

suggest to my honourable friend that he should not pursue his request too far; and I say this with the best of feeling. A similar request has been made from other provinces. If such a request were granted I might feel the benefit of it in a certain direction temporarily, but in my opinion it would not prove to be of lasting benefit.

Hon. Mr. FOSTER: In regard to the question of stumpage, I was only making the plea because the lumbermen of New Brunswick themselves, in an interview with the Government of New Brunswick, stated that if they obtained a reduction of stumpage they would enter into certain operations in the lumber business.

Hon. Mr. GORDON: I quite agree with the honourable gentleman and with the lumbermen down there that his proposition would relieve unemployment temporarily, but I think the money would be better spent on something which would relieve it for a longer time.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Honourable gentlemen, if no one desires to continue the discussion, I should be glad to see a little progress made with the Bill before six o'clock if possible. May I say a word on a few subjects that have been brought up, namely, those relating to the forests and the mines?

I would inform my honourable friend from St. John (Hon. W. E. Foster) that representations have been made by the Government of New Brunswick, through its Prime Minister, but unfortunately it omitted to state what proportion of the expense it was prepared to bear. That information is now being sought. I can assure my honourable friend that serious consideration will be given to the question, because already some proofs exist that the adoption of the proposal might substantially increase employment opportunities. However, that matter is not closed at all, and the correspondence is being continued.

As to the mines, mentioned by the honourable gentleman from Lethbridge (Hon. Mr. Buchanan), I think that he well knows that situation which he was good enough to say I knew. A difficulty with our mining industry in the Western Provinces, particularly in Alberta, and perhaps in British Columbia, is that they have a productive capacity far beyond their market opportunities. I am inclined to think that the return of the natural resources to the Prairie Provinces will result in the Province of Alberta, as an example, adopting different measures with regard to the opening up of new coal areas. I have discussed this subject with some men in public

life in that province in past years, and that seemed to be the prevailing view. Some of them thought that the Federal Government might attempt virtually to control the development in that respect by refusing licenses for the opening up of such areas. However, there was the delicate question of provincial rights, which might be interfered with. Now that the natural resources have been returned to the Prairie Provinces, it is within the jurisdiction of Alberta to take such steps as are deemed wise, and I expect to see efforts made to increase the actual production of the mines rather than to increase their productive capacity. If production can be increased, I think it will go a long way in helping unemployment, which returns periodically in that area.

One or two honourable gentlemen have remarked that the Minister of Labour would be called upon to make important decisions. May I point out, what perhaps may have escaped the attention of all here, that it was clearly stated in another place that every expenditure to be incurred as a result of this legislation, while it might be recommended by an individual Minister, must have the approval of the Governor in Council. That is a great safeguard against undue pressure on any particular Department.

Hon. Mr. LOGAN: It is all very well to say that the responsibility is on the Government, but we all know that, after all, the Minister of Labour will be chief adviser of the Government in the expenditure of this money. I should like a little more definite information with reference to the payment of money to municipalities, not for work, but for relief to old men who cannot work. Does the Minister propose to require the municipalities to contribute to what is paid to old men, for instance?

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: The Prime Minister announced in another place that the Government had received, considered and approved certain recommendations made by the Employment Service Council of Canada after its conference here on August 21. That Council made the following recommendation:

That in cases where direct relief must be given, it is recommended that the following principles be observed: Costs should be evenly divided between the municipality, the province and the Dominion.

The Prime Minister has announced that the Government accepts that basis.

Hon. Mr. BELCOURT: Then I was quite right in saying that the proportion of each of the three is to be equal.