

Unemployment Relief

of the government to extend to the provinces any moneys to assist in marketing the products of the farm, and if so, to what extent? I would point out to the Prime Minister that so far as western Canada is concerned there are two systems of marketing at least some of the produce of the farms of western Canada. We have in existence the great co-operative organization known as the wheat pool. Then there is the organized grain trade. I do not see how we can assist both these systems in the same manner. I did have some hope, when a conference was held between the wheat pool and the present government, that something would be done by the government to help in the marketing of Canada's crop so far as the wheat pool is concerned. It is well known to the house that the banks demand of the wheat pool a margin of fifteen cents a bushel security. If the government would give some assurance to the banks, I believe that the banks could be induced to accept a smaller margin. When wheat was selling for over one dollar per bushel, it was a simple matter for the pool to take the fifteen cents a bushel from the contract signer, but when wheat gets down to as low a figure as it has reached during this crop year, it is a different matter entirely, and it seems to me that the greatest measure of relief that could be given to the farmer could be afforded in that way. It would not only help the farmer, but it would put into circulation about 25 per cent more money if the banks would be content with a margin of say five cents a bushel instead of fifteen cents. The producer on the western plain to-day is getting as his initial payment on No. 1 northern only 41 or 42 cents a bushel. It is obvious that under such conditions it is impossible for the farmer to carry on in the manner he is expected to do to-day. As was pointed out by the hon. member for Weyburn, the farmers of western Canada will have to pay their share of this \$20,000,000. I would therefore ask the Prime Minister if it is the intention of the government that the federal authorities shall administer a portion of this sum to assist in the marketing of this year's crop.

Mr. BENNETT: That does not come within the purview of the bill except for the purposes of relieving unemployment.

Mr. VALLANCE: It would be assisting in defraying the cost of distribution. Is marketing distribution, or what is it?

The CHAIRMAN: Order. I ruled that such discussion should come under the next clause.

Mr. VALLANCE: I want to know the disposition of this \$20,000,000, Mr. Chairman.

[Mr. Vallance.]

The CHAIRMAN: I would state again that the hon. member can ask for the suspension of this discussion on clause 2 if he wants to, or that the two clauses be discussed together by unanimous consent. In the meantime I am bound by the rules of the house, which declare that the bill must be discussed clause by clause.

Mr. ELLIOTT: May I ask for a ruling, Mr. Chairman, on this question? As I understand it, this bill contemplates a total expenditure of \$20,000,000. That \$20,000,000 includes all the proposals in section 3. So that the \$20,000,000 referred to in section 2 includes everything that can be done under the bill.

The CHAIRMAN: Undoubtedly; but it is not my fault that the bill is drafted in this way. We are voting \$20,000,000 now under clause 2. The means to spend that \$20,000,000 are set out in clause 3.

Mr. RALSTON: No, they are in clause 2, the last two lines.

Mr. POWER: I may repeat what has already been said. Clause 2 reads:

For the relief of unemployment, a sum not exceeding twenty million dollars is hereby appropriated and may be paid out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada for such purposes and under such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Governor in Council.

Now, it is surely competent for the members of this house to ask the government whether such and such purposes will be amongst those approved by order in council. Furthermore, in the next clause, number 3, we have these words:

Without restricting the generality of the terms of the next preceding section hereof.

It is merely an enumeration without restricting the terms and conditions of section 2. I submit in all fairness that we are entitled to discuss the matter.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member is quite right but for the fact that the hon. member (Mr. Vallance) referred especially to clause 3 as a matter of discussion.

An hon. MEMBER: And quoted it.

The CHAIRMAN: Shall clause 2 be adopted?

Mr. VALLANCE: I asked the Prime Minister a question yesterday and received no answer.

Mr. BENNETT: I answered it just now.

Mr. VALLANCE: I must beg the Prime Minister's pardon because I did not hear the answer. I have been approached by both