

this parliament, the all important question of the relief of unemployment. In order that the house may not forget the importance of the question, which continues to be the most important in Canada, may I remind hon. members that this administration owes its present position in office to the fact that it undertook, if returned to power, to end unemployment, and to end it immediately. Hon. gentlemen opposite are in power to-day as a government which was pledged to end unemployment in Canada, and to do so expeditiously. That pledge was given nearly three years ago.

The Minister of Labour this evening has given us what at the outset he described as a picture of what is being done by the government of which he is a member and other governments in Canada in the relief of unemployment. It has been a long and comprehensive survey. I do not know what impression the picture has left in the minister's own mind, or on the minds of other hon. gentlemen who have listened to him, but I must confess that the impression it made on mine was much the same as one that might be derived from reading through the Canadian Almanac, going through the Auditor General's Report, or perusing the Statistical Year Book. I fail to see in all the minister said to-night anything suggestive of unity, any outstanding lines of clearly defined policy, or any central principle on which the government has proceeded in dealing with the great question of unemployment in Canada. As I listened to the minister detailing his verbal picture, it seemed to me as he mentioned one subject after another, that it resembled nothing quite so much as a jig-saw puzzle, the different parts of which it would require no little time to bring together.

Mr. GORDON: What is a jig-saw puzzle?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: We have just had one from the minister.

Mr. BELL (Hamilton): The only thing the opposition has to work with.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The minister endeavoured to give us a comprehensive idea of what the government has been doing, but, as I have said, he mentioned so many individual parts and pieces wholly unrelated to any general scheme that hon. members themselves will have to piece them together in order to make, if that is possible at all, a coherent whole out of what has been said. May I recall what the minister himself disclosed. He spoke first of all of work that was being carried on under a policy of con-

struction of public works. That was the policy with which the government set out in meeting the unemployment situation, a contribution to assist provinces and municipalities in construction work. But, before the minister had got very far along in his description, he told us that the government had abandoned the policy of contributing money towards work of construction, and was now contributing money only or mainly for purposes of direct relief. As he proceeded farther, he came back once more to where certain departments of the federal government were carrying on works of their own and where public moneys were being spent for construction as a means of affording work. But he had not dealt with that for more than a few moments when he began to speak of board camps where men were getting subsistence and a little cash, were being looked after by direct amounts out of the federal treasury not receiving wages but something in the nature of an allowance. Here the minister described the care of single homeless men by the federal government only, then the placement of unemployed families on lands, taking the unemployed away from the cities to the country, and repatriation schemes in which provinces and municipalities assisted. The point I wish to bring out is that one could not gather, in listening to the minister, any principle upon which the government has been proceeding in the matter of unemployment relief.

Let me illustrate further. The minister told us at one stage the Canadian Pacific railway shops had closed down and that the government had found it advisable to advance money to the Canadian Pacific to help the company to reopen its shops. I noticed in a newspaper of recent date that the Canadian Pacific Railway has been advancing money to railroads in the United States to help them in that country. I do not know whether they have been able to make advances to the roads in the United States allied to theirs, out of the advances this government has made to them, but it is perfectly plain that it is all part of the same scheme to help in the relief of unemployment.

The minister told us also that moneys had been paid to help meet the excess cost of shipment of Nova Scotia coal; something for bonuses upon wheat; some money had been paid out here and there on road projects and on bits of highways; something had been done in the parks and for landing stations and so on; but in no way have these different efforts been correlated. None of them is a part of a comprehensive correlated unified plan. He