

capacity. This committee could be composed of men who would be willing to act without compensation and they would pass upon the various undertakings. I do not mean to say that they should investigate every four-dollar job done on the little side roads, but on the larger undertakings they could act in an advisory capacity to check over and to see that justice is being done to all parties. I would have this committee a political one, not one supposedly non-political, which turns out in fact to be political, or one that is stated to be non-partisan and ends up by being partisan. I would start off by having it political in character, composed of a couple of Conservatives, a couple of Liberals and a Labour man from each province. Again it will be said that that is unprecedented, but such is not the case. Only last session the government of the day at the suggestion of the then opposition changed the election act to provided that enumerating in the cities would be carried on by one Conservative and one Liberal. I understand that this plan worked out very well. The two men went around together; there was no object in trying to get ahead of each other and the result was that there were remarkably few complaints to come before the court of revision. A precedent is offered for my suggestion.

The government is making a new departure in this matter. The voting of \$20,000,000 for a purpose of this kind is unprecedented and the way is beset with all kinds of pitfalls and troubles. Such was the case when the Soldier Settlement Act was introduced twelve years ago. At that time various troubles arose in consequence of the matter being new and its being impossible to foresee some of the objections. I hope the government will see their way clear to meet this situation by adopting the suggestion I have put forward. I am not fixed as to its exact form, but the essence of the idea is there and it would go a long way towards satisfying the great mass of people who expect to benefit by this relief. It would ensure that they would be treated with absolute justice, and I believe it would do more than ensure their obtaining justice; it would bring the government credit. The government might say that they intend to see that justice is done, but by adopting this method they would demonstrate that they have no intention, as I hope they have not, of taking any advantage of the situation. If that were done I believe the general public would view this resolution in a much better light.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): Mr. Chairman, may I ask the hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Bennett) whether, once the bulk of this \$20,000,000 is distributed among his friends there will be anything left for Montreal. Montreal is in need of much improvement for, among other things, the construction of a new post office and the enlargement of the customs building. I think the hon. gentleman should tell us what amount he intends to set aside for the city of Montreal before spending too much in helping his good friends of Ontario, by building them highways with the money raised by taxing Quebec and the other provinces. The province of Quebec contributes enough in taxes to entitle it to a share of this large amount that is to be applied to relieve hardships and unemployment, not only in the rural districts but also in cities. I think there should be a reasonable amount set aside to relieve the unemployed in Montreal, in order that the metropolis of Canada may participate in the gift of \$20,000,000 which the government grants to relieve unemployment in this country.

Mr. DURANLEAU: First I wish to take exception to the expression used by my hon. friend from Montreal to the effect that the \$20,000,000 will be spent for friends of the government. I do not think it is fair to say that. I am sure that the government will spend this money for the good of all the people of Canada, whether they be Conservatives or Liberals, and it is not fair for my hon. friend to make such a statement. I can assure the hon. gentleman that the Prime Minister and the government of this country will see to it that the people of Montreal are as well treated as the people of any other part of Canada. We know there are many unemployed in Montreal, and I feel sure that my hon. friend will learn that the province of Quebec has some representatives who will make sure that Montreal is well treated by this government.

Mr. DENIS (Translation): Mr. Chairman, in answer to my hon. friend the Minister of Marine (Mr. Duranleau), I shall briefly remind him of past events during the Great war, when large contracts were given to friends and that, in many instances, those contracts were awarded with the sole aim of increasing the election funds. I wonder whether the same thing might not repeat itself when a blank signature is asked of this house without telling us where and for what purpose the \$20,000,000 will be expended. I wonder whether they intend to follow the same policy to-day and whether, thanks to