

means also the burden of taxation will be lessened. But when I read certain newspapers—and I have before me clippings with reference to the last few days—I admit that, along with many other people in Canada, I feel some anxiety as to whether the program, though it may have been well thought out by the hon. Minister of Labour, will be effective to procure a large amount of work at a proper remuneration, above the ordinary allowance of relief, for the unemployed workers of the country. For instance, the Hon. T. D. Bouchard, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Trade and Commerce, of Quebec, who on the day of the opening of the session of the provincial legislature was appointed to take care, as this interview says, of “indemnities of unemployment,” said, on March 26 last—I translate to the best of my ability:

Allowances for unemployment have always had a demoralizing effect. A great number of unemployed have acquired the habit of depending upon the state for their livelihood. Idleness, with all its evils, is just now like a stain of oil upon our society. At the actual hour the government cannot suppress the allowance for unemployment without substituting something else for relief.

Mr. Bouchard submitted a statement to his colleagues of the cabinet. In an interview, reported by the official correspondent of *Le Canada* in the legislative assembly of Quebec, on March 26, Mr. Bouchard says:

We receive approximately \$875,000 per month from the federal government. I intend that this money shall be employed in useful works.

He continues:

In Germany pecuniary help from the state manifests itself less brutally than it does in this country. The governments offer a premium or a subsidy to all persons or companies who undertake works of construction or of repair as long as they recruit their help from the unemployed. In this way the individual interest works in the same direction as the common interest.

The next morning, March 27, a newspaper report appears of a meeting of the city of Montreal, at which my friend Alderman Weldon mentioned that he also was in favour of having the unemployed work for their relief. He said:

If it is true that we have adopted that principle, we should know right now, before the government—

Meaning the federal government, I assume:—changes its mind. If we knew exactly at this time—

—said Mr. Weldon—

—what is the stand of the federal government, we could go to work right away and determine the kind of works that would be the most useful and upon which we could have the unemployed work.

This shows that the council is in doubt as to what works this government is going to undertake. Last night *La Presse*, commenting upon the appointment of Mr. Bouchard in charge of the indemnities of the province of Quebec for unemployment, says in part in its editorial:

What kind of works will be done? Hon. Mr. Rogers in Ottawa and Hon. T. D. Bouchard in Quebec no doubt will ask that the unemployed be given work which will provide as much in the way of wages as possible. On principle they will choose works which will require a great number of unemployed but which will not demand very much material. We have two projects, the cleaning up of St. Helen's island and the cleaning up of *Maisonneuve* park, where at present we have a botanical garden.

I do not know whether the Minister of Labour has assured the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Trade and Commerce of Quebec that no money will be spent for material with which to carry on these works, but I know that if all the money, the \$75,000,000 soon to be voted for the unemployed, is to go for sweeping, cleaning, snow-shovelling, removing earth from one side of the road to the other, the breaking of stones on our highways or streets, I do not think we shall be any nearer a solution of this problem. This morning's *Gazette* mentions that the provincial minister of colonization, the hon. Mr. Authier, figures that he will get a good part of the \$75,000,000 to be voted by this government for unemployment relief, but I should like to know what has happened to the \$10,000,000 that was voted or supposed to have been voted by the legislature of Quebec prior to the last provincial election.

Are we to have just snow-cleaning, street-sweeping, cleaning up and colonization in Quebec, which has already voted \$10,000,000 for that purpose, or are we to go on with technical works that will give the real tradesmen of our country the work which they have been seeking for a long time? These men have been trained, as the hon. member for *Témiscouata* said last night; they are men of common sense who started at the bottom with small things. They have learned their trades; they have acquired knowledge, and they are the back-bone of the dominion. Is it to be the duty of this advisory committee to look for works that will not only provide remunerative wages for the unemployed but create for our future generations a heritage of which they will be proud when they think of us after we are gone? This is why I wish to humbly submit to the Minister of Labour that this advisory committee should be composed of engineers, architects, sanitary engin-