

Unemployment Relief

of our people died of starvation; none of them froze to death and many of them lived comfortably. But I never saw a man who admitted that he had enough relief; I never saw a man who admitted that he had enough money, and it is just the same thing. Probably there are some who did not get enough, and I must admit also that some got too much, under both governments. We do not hear about those people at all. I have seen them; I know many people who got too much, just as I have seen some who got too little. Very often it is the best citizen who gets the least money, because he does not want to ask for relief all the time. When relief is being given out, he is not the first man there to ask for it. Those are our best citizens, and unfortunately they are the ones who suffer most.

The hon. member for Témiscouata referred to the amount of money that had been given to Saskatchewan. I should like to refer to what was mentioned a little while ago by an hon. member from the far corner of the house. I turn particularly to page 40 of the report of the commissioner of unemployment relief, where I find a recapitulation of the grants given to the different provinces. It will be seen there that the other provinces are getting a good share of the money. It is indicated that Ontario is getting \$90,000,000.

Mr. GARDINER: \$99,000,000.

Mr. DONNELLY: Saskatchewan is getting \$56,000,000 and Quebec \$61,000,000.

Mr. FAIR: What did Alberta get?

Mr. DONNELLY: It got less, because I want hon. members to understand that so far as Alberta and Manitoba are concerned, although they did have dry years, as a matter of fact Alberta was blessed by pretty fair crops each year.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): And they had Aberhart.

Mr. DONNELLY: And they were not exerting themselves a great deal to pay a great many of their debts, because Mr. Aberhart said, "I am not going to pay a great many of our debts."

Mr. BLACKMORE: Mr. Aberhart never said any such thing.

Mr. DONNELLY: And I guess with that kind of legislation, and with fair crops they must be thriving pretty well. So far as Manitoba was concerned—

Mr. BLACKMORE: On a point of order, the statement of the hon. member concerning Mr. Aberhart is absolutely and unqualifiedly false.

Mr. DONNELLY: Oh, sure, sure! I expected that.

Mr. BLACKMORE: I am asking the hon. member to withdraw, because the statement is false.

Mr. HANSELL: Withdraw.

Mr. BLACKMORE: No member of this house can make such a statement.

Mr. DONNELLY: I will tell the committee this: I will withdraw, as soon as Mr. Aberhart starts to pay his twenty-five dollars a month.

Mr. BLACKMORE: The statement that Mr. Aberhart has said he will not pay his debts is false.

Mr. HANSELL: Withdraw.

Mr. DONNELLY: Then, in all the years, only a small portion of Manitoba was affected by the drought. Saskatchewan, however, has been unfortunate. In the last ten years there has been no crop at all in the great bulk of Saskatchewan. Its chief product is wheat, and the farmer in Saskatchewan must depend on the production of wheat. We do hope that we will not need that relief in the future, that in years to come we will have crops again, and that we will begin to prosper.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Section 3 of the bill with which we are now dealing reads:

The governor in council may enter into agreements: (a) with any of the provinces respecting the alleviation of unemployment conditions and of agricultural distress therein and to assist those in need—

And so on. About an hour and a half ago I endeavoured to secure from the minister an answer respecting the amount to be allocated to Saskatchewan in the coming year. I am asking him again whether he will let the committee know what the anticipated amount will be, so that the argument now being used in that province may be met, namely that the cut in relief is on account of the fact that the dominion government is cutting the allowance given to the province this year.

When I spoke some time ago I mentioned that the people in Saskatchewan were appreciative of what was being done and what had been done since 1930 in the matter of assistance for the alleviation of conditions there prevailing. The hon. member for Wood Mountain (Mr. Donnelly) has admitted today something which I think he would not have admitted between 1930 and 1935, namely, that during those years, too—and often in the face of strong opposition from hon. members of the opposition—assistance was given to Saskatchewan in particular, by reason of the conditions there prevailing.