

lution which gives the government power to assist in defraying the cost of the sale and distribution of products of field, farm, sea, river and mine. Would the minister give us some idea of what is involved and what it is proposed to do in that regard?

Mr. GORDON: The language of this resolution, as the hon. member undoubtedly knows, was used in the bill of last session. I am not at present able to say whether or not an occasion arose where such action was taken or could have been taken. At any rate, the intention is to invest the government with power during the recess of parliament, should the occasion arise, to take any steps that are within the contemplation of the language of this section. I cannot forecast what the future may develop, and therefore I cannot give the hon. member any further information than that.

Mr. CAMPBELL: I want to make clear that I am not complaining of this provision; on the contrary, I am very glad it is there. I know that last year this particular feature of the legislation was used to assist the pools in a difficulty. I was wondering if any such thing as a bonus on wheat was contemplated under this provision this year.

Mr. LAPOINTE: The hon. minister in reply to my hon. friend from Charlevoix-Saguenay said a few moments ago that if proper steps were taken to place before the government a request for help on the part of the farmers of the province of Quebec in the matter of securing seed grain, it would be fairly dealt with. I said the other day that I had been informed that such a request had been made last year, but was not entertained. I have now the correspondence, and I find that as a matter of fact the Department of Agriculture of the province communicated with the federal Department of Agriculture and after many letters had been exchanged, was informed that they could not get anything. Later on Mr. Guimont, deputy director of unemployment relief for the provincial government, also had communication with Mr. Hereford, the dominion director of unemployment relief, with regard to this question, and there again he was informed that no help would be given so far as seed grain was concerned. The minister says that if proper steps are taken the request will be dealt with fairly. I would like to know from the minister just what he requires. What does the government need in order to view favourably the granting of help to the Quebec farmers in the way that such help has been granted elsewhere?

[Mr. Campbell.]

Mr. GORDON: I think the process is not one that is very much involved. If representations are made to the government of the province of Quebec disclosing that a condition exists in that province under which some assistance is required which the province itself is unable to take care of, and if communication is made to this government disclosing those facts, certainly the province of Quebec or any other province will not be dealt with unfairly. The same consideration, I trust, will be given to every province in Canada.

Mr. LAPOINTE: So the province has first to plead poverty or a state of destitution in order that the farmers within its borders may secure help from this government?

Mr. CASGRAIN: No answer.

Mr. KENNEDY (Winnipeg): I should like to make a few observations on this resolution, but before doing so I wish to convey to you, Mr. Chairman (Mr. LaVergne), my appreciation as one of the younger members of this house upon your return, sir, to sit again at the table and preside over the proceedings of the committee of the whole. In voicing my appreciation of your return to health and to your labours in this house, I believe I express the feelings of hon. members on both sides of the house.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. KENNEDY (Winnipeg): It is a very great pleasure to see you back again, Mr. Chairman, and looking so fit.

On the question of unemployment relief I have not during this session taken up a great deal of the time of the house. It is not my intention to do so to-day, but if my remarks are a little more extended in committee than might seem usual I hope it will be appreciated that I am speaking to this resolution under a sense of duty to the city of Winnipeg from which I come.

The problem of unemployment in the city of Winnipeg is almost unbearable. As a representative from that city it was with very considerable concern that some time ago I saw it announced in the public press that on and after May 1 last all unemployment relief measures would be confined to direct relief. I took occasion some ten days ago to remark that if such were the policy to be followed it would in my opinion be deplorable and it is therefore a matter of great satisfaction to find that the resolution as introduced into this house is couched in language indicating that the measures to be taken will not be confined to direct relief, but rather that the