

Unemployment Relief

bushel. My information is that if the millers have to meet the competition of the Australian flour they will not be able to pay—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question.

Mr. SANDERSON: I want to say that I gave notice to the minister of my question and I am putting it so that he can answer it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Having given notice, the hon. member can make his question a little more brief. He is making a speech.

Mr. SANDERSON: I do not think the minister has any objection to the way in which I am putting my question.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question.

Mr. SANDERSON: With all due deference to Your Honour, it appears to me that you should keep order on the other side of the house when I am asking a question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is out of order now, and I would ask him to confine himself to the rules.

Mr. SANDERSON: I have always complied with the rules. My question to the minister is this: In regard to Australian flour coming in at its present price and the competition it will give to the Ontario millers, is he conversant with what is taking place, what action will he take and has he the matter under consideration?

Hon. H. H. STEVENS (Minister of Trade and Commerce): The whole subject to which the hon. member has referred is quite familiar to me, the department, and I may say, the government. Quite adequate and I think satisfactory steps are being taken to meet the situation. I feel it would be inadvisable at the moment to enter into any detailed reply.

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

REPORTED INTENTION TO END RELIEF ON JUNE 15

On the orders of the day:

Mr. HUMPHREY MITCHELL (East Hamilton): In certain Ottawa papers there is a news dispatch of June 1 stating that the federal government intends to end relief on June 15. I would like to ask the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) whether he is prepared to give the house a definite statement in connection with the matter in view of the very serious conditions still existing in many communities throughout the dominion. For instance, in my own city we still have around 7,000 families on relief, and they are quite concerned about the telegraphic dispatch from the minister in connection with the matter.

[Mr. Sanderson.]

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the agreement under which contributions were made by the federal government to the provinces of Canada to assist them in providing direct relief and other employment came to an end according to its terms on the 31st day of March last. This government advised the various provinces at that time that we would continue to make contributions for direct relief where it seemed that the provinces had an acute situation, that the need was great, and the provinces concerned, with their municipalities, were unable to cope with it. We said we would continue it until the end of May; expressing the hope, of course, that with improved conditions direct relief could soon be abandoned. There are many places in Canada, I am sure hon. members will be pleased to know, where assistance by direct relief has now been found not to be necessary.

Following up the first message to the provinces a further extension of dominion contribution was intimated, to carry forward to the 15th of this month. Perhaps there will be places in Canada where, by reason of exceptional circumstances, special consideration will have to be given by way of assistance, but at the same time there is no doubt that the pressure with respect to contributions to direct relief is diminishing in a very satisfactory manner. The intimation given to the provinces as to its discontinuance was founded upon information supplied to the Department of Labour, and on a review of the position of the various provinces with respect to their ability to take care of what direct relief was necessary during the coming summer.

I do not know that I can add anything further to what I have said, but I feel quite hopeful that during the summer months at least we shall find that in the majority of places throughout the dominion direct relief can be abandoned in view of the revival of activity in the building and other trades. However, the situation will be constantly under review by myself and the government, and if it appears that assistance is necessary it will be given very serious consideration.

CONTRIBUTION TO QUEBEC ROAD FUNDS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. L. BARIBEAU (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon). In *Le Canada* of Montreal in its edition of the 21st of May, it is reported that the hon. Mr. Arcand, Minister of Labour of the provincial