

# Liberal Opposition To Unemployment Grant Scored By Mr. McLure

## Queens County Member Analyzes Liberal Arguments And Shows Inconsistency Of Mr. A. E. McLean's Statements Respecting Implementation Of Duncan Report.

The following speech on the proposed two months' extension of the operation of the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act was delivered in the House of Commons, Ottawa, on March 18th by Mr. W. Chester S. McLure, M.P.

Mr. McLURE (Queens): "Mr. Speaker, it was not my intention to speak on this resolution, but according to Hansard the hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacLean) in the course of his speech last night said: 'I see my friends from Prince Edward Island on the other side and I know they will agree with every word I say.'

I think the hon. member was taking a lot for granted in making that statement. While I do not know how many members on this side of the house will agree with him—and I am not interested in how many on the other side may share his views—in his attempt to justify the blocking of this resolution and consequent interference with the government in its endeavor to relieve unemployment, I say emphatically that I do not agree with his remarks with respect to several matters relating to Prince Edward Island. Later on I shall give my reasons for this disagreement.

The debate on this resolution has partaken of a character quite different from what I had anticipated. At first I thought the resolution would be discussed from the constitutional point of view, and that the great legal minds from both sides of the house would enlighten us on this issue; but the debate soon became diverted of all its legal robes and in a short time became clothed in a distinctly political garb. This has resulted in the debate covering a wide field, and several hon. members, especially on the opposite side, have seized the opportunity to put political propaganda on Hansard, for the benefit of their constituents. Whether I choose to follow the constitutional line or the political, or whether I discuss the resolution strictly on its merits, I expect that the latitude accorded to other members will be accorded to me also.

### Liberal Obstruction

I have listened to this debate for hours and hours, yes, for days and days, and now almost for weeks, and the more speeches I listen to from the other side of the house the more I am impressed with the sincerity of our hon. friends opposite in their stubborn adherence to their traditional attitude towards relief of the unemployed and the unfortunate of this country. The right hon. leader of the opposition (Mr. Mackenzie King) led off with a severe criticism of the manner in which the relief has been administered under the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act, and each of his supporters were followed him carried on the same line of attack. All seem to be imbued with the one idea—to stop the passing of any measure for further relief. Their whole object seems to be to obstruct the government in its endeavor to enact further legislation for the benefit of those of our unemployed countrymen who are out of employment and in need as a result of this world-wide depression. Even admitting the sincerity of our hon. friends opposite—and they certainly demonstrated it as each one took up the cudgels for his party—I cannot understand their uncompromising opposition except on the ground that they are determined to adhere to their time-honoured policy of "not a nickel for the Canadian unemployed." That is their policy, apparently, and their stick-at-it-iveness dates back many years. I have been in this house only since 1926, but during that session the Liberal party argued strongly against any form of relief, they adopted the same course in the session of 1931, and now in this session they are still running true to form and proclaiming their favourite policy, namely, "not a nickel for the Canadian unemployed or those in distress."

Several hon. members have informed the house how the Unemployment and Farm Relief Act has worked out in their constituencies. Last night the hon. member for Prince (Mr. MacLean) touched on this subject very gingerly with reference to the province of Prince Edward Island. He made a few remarks about unemployment in that province and said some complaints had been made with reference to the work carried on, but he said he

did not know whether or not the complaints were well founded. I believe the hon. member knew very well that the unemployment relief work in his constituency, and in the Island in general, was carried out solely in the interests of the unemployed and the deserving, and that it was absolutely satisfactory. With reference to the constituency of Queens, which I have the honour to represent, the relief work and the resulting benefits to the unemployed were simply godsend in a time of distress.

### Grant Administered Fairly

The proportion of federal funds allocated to Prince Edward Island was small in comparison with that allotted the other provinces, but possibly this was due to the fact that ours is an agricultural province and did not have so many unemployed as the industrial provinces had. But we did have unemployment; when we did get our allotment it was a great help to those people who were anxious to work, and we had very satisfactory results indeed. The people in my constituency and throughout the entire province as well were loud in their praise of the Department of Labour and the federal government with regard to the way in which the relief measures were carried out; every dollar of money coming from the federal government, the provincial government and the municipalities was spent entirely in the best interests of those who were unemployed, and there was no question of creed, class or politics when a man was looking for work. If he was out of work and in need of local government and its committee in charge asked no questions as to whether the man was a Grit or a Tory; they simply gave him what work was available, and everyone seemed quite satisfied with the way this work was carried out.

Some hon. member speaking in the House the other day made the statement that this money was wasted. I do not believe the hon. gentleman really meant that, because I claim that any money spent for the benefit of the poor and needy is not money wasted, but is a gracious act on the part of whatever government granted that money. In 1931 we had a Conservative government in Prince Edward Island and certainly they fully cooperated with the federal government, but in 1930 there was a Liberal government in power in that province. I want to be just as fair to the Liberals as I am to the Conservatives; I believe that in the expenditure of unemployment relief moneys in 1930—and I will speak for my own country in particular—the Liberal government did the very best they could and were absolutely fair in the distribution of work. I think it ill behooves anyone from Prince Edward Island to say that a man had to be of the proper political complexion in order to get work, because the facts show that any man seeking labour found it if work was available at all, irrespective of politics.

### Mr. MacLean Answered

Last night the hon. member for Prince also placed on Hansard some remarks with reference to local conditions in Prince Edward Island. There was one statement I have heard him make time and time again, it was with reference to the generosity of the late Liberal government so far as the province of Prince Edward Island was concerned. I think the hon. member brought out that old chestnut last year, and in case he repeats it again, often that he begins to believe it himself I should like to make a little comparison in this connection. I am sure when we compare the grants made to Prince Edward Island by different governments we will see that the generosity of the Liberal government was not so great as the hon. member for Prince would endeavor to have us believe. I should like briefly to compare the federal grants to my province in the year 1922-23 and the year 1929-30. The statutory subsidy was \$381,931.00 in both years; it is fixed by the British North America Act and will remain the same until that act is changed. In 1922-23 the highway grant amounted to \$106,277.01, but in 1929-30 this grant was discontinued by the Liberal government. In 1922-23 the grant for agricultural

instruction and technical education amounted to \$37,607.68, while in 1929-30 that grant was cut to \$22,117.30. So we see that in 1922-23, as a result of legislation passed by a Conservative government, Prince Edward Island received a total grant of \$525,816.57, while in 1929-30 the total grant was \$404,049.18. Even if we include the interim payment of \$125,000, granted in lieu of the fulfillment of the recommendations of the Duncan report, we find that under a Liberal government in Ottawa the province was very little better off than it was in 1922-23.

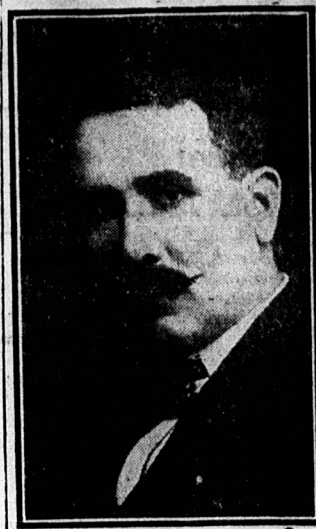
### Scores Liberal Inconsistency

During the course of his remarks the hon. member stated that the Duncan report had not been implemented by the Prince Edward Island government, and he intimated that the Conservative government of that province should have come to Ottawa in order to see that the recommendations of the report were carried out. During the election campaign of 1930, the candidates of the Liberal party in our province went from one end of the country to the other, declaring that the Duncan report had been implemented one hundred per cent. Now the hon. member for Prince goes back on that statement for he is urging upon the government of Prince Edward Island that they come to Ottawa and have the report implemented. That was their campaign policy in 1930, and I repeat emphatically that nothing has ever been done for Prince Edward Island from a political point of view, nor have any grants ever been made to that province, except through legislation put upon the statute books of the country by the Conservative party in power in Ottawa. I will admit that the Liberal government gave us an interim grant of \$125,000 in lieu of the Duncan commission's report, but that was made to our province as a political gesture prior to the election. We were told during the election campaign that the Liberal government at Ottawa had a large audit committee figuring out the great grant that was to be given to Prince Edward Island. We heard this all through the campaign of 1930, and one would have thought listening to the Liberal candidates on that occasion, that half of the civil servants of Ottawa were employed on this audit committee. One night I challenged one of the candidates on the platform; I told him the facts regarding the matter and I said to him on that occasion that it was only Liberal political bunk they were handing out for election purposes. I was told then that it would be my fault if no further grant came from Ottawa, because I had described this audit committee as bunk. However, we do not expect at the present time any further implementing of the report under the conditions that exist, but as soon as any signs of improvement are noticeable we shall expect, and we know that we shall receive, the fullest implementing of the Duncan report not only with respect to the Maritimes generally but so far as our own province in particular is concerned.

### Serious Situation

The unemployment problem is one of the most serious that the world has ever known. In this house we have heard many speeches on the unemployment situation, but we should all take into consideration one thing, and apart from politics it should be the endeavor of every hon. member to work out some solution whereby the problem may be met in this fair Canada of ours. The other day, speaking in this House, the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Heenan), said a great many things with reference to unemployment and labour, condemning the Conservative party, and the policy of the present government with regard to this question. As reported at page 485 of Hansard, he said:

"I know that my hon. friends on the other side are all recently converted to the idea of doing something for the working man." We will take that for what it is worth, but I regret to say that the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River and his followers have a long way yet to go on the road to Damascus before the scales will fall from their eyes and their conversion will



MR. W. CHESTER S. McLURE, M.P.

take place in connection with the unemployment situation in Canada. It is all very well to criticize the government and their policy on unemployment, but it would be worth while, if we had time, to study the attitude of the present opposition towards this problem. It is not necessary, however, to go over all this ancient history; suffice it to say that, through the press and Hansard, future generations will know just what attitude the Liberal government took towards the unemployment situation and those who were in distress in this country. Their policy with regard to the unemployment was simply this—not a nickel of aid to those in distress.

### A Growing Problem

Canada has always had a certain amount of seasonal unemployment, but from 1924 down to the year 1930 the unemployment problem had been going from bad to worse throughout the length and breadth of this country. We recall the climax that was reached in February, 1930, when the mayors of the leading towns, from Sydney on the Atlantic to Vancouver on the Pacific, and especially in midwestern Canada, came to Ottawa. These chief magistrates were supported by labor organizations, churches and various societies engaged in relief work. They could not cope with the situation and therefore came to Ottawa and pleaded the cause of the unemployed. They tried to get some relief from the then government. What happened? The hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River, who was then Minister of Labour, and the government of which he was a member, turned a deaf ear to the pleadings on behalf of the unemployed and the needy. The government of that day preferred to go on with their bungling trade policies and so did not lend any aid to the unemployed in 1930. I mention this climax to show that unemployment has been a growing problem in Canada over a number of years; it is a problem which was bequeathed to this government by the late administration after the election of 1930. Besides world conditions which have been a cause of unemployment, the factors next in importance, contributing to the present situation, have been, so far as Canada is concerned, the trade policies of the late government.

### Liberal Bungling

Let us consider the immigration policy of the late administration, especially as it affected unemployment. During the nine years they were in power they brought into this country over 1,250,000 people to replace the labour of almost the same number of our own people. While we have no objection to immigrants entering our country, we do object to their coming in when there is not sufficient work for our own people. Why bring in other people at such tremendous cost to the country? During those years about \$26,000,000 was spent on immigration. What effect did it have? It had the effect of driving out of Canada over one million people; these men and women left Canada to seek employment in other countries. When conditions got bad in the United States and the other countries to which these people had gone, many of them were forced to return to Canada and they are being included in our unemployment lists.

The trade policy of the former administration proved to have a very bad effect upon the employment situation. Their policy was one of flirting with free trade, and they paid no attention to what effect it might have on home conditions. Because of this policy hundreds of factories have been closed during the past ten years, and thousands of workmen thrown out of employment. We are proud to say that the immigration and trade policies of the present administration have proven to be most satisfactory. The hon. Minister of Labour (Mr. Gordon) has made the statement that the influx into this country practically had ceased and it would not be allowed to commence until such times

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as Canada could take care of her own unemployed. Hon. members of the opposition should give credit to this government for the inauguration of new policies with reference to immigration and trade. Under these policies industry is again starting to develop and we are looking to the time in the very near future when it will be able to take care of all who are unemployed at present.

### Cites Liberal Party Government

Canada has had to face problems before but she has always endeavored to work them out to the best possible advantage. One must have faith in a country with great natural resources, and I have faith in Canada. I have the greatest faith in the government in having an administration which can take care of the problems facing the country and solve them to the advantage of the unemployed. I was interested in an editorial which appeared the other evening in the Ottawa Citizen, and from which I shall quote in part. This paper, apparently having sensed public opinion with regard to this debate which has been continuing for so long, says:

"It is safe to say that the majority of Canadian people are more concerned with Mr. Bennett's efforts to find the way out for Canada than with the Liberal party's protests about the rights of parliament as the controlling authority of government."

And again: "Without worrying too much about the opposition's constitutional criticism, they may well look to Premier Bennett to go on trying to carry out the mandate given to him to abolish the evil condition of unemployment in Canada."

The opposition to this legislation is causing the greatest distress to the unemployed and needy throughout the country. As far as I am concerned, this opposition can continue for weeks, but it would be better for those who oppose and for the country generally if they would say what their stand is with reference to unemployment. From the speeches which have been made from the other side, we know that they are opposed to the granting of any relief at the present time.

Mr. POULIOT: No, not at all. Mr. McLURE: We have heard from one county only.

Mr. POULIOT: I am speaking for all. Mr. McLURE: They should cooperate to see that employment and relief are given, and they might well join those on this side and be a party to the granting of relief to the unemployed.

Motor bus and railway services in Manchuria are to be developed extensively. FILLERS

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### NOTICE!

EDWARDS & COMPANY LIMITED AND THE VOLUNTARY WINDING UP ACT. Notice is hereby given that at a general meeting of the shareholders of Edwards & Company Limited, duly called for the purpose and held in the Queen Hotel in Summerside on 23rd March, 1932, resolutions were unanimously passed as follows: 1. "That in the opinion of the shareholders of Edwards & Company Limited, it is advisable that the affairs of the Company be wound up voluntarily under the provisions of the Voluntary Winding-up Act, and be it therefore resolved that the affairs of the Company be wound up accordingly." 2. "That Austin A. Scales of Summerside be appointed Liquidator of the said Company for such winding up." 3. "That Daniel F. MacNeill and James Lawless be appointed Inspectors to confer and advise with the Liquidator in the winding-up of the Company's affairs." AUSTIN A. SCALES, Liquidator. 1701-12

### CENTRAL GUARDIAN

ARENA—Skating this afternoon. 1702-11

DELICIOUS OVEN BAKED pork and beans in containers, 20c qt., 12c pt., at Stewart's Bakery Saturday. 1708-11

TONIGHT, CANTATA — Stainer's Crucifixion at Zion Church. Silver collection. 1712-11

ARENA—Skating this afternoon. 1702-11

ATTENTION IS CALLED to fine display of Easter novelties in the window of J. Ernest H. Worth's Drug Store. 1704-11

SUNDAY SERVICES—New Glasgow Church of Christ: Morning at 11 a. m.; Evening at 7.30 p. m. Service in the Frederickton Church at 3.00 p. m. Wm. G. Quigley, Minister.

DELICIOUS OVEN BAKED pork and beans in containers, 20c qt., 12c pt., at Stewart's Bakery Saturday. 1708-11

ARENA—Skating this afternoon. 1702-11

BROOKFIELD SERVICES — In the Brookfield congregation on Sunday March 27, will be Hartsville 11 a. m. Brookfield 7 p. m. and Clyde River 4 p. m. Sunday School at 2 p. m.

EASTER BEEF—When passing P. J. MacDonald's store drop in and see his display of Easter beef. A special eleven months old steer fed by Mr. Smith of Wheatley River, dressed over 500 pounds of beef, the best in the City. 1711-11

ST. PETERS CATHEDRAL EASTER DAY — 7 o'clock Holy Communion, 8 o'clock Holy Communion, 11 o'clock Sung Eucharist with procession and sermon, 7 p. m. Evensong, sermon, procession and solemn Te Deum. Special music at both services.

RECEIVES BURNS—The firemen were called out about 1.30 Thursday afternoon for a slight fire at the Elm Apartments, corner of Elm Ave. and Chestnut Street. Mrs. Reeves, who was using gasoline to clean some clothes when it in some way caught fire, received some burns about the face and hands.

FORUM—Last game of season, Abbies vs. Amherst, tonight at 8.45 1707-11

FLIES FROM SUMMERSIDE—On Thursday afternoon Mr. S. T. Gallant of the Department of Fisheries was flown from Summerside to Charlottetown by Pilot Jones, the trip being made in the fast time of 20 minutes. Mr. Gallant reported visibility fine; the shores on both sides of the Island could be seen.

FORUM—Band this afternoon (Good Friday), 2.30 to 4.30. 1701-11

RED AND WHITE—The March issue of "Red and White," the quarterly magazine of the students of St. Dunstan's University, has appeared and, as usual, is distinguished by its neat appearance and the variety and interest of the articles contributed. Editorially, the magazine extends sympathy to the faculty and student body of Prince of Wales College in the difficulties encountered as a result of the destruction of the College building and equipment. Of P. W. C. as an institution, the editors of Black and White have this to say: "Long were imparted within its walls the elements of true education and far-flung over the world are those who feel a kindly debt of gratitude and hold a warm place in their hearts for Old Prince of Wales." This is a fine tribute, generously inspired and creditable to all concerned.

"Just as some politicians claim credit for good crops, other politicians will blame hard times on their opponents."—Benito Mussolini.

"There is a German proverb which says that any one can get used to being hanged."—Albert Einstein.

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Picnic Hams ..... 15c Per Lb.

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### News Gathering And Publishing Subject Of Talk

Last night's meeting of the Y's Men's Club was under the chairmanship of Dr. Lawson. Y's Man Ken Ross was speaker for the evening, giving a very interesting and informative talk on newspapers. Y's Man Dr. Lawson introduced Mr. Lord and Y's Man W. Campbell introduced Mr. L. W. Roper. Mr. Chairman and fellow Y's Men: My talk this evening is about something which is familiar to all of us. And yet I believe we regard it as something more or less taken for granted, as we take our food and sleep. We've all heard the riddle, black and white and read all over and the answer is a newspaper. That is the subject of my talk. It may seem strange to us but the first paper ever written appeared in Peking in 1350 A. D. The first English paper to appear was the Weekly News in 1622. On the American continent Public Occurrences was written in 1690, a monthly paper. One of the oldest papers which we read today is the S. E. Post which is 303 years old, began in 1729. All of us have a fair idea about how the paper used in making newspaper is made. We all know that it is made from the wood of trees and in Canada the manufacture of wood pulp is a major industry. However 89% of the newsprint made in Canada is sold to the United States and in many cases these pulp and paper mills are owned or controlled by large publishing houses. McFadden Publications have hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in Canadian Pulp and Paper Mills. We go home at night, sit down and read the paper. On one page we read about a hunger strike in New York and the next page is telling us about the Geneva Conference or the Sino-Japanese war. Every paper is anxious to give the very latest and if we were living in some large city about every hour an extra appears. To go into the edition of a big city paper would take up too much time but we can get some conception of the work. A city paper has an editor-in-chief, a city editor with a staff of reporters and each department must have an editor with more reporters. More than this every paper carries a number of pictures and this work is in charge of expert cameramen who will hesitate at nothing in order to get pictures. These reporters are sent out daily to get material. Some reporters cover the city, others the country and in some cases we find reporters in all parts of the world. New York paper sent Floyd Gibbons to China to cover the Sino-Japanese war. Reporters are sent on all Polar Expeditions, in fact everywhere there is something going on. The cameramen for these papers face all sorts of dangers to get pictures, e.g. the Snyder electrocution. Some of the material is contributed. Nearly every writer has begun his career as a reporter. Many of the English Classics are collections of daily and weekly contributions to some paper or magazine. H. G. Wells, Edgar Wallace, C. G. D. Roberts and many other writers had their start to literary prominence as reporters, and contributors to the Weekly News in 1852.

### WESTERN GUARDIAN

—SKILFUL OPERATION—Mrs. Joseph F. Arsenault, an elderly resident of Brae Harbour, whose arm was fractured in several places when she was kicked by a horse, assisting her husband to hitch the animal to the sleigh, was very skillfully operated on in Prince County Hospital on Wednesday, a bone plating operation being necessary on account of the many fractures. Mrs. Arsenault is now resting quite comfortably.—S.

—COLLEGE STUDENTS HOME FOR EASTER—Summerside Depot presented a merry scene on Wednesday evening when the students returning from the various colleges on the mainland and from Prince of Wales College were greeted by their relatives and friends. Students from Mount Allison, Acadia and Dalhousie were among the number. There was a great many bound for western points.

### PERSONALS

—Senator Creelman MacArthur, of Summerside, has returned from Ottawa for the Easter recess.—S.

—Miss Evelyn McLure returned to her home in Linkletter Road on Thursday after spending a pleasant visit with friends in Charlottetown.—S.

—Mr. Oliver Ryder, of Muddy Creek, was a visitor to Summerside on Wednesday.—S.

—Mr. Fidele Martin, of St. Louis is undergoing treatment in the Prince County Hospital.—S.

—Miss Norma Colbeck, of the Halifax Ladies' College, is spending the Easter vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Colbeck.—S.

—Mrs. George Robinson and Miss Betty Robinson, who are at present in Charlottetown, were week end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Morley M. Bell.—S.

—Miss Jean Williams, of Charlottetown, is visiting friends in Summerside for the Easter vacation.—S.

—Miss Blanche MacLean, principal of the Summerside Business College, is spending the Easter holidays at her home in Lot 16.—S.

—Miss Helen Holman, who is attending Netherwood School, Rousesay, N. B., is spending the Easter recess with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. LeRoy Holman, Summerside.—S.

Time

—Miss Mary, I saw a man kissing you at the back door last night. Was it the postman or the policeman? —Maid—Was it before 8 o'clock, or after?

—To a great extent the circulation depends on the front page and if the headlines are sensational enough or the pictures attractive, the public will buy. Take the Lindbergh kidnapping. A great deal depends on the advertising. To get advertising and if per must have circulation and if a paper has circulation it costs to advertise. The first advertising was in the Weekly News in 1852.