

that purpose because the wording of the Act was very wide, and necessarily very wide, and I do not know what better use could be made of the war appropriation moneys than to facilitate the early absorption into useful employment of the returned men. But it is not under the authority of this Act, it is under the authority of the War Appropriation Act as I would understand from a hurried reading, that the second Order in Council was passed.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The minister says he sees nothing inconsistent with the terms of the Act in the course which the Government has taken in passing an Order in Council which allows the payment of moneys under this Act to municipalities when the whole purpose of the Act is to restrict payments to the Governments of the different provinces.

Mr. MEIGHEN: To restrict?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, to restrict payments to the governments of the different provinces. Let me direct the attention of the minister to section five of the Act, "An Act to aid and encourage the Organization and Co-ordination of Employment Offices," chap. 21, 8-9, George V., which reads as follows:

The moneys appropriated for each year shall be allotted and paid to the governments of the respective provinces—

Does the minister think that it is consistent, when the Act states that the money should be paid to the governments of the provinces, to pay that money to the municipalities when the provinces refuse to co-operate? As I understand, what happened was this: Several of the provinces undertook to co-operate with the Dominion Government in the matter of these employment offices and to meet half of the expense, but the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island decided that they would not open employment offices. On the other hand there were a few municipalities that had such offices, and the Government took authority on its own account by Order in Council to pay this money to the municipalities, not to pay it to the Provincial Governments. Now there may be reasons on the ground of meeting an emergency, or some sort of expediency, which would justify that, but when the minister says there is nothing inconsistent in using the moneys which had been voted by this Parliament to be paid only to governments, and paying them over to municipalities—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Where does it say that the money shall be paid to municipalities?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is exactly what was done with the money.

Mr. MEIGHEN: No, why do you say that? Read it.

Mr. BUREAU: Isn't it the object to make an agreement with the municipalities?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The object of the amendment to this Bill is, but not the Order in Council.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Order in Council provides:

The Minister of Labour may establish and maintain offices at such points as he may deem necessary—

Mr. MEIGHEN: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING (reading):

—provided the municipality supply office space and equipment required.

Mr. MEIGHEN: That is not supplying any money to the municipality.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: But that is exactly what was done. The money was not paid to the provinces but to the municipalities.

Mr. MEIGHEN: How do you make that out.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Can the minister point to anything in the record which will show that the money has gone to the provinces?

Mr. MEIGHEN: It does not go to either. The minister maintains the office. No money goes to the provinces or to the municipality under that order. The minister maintains the office, but he is not allowed to maintain it unless the municipality provides the office. The municipality does that out of its own funds, and if it does, then the minister maintains the office under the powers given by section 3 that I have just read.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If the minister, instead of trying to argue this matter on grounds that are indefensible, and trying to put things over the committee, would take the trouble to look at the Act he would not waste our time in the sort of casuistry he is resorting to. Section 2 of the Act provides as follows:

In this Act and in any regulation made thereunder, unless the context otherwise requires—  
"employment office operated by any Provincial Government."