

vailing abroad as well as in this country, and it has been thought wise by the Government, and approved by the other Chamber, that the administration should possess ample power to preserve and maintain peace, order and good government throughout the Dominion. This also is one of the purposes of the Bill.

It may be fitting at this time to make a few observations regarding the economic situation that has now existed in Canada for about two years. In 1929 unemployment was not so serious as it has since become, but before the spring of 1930 it had caused much suffering. Last year the Government was authorized by Parliament to make a large contribution towards the relief of unemployment during the past winter. Parliament appropriated the sum of \$20,000,000 and placed it at the disposal of the administration for that purpose. Agreements were made with the various provinces and larger municipalities whereby, through a system of co-operation, a very substantial number of employment opportunities were created and the situation was greatly relieved. This is the third year of crop failures in the West. All over the country the prices obtainable for agricultural products are very low. Only a few of our industries, which need not be mentioned just now, have revived. Some of the major ones, such as those engaged in the production of lumber, pulp and paper, have remained very quiet, and many men have been thrown out of employment. As a result of these things there will undoubtedly be greater need for assistance this winter than there was even a year ago. Every member of Parliament, I think, regardless of his political affiliations, recognized the necessity for relief. By the Bill the Government is authorized to perform what seems to be a national duty.

Perhaps it is not desirable at this late hour of what we hope will be the last day of the session to enter into a lengthy discussion at the second reading stage. In passing I may be permitted, however, to indicate briefly to honourable members what has been done as a result of the Unemployment Relief Act of last year. More than 300,000 people found intermittent employment, for various lengths of time, on the co-operative works carried on during last winter and up to the present. There were employment opportunities created and works authorized on a co-operative basis by municipalities, provinces and the Federal Government to the value of \$70,836,437. The amount to be used out of the \$20,000,000 appropriated by Parliament depended to a large extent upon the works that municipalities and provinces would

undertake. The Federal Government's allotment for the cost of such works amounted to \$14,742,962. In addition, out of last year's grant, the Government set aside for direct relief purposes, that is, for relief where employment opportunities could not be provided and people were consequently destitute, the sum of \$4,000,000. Of that sum there had been spent up to July 28 last \$1,736,566. We are sure, however, that somewhat more than half a million dollars is still outstanding on accounts payable for direct relief granted. Most of the works undertaken were to be concluded not later than July 1 of this year, and to a large extent they have been, but according to agreement made a year ago the railways' program, amounting to about \$25,000,000, cannot be completed until about the end of the present year. There has been paid out of the federal treasury, as the Government's proportion of the cost of works undertaken and completed, the sum of \$9,410,790. There remains unexpended, to cover the cost of works not yet completed, the sum of \$5,332,171, and when these works are finished, payment will be made out of this sum.

The direct relief fund has been drawn upon largely since these figures were compiled, because in places where authorized works have been completed normal seasonal undertakings and employment opportunities have not been available, and consequently large numbers of people who ordinarily would have found employment at this season of the year have become dependent upon direct relief. This assistance is meted out at the discretion of the municipal authorities, for they must necessarily be the sole judges of the needs of the people within their jurisdictions. Under agreements executed last fall, all the provinces bear one-third of the cost of direct relief, the balance being borne equally by the municipalities and the Federal Government. The Federal Government's contractual obligations have not yet been met, because the accounts have not been rendered.

As we have passed through the midsummer season and are approaching the fall, there is prospect of a still greater need of state assistance. This is particularly true of the provinces west of the Great Lakes. In the northern parts of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, because of a contraction in the lumbering, pulp and paper industries, and in the larger centres of these provinces, the necessity for aid next winter will be great. To a degree the same condition will exist in the Maritime Provinces. Thanks to a kind Providence, crops east of the Great Lakes are bountiful, and