

federal constituency, three questions concerning the welfare of ten thousand people, three questions affecting the families of thousands of settlers who came from the southern part of the province or from other areas in Alberta and Manitoba to carve out a living for themselves in that northern area of northwestern Canada? Here is the way he answered. I might say I took up the same three questions with Mr. Fullerton, and the answer I received from him was about the same as the information contained in the reply from President Hungerford. President Hungerford's reply dated March 28, 1934, was simply this:

Dear Mr. McIntosh:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 23rd with regard to branch line construction work in western Canada.

I understand that a similar communication was addressed to the chairman of the trustees and that he has sent you an answer to the inquiry.

Yours faithfully,

S. J. Hungerford,  
President.

Well, he sent me a reply, but there is no information in it. Consequently I say it is no reply at all. So far as information is concerned, it was practically a negative reply. And so, without making the matter controversial I thought it was my duty as a member for that riding, to bring once more before the attention of the Minister of Railways and Canals, once more before the attention of the Prime Minister of Canada and once more before the attention of the government of the country, the problem of railway development in that particular part of Saskatchewan. This matter has been hanging fire for four years, and nothing has been done. The grade is there,—at least, it ought to be there, although I understand it is gradually disappearing. The ties are there, and I suggest it would be an easy matter to get at least some secondhand steel to put on this seventy miles of road in order to facilitate the bringing into and sending out of goods from that splendid stretch of country known as "The Northland."

With these remarks, then, I shall say no more but will ask the Prime Minister to give every possible consideration to what I might term this miniature railway problem of northwestern Saskatchewan. If he can make it a part of the relief program which the government intends to bring down during the coming summer, I believe such action would redound not only to the welfare of the government but also to the good name of all concerned, and to the prosperity and happiness of these ten thousand toiling people.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Willis): Does the section carry?

Mr. RALSTON: I should like to say one or two words to the Prime Minister about a very limited portion of section 3 in the bill which now becomes section 4. Subsection (a) is as follows:

Provide for special relief, works and undertakings under control and direction of the Department of National Defence and the Department of the Interior.

This afternoon the hon. member for Gloucester was speaking about the fishing industry, and I did not get clearly in my mind whether the Prime Minister contemplated making any provision under this section for small works in various communities around the coast. The wording of the subsection is "provide for special relief." It would seem to be not for special relief works, but for special relief, and to provide "works and undertakings under control and direction of the Department of National Defence and the Department of the Interior."

The point about which I am concerned is this: I understand that there is a very limited vote for public works. When the estimates for the Department of Public Works were before the committee I brought the matter to the attention of the minister of that department, and he thought that out of the general vote there might be some opportunity to make small expenditures for works around the coast such as boat landings, breakwaters and works of that type. There was a sort of intimation, at least I gathered the impression, that out of the relief votes there would be something for facilities of this kind. I am disappointed to find that what is now section 4 apparently eliminates that possibility. I concur in the view expressed this afternoon by an hon. member who spoke as to the desirability of decentralizing rather than centralizing this matter of relief work. I take it from what the Prime Minister has said that the public works which are to be included in the program to be brought down later will be public works of considerable magnitude in certain centres. I feel that there would be a great opportunity to provide employment and relief in isolated communities by the erection of small works to provide facilities for fishermen. This afternoon an hon. member on this side spoke about improving houses. I am not dealing particularly with that suggestion, but I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether he does not think it desirable to introduce into this section some provision under which for special relief purposes small works in the nature of