

locked up and given eight days by some magistrate on a charge of vagrancy. That particular section of the vagrancy law with reference to not having visible means of support or who himself lives without employment, should be stricken out. These young men were trying to get a job on relief work being carried out by the provincial government with the assistance of the dominion government. In the case of federal works in cities the requirement is that there shall be a year's residence, but some of these people who have been given jobs have not been in the country that long. They are able to beat the regulations and get work when our own Canadians cannot get it. Some restriction should be imposed on the granting of relief to the provinces to the end that young people leaving school who want to work shall not be discriminated against because of the language used in this section.

Mr. DOUGLAS: I do not want to lay unnecessary emphasis upon the farm labour question, but I do want to urge upon the minister the need of immediate action. Thousands of farmers on the prairies will be going on the land in the course of the next few weeks. They will not be needing help next winter; they will be needing it now, this summer and this fall. Some scheme should be evolved under which these men could be placed on the land and their wages supplemented by the government. This would be good policy from the standpoint of the morale of the men and the farmers, and it would also save considerable money. Some time ago I quoted from a sessional paper to show that the average cost of keeping men in the relief camps was \$50.70 per man per month. This shows that these camps have not been a financial success. Because of the heavy overhead the cost per month per man varied all the way from \$18.20 to \$233.30. I know there were conditions present to explain that high figure, but the average figure of \$50.70 is too high. Many of these men could be placed on farms so that they could take their normal places in the community. I urge upon the minister that he consider this point very seriously.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. McPhee): Shall the subsection carry?

Mr. McGEER: I want an answer to my question.

Mr. ROGERS: I understand my hon. friend was inquiring as to agreements made by the dominion government for relief purposes?

Mr. McGEER: We have heard about the railway agreement; I should like to know what other agreements are in contemplation.

Mr. ROGERS: The normal agreements will be those with the provinces. That has always been the case in the past. There is a contingent provision in a later section for agreements with corporations, partnerships or individuals. I have no hesitation in saying that under this bill the normal type of agreement in the future, as in the past, will be agreements with the provinces.

Mr. McGEER: From time to time as emergencies arose the provinces made application to the dominion government and presented proposals. I have in mind one with reference to the city of Winnipeg covering the construction of an auditorium and a sewage system involving some \$4,000,000. The government considered that proposal and then joined with the provincial government in carrying it out. That was done from time to time. Under this peculiarly worded section, unless all these agreements are consummated before parliament rises, no such agreement could be made to meet an emergency which might arise next winter. There seems to me to be unwarranted optimism on the part of the government that there will be no emergency arising next year; I think there will be more need for emergency activities next year than there was last year. Subsection 2 of section 4 is an omnibus provision which covers the whole section. It covers not only agreements made with corporations and partnerships but also those made with the provinces. Under this subsection no agreement made between a province and the dominion shall be binding upon the dominion until approved by resolution of the House of Commons. If financial assistance is needed for a provincial or municipal enterprise, there is no question that it would come under this section 4, and if the government wished to place all responsibility on the provincial and municipal authorities it could say that parliament had tied its hands, that it could not do anything until parliament convened again. The government could say that a resolution of parliament would be necessary before it could spend dominion government money on a program of relief.

Mr. ROGERS: Under an agreement.

Mr. McGEER: If that is the alternative, then the dominion government must be prepared to assume the whole responsibility should the provincial and municipal authorities find themselves unable to take care of