

as it is something that is being dealt with constantly in the provinces of the country. Nearly every province now has its Workmen's Compensation Act, and disabled persons, persons whose disablement arises out of accidents in industry, are taken care of under that act. Most of them receive annuities for the rest of their lives if they are incapacitated for useful employment. On the other hand, to charge this commission with responsibility for employment for disabled persons is to overburden an already overburdened commission, because that function is one which is now discharged and has been discharged for years by the governments of the provinces, and no cooperation with respect to disabled persons is, in my judgment, essential or necessary having regard to what we know of the real circumstances in connection with disablement. The blind represent a special class with which parliament has partly dealt on many occasions, but that is primarily a matter for the provinces and many of them have enacted legislation undertaking to deal with the matter in a specific way if the parliament of Canada gives them the needed assistance. I will not delay the bill so far as that is concerned, but I do point out that in its very nature this is a class with which this commission cannot properly deal if it discharges the other duties that rest upon it under the legislation.

Mr. TUCKER: I understand that in the forms that are to be sent out for the purpose of securing the desired information with respect to unemployment there is no special reference to the veterans of the last war. It is proposed to set up a veterans' assistance commission, and I was wondering whether the minister had considered sending out at the same time a form which would enable the government to obtain information with regard to the possibility of employing returned soldiers or on the other hand with regard to their unemployability. It would be very helpful to the functioning of the veterans' assistance commission if such a form were included with the others.

Mr. ROGERS: A similar question was put to me this afternoon and my answer, as I recall it, was that in the collection of this information and the classification of the unemployed on relief the national employment commission would cooperate with the veterans' assistance commission. At present, as my hon. friend is aware, the Department of Pensions and National Health distributes relief to pensioners who are unemployed and who are dependent upon the state for assist-

ance; but I do not think that this department has information with regard to the unemployment of ex-service men who are not pensioners. I can assure my hon. friend that his suggestion will be given consideration.

Paragraph agreed to.

On paragraph (1)—National development plan.

Mr. BENNETT: This seems to me to limit the recommendation to one plan. I do not say that in any technical sense, but in the way in which the paragraph is written it looks as if it contemplates one plan. I will not say anything more than I said the other day in this regard.

Mr. HAYHURST: I agree with other hon. members who have spoken of the genial Minister of Labour; I believe he is putting forward this measure in all sincerity. I would suggest one or two matters that might come under this particular head. I do not know whether the first suggestion is a long-range plan, but I understand that the meridian line between Saskatchewan and Alberta has not been properly surveyed and cut out and I think that this would be one piece of work at any rate that might be undertaken and completed in the near future. This afternoon we heard a good deal about roads. In my opinion a great highway should be built across Canada and paved, and that would be a long-range plan. Some people have suggested that we should construct roads up through the different provinces, north and south, but I think it would be wise to build one highway across Canada, have it paved and link it up with two or three paved roads connecting with the United States so as to bring in tourist traffic. It seems to me that our trouble in Canada has been that we have had too many petty ideas about building roads into every nook and cranny. We have overexpanded and it is time that we concentrated on great projects.

If hon. members will bear with me I will give them an illustration of the work that is being done with regard to the rehabilitation of farmers in western Canada. Many farmers have been brought from the dried-out areas and settled in my district on land which is sandy, land which was originally treed with spruce, pine and poplar, and these people have gone to work to clear this land. They cannot raise decent vegetables upon it; their wheat is killed in blossom; and because of such conditions we have, on the outskirts of