

Mr. GORDON: For instance, buildings that have been started, undertakings on which the work already done would be lost if the work was not completed. Take, for instance, the building of a sewerage system, or something of the kind. Then again there is a type of work that cannot be stopped without creating undischarged contractual obligations. With a view to determining what works will fall within these categories and what can be discontinued, I have had communication with the various provinces in order that the schedules may be carefully reviewed and nothing lost by reason of discontinuing works of a different character.

Mr. GARLAND (Bow River): Does the national highway come in that class?

Mr. GORDON: No, I do not think it does. I presume the hon. member refers to what is commonly known as the trans-Canada highway. I scarcely think it falls within that category. On the other hand, the trans-Canada highway probably stands aside and apart from strictly relief work. Moneys may be devoted to work upon the trans-Canada highway as a measure of relief in conjunction with the provinces, but no agreement has been reached on that point. However, it will undoubtedly be the subject of discussion when the agreements with the provinces are entered into. I do not think I can enlarge on what the provinces have in mind with a view to the future.

I have been asked what is being done in the interim between the end of last month and to-day. We are advancing no money other than to complete contracts already entered into. The provinces, the municipalities, and many, many societies in this country, which are earnestly trying to help people to help themselves, are not relaxing their efforts in any respect. I am not one of those who suggest that there is an overflowing well of money where all you have to do is to go with your pail and get it filled as occasion demands, and then hope against hope that from some place at present undefined you can get more money out of the willing taxpayer. I am sure every member well understands that these steps can only be taken having regard to the capacity of our people to pay, and every man, whether unemployed or employed, has to bear that in mind. The unemployed men must always remember that it is the employed man who has to bear this burden, and he should be extremely astute himself to take advantage of every opportunity to improve his position. I cannot imagine anything that is easier, at least for

a time, than for a man to lie back and say: Somebody has either got to find me work or take care of me. But I do not think the normal man is going to be content long in that frame of mind. His own desire to become rehabilitated will early reassert itself. That condition of mind will not become a fixture with him. The normal man will take advantage of every opportunity, great or small. Mapping out that course for a person, we will assist through the agency of the provinces, and will at least see that there is no starvation, such as has been described, or destitution, in an endeavour to help the people over this most difficult and trying time. I am sure every member of this chamber is conscious of the fact that the whole nation, as reflected in this dominion, the provinces, the municipalities, and an innumerable number of industries and societies of all kinds, is straining every effort to join in a concerted and sustained endeavour to get the country over this trying period, and I am just as confident as I am of standing here that we are going to do it.

I cannot outline categorically the exact steps that may have to be taken, because each week and each month the picture changes; but I think the picture is improving. The reports that I get from British Columbia, to which a great deal of attention has been directed, seem to indicate improvement, and that is very gratifying. I know that in northern Ontario in my part, and that is the greater part, things are improving very materially. I know as a matter of fact that many hundreds of workmen have been taken on in the last few months, and I know that conditions have also been improving in northwestern Quebec, because I am very well acquainted with the situation there. But unfortunately, as soon as it is advertised that hundreds of workmen are being taken on and there is plenty of work in a certain section, and of course the story is always embellished, we have men coming in—I say this without a feeling of petulance at all about the newcomers into Canada, but they seem to be able to move around faster than the people who are born in this country; they come into the camps up there and are a problem. But the people are meeting it with very great courage, as I am sure that the people throughout Canada generally are doing.

Mr. LAPOINTE: As far as direct relief is concerned, that is providing money for destitute people who need food or shelter, do I understand the minister to say that the