

The cost of direct relief represents total monthly expenditures by the Dominion, the provinces and the municipalities. The Dominion contribution to direct relief, (which does not include expenditure for works and loans) was \$23,072,274. during that period.

MR. BENNETT'S MISTAKES AND ERRORS OF JUDGMENT

10. In February 1930, when Leader of the Opposition, he considered seasonal unemployment as permanent unemployment.
20. When unemployment was only a municipal problem, he made it a federal issue.
30. He made it a question of dollars and cents when it should have been considered from the social point of view.
40. He thought that unwarranted and uncalled for high tariff would cure unemployment.
50. He imposed a heavy burden of expenditure on provinces and municipalities, which was wrong from a constitutional point of view.
60. He imposed on the railways the construction of new lines and new branch lines, at a time when it was not necessary in the public interest.
70. He was responsible for the construction of considerable and unnecessary works by joint Dominion, provincial and municipal expenditure, when such works, if necessary, should have been spread during a number of years.
80. He over-estimated the spending power of the provinces and municipalities and induced them to spend beyond their means and their capacity to pay.
90. He shifted the accounting for relief from one fiscal year to the other and used red tape for the payment of Dominion contributions to approved public works.
100. He took advantage of the relief legislation to give several guarantees on behalf of the Dominion to public bodies and even a foreign country, Newfoundland, and private corporations, without the authorization of Parliament.

Each one of the above mentioned mistakes and errors of judgment of the Bennett government has been responsible for increasing the number of unemployed, and the cost of unemployment relief though shown by the official reports to amount to hundreds of millions of dollars is still and by far short of the amount actually disclosed.

Mr. Bennett said in his radio speech, January 2, 1935:

"I told you in 1930 that I would end unemployment. That was a definite undertaking. By it I stand. Therefore, now that the time has come, I am determined to try with all my strength to correct the working of the system in Canada so that present unemployment conditions may be put an end to. When I say I will correct the system, I mean that I will reform it. And when the system is reformed and in full operation again, there will be work for all."

Did he ever take himself seriously?

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 222, pages C151102-C151772)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA

