

Unemployment Insurance Act

hatchery. It may be very difficult to divide those activities from dairying and mixed farming. The next recommendation is:

- (d) employment in poultry pools for preparation and marketing of poultry.
- (e) employment in egg grading.

Some of our poultry raisers or fruit farmers also do a certain amount of egg grading. I do not know how these recommendations are to be applied.

The final recommendation is:

- (f) employment in the breeding and raising of race horses, saddle horses or light harness horses.

I suggest, Mr. Chairman, that those persons who are engaged in agriculture in a productive way, who are producing food required by the Canadian people, should be considered even before those who are engaged in raising race horses and saddle horses. I quite agree with the government in those occupations being covered, and I hope that further consideration will be given to this matter.

I realize the difficulties, but I think there are considerable numbers of farmers who keep good records and who carry on on a scale and in a manner to entitle them to be brought under the terms of the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Before resuming my seat I want to stress again what I think is the unfairness being visited upon certain men employed in the forestry industry by the government of British Columbia who are now excluded from the provisions of the act and the regulations.

Mr. Gregg: The hon. member has stressed how difficult it is to deal with these groups to which he has referred. I would not want to attempt this afternoon to indicate what the recommendations of the commission might be regarding them but I can assure the hon. member that what he has said today and the other day will be taken into consideration in reviewing the regulations.

With respect to the employees of the province of British Columbia to whom he referred just before he sat down, of course the approval of the province would have to be obtained to bring them under the act.

Mr. Montgomery: If a formula can be found to bring farm labour under the act, will that be done by order in council?

Mr. Gregg: If a formula for bringing them in can be found, that can be done by order in council.

Mr. Ashbourne: Mr. Chairman, I should like to voice again my request that fishermen be included in the unemployment insurance coverage. Newfoundland is so richly

[Mr. Herridge.]

endowed with fisheries that fishermen and their dependents represent a large proportion of the population. As has been pointed out already many times both in the committee and here in the house, it is most essential that some coverage be provided for these primary producers.

Today many fishermen are turning away from this important industry. We know that the world is dependent upon the proteins to be obtained from the sea as a means of augmenting the supplies of food in the form of agricultural products. Unfortunately many fishermen are turning to other avenues of employment. I think one way in which this turning away from fishing can be halted would be to provide coverage for these primary producers. Accordingly I want to go on record once more as being in favour of including fishermen. I think the fishing industry should be integrated with the other industries of Canada under the Unemployment Insurance Act and assistance and benefits be available for our fishermen.

We understand that a limited coverage has been given by countries such as Norway, the United States and Great Britain. I hope that the Minister of Fisheries will take a lead in this matter, assisted by the Minister of Labour, who comes from one of the Atlantic provinces, and continue to work on this problem so that some feasible plan can be worked out to provide adequate coverage for our fishermen. I want to say that this request has my unqualified support.

Mr. Gregg: Mr. Chairman, I think I should say a word with regard to fishermen because the interest in this regard has been keen. The discussion in the standing committee was exceedingly helpful. Up to the time that that committee began its study the commission and the minister had been making a long drawn-out research and study to see if not only wage earners but some of the self-employed fishermen could be brought under the act. The results were not very helpful with regard to the latter, as was indicated in the brief submitted to the standing committee.

As was forcefully presented to the committee this morning by the hon. member for Trinity-Conception, if 6,000 or any portion of the 6,000 wage earners are brought under the act and nothing is done for the remaining more than 66,000 self-employed producers, a situation will come about which I think would be wellnigh intolerable. In other words, if anything is done it must be done as a combined operation.

We had the pleasure of having before the standing committee the Minister of Fisheries and his senior officials. From that meeting