

mountable, in securing information from those unemployed who are not on relief. It might be secured by a proclamation, by requiring those who are unemployed but not on relief to register at an employment office on such and such a day, but I think it is questionable whether information obtained by compulsion would be absolutely reliable. The difficulty of imposing penalties for non-registration is obvious. I can assure my hon. friend that I appreciate the importance of obtaining this information and I believe the employment offices as now established would provide the medium through which this information could be obtained. I doubt the wisdom of imposing this duty upon the commission at this time, but see no reason why the commission could not be asked to obtain the information if it was found possible to secure it.

Mr. HEAPS: I had no idea of making this obligatory or compulsory or of providing penalties for refusal to register. I think most unemployed persons who are not on relief would be only too pleased to take part in a national registration of those who are out of work. It is true that we had a census in 1931, but conditions have changed so much since then that the figures do not indicate the conditions as they are at the present time. My hon. friend reminds me that there is also a quinquennial census which will be taken in the prairie provinces shortly, but that would not give us any data with regard to the country east of the head of the lakes. I feel that there should be some provision to provide for a registration of the unemployed. It could be left to the unemployed people themselves to see that their names were placed upon a proper list. I do not think there should be any objection on the part of the minister to having something of this kind done. For many years different organizations have asked for a national registration of the unemployed, but no registration has taken place except in the case of an odd municipality here and there. These small registrations show that a surprisingly large number of people who have never been on relief are ready to register. I realize the difficulties in such a registration, but I do feel that some reliable data should be available as to the total number of unemployed in the Dominion of Canada.

Mr. MacNICOL: Would this registration cover a case like this: A gentleman came to my home some days ago in connection with obtaining employment. He intimated that he had been out of work for the last four years. I became sympathetic and tried to ascertain whether he could fill a job here or there. I happened to ask him whether there

were any members of his family working and he told me that there were four of them working in very good positions. I asked him whether they were living at home and he told me that they were. This man was between fifty-five and sixty years of age and with four members of his family working he could hardly be termed as being in need of a job.

Mr. ROGERS: Was he receiving relief?

Mr. MacNICOL: No, he was not.

Mr. ROGERS: He would not be included in this registration.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I should like to offer a suggestion to the minister. I cannot see that in any of these subsections there is anything to make it a duty upon the commission to inquire into and report on the general causes of unemployment. The commission is empowered to inquire into relief problems and also into the question as to what work is available and what schemes should be proposed. It seems to me that a commission of this kind ought to go further than that. It should seek to get, as we say, the whole picture before inquiring into the real causes that make for local or general unemployment. It would be comparatively easy to insert a section along that line, but there is nothing of that kind in the bill, although this is supposed to be a national employment commission.

Mr. MASSEY: Has the minister in mind any plan to include in the registration the names of those who are working part time? Perhaps their part time is regular part time, but it may be only a day or a few hours a week, and there are others who have a job here to-day and are somewhere else to-morrow or the day after. Many of these men, heads of families, are unable to obtain relief from the municipality or the county and their position is more desperate than that of the man who is receiving relief either regularly or intermittently. Has the minister such a plan in mind?

Mr. ROGERS: It is the intention to secure that information; I think it is desirable that it should be secured. I should, however, make this clear: There are really only two ways of securing the registration and classification of those on relief: either by the dominion undertaking a census which would include as well those unemployed but not on relief, but which would also involve a considerable expenditure of money; or by the dominion adopting the other method of obtaining information, that is to say, by