

*Unemployment Relief*

vided such restriction was shared by the white races; they did not like the suggestion of inferiority. I am quite sure that there would have been no objection from the Japanese government if this order in council had also prevented these Japanese from entering. Anyhow, the agreement is not for any fixed period, it is cancellable at any moment and it would have been quite proper to apply the same restriction to the Japanese as is applied to his white brother and sister. The labour people of British Columbia will not understand why the Japanese continue to come in to the extent of 150 per year when restrictions have been put on people of white origin.

I give the government all the credit due for the introduction of this resolution now before the committee, and I sincerely trust that it will be productive of benefit to those it is designed to benefit. I share the views expressed by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Veniot) when he asked the government to assume the responsibility for spending this money. It is a large sum of money and like the hon. member I am quite willing to trust the government with the spending of it. For one thing, we have not had any experience of their doing anything wrong and therefore we are entitled to suppose that they will do what is right. We will hold that belief until we know to the contrary. When they spend this money they are responsible to those who have furnished it, that is to this parliament. If within six months or a year from now we have any complaints to make as to the way in which the money has been disbursed, the government will be here to defend that expenditure or at least to assume responsibility, but if it is handed over to the provinces they can do as they like with it without any check being placed upon them. We who furnish the money would not be able to get at them; should we have a complaint to make in this house we would be told that it was very sad but it was the fault of the particular province. As I said before, we have no reason to believe that this government would misuse this money or apply it in an improper or partisan way, but we do know that the provinces are quite likely to use the money in this way. As far as the government of British Columbia is concerned, I could use up all my time in giving instances of this nature. It was a notorious fact, and one mentioned by the Conservative press, that all the resources of that province were marshalled largely by way of roadwork and similar expenditures in favour of the

[Mr. Neill.]

candidates of their party in the Dominion elections. One does not mind patronage so much when it concerns the higher positions, but we do mind it when it comes down to the ordinary, lowly worker on the road who has no other means of obtaining money to support himself and his family. It has been shown beyond doubt and contradiction that he has been forced to go to the secretary or president of some political association and obtain a ticket. He has first to join the association and pay one dollar, and I have often advised them to go and pay that dollar. They are forced to abandon any political feelings which they may have, after which a ticket is issued which they take to the road boss in order to obtain work.

An hon. MEMBER: The same thing was done with the Rideau canal two years ago.

Mr. NEILL: The ticket is collected and the man is put to work. If this has been done in the past it is reasonable to suppose it will be done in the future. In the present instance they would be dealing with money which is being handed to them on a platter and there would be no responsibility attached. Complaints could not be raised in the local legislatures and they could not be brought up in this house. Some check is needed, not only to insure that the worker is put on, no matter what his political feelings may be, but also to see that the man of the right political faith does not receive relief work when it is not needed. I know of cases where men well able to do without relief work have been getting it more or less regularly. I have an amendment here which I propose to move when the bill is before the house. Perhaps it would be as well to read it to the committee. I propose to move that the following section be inserted:

In the carrying out of the purposes of this act there shall be no discrimination either in favour of or against those of any particular political affiliation.

It might be said that that is an academic amendment and one which will not amount to anything. I claim that it would have some effect, because if the provinces' share of this large sum of money were handed to them from time to time with that clause inserted in the bill, and that in turn passed on to the foreman or engineer in charge of the work, it would keep before those men their obligation to give relief work to all and sundry. There is another method by which a perhaps more immediate and more definite result could be obtained, and that is by having a committee in each province to act in an advisory