

done partly by more efficient organization. So far so good. But I suggest that in a very great number of cases it is being brought about by reducing the schedules of relief. Case after case comes to me, as I have no doubt they do to other members, of complaints along this line. As a matter of fact, instead of the scales of relief being reduced they should be increased in these times; because two or three years ago almost every family had stocks of bedding and clothing and household utensils. Now these have been very largely depleted, and there is no way of renewing them; the ordinary scale of relief in most of our cities and throughout most of the provinces does not cover the items of this kind.

I think I am not going out of my way when I compare these reductions with other public expenditures. We are not reducing the interest on our bonded indebtedness; we are trying to pay that one hundred per cent, but we are cutting down the amounts being paid in relief, and we are forcing the poorest of the poor to bear the dead weight of the depression. It is not fair to that very large group of our citizens.

Another statement of the minister I confess rather perturbs me. Speaking of the management of some of these camps, he says that the real value of the work will equal or exceed the cost. I cannot think that that is just the right principle. As a taxpayer I am undoubtedly concerned in keeping the costs as low as possible. On the other hand I do not believe it is fair for us to take advantage of the hard times to force people to work at a ridiculously low rate and then have the whole community benefit by it. The minister was not able to tell me the amounts received by each individual man; the amounts he gave were those paid to the individual plus the cost of materials used. Even those figures are not large. But I would point out that the ordinary working man under relief is getting a very small amount in these camps. I think it is five dollars a month in most camps.

Mr. GORDON: In the airways it is 20 cents a day, plus shelter, clothing, food and all the necessities of life.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That is a little higher than it is in the other camps. I think in some of the construction camps it is \$5 a month.

Mr. HEENAN: Ten dollars.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: In some cases there is an arrangement that when no clothing is included an allowance shall be made.

[Mr. Woodsworth.]

Mr. GORDON: In the camps where the man gets \$10 he provides his own clothing.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes; and if he receives \$5 he is supplied with clothing. But whether it is \$5 with clothing or \$10 without clothing it is a ridiculously small sum for men to receive even if they are on relief, and I do not like the idea of our exploiting these men and engaging them in these works at rates below the real value of their work to the community.

Some good work has been done, according to the report, in placing men on farms, but the number so placed is comparatively small and the alleviation of the problem in this respect is more or less temporary. I cannot think that it is any real solution or points the way to any real or general solution of the problem. As to the landing fields, I am not quite sure just when the policy of having landing fields across this country was decided upon. That is a policy that should come before parliament; for undoubtedly it looks in the direction of a new method of preparation for war in the years to come. Further than that, I want to protest against putting these men under anything like military discipline, even though it may be true that they are not drilled.

Mr. GORDON: So that the hon. member will not suffer so much, I would ask him to go to the Rockcliffe air field and see the conditions under which the men are working there. If he does, his mind will be disabused of any idea that preparations are being made for war.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I may be permitted to maintain my own opinions with regard to the reasons why the air service has been so bonused in the past. With regard to this matter there are certain sources of information that are open to almost all members, and we all know something of the ideals which have been put forward by certain men in imperial councils with regard to the necessity of steadily maintaining an air force in case of contingency; and I would simply express my own belief that that is one step towards the general scheme of making more adequate preparation along that line for any war that might come in the future.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Ask the hon. member for Shelburne-Yarmouth what he thinks about that.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am not concerned with his opinion.

Mr. GOTT: Why is the hon. gentleman always thinking about war?