

claims to be rendered by the provinces under previous agreements which will not be received by the dominion in time to be paid before the close of the present fiscal year is \$1,316,117.75. Provision for new projects is \$5,500,000.

Mr. LOCKHART: I am not clear as to the allocation of moneys given by the federal government to the provincial governments and passed on to the municipalities. In the event of a municipality contemplating a certain relief work, which of course will have to be dealt with through the channels of the provincial government, are any limitations placed on the actions of the province by the federal government? In other words, is any restriction imposed on the extent or the type of work which the provincial government may engage in, or is it left entirely in the hands of the province?

Mr. ROGERS: We do exercise some discrimination when a works program is submitted to us by a provincial government. For example, I do not think there has ever been a case where a provincial government has not submitted to us plans which have gone considerably beyond the amount of money which could be allocated to that particular province for a joint works program. But in general no restriction is imposed in advance by the dominion government upon projects which may be submitted by the provincial government. Where there is discrimination it is exercised in the course of the negotiations.

Mr. POULIOT: May I remind the minister that one of the best projects for the relief of unemployment would be the rebuilding of the dam on Morin lake. Riviere du Loup is a progressive city with its own power plant, and it has set an example to the rest of the province of Quebec in the municipalization of power. The present dam is not in good condition and there is urgent necessity for rebuilding it. The work would cost no more than \$300,000 and it could be carried out in sections costing about \$100,000 per year, the federal government and the province cooperating. It would relieve unemployment to a large extent and serve a very useful purpose, and it would be much better than building sidewalks on lonely streets where there is no traffic or doing fancy works that do not serve any other purpose than to give temporary employment. Money could be spent usefully and in the public interest in connection with this dam. The minister is familiar with the situation and I trust that in due course, when he discusses the matter with the province, the provincial government will include that project in the program for this year and that this important work will be started at once.

Mr. MASSEY: In connection with these various projects that are undertaken either by the municipality or by the province, with aid from the federal government, what consideration is given to the cost of the work? Is the minister given some idea as to the cost of the materials required and also as to the extent of the labour necessary for the project itself? There has been a certain amount of criticism of the cost of these works and of the wages paid in connection with them. I should like to know how far the minister goes in his investigations with the provinces or the municipalities, through the provinces, as to the wages to be paid, the total cost of the work and so on.

Mr. ROGERS: The Department of Labour does not maintain an engineering department, but in our consultations with the provincial government in regard to all joint works programs we do try to place the emphasis on the type of work that will give the maximum employment and call for the minimum expenditure. I cannot say how far we have succeeded in doing that in every instance, but it will be understood that here, as in other cases, where we have to work with the provincial government, it is necessary that the two shall agree before the work can be carried forward.

Mr. MASSEY: What check if any is made by the federal government as to the actual men to be employed on the work?

Mr. ROGERS: We have in each province a dominion representative who is assisted by a number of inspectors, and it is their duty to see that the terms of the agreement are carried out with special regard to the clauses having to do with wages and hours.

Mr. MASSEY: Is any effort made to employ the maximum number of men? What I mean is this. Do the men who start a project carry it to completion, or is the work spread around through the particular locality in which the project is going forward so that as many men as possible will get a share of it? Is it confined to a few?

Mr. ROGERS: Both systems have been followed in the past. In general, during the past year, the practice has been to take heads of families or single men off relief and keep them off, paying them the prevailing wage, rather than take them on for a few weeks and then send them back on relief. In Ontario sixty-two per cent of those employed on these works were taken from the relief rolls.

Mr. MASSEY: Does the inspector report directly to the minister anything he finds to be unsatisfactory?