

organized and unorganized farmers because they are in just as much distress as the unemployed. They are employed, but they are getting no pay, and consequently they are in a worse plight than those who are unemployed. I think it behooves all of us from western Canada, those on this side as well as those sitting behind the government, to stress to the government that some assurance must be given to the members from that portion of Canada that something will be done for those men.

Mr. POWER: Yesterday afternoon there was some discussion in this house with respect to the lumbering industry. It was pointed out by my hon. friend from Gloucester (Mr. Veniot), by my hon. friend from Muskoka-Ontario (Mr. McGibbon) and by others that the lumbering industry and those engaged in it, in the province of Quebec particularly, were in extreme difficulties, and that something should be done, if possible, along the lines of relieving distress due to unemployment in that industry. It was even suggested by one of the members who spoke that the provincial governments might remit some of the stumpage dues. Now I know that an agitation is on foot in two of the provinces at least with that end in view. Under the terms of this bill would it be competent for the government, as one of the purposes for which this \$20,000,000 is voted, to remit to the provincial governments any amounts which they might forego collecting from lumbermen in the various provinces? For instance, should the government of Quebec decide that next winter in order to relieve distress in, we will say, the northern counties—we will take Kamouraska, with which I am familiar, and Bonaventure—they will forego either the whole or part of the stumpage dues and so encourage employment in the cutting of timber during the winter, under the terms of this bill could the government of Canada remit to the provincial authorities the amount which they decided not to collect? I am informed on good authority that in Bonaventure county at least the lumbermen do not propose to cut during next winter. I know that an hon. member of this house who formerly employed three thousand men will be unable, on account of the state of the lumber industry, to cut one stick of timber next winter in the counties of Bonaventure and Matane. The same situation exists in the county of Kamouraska, which is very familiar to my hon. friend the Solicitor General (Mr. Dupré).

Mr. BENNETT: Mr. Chairman, it is quite obvious that the observations of some hon. gentlemen opposite are made in misapprehen-

sion, and that the construction placed upon the measure by the last speaker is a perfectly correct one. This bill appropriates \$20,000,000 for unemployment relief, using the words in the broad sense, and the section now under consideration provides that that money may be used for such purposes and under such terms and conditions as the governor in council may approve. In other words, it is quite impossible to anticipate all the conditions that may arise in this country in the ensuing few months between now and the next session of parliament. But the preceding section—I am not dealing with the terms of it, Mr. Chairman—merely indicates, without restricting the generality of the terms, some of the methods by which it might be used, and among those methods is mentioned the reimbursement to the provinces or municipalities of any moneys that they might pay for the purpose of relieving unemployment.

Mr. POWER: By providing useful work.

Mr. BENNETT: But there is a specific detail, like particulars that my hon. and learned friend would supply in answer to a demand in an action, indicating that the governor in council may appropriate, if satisfied that a province or a municipality has paid money, certain sums out of the \$20,000,000 for reimbursing those expenditures. Certainly without having before me the details and a record of what took place in connection with the payment of timber dues for the purposes of relieving unemployment, I would not be prepared to make any antecedent statement about it. I would have to know the circumstances under which the remission was made by the crown in right of the province before undertaking in any sense to say what the crown in right of the Dominion would regard as a contribution for relief. I can conceive of cases where it would be so. I can conceive of other cases where it would not be so. I think my hon. friend from Quebec South (Mr. Power) will agree that that is so.

Mr. POWER: I am not recommending that course of action to the Prime Minister.

Mr. BENNETT: Quite so.

Mr. POWER: I am asking whether or not the provisions of the bill are wide enough to cover any such course of action.

Mr. STEWART (Edmonton): Mr. Chairman, up to this moment I have taken no part in the discussion, believing the statement of the government is correct that there is an emergent situation which they seek to remedy.