

sphere, and expect as a parliament to have any influence in this direction, we shall have to make first a definite clean-up of our own house. I have often felt, and I suppose it is natural shyness about approaching certain people which has prevented me from following the impulse, that I should personally approach the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and ask them to use their great personal influence with their followers to try to do away with this deadly evil. By common consent we say in this house that patronage or political partisanship should not apply to relief work, and yet in the same breath we say that it is quite natural that patronage should apply in public works. Well, public works and relief works are financed by the taxpayer's money—Liberal, Conservative, socialist, cooperative commonwealth, communist and what-not—and if it is wrong to allow patronage in relief works it is equally wrong in public works. So that until we are prepared to go the whole way and abolish all patronage the evil will grow despite the sporadic efforts we make to scotch it now and then. I appeal to those who have great influence in their parties, such as the Minister of Labour, the Prime Minister and many others on the other side of the house as well as the leader of the opposition and the hon. member for St. Lawrence-St. George, who are all, I am quite satisfied, opposed to this policy, to use their great influence with their party followers in order to eradicate this evil from our political life.

Mr. GREEN: What coordination is there in the work of the employment offices in the different provinces?

Mr. ROGERS: The expenditures of the dominion government under the Employment Offices Coordination Act are applied to the maintenance of an office in Ottawa which acts as a clearing house for the records in the different provinces. We have also undertaken, under the special arrangement following the war, whereby certain placement officers were attached to a number of offices in the larger cities, to give special assistance to disabled war veterans. Our expenditures are confined to these two functions: the maintenance of an office here, which is a clearing house for information from the provincial employment offices, and the special provision of these placement officers.

Mr. GREEN: We might help to solve this problem of the transient unemployed by having employment offices say in Ontario in close touch with the offices in British Columbia. There may be opportunities here to take

care of some of these men. Is there no system of cooperation between the offices in the different provinces?

Mr. ROGERS: There is cooperation particularly between adjoining provinces, and in addition to that information is supplied by the federal office, which receives data from the employment offices in all of the provinces.

Mr. BENNETT: There is practically no shifting of labour in this country.

Mr. ROGERS: Mobility of labour has suffered greatly, partly as a result of relief regulations.

Mr. GREEN: Is there any way in which the cooperation could be improved? Could parliament not do something to strengthen it? It would help a great deal in regard to the transient unemployed problem.

Mr. ROGERS: I know of no handicap suffered by the transient in applying for employment in a particular province. There is no restriction, apart from provincial public works, which would prevent transients securing employment generally within a province. If such a transient came from Manitoba to Ontario and applied at a branch of the employment service, he would, as I understand it, be under no disability as compared with residents of the province in his application for work.

Mr. GREEN: The unemployed cannot go to an employment office in Vancouver and ascertain whether there is work in Manitoba, under the present arrangement.

Mr. ROGERS: There is really no difficulty in the Vancouver office securing that information because the dominion office exists in part for that purpose, and it would need simply a telegraphic request for information.

Mr. CAHAN: The fact is that there is a dearth of employment for the so-called transients. I am not speaking in any way as lauding my own efforts, but for twenty years I have known a great number of young men growing up from boyhood and they throng my office to seek employment. Take the months of August and September and early October of last year. I believe I could have secured employment for 2,000 young men if I could have found them—young men with such training in manual employment that they could perform elementary work in the mechanical trades in the operation of machines. But there is now no way in which they can secure employment. Most of the employers are willing to give employment, but under the existing trade union arrangements and agreements they are not able to take them on as