

relief account as well as on all other accounts before other millions of dollars are spent in the fashion in which the millions for unemployment relief on blank cheque account have already been spent.

Mr. J. S. WOODSWORTH (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I find myself very largely in agreement with the position taken by the right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King). There is one point that I wish to emphasize particularly, and that is the lack of any plan in the statement which the minister has made. We are asked to allow things to continue to drift just as they have been drifting in the past, simply meeting emergencies as they arise; there is no attempt to set forth any comprehensive scheme either for dealing with the unemployment that now exists or for lessening its volume. The volume of unemployment is beyond what any of us could conceive a very few years ago. The minister puts the number of unemployed under relief as 1,357,000.

Mr. GORDON: No, I do not put the unemployed at that.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Those receiving unemployment relief.

Mr. GORDON: No, if I may interrupt; the number receiving relief from infants to old age—not unemployed. When you bring that term in it puts a different complexion on it.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Well, those receiving relief. That means 13.5 per cent of our entire population, or 135 out of every 1,000. And I do not think that includes the relief given to pensioners, which is a very large amount and ought in all fairness to be given if we are to have a comprehensive picture of the situation. Large numbers of our pensioners are in receipt of relief. And may I point out that in a good many places there is quite a conflict of authority between the municipal authorities and the federal government with regard to the administration of this kind of relief. In some cases clothing is given, in others clothing is not given or not given in adequate amounts. In some cases fuel is given by the federal government, in some cases it is not given in adequate amounts. There is the case of children over sixteen, I think it is, who are living with their parents; no provision whatever is made by the federal government for those over-age children of pensioners receiving relief. My own city is so overburdened that it refuses to recognize them if they are living with their parents, so that there are large numbers in this category

about which we have heard nothing to-night, who yet are in great distress. Then again very many are being assisted by private charity. In some provinces this rolls up to an enormous number. In addition we have those in private homes—large numbers of our young people who have never yet had a job, have had no opportunity of obtaining employment, but are simply living with their parents. In some cases these are young people who have married, and, unable to maintain their own homes, have come back and are living with their parents. We would have to add a very large number in order to get the real total.

Then again nothing has been said about the large numbers whom we have confessed ourselves unable to keep and have deported. People have been deported by the hundreds, by the thousands, for no other reason than that they had become public charges, were not able to make a living under the present circumstances; people who had been induced to come here from other countries and then when the depression came upon us found themselves, like so many Canadians, unable to make a living. I am not blaming the federal government entirely for their deportation, although it is officially responsible, but I would point out that the municipalities have very often found themselves heavily burdened in keeping these people and have urged their deportation. But we should take this very large class into consideration. We spent millions of dollars in inducing them to come here, and now we are doing ourselves millions of dollars of harm in deporting them to other countries, trying to get rid of the responsibility that really is ours. And if you are to give any real indication of the far reaching result of unemployment I think you will have to add a considerable number of those who to-day are in our gaols and penitentiaries. Undoubtedly the crime wave has risen with increasing unemployment; people have not been able to withstand the temptation to steal or to get into some other kind of trouble, and so to-day are making it necessary for us to enlarge our gaols and penitentiaries. The number thus on relief is simply enormous. The problem is no doubt one of the greatest problems that faces Canada.

It may be thought by some that there is a little improvement, since the minister is telling us that the costs are being reduced. I suppose almost anything that will lighten the load of the taxpayer is a good thing, but we have to ask, how are these costs being reduced? The minister suggests that it is