

Unemployment Insurance

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I accept the minister's statement without reserve. Stress has been laid upon the fact that this is an important executive position. The chairman and the other commissioners should be highly qualified. The chairman should be a man of talent, a student and a proven administrator. He should be paid a decent salary. I understand Colonel Harrington was paid \$10,000 a year, and if my memory serves me aright, the other commissioners received \$8,000 a year. This position is on the plane of that of a deputy minister, some of whom receive as much as \$15,000. I am not suggesting that that be paid, but I do say that these commissioners should receive decent salaries.

Mr. McLARTY: I agree without hesitation with everything the leader of the opposition has said.

Section agreed to.

On section 10—Officers and other employees of commission.

Mr. SENN: How many employees will be needed when the commission is fully organized?

Mr. McLARTY: We believe it will require a total of 3,200.

Mr. MacNICOL: That would include all the employees in the labour offices?

Mr. McLARTY: Yes.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): On another occasion I referred to this section, which reads:

Such officers, clerks and other employees as are necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the commission shall be appointed or employed in the manner authorized by law.

I suggest that the phrase "in the manner authorized by law," is either ambiguous or open to more than one interpretation. I suggest that the section which was in the 1935 act is much to be preferred. That is section 8, subsection 1, and it reads:

The commission may, subject to the approval of the governor in council, employ such officers, clerks and employees for the purposes of this act as the commission may determine, and all appointments of officers, clerks and employees so employed by the commission shall be made in pursuance of the Civil Service Act.

I suggest to the minister that that is a sound enactment, and that the phrase, "in the manner authorized by law," be amended to read "in pursuance of the Civil Service Act." There is nothing to prevent the government and the commission from putting a different interpretation upon the phrase in the bill unless it is specifically stated that the appointments shall be made in the manner prescribed by the Civil Service Act. I submit that there

[Mr. McLarty.]

is a loophole through which the government can crawl if they want to. Perhaps I should withdraw that word "crawl"; the minister, like myself, is too large to crawl through a hole. But the words, "in the manner authorized by law" should be given a definite meaning, and I suggest that the ministers adopt section 8, subsection 1, of the old act, which is clear, unambiguous and not open to any misinterpretation, and does not leave any loophole. I wish the ministers would say that they will give further consideration to that suggestion. I think it is important, and this is the one section in the bill to which I take exception.

Mr. McLARTY: In connection with the remarks of my hon. friend—I know that he mentioned this matter in a previous debate—at the time the War Services Act was being prepared the Department of Justice was consulted. It was their opinion at the time that this was the proper form, and it would necessarily follow that the appointments would be made by the civil service commission. The Minister of Pensions and National Health advises me that the civil service commission also was consulted.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Has the minister that opinion with him?

Mr. McLARTY: I have not, no.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Of course that is a distinct authority against me, but I have often known them to be wrong "over there"—they used to be in the east block; they are now in the new palace of justice. I am not saying they are wrong, but I assert that the provision in the old act was clear, distinct, unambiguous and not open to any mistake. Furthermore, it adheres to the principle to which all parties in the house have adhered notwithstanding the assaults which have been made upon it, namely, the maintenance of the provisions of the civil service law. It may be that the opinion is correct, but I submit that the other wording is preferable.

Mr. McLARTY: I can assure my hon. friend definitely that it is the intention that the civil service commission will make the appointments.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is a definite statement.

Mr. MacINNIS: I wish to associate myself with the leader of the opposition in the point he has just raised. If my memory serves me aright I raised this question in committee, and I got the answer which was given this afternoon by the minister to the leader of the opposition. I agree, however, that the manner