

Unemployment Relief

March 31, 1940, and it shows that the western farmers have not been as badly treated as has been stated in some quarters. As a matter of fact the prairie provinces and British Columbia have enjoyed great superiority over the eastern provinces in the matter of financial aid.

Take for example the matter of seed grain. In the first instance the farmer will say to the municipal authorities that he is insolvent. In turn the municipal authorities say to the provincial government, "All the people in this municipality are insolvent." The report is sent to the province, and the province writes to Ottawa that all the municipalities in that province are insolvent and must therefore have aid. Just because the eastern provinces do not use the same methods of approach, they do not receive seed grain assistance.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): And the dominion government does not do anything.

Mr. POULIOT: Assistance is given in three forms. In the first place a guarantee is given to the province.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Bow River): That is not aid.

Mr. POULIOT: In the second place, loans are given, and in the third place, grants are given. Sometimes it happens that for different purposes the western provinces receive at the one time guarantees, loans and grants. Well, that is not so bad. On the other hand we in the province of Quebec do not have so much; Ontario does not have so much; the maritime provinces do not have so much. The western provinces seem to be the pet population in Canada.

Mr. MacINNIS: Did the hon. member say "pet" or "pet"?

Mr. POULIOT: Pet and they have lots of pet, too. I am not making these statements to minimize their efforts, because I admire the constituents of the western provinces. But I suggest they think of others in the east who are in great trouble at times, but who are not so greedy, when it is a matter of dominion assistance.

Mr. FAIR: How about public works grants?

Mr. POULIOT: No public works this year.

Mr. FAIR: How about years gone by?

An hon. MEMBER: What about the tariff?

Mr. POULIOT: If I were to speak about the tariff I would be out of order; if the hon. member will put that question to me when we are discussing the budget resolutions I shall be in a position to answer him. I will tell him right now that if we had no tariff we would

have no revenue to give these grants. This is a very important matter, and one which ought not to be forgotten. Without money no grants would be available. The grants go from the east to the west—and of course that shows just how much we like our western friends.

Mr. FAIR: And the money to pay those grants comes from the west to the east; don't forget that.

Mr. POULIOT: I turn to page 16 of the report of the dominion commissioner of unemployment relief, and I find that outstanding loans to the province of Manitoba amount to \$25,573,138.54, and those for Saskatchewan amount to \$71,291,194.81.

Mr. MARSHALL: What is the hon. member reading?

Mr. POULIOT: I am reading from the report of the dominion commissioner for relief.

Mr. MARSHALL: What is the hon. member quoting?

Mr. POULIOT: Loans outstanding for the year ending March 31, 1940, as outlined at page 16 of the report.

Mr. GILLIS: That is for the last ten or fifteen years.

Mr. MARSHALL: Yes, those are loans for the last ten years.

Mr. POULIOT: For the province of Alberta net loans outstanding amounted to \$26,025,500; for British Columbia, \$34,503,762.30. The grand total of loans to provinces outstanding as of March 30, 1940, is \$157,393,595.65. Then, in addition there is an amount for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Well, that is not so bad. In these expenditures the western provinces have received something which they do not share with the east. Then, there are the dominion subsidies to provinces, and I find that in respect of Saskatchewan an exception has been made. I refer to the principle of payment according to population. Hon. members may check what I say in the year book. Proportionately the province of Saskatchewan gets much more than do the other provinces, so far as population is concerned.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): When the hon. members contrasts the drought conditions in Saskatchewan with the smiling conditions in the fair province of Quebec, as I know it, does he not think that the people in Saskatchewan ought to receive more in the way of help? I suggest we ought not to begrudge fair treatment to the drought-ridden farmers of Saskatchewan. The east has not been affected in the same way.

[Mr. Pouliot.]