

Mr. ROGERS: No, I would not say that.

Mr. MacNEIL: What evidence exists that there is work anywhere for them?

Mr. BENNETT: That is the whole trouble.

Mr. ROGERS: The only answer I can make to the hon. member is the one I have already given, namely that many men, to the number I have indicated, are placed regularly through the Employment Service of Canada. But we know that there are many others who are placed directly through their own applications, either to industry or to other employers of labour. So that it does not follow of necessity that because the Employment Service of Canada cannot state that men can be placed at work in a given province, no opportunities for employment exist in that province.

Mr. MacINNIS: Does it not follow, though, that if there were employment in any province generally speaking the employment offices would know about it? If employers were seeking workers, and those positions were not filled, it would seem that an approach would be made to the government service. As the hon. member for Vancouver North has said, if there are no positions with the employment service it would seem to be a clear indication that employment is not available. It is quite true that a person may obtain employment—and many do—without approaching the government service. But if the agency cannot supply all those who make application for jobs I think it is a clear indication that work is not available, and that there is a residue of unemployed persons who cannot find jobs.

Mr. MacNEIL: Is it not true that at the present time in every office of the employment service in western Canada there are more men registered for work than there are positions available?

Mr. ROGERS: I have not that information at hand. May I say that for many years at any given time a considerable portion of our population has been unemployed. That is so because of the seasonal nature of much of our employment.

Mr. MacINNIS: But is there not this difference between the present situation and that which obtained in other years, namely, that in other years the amount of work was sufficient to carry the men from one job to another, whereas at present the wages made at one job are eaten up before the men can get to another. They are out of clothing and are behind in their rent—provided they have some one who trusts them for rent. All those payments have to be made out of a job, and when that job is completed they are on re-

[Mr. MacNeil.]

lief again, or have to obtain employment in some way. Is it not really that which makes unemployment a matter of concern to the government? When a worker could maintain himself from one job to the other, unemployment was not regarded as something bad; it was considered useful because it enabled employers to buy labour cheap. But the situation is altogether changed when the unemployed man cannot carry himself from one job to another and becomes a burden upon the government or upon the state.

Mr. GREEN: Perhaps the minister will excuse me if I bring up the question as to when the summer training camps, the forestry training camps, will be opened in British Columbia. I understand they will provide for a great many of the younger men, and presumably some of the men who are sitting in the post office at Vancouver will be eligible for these camps. When will the camps be opened?

Mr. ROGERS: I would assume that they would be opened in the very near future. I have no definite information on that point. My hon. friend knows that the training camps, as distinct from the forestry conservation camps which have been in operation during the winter months, fall within the youth training plans. There is no reason that I can see why the training camps should not be opened in the very near future.

Mr. GREEN: They will accept men up to thirty years of age, will they not?

Mr. ROGERS: There is a possibility of accepting them up to thirty years of age. Normally the age limit would be eighteen to twenty-five.

Mr. GREEN: Well, if these men will be eligible for those camps, and the camps will be open in a very short time, would it not be possible for the government to make some arrangement to care for these young men in the interval? It will be only a matter of two or three weeks or perhaps a month. Could they not be cared for in some way or another, perhaps by having one or two of the winter camps opened, and the young men who would be eligible for the training camps placed in these winter camps meanwhile?

Mr. ROGERS: I see no reason why some of these young men may not be eligible for training in the forestry camps. As to their care meanwhile, those who would be eligible would be residents of British Columbia, and any care extended to them meanwhile would be a matter entirely of provincial administration.