

*Unemployment Continuance Act*

the other side as the hon. member for Labelle as failing in courage and being in the hands of a few men who are ruling the house. Well, I ask, what is the house doing to-day? Only one question faces this house, and that is the urgent necessity for granting relief to the people of Canada. And when hon. gentlemen opposite talk about the constitutional question, I ask what is the constitutional question? It is the peace, order and good government of Canada, and on these six or seven words hon. gentlemen are holding up the progress of this measure. Yet the mother country, without a written constitution, would have voted this money long ago to relieve suffering at home or in any other part of the empire.

I want to pay tribute to the premier of Quebec for the statement which he has made with regard to this unemployment relief question. There is in the Liberal ranks no greater partisan opposed to this government than the Hon. Mr. Taschereau, and we respect him for the honesty of his views. Premier Taschereau, however, before being a Liberal, is a Canadian. I think the members of this house should likewise be Canadians before they are partisans. We should get down to business and have some sympathy for the people who are suffering to-day in Canada. We should grant them the relief they need. There come to my office every day men with families of six or seven, who are in need of relief. You westerners think that you have all the trouble, but you cannot blame this government for not having done what God has not done; you cannot blame the government for not having given you rain. You cannot blame the dictator of this government, if you wish to use that expression, so far as that is concerned. You will have to go a little bit higher up.

An hon. MEMBER: A little bit.

Mr. BELL (St. Antoine): The Canadian people are sadly in need of relief, and if hon. gentlemen could vote unanimously a year ago, granting millions of dollars for twelve months, surely that principle can be extended for another few months. My hon. friends opposite have used very far-fetched arguments. They have preached, they have held up the house, and they have spent hours using up pages upon pages of Hansard. On the other hand, Premier Taschereau decided the question for them as a Canadian and not as a partisan when he spoke the following words which I quote from the Ottawa Morning Journal of March 31, 1932, a despatch from Quebec by the Canadian Press:

Quebec, March 30.—To a delegation of mayors of cities and towns in the province of Quebec, [Mr. L. G. Bell.]

who requested in an interview to-day that the time limit for the completion of unemployment relief works be extended, Premier L. A. Taschereau said: "Take your request to Ottawa and we will endorse your action. In the matter of unemployment I wish to pay this tribute to the Bennett government: they have done all in their power to relieve unemployment. I might add, the provincial governments have been equally active."

That is all I have to say on unemployment. I come from a city that pays its full share of taxation and is happy to pay it, and I come here representing people who are prepared to assist their fellow Canadians. I look upon parliament not as the playground of partisanship, or a place for gibes and personal animosities, I look to old parliamentarians such as the hon. gentleman who preceded me, to do something to meet the present grave situation instead of getting up and talking about the Klu Klux Klan and things of that kind. I look to the hon. gentleman to pass this unemployment relief in order to help his distressed fellow Canadians. I look to the opposition, who acceded to the request of the government in the past, to use the same good judgment on this occasion even if it does imperil their political fortunes, and let this relief measure go through, instead of giving to the people of Canada a bare bone known as unemployment. For heaven's sake let us give them something whereby the distressing conditions that now prevail in the country will be relieved forthwith.

Mr. POWER: I was glad to hear the hon. member for St. Antoine (Mr. Bell) quote the Hon. Mr. Taschereau to the effect that the Bennett government had done all in its power to relieve unemployment. That is just what we complain of, it has done all in its power to relieve unemployment with the machinery which it has, but it has not succeeded. We want the government to use some other machinery, to appeal to parliament and to use constitutional means of going about the relieving of unemployment. If that were done, perhaps it would succeed. A moment or two ago my hon. friend said that even to-day people were walking the streets of Montreal unable to find employment. If they are unable to find employment it shows that the government which has done everything in its power has not been able to relieve the situation. We have no complaint to make in connection with what Mr. Taschereau has said, but we do say that the government should go further and consult parliament. My right hon. leader has said that a conference should be called, and I understand from those who were present this afternoon that the