

invalidity which exist in various countries, also a memorandum of information relative to systems of voluntary sickness insurance and benefits which have been developed in this country. The Director of the Employment Service of Canada furnished the Committee with an outline of the operations of the free employment offices which have been established by the Provincial Governments in sixty-four centres throughout the Dominion, and which are assisted by a Federal grant. Witnesses appeared before the Committee on behalf of organized labour, Public Welfare Associations, and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and expressed the views of their respective organizations on the subject matter of reference.

The Deputy Minister of Justice gave evidence on the question of the respective jurisdiction of the Dominion and Provincial Governments regarding unemployment, sickness and invalidity.

While the time at the disposal of your Committee has been too short to make as comprehensive a report as the importance of this matter demands, your Committee submits the following recommendations:—

1. That the necessity of providing some method of unemployment insurance is one that will inevitably have to be dealt with before long, as a solution, in part, of the industrial problems of the present day.

2. That we accept and endorse the principle of unemployment insurance, based on compulsory contributions derived from the State, the Employer and the Employee. In this connection, we would point out that a somewhat similar decision was arrived at by a Royal Commission on Industrial Relations, which dealt with this subject in 1919.

3. That the evidence of the Justice Department makes it clear that the responsibility for such legislation rests on the Provincial authorities, it being within their jurisdiction under the provisions of the B.N.A. Act, but that it would be within the power of Parliament to contribute, by grant, to such Provinces as adopted such legislation, following the precedent set in the matter of Technical Education, Highway Construction and, more recently, the Old Age Pension Act.

4. That, whereas the conditions of unemployment vary so much more from Province to Province, than those relating to old age, it would be very desirable, for the success of any plan of unemployment insurance that several of the Provinces should be willing to act simultaneously. In view of these circumstances, we are of the opinion that this matter should be referred to the various provinces, to ascertain which of them would be prepared to consider adopting legislation of this character, and to what extent.

5. On the very important subject of the cost of unemployment insurance your Committee has experienced great difficulty in arriving at any definite conclusion owing to the lack of data as to the amount of unemployment, either constant or occasional in character. There appears to be no definite method of ascertaining the unemployment at any given point for any length of time. We, therefore, recommend that the Government immediately devise some means whereby the amount of the unemployment, over a period of a year, could reasonably be calculated.

6. That as unemployment insurance has been in operation for a number of years in Great Britain, and has recently been thoroughly investigated by a strong committee, and the system reorganized on the basis of their report, your Committee would suggest to the Government the advisability of obtaining from Great Britain expert advice on the subject which would be of service in the formulation of a plan or plans suitable to conditions in Canada, and in arriving at the approximate cost.