. Where it will provide employment—the minister was very clear about that; that is the first—and second, where works are necessary works, then this measure becomes available.

Mr. TAYLOR (Nanaimo): That is it precisely.

Mr. BENNETT: That has nothing to do in any shape or form with municipal financing as such. It has to do with a broad general policy of national application in regard to unemployment; it must, or else it falls by the wayside. The minister says this is part of a program that will deal with that national issue. If that be so, then one approaches it very simply, and the difficulties to which