

by the minister, action should be taken. Do I make myself clear to my hon. friend?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The real responsibility for the particular grant lies entirely with the Minister of Labour?

Mr. BENNETT: Subject to order in council.

An hon. MEMBER: No.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, subject to order in council; because it is the only way in which the executive may act in respect to the allocation of money. As perhaps hon. gentlemen realize, the minister makes the recommendation, and the government as a whole assume responsibility for the order in council. But this Dominion will not be engaging in that form of relief or business which primarily it is the duty of the provinces or municipalities to undertake; but to assist them in the discharge of that duty this grant is being asked for. If, for instance, the province of Manitoba, reviewing all the circumstances and conditions of that province with its municipalities, is able to make such a recommendation through its responsible government that an unemployment condition exists which should be dealt with in a manner indicated, the Minister of Labour will deal with that and the government will act accordingly, or as thought desirable, because it does not always act, I believe, on the recommendation of the minister; it sometimes modifies his recommendation. Have I made myself clear to my hon. friend?

Mr. HEAPS: Will any public works undertaken, to which the federal government will contribute, have to be approved by the Minister of Labour?

Mr. BENNETT: It was not intended in the first instance where provincial or municipal funds are being used for the purpose of providing employment that this federal authority should interfere with the exercise of that discretion, because under our constitution the provinces and the municipalities themselves determine what action they shall take. But when they take action it is anticipated they will indicate that they would not have taken such action but for the present existing conditions, that they thereby have borrowed money two years in advance, we will say, of when they would otherwise have done so, and they ask for the payment of the service of that loan from this fund to enable them to do presently what otherwise they would not do, until, say, two years later.

Mr. EULER: Apart entirely from the Department of Public Works, must the initiative

on the part of the municipality go direct to the government, or must it proceed through the provincial government?

Mr. BENNETT: It was our intention, subject to change of course if the necessity arises, that they should deal with provincial governments through the department of municipalities that each government has established.

Mr. EULER: The Department of Labour, then, would recognize requests only as they come through the provincial authority?

Mr. BENNETT: My hon. friend says "only." I think that is using too strong a term. If it was felt desirable we could deal with a particular situation through the municipality, but broadly and generally we intend to deal with the matter as I have indicated.

Mr. HEENAN: If a contribution is made to a province, will that contribution carry with it a provision for fair wages and the eight-hour day?

Mr. BENNETT: The constitutional position is that the provinces have the right, as my hon. friend the former Minister of Labour (Mr. Heenan) will remember, under the supreme court decision; but so far as the Dominion may extend its operations the provisions of the order in council that was passed while the house was in session last year will obtain and prevail where they have not been amended, and it is not proposed to repeal them.

Mr. LAPOINTE: With regard to the federal government works which my hon. friend has stated will be undertaken and paid for by part of this money, will the government at any stage of the measure give a list of those federal works? Have they been considered? Will the house know before this sum is voted and put in the hands of the government what are the public works which are going to be undertaken in virtue of this resolution?

Mr. BENNETT: We are in practically the same position as the Canadian National Railways when a vote is made to them, and it will be observed that the language here is somewhat similar. I hope that the claims in that regard may be as few as possible, but I will give an illustration of what I think my hon. friend will at once see covers the case. Work is being carried on in connection with the breakwater, we will say, at the head of the lakes—I give that as an illustration—the parliamentary appropriation has been ex-