

*Vocational Training Co-ordination Act*

training; they do the choosing. They lay down the rules and the principles.

Mr. STEPHENSON: It was apparently your department.

Mr. MITCHELL: We do the training.

Mr. STEPHENSON: My point is this: what is the use of training a boy for five months and then kicking him out in the middle of the course, telling him, You are finished?

Mr. COLDWELL: I do not think the minister quite understood the question I asked when I interrupted him during his last remarks about the placement officers. With the complicated and complex industrial system we now have, there are a very large number of different types of jobs. The point I was interested in was this. Is the department doing anything either to provide for or to encourage special training for placement officers so that they will understand the differentiation of the jobs? I saw a report, I think from a United States source, a year or so ago. I have forgotten the figures, but they ran into several thousand job classifications, all the way down. I have not heard lately, but in former days, I heard of persons who had applied for a job and been offered something quite unsuitable, largely because the man behind the desk was perhaps not as well trained in placement as he should be in these days. In the appointment of officers, in the exchanges across the country, is some attention being given to the qualifications of persons for the placement of applicants or, on the other hand, are any steps being taken by the department to give some specialized training to officers so that they may be adequately equipped to deal with the placement of applicants?

Mr. MITCHELL: We are continually training people. Of course the engineering of material things is an exact science and is entirely different from the engineering of human beings.

Mr. COLDWELL: Certainly. Psychology is an important factor.

Mr. MITCHELL: Yes. In the unemployment insurance commission, dealt with under the other bill I am introducing, people are being continually trained. In a broad way, we have not done too badly in Canada.

Mr. MacNICOL: I know that in Toronto the heads of the department have been for some time sending out to various plants members of their personnel to see for themselves just what goes on in this and that line of manu-

[Mr. Mitchell.]

facturing. I have come in contact with this work, and I was pleased to see that the department was training its officials so that they might more intelligently answer applicants coming to their desk. I cannot speak for other parts of the country, but I know that in Toronto an honest effort is being made to train personnel so that they can answer applicants intelligently.

Mrs. STRUM: There is one phase of this work which, so far as I know, has not been considered. I refer to the rehabilitation of persons coming out of tuberculosis sanatoria. In almost every province there is free treatment for tuberculosis, but we would be appalled if we knew how many people come out of these institutions only to find themselves forced back into them for the simple reason that they have to compete with others who are well, and under these conditions try to do a full-time job. There is a field for research in order to find out whether light and part-time employment can be provided for persons coming out of sanatoria. We must make sure that they do not overdo it and thus become repeaters.

I have had a good deal of experience with tuberculosis sanatoria for a number of years, and I am thinking of one lad who in the end went out and committed suicide because he had found readjustment so difficult. He had been a repeater on a number of occasions and had to go back and live in a home where conditions were impossible if he expected to remain well. There is an important field here.

Treatment in tuberculosis institutions is costly, and it involves hospitalization not for weeks but for years. I have known people to come out of these institutions after having been in for fourteen years. The cost of treatment is as high as it is because we give not only medical care but special housing and special diet. I am sure the provinces would be only too glad to co-operate with the federal government in investigating the kind of training required, and then the employment service that goes with placement, with a view to helping these people to stay well, instead of leaving them to face the terrible discouragement and heartbreak that such people invariably experience.

Resolution reported, read the second time and concurred in. Mr. Mitchell thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 202, to amend the Vocational Training Co-ordination Act, 1942.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.