

REEVE D. J. ALLAN ADDRESSES CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT

A conference on the unemployment situation was held in the Parliament Buildings yesterday forenoon, presided over by Premier John Bracken. The conference was attended by representatives of cities, towns, suburban and rural municipalities. Among the speakers was Reeve D. J. Allan, of East Kildonan, who spoke on behalf of the suburban municipalities.

Absolute necessity of the Dominion increasing its percentage of aid in unemployment relief was emphasized repeatedly at the conference, attended by 208 delegates. Claims were made that out of a population of 48,641 in seven suburbs of Winnipeg, that by fall fully 25 per cent. of the population including dependents, would be without means of support.

Addressing the conference, Reeve Allan said a census of the suburbs showed 22.5 per cent. unemployed. There was every reason to believe that this would increase to 30 per cent. by Oct. 1. Not only would there be more unemployed but hundreds now unemployed, as yet not asking for relief would have to be aided next winter because their reserves would be exhausted.

The suburbs would have been unable to pay even 20 per cent. of their share of relief last winter, he said, had not the provincial government stepped in and bought the bond issues of the suburbs. Now they were unable to borrow any more money to carry on.

Out of 12,000 homes representing the unemployed in the suburbs, the average paid out in relief was \$13 a home since last October. He estimated that next winter relief needed on the same basis would be two and a half times greater.

The census had disclosed that a large percentage of those requiring relief were unnaturalized people who had immigrated to Canada within the past two years, and a large number had drifted in from rural areas, increasing the burden.