

he did not intend to press it at that session because he was not sure that compulsion was acceptable either to employers or to employees, and that he would re-introduce it at the next session in the form thought most desirable. At the next session it was introduced, not as a compulsory measure but nevertheless as a measure of state intervention in labour disputes on railways.

Then another measure is the Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act, which is nothing more than the embodying in the form of a statute of the fair wages resolution to which I have referred, and the various orders in council by which its provisions have been extended. The right hon. gentleman says: "What did Mr. King do when he was in office in regard to these matters?" I have indicated what I had to do with the beginnings. Here is one of the things I had to do towards the end; as Prime Minister I supported and endorsed the Minister of Labour of the day, the Hon. Peter Heenan, in introducing this act respecting fair wages and an eight hour day for labour employed on public works of the Dominion of Canada. That was on the 30th of May, 1930. May I pause to say that it has always been assumed—I say always; possibly within the last month or two there has been a change in the mind of some—that most of these matters of social legislation come exclusively within the jurisdiction of the provinces. At least that is the opinion that has been given by the law officers; it may be that the government has since received some later opinion. The reason that many of these measures have not been extended by this parliament has been that all members of this house, those of the Conservative party, of the Progressive party, of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, and the Liberal party, have understood that these measures came exclusively within the jurisdiction of the provinces except in so far as they related to federal work. As far as they related to federal work Liberal administrations, either that of Sir Wilfrid Laurier or of the government which I had the honour to lead, put these measures on the statute book, and in so doing set an example to the provincial governments. Except in Ontario, which under a Liberal government in the same year as the federal department of labour was created, established a bureau of labour, there were no bureaux of labour in any of the provinces at the time the federal department was established. There were no fair wages resolutions or laws. These fair wages resolutions fixing minimum wages and maximum hours have extended to provinces and municipalities through the example

set under a Liberal administration in this country. What we have to-day in many of the provinces in the way of minimum wage boards and the like have been in large part the outcome of the example set by the Liberal administration at Ottawa.

The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act is the next mentioned here. The Act was passed in 1907; it has remained upon the statutes ever since. It has been amended here and there, but essentially the act is what it was at the time it was passed by this house. I think it is an open secret that, while the act was introduced in this House of Commons by the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, who was Minister of Labour at the time, I was the one who drafted the act. I was still at the time deputy minister of the department. I am not taking that credit to myself, because time and time again that credit has been given publicly by Mr. Lemieux himself.

Mr. BENNETT: The privy council declared it ultra vires.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend says the privy council declared it ultra vires. Well, it is still on the statutes and is being enforced by his own government. May I say to the Prime Minister that I think he does not mean the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act but the Combines Investigation Act or the Fair Prices Act.

Mr. BENNETT: No, the Combines Investigation Act was sustained.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Well, the best answer I can give to the Prime Minister that the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act is not ultra vires is that I have here the report of his own Minister of Labour giving an account of what was done under the act last year.

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. gentleman knows that the provincial legislatures enacted certain measures.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This is a federal measure and has nothing to do with the provincial legislatures.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, everything. It was declared ultra vires.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The Minister of Labour is administering the act to-day, and there have been I do not know how many different boards established under the act within the past year. The act is still in force, it may have required amendment as the result of some appeal to the privy council. If however, as the Prime Minister says, it had been declared ultra vires, it would be all the more reason why he should proceed very