

riation. In the first place, what, if any, expenditures has the Government already decided to make? Secondly, who can foretell what the emergency situation will be in a few weeks, or three or four months from now? While, of course, an audit cannot be made until moneys are expended, we have the satisfaction of knowing that every municipality has its own auditors, who have to report to the municipal council. Further, every Provincial Government has its auditing machinery, which in some respects, and perhaps in all respects, is as good as the federal system. Not only will audited accounts of all moneys spent by the Provincial Government for unemployment relief be presented to the respective Legislatures, but the Public Accounts Committee of every Legislature will have full opportunity to review all expenditure. These safeguards, combined with a vigilant public opinion demanding the honest application of the moneys towards the relief proposed, and the certain revision of results which will be made at the next session of Parliament, will reasonably and effectually prevent abuse.

No words which have been spoken in this Chamber have been too strong to express my opposition to the introduction into this country of any system of relief founded upon the principle and practice of the dole as in Great Britain. No honourable member on the other side of the House would more sincerely deprecate than I should the introduction of any such thing in this country. I realize that the Government will be faced with a big problem the moment it is made known that the sum of \$20,000,000 had been voted and placed at the disposal of the Governor in Council. All over Canada localities will be hoping to get some of that money, and the practical politician will be at work in every hamlet, village, town, city and electoral district of this country, advising those who may be disposed to seek relief from unemployment by their own efforts: "Don't go too rapidly. There is a bag of twenty millions at Ottawa. See what you can get from that first." That sort of advice will to a certain extent whet the appetites of numerous localities for a share of the \$20,000,000. But, human nature being what it is, I do not think such demands can be averted. We must remember that the Government has the responsibility of discriminating with regard to the distribution of the money, and refusing to grant the demand from any municipal, provincial or other quarter. The Government has my sympathy and good wishes because of the onerous duties—in some respects, the invidious duties—which

Right Hon. Sir GEORGE FOSTER.

it will have to undertake in distributing this appropriation.

As I have stated, there must inevitably be a process of elimination in connection with the applications that will come to the Government for relief. When first the idea of appropriating a lump sum for the relief of unemployment was bruited, there began a sort of competition among the provinces, which were anxious to get their full share of the millions that might flow from the federal treasury. Well, what has been stated in another place has pretty well resulted in putting an end to that competition, and the provinces now know that not a dollar of the money granted under this Bill will come to them for purposes other than the relief of unemployment and distress. For example, if it so happened that there was no unemployment in five of the provinces, then not a dollar of the money granted by this Bill would go to any one of those provinces; all the relief would be extended to the other four provinces.

But this process of elimination would need to be carried further. At first the popular impression seemed to be that no person in this country should go without employment while this fund made employment possible, and that relief would be granted to every unemployed person in the Dominion of Canada. Now, I do not understand such to be the object of this Bill at all. The sum of \$20,000,000 is not to be appropriated for the relief of all persons who are without employment for the time being, but is to be applied only for the relief of urgent, unusual and emergent cases of distress. It is not the intention to give aid in any municipality to every person who is out of work; assistance is to be given only to those persons who are suffering and in a state of distress because of their unemployment. You may have in a locality four members of a farmer's family who are partly employed in winter services on the farm. But if two of them are not necessary for that work, and are therefore out of employment, those two have no claim upon this fund; they are a family encumbrance, so to speak, and a family responsibility.

This process of elimination can be carried still further. Take the case of a man who has been in some business as a foreman or director: the business has gone flat, and his salary for the time is suspended. So he goes home. He received a good salary for a portion of the year, and his earnings and savings and credit must carry him through. He has no right to any portion of this fund.