

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

COMMITTEE ROOM 375,

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

THURSDAY, May 10, 1928.

The Select Standing Committee on Industrial and International Relations met at 11 o'clock, a.m., the Chairman, Mr. C. R. McIntosh, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have with us this morning Mr. Edwards, the Deputy Minister of Justice, and we will now ask him to come forward and make his statement under oath.

WILLIAM STUART EDWARDS called and sworn.

By the Chairman:

Q. Your name in full, Mr. Edwards?—A. William Stuart Edwards.

Q. And your position in the Department?—A. Deputy Minister of Justice.

Q. If you will just make the statement asked you to make in connection with this question which is before the Committee, we can then ask you some questions?—A. I may say as to that, Mr. Chairman, that I was not aware until you read the resolution just now that I was expected to make a written statement. My summons to the Committee was merely verbal, and I thought I was expected to come here to answer any questions upon the subject that the Committee might desire to ask me. I shall be glad, however, to give verbally a general statement of my opinion with regard to the question of jurisdiction.

The subject of unemployment insurance, and for that matter insurance generally, is not mentioned in any of the enumerated subjects of jurisdiction conferred upon the Dominion by section 91 of the British North America Act, but it does fall precisely within the enumerated subject of property and civil rights in section 92, which is the section conferring jurisdiction upon the provincial legislatures.

By Mr. Neill:

Q. It is specifically mentioned?—A. No. I said it comes under Property and Civil Rights.

By Mr. McMillan:

Q. That is, under provincial jurisdiction?—A. Yes.

By Mr. Heaps:

Q. Have you that particular section, section 92, so as to have it in the record?—A. I have a copy of the Act here. Section 92 of the British North America Act reads as follows:—

In each province the legislature may exclusively make laws in relation to matters coming within the classes of subjects next hereinafter enumerated, that is to say,—

Then follows an enumeration of the subjects.