

that province when that government had control of the political destinies of British Columbia. And what is the record of the Liberal government there? When the Liberal party came into power in 1917 the public debt of British Columbia was \$25,521,000, and when the Conservative party took office in 1928, after nearly twelve years of Liberal rule, the debt was \$117,452,000, or an increase of \$650,000 per month. That was the extent to which the public debt was increased by the Liberal administration of British Columbia. The present leader of the Liberals in that province is Mr. Pattullo, formerly Minister of Lands, the one who has been instrumental in saddling on that province a land policy that has left a debt on the people of British Columbia of over \$12,000,000. The four projects he fathered when Minister of Lands were Sumas, South Okanagan, Merville and Creston. These gentlemen were enthusiastic supporters of that government which was so extravagant in provincial affairs, and responsible for these tremendous expenditures. But they want to have the taxpayers forget their past, and so they point to the Conservative administration of British Columbia and say, "Just look at their administration. Forget about our past. Our future is bright; wash us and we shall be whiter than snow." And so, passing down the political highway of adventure, they come to Ottawa, where they find that their party is not altogether immaculate nor above reproach; for as they pass through the valley of humiliation someone whispers "Beauharnois." But posing in a superior attitude they hope that their own weakness and failures in the past will be forgotten if they make an attack on the present administration in British Columbia. Inferences, innuendoes and generalities, spoken without reliable evidence in writing, are not statements of fact and should be very carefully considered by hon. members.

The unemployment situation in British Columbia presents difficulties which other provinces have not to contend with. In the last eighteen months eleven thousand outsiders have come into British Columbia from other provinces. This is a considerable burden for a province with a population of only a little over six hundred thousand, about the size of Toronto. In the report issued by the Dominion Director of Unemployment Relief it will be found that British Columbia leads all the provinces in man day's work given for the expenditures made. To control these people who came from other provinces was very difficult, and had they not been given relief in some cases, hon. gentlemen in this

[Mr. Plunkett.]

house, whose hearts are so sadly torn for the working man, would possibly have said, "You made them swear that they did not need money; you put them through a third degree to be sure whether they needed it or not. Was that right?" I will read you a few extracts to show what some of these working men have done. I am sorry the hon. member for Weyburn (Mr. Young) is not in the house, because this might interest him:

#### Relief Case Investigated

Vancouver Man Who Applied For Work Had Three Houses and 320-Acre Farm

Vancouver, March 22.—Investigation of the case of a man who applied for relief work from the Vancouver relief department has disclosed:

He owns his own home with a clear title.

He has clear title to another house which he rents at \$18 a month.

He has a third house that is mortgaged.

He has a 320-acre farm at Weyburn, Sask., which he values at \$4,500 and which has \$2,500 against it.

His two daughters, which he claimed were dependents, are earning a total of \$166 a month.

Relief Officer H. W. Cooper, reporting the case to the civic relief committee yesterday, stated the man in question had registered under the provincial government scheme, made an affidavit that his real estate, negotiable securities or cash, consisted of a house, etc., assessed at \$2,000 and enumerated his dependents as being a wife, three daughters and two sons.

Mr. Cooper stated he had written the provincial government for instructions regarding prosecution.

Then in Victoria, British Columbia, a man was convicted and it was shown he had \$3,222 in a Winnipeg bank, \$115 in the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and three shares of British Columbia Electric Railway valued at \$100 each. A nominal fine was imposed for his having made these misrepresentations. I shall not give the name of this man, but if any hon. member desires it, I shall be glad to furnish the information.

If hon. members desired to criticize the administration of unemployment relief in British Columbia, would it not have been fairer to send these facts to the British Columbia government? If hon. members did not desire to send them through to the Conservative government, the information could have been furnished to the leader of the opposition, and no doubt he would have investigated these matters while the house was in session. But hon. members did not do that, they saw fit to make statements—they were not statements, that is my mistake; they were rumours—three thousand miles away from those who were being attacked, thus making impossible a fair defence.