

their employees. In times like these I think we ought to attempt to increase the purchasing power, keep it at the absolute maximum. Where there is wealth, that wealth ought to be taxed to the highest possible point.

Mr. MITCHELL: Will the members of the new tariff board come under the provisions of this resolution?

Mr. RHODES: Yes.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Rhodes thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 38, to amend the Salary Deduction Act, 1932.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND FARM RELIEF

CONTINUATION FOR ONE YEAR OF PROVISIONS OF RELIEF ACT, 1932

Hon. W. A. GORDON (Minister of Labour) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following proposed resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to continue in force the provisions of the Relief Act, 1932, until the 31st of March, 1934.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Is the minister going to explain this resolution?

Mr. GORDON: I would prefer that the resolution be allowed to go into committee and then I shall give my explanation and make some observations.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: A number of hon. members wish to speak to the resolution, and will expect to hear something from the minister. They will probably wish to say a good deal more when we are in committee.

Mr. GORDON: I am content. I think it is desirable that I outline, perhaps at some length, the proceedings and actions which have been taken under the various relief measures, and particularly under the 1932 legislation, in order that hon. members may have the general picture.

As hon. members know, the act contemplates that the detailed report is not required to be filed until March 15, following the end of the fiscal year. The reason for this is obvious; it is in order that the information in the final report shall be as complete as possible. Under the unemployment relief act of 1930, which came into force in September of that year, provision was made for the carrying out of public works and the extending of direct relief to relieve unemployment until August, 1931. I intend to direct my observations mainly to the distribution of moneys by the dominion, provincial and municipal authorities, because

I feel that if that is made known to hon. members they will then be better prepared to discuss matters when the bill comes up.

Under the 1930 act the Dominion government contributed to public works a total of \$14,396,976.81; to direct relief, \$3,547,135.08, and the cost of dominion administration was, \$43,061.97. The total expenditure by the Dominion government under that act was \$17,987,173.86. This expenditure by the Dominion government represented the carrying out in the dominion of public and other works to the extent of approximately \$69,000,000. This total includes the contributions made by the provinces and the municipalities. The direct relief expenditure by the dominion, provinces and municipalities under this legislation totalled approximately \$11,000,000. The relief works carried out under the provisions of the act afforded work to 337,633 individuals for varying periods, the amount of work thus afforded being 7,481,449 man days.

In August, 1931, the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, 1931, became effective and continued in operation until the first day of March, 1932, and under the provisions of the continuance act of 1932, the operation of the 1931 act was continued until May 1, 1932. Under the 1931 act, by agreement with the various provinces of the dominion, the federal government agreed to contribute the sum of \$34,008,878.29 towards the carrying on of works by the provinces, municipalities and federal departments, the total cost of such works being approximately \$81,000,000. When the act expired on May 1, many works which had been undertaken thereunder, and many commitments which had been made with the provinces and which had not been completed by that time but which, in the opinion of the provinces, it was altogether desirable should be carried to completion, made it necessary that an extension of time be given for this purpose, the gross costs of works thus extended being approximately \$14,778,000.

For direct relief, the expenditures of the Dominion government under the 1931 act to date amount to \$11,668,783.79, which includes \$5,288,085 to the Saskatchewan relief commission. Under the 1931 act the expenditures for public works gave employment to 583,492 individuals to the end of December, 1932, the total wages paid being \$39,532,328.42, and afforded a total of 13,274,436 man days' work.

After a survey of employment conditions in the Canadian National railway shops, it was decided to maintain operations in them so as to permit of intermittent employment being given to as large a number of employees as possible, and employment was in fact given