

*Relief Act, 1934*

sir, with all due respect to the mayor of Canso, he is living in the eastern part of Nova Scotia. No doubt he saw in the newspapers that the marketing bill had been introduced in this parliament and, without having the bill before him and without realizing that in the bill there is no provision for advancing money to fishermen, farmers or anyone else, the mayor and town council of Canso thought that under this bill they could get relief for their fellow townsmen and the fishermen of that district. My right hon. friend made use of that fact and said the mayor of Canso, in sending the telegram, had asked that the money be granted under that act. As far as I am concerned, and I believe I speak for the mayor, the town council and the fishermen of Canso, I do not care under what legislation this relief is granted; I do not care under what act of parliament or what order in council this small sum of \$15,000 is advanced in order to permit the fishermen to buy their gear and equip their boats. As I said yesterday, sir, this government took action in another very important matter, and let me say here that I never criticized the government for having given that guarantee. I only said that there should be no step bairns in our family, that all should be treated alike. If in connection with another matter millions of dollars could be guaranteed I said there was no reason why a small sum like \$15,000 should not be guaranteed by the government of this country for the fishermen of Canso. I do not criticize my right hon. friend for having given that other guarantee, although I think he is open to criticism; from the fact that the government do not want to give full information it would seem that there must be something they want to cover up.

In the other case, let me remind the right hon. gentleman, no law was required; the guarantee was given eight months before the act was passed by this house. There was no statute which permitted the guarantee in that case, but even after the act was passed another month or more elapsed, if I remember correctly, before the order in council was passed making it legal. As I said a moment ago I do not object to that; I only say that if this government were willing and anxious to do something for the fishermen of Canso they would not need to wait for this legislation. My right hon. friend said this could not be done in any case because we were delaying this legislation. I say that either under this or some other statute, whether by way of guarantee or by way of relief, this government can do something for the fishermen with regard to this \$15,000. This clause

[Mr. Duff.]

now under consideration states that the government may take all such other measures as may be deemed necessary or advisable in order to carry out the provisions of the statute.

This afternoon my right hon. friend comes along and says that this request should be made by the provincial government. Perhaps I am not as familiar with the law as I should be; perhaps I am not as familiar as I should be with the manner in which relief was granted to the municipalities and towns last year and the year before, but if my understanding is correct the federal government paid one-third, the provincial government one-third and the municipality or town one-third of the cost. My right hon. friend says the provincial government should take up this matter. I happen to be the representative of the people of Antigonish and Guysborough in this parliament, but my right hon. friend wants the people to go over my head, because I happen to be an unfortunate medium. I want to say to the Prime Minister, before I write the provincial government to-morrow morning or telegraph them to-night, if I have the money in my pocket—

An hon. MEMBER: Send it collect.

Mr. DUFF: No, I will borrow it from you. I say before I do that I should like to point out to the Prime Minister that in their present financial position, due to the fact that they have had to expend large sums of money for relief and to the further fact that taxes have not been coming in as they should, the town of Canso cannot raise their share of this amount. So I say this is a special occasion; this is a special request, and so far as I am concerned if the Prime Minister wants to take credit for it, or if he wants any member of his cabinet to take credit for it, well and good. All I say is that the mayor of Canso and the town council thought I was the proper person through whom they should make this appeal, and they should not be criticized for thinking so.

My right hon. friend complained again that I should have taken up the matter with the ministry instead of bringing it before parliament. I explained the situation the other day, when I said I only received the telegram two or three hours before this bill came up for discussion. Again I say that I was perfectly justified, as the representative of the counties of Antigonish and Guysborough, in bringing this matter to the attention of the government from my place on the floor of parliament. So, not wishing to delay this committee further, I say to the Prime Minister that he should not ask the provincial govern-