

records of two who fought in this war and this is the sort of treatment we gave these people from 1930 to 1935. This is how my hon. friends allocated \$600 to those who were in need of assistance; this is what was done by those who talk about economy. I will not mention any names, but this particular family is No. 225—they gave them numbers—and the date of this settlement was May 25, 1932. The family was supplied on July 7, 1932, with a team costing \$50. No extravagance there! I may say, however, that the horses did not live very long; they survived only a few weeks. On August 10 they were supplied with groceries amounting to \$10. That was for eight people in the family. That very economical government decided that \$10 would be ample to supply these people with everything they needed in the way of groceries. That amount, I may say, was for one month. They got a set of harness costing \$15. On August 10 they really went to town, because they bought a cow for \$35, a wagon and plough for \$10, and had their railway fares paid at a reduced rate. The cost of that item for five people was \$30.80. On September 12 they had groceries to the amount of \$10. Then they started buying building materials. Talk about the Veterans Land Act! There was no such extravagance in 1932, for building materials for this family cost \$31.60. They had the logs available and that was the amount provided for construction. Then there was \$10 for groceries and they bought hay on August 12 for \$1.50. In October they bought two rolls of tar paper for \$4.50, and on November 17 they had groceries to the amount of \$10. Then, on January 10, 1933, they had groceries, \$11.60.

Mr. SKEY: On a point of order, may I ask whether the hon. gentleman is opposing the budget of 1932 or the budget of 1946?

Mr. NICHOLSON: I am making my position clear, that the people who now talk about economy had a chance of practising it at that time, and they did not improve to any extent the lot of the majority of the Canadian people.

To continue, there is an item on January 12, C.N.R. freight, amounting to \$43.95. Then, on June 8, 1933, they bought a black gelding, the other team having died, and this single horse cost them \$50.

Mr. FLEMING: Too much for a C.C.F. horse.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Then we find in 1933 sealers and sugar, \$10.75. On February 2, 1934, there was an item of thirty bushels of oats for \$8.30. The election was coming on and allowances then went up, because the

family that had been expected to get along on \$10 now received \$18.20. That was for eight people. By the 20th February, 1934, they had exhausted their \$600. But, of course, they were not self-supporting and assistance was continued.

I am speaking about Saskatchewan, but I would remind the house that the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bracken) was premier of Manitoba, the adjoining province, and they also participated in that sort of programme. They settled quite a large number of persons and at the same time carried out a programme to settle boys on farms at \$5 a month, and if they continued on long enough there was a subsidy of \$2.50 a month.

I do not wish to excuse the present government. I notice the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mackenzie) is smiling, and I would remind him that in 1940, after we had been at war for some time, there were still several thousand young men working on farms drawing benefits of \$5 a month.

I submit that the solution of the economic problems that confront the Canadian people will not be found by going back to the seventeenth century or to the thirties of the twentieth century, when we pared down allowances to veterans of the war who had committed no offence but were unfortunate enough to be carpenters, tinsmiths or plumbers who could not find jobs at any wage in the cities. It was costing a good deal to keep them on relief. It cost \$70 a month to keep them on relief in Regina, and the Conservative government at Ottawa felt that if they got these people into the bush they could cut down the provincial and federal expenses and balance budgets. But the real costs will never be known—the toll of suffering in the way of undernourished children, broken-hearted mothers and fathers, and youngsters who, year after year, were denied the privilege of going to school. I would like hon. members to bear in mind that this is within the memory of all of us here. Those terrible years we had in Canada, when we could not provide a decent standard of living for the people, can be recollected by all of us.

During the war the Minister of Finance did some things that deserve commendation. He pursued a policy which proceeded on the basis that anything which was physically possible somehow or another would be made financially possible. If we needed ships, tanks, guns or materials of any kind, the question was, not how much money we had in the banks, or how much was in our gold reserves, but had we the raw materials; had we the man-power? Was it part of an over-all plan which would enable Canada to make her