

the last election in the Province of Manitoba a very large number of votes were cast for the Communist candidate; and the city of Winnipeg has probably the only Communist alderman in America.

The unemployment problem in Winnipeg is serious. In no other city in the Dominion of Canada has as much been done, by the city or by the citizens, in an endeavour to meet the situation. If the honourable gentleman from Parkdale (Hon. Mr. Murdock) had read the Winnipeg newspapers last December he would have seen copy after copy of telegrams sent to the Dominion Government by the mayor, the city council, the Veterans' Association and other public bodies, demanding that the Prime Minister do something to relieve the situation.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: Does the honourable gentleman think that that was the proper channel of communication?

Hon. Mr. McMEANS: When people are starving any channel is a proper one through which to bring the situation to the attention of the Dominion Government. For some time, those telegrams were not even answered, and when at last a reply was received, it was that this was a matter for the province alone to deal with. Unless this situation is met there will be violence. The money that is to be spent will be well spent if it staves off a movement that will go to increase the Communist vote in the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: As the Minister will be speaking to-morrow, I wish to say just a word more. I quite agree with the honourable the leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) that there is the gravest possibility of danger in the administration of these funds. There will be thousands of applications from all over Canada; everybody will be wanting to dig into the fund. Now I am going to ask the Minister of Labour a question. He will be able to reply to-morrow. I thoroughly agree with what has been said by the honourable member from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. McMeans). I have been in the neighbourhood for forty years and know conditions as they exist in Winnipeg. The same conditions exist in cities like Toronto, Hamilton, St. John and Halifax. But applications will come in from every hamlet and village in Canada, and I should like to ask the Minister what precautions are going to be taken to prevent abuse in the expenditure of these funds.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Lest the question just asked by the honourable member should

Hon. Mr. McMEANS.

be forgotten, I should like to give a brief answer now, and, if he desires it, a further one to-morrow. The greatest safeguard in the expenditure of this fund is the fact that for every dollar spent by the Federal Government the municipality and the province must also spend their money. If my honourable friend (Hon. Mr. Dandurand), for example, were representing the Federal Government, and my right honourable friend (Right Hon. Mr. Graham) a province, and I a municipality, and I confessed my inability to meet the obligations pressing upon me, and applied to my right honourable friend for assistance, and if my honourable friend who leads the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Dandurand) were to say, as the representative of the Federal Government, "We will help you because of the situation you are in," I would render to them a detailed account of all the expenditures, together with the vouchers and the cost, for their inspection, and, I submit, there would be no great danger of anybody being cheated.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: Who gets the voucher first? The province or the Federal Government?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: My recollection is that in 1922, for the city of Winnipeg—

Hon. Mr. BUREAU: I ask an answer to my question.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK:—vouchers were submitted indicating that money had been expended for bread, coal, tea and other necessities to the amount of \$18,000. That is my recollection as to that kind of relief, outside of the excess cost of employment. Then the Provincial Government O.K.'d the account and paid it, and the Federal Government paid its third. If that is the case, we need not fool ourselves by talking about knowing when a couple of loaves of bread or a pound of tea are going to be handed out. My honourable friend the Minister of Labour will get only the total bill for these expenditures, with the indication that the municipality in the first place has paid the money, the province has recognized its share, and the Federal Government's share is so much. In my judgment that is the only way it can be done.

Hon. Mr. CALDER: What is wrong with it?

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: The question in my mind relates to the public works that will be undertaken. I think there is a great deal to be said about that, because I am afraid that there will be something done with the Government money that will not be just what it should be.