

*Employment Commission*

of work so that as of a given date we may have reliable data on which to work at some future time, in regard to how many people are really unemployed in this dominion.

Mr. ROGERS: I may say that when we were making the arrangements for the preliminary registration and classification of those on relief the committee which drew up the forms for that purpose gave consideration also to the suggestion that we should secure a classification of all those who were unemployed, including those on relief, but the decision reached by the committee was that a compulsory registration, which would involve not only considerable expense but also, possibly, the imposition of penalties if it was to be effective, would be the only means of securing that information in complete detail. As I assured my hon. friend, we fully realize the importance of getting statistics with regard to the unemployed who are not on relief. My impression is that the existing machinery of the employment offices in the various provinces would probably supply what would be necessary in that regard, and I will say quite definitely that we will try to get that information as soon as possible.

Mr. HEAPS: I am much obliged to the minister. As a further suggestion he might bear in mind what was mooted yesterday by the hon. member for Kootenay East (Mr. Stevens) that is, in case that is not done or is not feasible, the question of this new quinquennial census on the prairies might be taken into consideration.

Mr. ROGERS: I shall be very glad to do so. I think the quinquennial census would afford an opportunity of securing that information in the western provinces.

Mr. McIVOR: This is a very important point. Not long ago I addressed six hundred single unemployed; in the case of perhaps fifty per cent of them their folks would be on relief; but we know a good many whose parents are not on relief. I am sorry the hon. member for Témiscouata (Mr. Pouliot) has left his seat; for I should like to congratulate him on his splendid speech—we could hear him. He is right when he says that we have to use common sense. I was just thinking what common sense is. Common sense to that hon. member might not be common sense to the leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation. Common sense to an Irishman would not be common sense to a coloured gentleman. But if he agrees that common sense is Christian common sense then I agree with him. Then we shall have absolute honesty and fair play and unselfishness. I am sure the Minister of Labour will find hearty

[Mr. Heaps.]

support of this bill throughout the length and breadth of Canada. It is a step in the right direction.

Mr. MacNEIL: I understand it is the intention of the minister to table at this stage a general outline of the form of questionnaire which is now being used in connection with the compilation of statistics required by the commission. There are three points in regard to which I should like some assurance. First, will the statistics that are now being compiled indicate the ratio of technological unemployment to general unemployment? Second, under this registration what will be the test for unemployability? Has the minister anything in mind as to some uniform test throughout the dominion? In reporting under this scheme of registration will it be possible to escape from the very haphazard methods now prevalent? Third, will the general inquiry enable the compilation of data that will eventually be required by the veterans' assistance commission? Will there be any segregation of statistics dealing with the special problems of ex-service men which undoubtedly will be required by the veterans' assistance commission? I hardly suppose a special inquiry will be undertaken for that commission, but it seems desirable that in the general inquiry certain statistics should be secured bearing upon that special feature.

Mr. ROGERS: In the debate on second reading of this bill I think the same question was put to me, as to whether it would be possible to obtain figures differentiating cyclical unemployment and technological unemployment. I made inquiry at the bureau of statistics and was informed that up to this time no figures have been collected which would indicate a separation on the basis suggested. I was further informed that there are very serious practical difficulties in the way of arriving at that kind of differentiation. I am not prepared to say that those difficulties are insurmountable.

In answer to the second question, as to the distinction between employable and unemployables, I explained to the house on second reading that we had accepted perforce the definition of unemployability adopted by the municipalities and provinces. We have not sought to lay down a hard and fast definition. We have reason to believe that the municipalities have used physical or mental unfitness as a criterion of unemployability. I would take it that in connection with this whole task of registration and classification the commission itself, as a result of the experience gained thus far and to be gained later, will be able to discover ways and means of improving