

or any work for which the money will be used. I say that there should be no political discrimination in dealing with the people who are seeking employment such as will be provided under this Act.

The Dominion Government itself, who established these Labour Bureaus in Canada, does not employ them for the registration of casual labour. The very people who pay for the upkeep of these offices do not utilize them to the extent they should. This remark applies also to the Provincial Governments, who pay part of the costs. We know the reason why: it is because of political patronage. Therefore I say that the Labour Bureaus should be utilized more for registration purposes, and through these exchanges the people should obtain the employment which will be afforded by means of this fund which we are voting.

I should have liked to make some other observations with reference to this vote, but I must not take up the time of the House in so doing. I wish, however, to emphasize the matter which I placed before the Minister of Labour in my opening remarks, namely, the importance of assistance to the lumber business in New Brunswick, not only from this vote, but also from the other measures which the Government has put forward for the purpose of relieving the unemployment situation. In our province lumbering is the main industry, and I hope it will be assisted if assistance is possible.

Hon. W. A. BUCHANAN: Honourable gentlemen, I look upon this legislation as being purely of an emergency character, but I feel there are provisions in it that will establish precedents and produce problems for this and other Governments in future years. I refer especially to the provision in clause 3 in regard to "defraying the cost of distribution" of certain products. Among the products mentioned are those of the mines. Not only this year, but practically every year, there is an unemployment problem in connection with the coal mines of the Western Provinces, particularly those in the Province of Alberta and in the Crowsnest Pass.

I presume that under this legislation it will be possible this year for the Government to assist the coal mines of those sections of Western Canada in the movement of their product to a more extensive market. Right at this moment there is an agitation for relief to enable the product of those mines, not only the steam coal but the domestic coal mines, to be moved into Manitoba. The companies are handicapped with freight rates that are

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considered to favour American coal, and they want to get into the market in order to relieve the unemployment that exists in Eastern British Columbia and Alberta. As I see it, the only method will be for the Government to give them a subvention such as was given to the steam coal mines in the Crowsnest Pass during the last session of Parliament.

But what will be the situation next year and in the years to come? Because the same situation has existed in the past, I am satisfied it will exist in the future; that there will be very great unemployment among the coal miners. Is it not proper for me to say that coal miners will come to this Government and seek for some relief every year? I would suggest to the Labour Minister and the Government that they should endeavour to fix upon a policy that will be applicable throughout the years. It should be such that it would keep those mines in operation and keep the men employed. There is, in respect to this particular clause, the danger that what we are doing now we may be called upon to do in other years. The Minister of Labour has told us what he has in mind for this year. Being acquainted with the situation in the coal mines of Western Canada, he knows that unemployment has been a problem there in other years, and is bound to be so in future.

Hon. GEORGE GORDON: Honourable gentlemen, this discussion is developing in a manner to show the Minister what a difficult proposition he is going to be confronted with. We all have ideas as to what should be done under various circumstances. My honourable friend from St. John (Hon. Mr. Foster) has made a plea for the Federal Government to reimburse the Government of New Brunswick for any reduction that province may think fit to make with respect to stumpage. Now, in my opinion—and I say it with all due respect to my honourable friend—this will not help the situation, for the reason that to-day not only the market in Nova Scotia but the markets of the world are over-stocked with lumber, and, I have no doubt, a decrease of dues would be the means of having more lumber manufactured. I think that by such means the situation of labour would not be improved permanently or for any great length of time—in fact, not for any period beyond the winter months. In my opinion it would be much better that the money which it has been suggested should be devoted to that purpose should be used for road construction and improvements of that nature, which, as we all know, bring back revenue to the country generally, and to the provinces particularly, in the form of the gasoline tax. I