

Unemployment Relief

all seasons? Does the proposal take account of seasonal possibilities in the matter of unemployment?

Mr. BENNETT: In the administration of this fund no differentiation will be made as to the occupations of those who are now unemployed. If they are unemployed, they come within the scope of the fund. If work is provided, furnishing them with employment, they are no longer unemployed; but if they are unsuitable for the work provided, they continue unemployed, and if their resources ultimately become exhausted and they have to make claims upon the community, we make the contribution which the right hon. gentleman himself suggested is the proper one, and which we propose to continue.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am anxious to see how extensive the application of this relief is to be. The next class comprises those engaged in mining; coal miners, for instance, and those engaged in work on metallic ores and non-metallic ores. Up to the present it would appear as though we had been considering primarily those persons who reside in cities and in the larger municipalities. Many of these mining operations are carried on in remote districts. In the event of the mines not operating to the full, is any portion of this \$20,000,000 to be used to take care of miners who may be out of employment, either coal miners or those working on metallic or non-metallic ores?

Mr. BENNETT: I tried to make clear that the fund was not directly available for the purpose of taking care of unemployment relief work, that being the duty of the municipality and of the province, but that a contribution would be made to the province, which spoke for the municipality. An effort will be made through another clause, to which I direct attention, to ensure mining operations being carried on upon such a scale as will ensure employment for miners, coal miners, at any rate; and so far as our advices go, if the stimulus that will be given to business will ensure the utilization of Canadian products by Canadians, rather than affording work to people in other countries to produce our requirements which can be met at home, there will be no necessity of contemplating the difficulty which my right hon. friend suggests.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend has suggested that with respect to mining he has assurances that the measures that he will introduce will result in employment of all engaged in the mining industry.

[Mr. King.]

Mr. BENNETT: I did not say all.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Then I misunderstood my hon. friend. I thought he made a very similar statement with respect to those engaged in manufacturing.

Mr. BENNETT: I said, a large number, in both cases.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let me take the words of my hon. friend. He has assurances, he says, that the measures which he will introduce will lead to a cessation of unemployment in manufacturing and in connection with mining operations as well. Will he tell us by whom those assurances have been given, and the nature of them?

Mr. BENNETT: That is a matter which perhaps more properly may be considered when the tariff measures are before the committee. I intended at that time to endeavour to make as full a statement as the nature of the case made it possible for me to make, and I shall do so. I shall endeavour to indicate to what extent the action taken will result in employment, and give the numbers of those now idle that we believe will find employment by reason of the action so taken. I may say to the right hon. gentleman that we believe it will exceed 25,000 people within a very short time.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Let me speak then of another class. Those who are engaged in transportation, for example, under the head of transportation, in this report are classified as forwarding and storage, railways, shipping and stevedoring and air. Take railway transportation to begin with; is any part of this \$20,000,000 to be used to help railway employees who may not find employment during the coming months? Is it intended to assist railways to help their employees or is it intended to contribute direct to the employees of the railways who may be out of work, or what is the method the government proposes in order to ensure that all employees on the railways will have work during the coming winter months?

Mr. BENNETT: Surely the right hon. gentleman is not sincere in the question he asks, because when he says to ensure "all" the employees of the railways work he must know that such a condition is something that never happens in any country at any time. So far as we are concerned the method adopted by the hon. gentleman himself will still be adopted along the lines suggested. If the added stimulus to business as the outcome of our policies does not result in added traffic on the