

compare the conditions existing there with the conditions existing in this country. This government does take some credit for having endeavoured to maintain the morale of the Canadian people, to maintain their high courage and faith in themselves, believing that all would be well and that all was well, that every day put a dark day behind with the promise of a brighter day to come, but in doing so we have but done our bounden duty to the country. To those who tell grim and dark tales of woes that do not exist, who indulge in the lamentations of a Jeremiah that should find no place in a parliament such as this, I recommend new faith in their country, new confidence in its future and new belief in its people and their possibilities.

It is not correct to say, as has been said so frequently in this house, that the proper course was to appoint a commission to administer unemployment measures. I have pointed out in this house that in the board of commerce case the privy council decided that no dominion parliament was competent to enact legislation that would interfere with the rights of the provinces in that regard, and we know that at least one province in this dominion, speaking through its premier, has said that it is capable of looking after its own affairs, that if the dominion assisted well and good, but that it was their business, not ours. The administration rests with the provinces and not with the dominion, and in that judgment Lord Haldane pointed out that it was not sufficient to say that an emergency existed. War or famine, as he said, might indeed justify the exercise of the powers of this parliament as they were exercised in time of war, but a mere statement of this parliament is not sufficient for that purpose. There can be no federal administration, to which the right hon. gentleman referred this afternoon. There can be no valid, legal exercise of power by this parliament in the administration of these matters, for under our constitution that administration rests with the provinces and not with the dominion. The privy council spoke in no uncertain terms in that regard. I will not take up the time of this house this evening to do more than merely direct attention to a few words which are of importance. The federal government undertook to regulate prices, in 1919, immediately after the war, and in the judgment Lord Haldane states:

It has already been observed that circumstances are conceivable, such as those of war or famine, when the peace, order and good government of the Dominion might be imperilled under conditions so exceptional that they require legislation of a character in reality beyond anything provided for by the enumerated heads in either s. 92 or s. 91 itself.

[Mr. Bennett.]

Then he goes on:

Such a case, if it were to arise, would have to be considered closely before the conclusion could properly be reached that it was one which could not be treated as falling under any of the heads enumerated. Still, it is a conceivable case

Then he went on to indicate clearly the line of demarcation between the exercise of power by the parliament of Canada on the one hand and the provincial legislatures on the other. While we have power to assist by grants of money; while we have power to impose conditions in those grants, as we have done, under our constitution the administration rests with the provincial authorities, and in all the statutes we have passed we have been careful to point out that while the danger and difficulty are national the administration rests with the provinces and the municipalities, and the duty of this dominion is to lend assistance in that direction.

We have done that steadily; we have done it in every province of the confederation. That was done with the first appropriation of \$20,000,000 and it was done with the appropriation in regard to public works and undertakings. It was done with respect to what the right hon. gentleman euphoniously called the dole, which in fact is not a dole at all but a relief measure administered by the provinces to the extent to which they may regard it necessary for the well-being of the people. You cannot ask this dominion to undertake the responsibilities of administration. When the right hon. gentleman suggests that I or anyone speaking from this side of the house ever said that the dominion should undertake the administration he indicated either that he has not read or that he has misread what has been said. We have pointed out the functions of the Dominion government, of provincial legislatures and of municipal bodies, and we have endeavoured, as we will continue to endeavour, by appropriate grants in aid to assist the proper authorities to discharge their constitutional duties. If they have not discharged them as they should be discharged the remedy lies with the people of the provinces affected. For instance, we have assisted the provinces from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia in all their large undertakings. We have done that by making grants in aid and by approving of their undertakings. When the premiers met here in April of this year we gave effect to their wishes and their views, not ours. The premiers and representatives of the provinces met here and said they were no longer prepared to undertake public works, that they were not prepared to bind posterity by imposing burdens upon their