

as led by the late Prime Minister, and the Liberal party—led by that same Minister—in the Chamber to which we are attached? If we wish to have an expression of the opinion of the Liberal party as a whole, and the Government's view is expressed by a representative of the Government in this House, how are we to avoid the technical difficulty that one opinion is opposed to the other? When we wish to address the Liberal party as organized in the federal scheme, to whom shall we appeal? Will it be to my honourable friend from the West, or my honourable friend from the small island in the East, or any other particular member? Or if a Liberal Government, constituted as a whole, wishes to give expression to its policies in this House, how can it do so otherwise than through the gentleman who is selected in its caucus, as I understand, to represent that Government?

I think my honourable friend should have no special objection to being designated as the leader of the Opposition. The Opposition in this country is now led by the late Premier and his Liberal confreres. The Opposition must be represented here in a similar manner. It does not follow from that, however, that my honourable friend shall be guided by the old apothegm that the purpose of an Opposition is to oppose and not to give sympathetic co-operation. Much will depend upon the attitude of mind of my honourable friend himself. He will oppose when he believes opposition is necessary or reasonable, and at other times will sympathize and co-operate. When we appeal to him what shall we say? Shall we say, "my honourable friend the leader of the Liberal party"? Perhaps there will be no very great practical difficulty, but it seems to me that there is some technical confusion in the matter.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF BILL FURTHER CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

The Senate again went into Committee on Bill 2, an Act for the granting of aid for the Relief of Unemployment.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien in the Chair.

On section 2—grant of \$20,000,000:

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: Mr. Chairman, in making a statement to the House yesterday I said that I would endeavour to secure figures in regard to the unemployment situation in Winnipeg. I have been fortunate enough to meet the Mayor of Winnipeg in

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE FOSTER.

the city of Ottawa, and he has informed me that Winnipeg has expended in the way of unemployment relief since October last, in round figures, the sum of \$1,000,000.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Will the honourable the Minister of Labour give the answers to the questions that I put yesterday?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: My honourable friend the member for De Lorimier (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) suggests that answers might be given to the queries which he placed on Hansard yesterday. We shall gladly respond as best we can. He asked seven distinct questions, four of which are so nearly related that I think one answer will suffice for them.

His first question was:

I notice that the inquiry sent out by the honourable Minister for the purpose of ascertaining the number of men out of work was sent only to towns having a population of 10,000 or more. Is it the intention to extend the scope of that inquiry in order that the needs may be met wherever they exist?

May I say, in answer to that question, that every municipality in Canada, no matter what its population, has equal right and opportunity to place its needs and proposals before the proper authorities, and that equal consideration will be given to all communications regarding needs and proposals, wherever or whomsoever they come from.

The next four questions asked by the honourable gentleman were:

Is it the intention of the Government to limit the aid to men completely out of work, or is it to be extended to those who are only partially employed?

Is it the intention of the Government to help manual labour exclusively?

Will such men as are engaged in what we call seasonal occupations and are thrown out of work by the cessation of activities—for instance, by the closing of ports for the winter—be able, under this legislation, to qualify for relief?

Will those men, otherwise regularly employed, who are temporarily suspended, as happens when large corporations close down for a few weeks or a month or two, be entitled to ask for relief?

These questions all seem to be closely related, and my observations will be by way of answering them jointly.

The determination of the question whether any person who has been out of work for a short or a long period shall receive relief rests with the municipal authorities. If they deem it necessary to give assistance to any citizen, they will assist him, and the Government purposes to contribute a certain proportion of the amount they expend in so doing.