

Unemployment Relief

friend does not know the source from which I take this list I may say the Prime Minister read to us a statement which he said had been prepared for the government by the Employment Service Council of Canada and it is from a report from that source that I get my information.

Mr. BENNETT: No, they arrived at certain results.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, but it was the Employment Service Council.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I have now before me a report which is published in the Labour Gazette of August, 1930. It deals with unemployment conditions as they were indicated by officers of the Employment Service Council of Canada. I am taking these classes because I assume the Employment Service Council of Canada to be familiar with the classes which were likely to be out of work. They have included under the heading of trade the retail and wholesale trades. It is possible that if there is a period of depression at all, owing to exceptional conditions, there may be many out of employment in the retail trade.

Mr. STEVENS: Will the right hon. gentleman permit a question?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. STEVENS: Does the right hon. gentleman for one moment suggest that it is impossible to supply employment to a person in some branch of activity other than that in which he has ordinarily been engaged?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, I am not suggesting that. That is exactly the information I am trying to get from the Prime Minister. I want to find out whether this \$20,000,000 is to be used for finding employment in other work for those who lose their regular employment. That was my understanding of what the \$20,000,000 was for. That was my understanding of the pledge given by the Prime Minister when he was leading his party in the recent contest, and by virtue of which he is in power to-day, that he would find work for everyone, that there would be no unemployment and no charity, but that everyone would have work who might be willing to work.

Mr. STEVENS: The right hon. gentleman is restricting his argument as if individuals had to be kept strictly within their own categories, which is nonsense.

[Mr. King.]

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: What I am seeking to do is to make perfectly clear to parliament what the classes of labour are that may be unemployed. We are going to be asked to vote \$20,000,000 to make sure that everyone has work. I want to know before supporting the resolution whether we are voting money for the purpose of securing employment for people, or whether the money is being voted simply for the purpose of furnishing relief in the form that a municipality may give relief to those who may be out of work within its own borders, and may apply for relief. That surely is a proper question and a matter to have thoroughly understood.

Mr. BENNETT: It has been answered several times.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I am just putting on record what my present understanding is of the position taken by the government at the moment. I think I have made it clear—if I am wrong, I hope to be corrected—that the government does not now intend out of this \$20,000,000 to guarantee work to everyone who may be unemployed.

An hon. MEMBER: Not to everyone.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, to everyone who is willing to work. That was the pledge.

Mr. LAPOINTE: Or he would perish in the attempt.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I ask my hon. friend another question? This special session has been called, as I understand it, to meet conditions that may prevail between now and the next session of parliament. I assume, therefore, that what is being asked in this resolution relates to expenditures that will of necessity be made between now and that time. To make it perfectly clear, I assume that this resolution, or rather the bill to be based upon it, will be restricted in its application to monies to be paid out between the present time and the 31st of March next, and that when we get into the next fiscal year any situations that may arise with respect to unemployment or other matters will be dealt with in the regular way by appropriations obtained through the committee of supply. Is that correct?

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. gentleman, I take it, is familiar with the provisions of the statutes. When you expend large sums of money, there should be parliamentary sanction for the expenditures. That has been a cardinal principle of Liberalism at least. It is for that purpose that the sanction of