

*Employment Commission*

the other things necessary to make life comfortable and worth living. This section reads:

The minister may appoint, from among the members of the committee, a special committee to be designated as the "women's employment committee" to investigate and report upon measures and means to aid unemployed women to secure employment in industry and commerce.

I really cannot see what a committee is going to do to enable women to secure employment in industry and commerce. At the present time there are more than enough highly qualified women for all the positions open in industry and commerce. The fact that the commission is being set up is not going to make any more jobs in industry and commerce for women. I am sure that the women have been rustling around trying to find openings in industry and commerce, so I would be very much obliged if the minister would tell me what he hopes this committee is going to do so far as industry and commerce are concerned.

I have had some pitiful letters from women, and I am sure every other hon. member has received similar letters. Some of these women are no longer young and they are striving to keep, in many cases not only themselves but others as well. Some of them are in their late sixties and they are striving to keep on working when they are really not able to struggle on from day to day. I answered a heart-breaking letter of this sort only yesterday. All this makes me think of the resolution introduced by the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Heaps) to provide a retirement allowance for such people who desire to retire at sixty on a competence. I do not know how long it will take us, but we shall finally come to that. It is not jobs that are wanted for people like that; it is a competence. We simply must finance the consumption of goods through getting into the pockets of these people sufficient purchasing power to enable them to live out the rest of their lives in reasonable comfort. I have absolutely no hope that this commission will create any new jobs except for the commissioners.

If this commission is going to make a study of the whole problem, the problem of the young and old unemployed women should be given careful consideration because it has been given very little consideration in the past in connection with any projects to employ unemployed persons on public works and so on. One would almost think that there was no problem in connection with unemployed women; that it did not exist, when in fact it is a serious problem. I am

[Miss Macphail.]

glad to see this section in the bill. Anything I have said is not meant to reflect upon the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers). I am sympathetic with him as I believe he has a desperate job. One of the reasons I have sat silent during the discussion on this bill is because I wanted to see it tried. I am sure that we shall not be given the opportunity to try anything else until everything in this bill has been tried. I am sure that nearly everything in it will fail and when we find that out, then we can go on to something else. I think the bill is too elaborate and the commission is going to be befuddled by the different matters they are to investigate. The commissioners will certainly need seventy people to advise them in order that they can give the government advice, and let us hope that the government will act on the advice of the seventy or the seven.

Mr. BENNETT: There are on the next page two more subsections to this section to which attention has not been directed. I suggest to the minister that he utilize the same language in dealing with youth employment as was used in dealing with the women's employment committee. I think that was what was intended, but the draughtsman left out the words "to investigate and report." I think that where you deal with different matters of more or less the same class in the same section you should use the same language, and I think it was probably intended to do so.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I would move that subsection 2 of section 9 be amended by striking out the words "which will" in lines three and four and substituting therefor the words "to investigate."

Mr. POULIOT: Before this is agreed to, I would suggest to the committee that the committee mentioned in this subsection should take up the matter of fair salaries to be paid to bank clerks.

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. BENNETT: There is still an inconsistency between the two, but I am not concerned about it.

Mr. STIRLING: It appears to me that subsection 3 is reaching the proportions of a snowball. First, the government is to be advised by the commission, which is to be advised by a committee, and then to advise that committee there are to be local honorary committees all over Canada.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that in this particular the procedure is exactly the same as it was in