

*Unemployment Insurance*

The next amendment is to section 43 (f). This paragraph provides that a person shall be disqualified for receiving benefits while he is in receipt of pension under the Old Age Pensions Act. The committee was impressed with the soundness of the argument advanced some time ago by the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill), that a man who had paid his contributions should receive his benefits under this legislation as a right and should not be precluded from exercising and enjoying that distinctive right because of some other benefit he might be receiving by what might be regarded more or less as an act of grace.

The next amendment is to paragraph (g) of the same section. This relates to those who come under what is known as the zero section of the schedule. Persons under sixteen, while they may accumulate rights, cannot draw benefits. However, they can draw benefits when they are employed for a number of weeks in a higher category. This amendment is merely to clarify that provision.

The next amendment which I believe is of sufficient importance to mention to the committee is to subsection 8 of section 83. This amendment provides that some measure of remuneration, the amount of which may be determined by the governor in council, may be paid to the members of the advisory committee. It was pointed out that certain representatives whose services might be valuable on that committee might not be able to afford to serve without remuneration. It was pointed out also to the committee the importance of this committee under the general scheme of the bill. Consequently it was thought advisable to leave it discretionary with the governor in council as to whether and in what amount payment should be made for such services.

The other amendments to which I might refer are somewhat detailed. In section 102 the word "fixed" has been changed to "prescribed." This is made necessary by the fact that section 93, subsection 1, requires that before the regulations of the commission become operative they shall have the approval of the governor in council.

An amendment has been made to the first schedule in order to add "wood processing plants" to those which come within the bill. This was done at the request of hon. members from British Columbia; and the committee felt that this amendment would more clearly define the situation.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Would wood processing plants include saw mills and planing mills?

[Mr. McLarty.]

Mr. McLARTY: Saw mills and planing mills are now included in any event.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Saw mills that operate three, four or five months in the year?

Mr. McLARTY: An amendment to which I was just going to refer leaves to the discretion of the commission the decision as to what would be continuous operation. Saw milling was under the legislation originally, and this amendment was suggested by certain British Columbia members because they felt that saw milling was not sufficient to cover all processing of lumber.

Mr. REID: Sash and door factories, for instance.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Saw milling in New Brunswick is usually limited to a seasonal period. The standard saw mills do not operate more than six months in the year, while the so-called portables usually operate in the winter for about three months.

Mr. McLARTY: That situation is taken care of by leaving to the discretion of the commission the decision as to what will be reasonably continuous operation.

The only amendment to the third schedule which I think is worthy of mention at this time is to paragraph (iii) of section 1. The suggestion is to add the words "widow or widower" after the words "married person". The Department of Justice was of the opinion that this was essential in order that a widow or widower with a dependent might be covered by the schedule.

In the same paragraph the age of a dependent is increased from fifteen to sixteen years. I believe that these are the only important amendments which need to be referred to at this stage.

As the report indicates, during the sittings of the committee representations were made by numerous bodies but I believe that these representations can be boiled down to a few definite categories.

There were those who said that this bill should not be passed while we were at war. They paid no attention to the fact that we are now at the all-time high of employment. They paid no attention to the fact that after the war we shall have to make some provision to meet the situation which will almost inevitably arise, if not immediately after, at least a reasonable time after. They forgot also that it will take time to put the machinery of this bill into operation. It is not a matter simply of this house passing this bill to-day or to-morrow or some other day and then