

Labour (Mr. Gordon) himself on Friday last when he tabled the report of the Department of Labour. I was quite interested in noticing what the Minister of Labour said when he presented his report. He did not simply say, "I present the report of the Department of Labour for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1934," but he went a step further than his colleagues, and a step further than he generally goes, and he gave the contents of the report in part. I thought at the time that he did so in an endeavour to make apparent the extent in his department of government intervention through social legislation and with respect to labour.

I find in the votes and proceedings of January 18, 1935, the following:

Mr. Gordon, a member of the King's Privy Council, laid before the house, by command of His Excellency the Governor General,—Annual Report of the Department of Labour for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1934, which includes reports of proceedings under the following statutes: Labour Department Act, Conciliation and Labour Act, Fair Wages and Eight Hour Day Act, Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, Government Annuities Act, Employment Offices Co-ordination Act, Technical Education Act, Combines Investigation Act, Old Age Pensions Act, and relief measures.

That is the statement. Now, Mr. Speaker, let us take a look at these various statutes, all of which are in the nature of state intervention, and see where they came from. I will say now that, with the exception of one, all owe their existence to Liberal initiative and Liberal administrations. The one exception is the relief measures, which as the Prime Minister said over the radio are wholly of an exceptional and emergency character and are, to use his characterization, "in the nature of priming the pump." These measures were necessary only because the government's policies in other directions have wholly failed and because times were so bad that constructive measures were not even thought of, let alone introduced. Let us see where the other measures came from.

Take first the Labour Department Act. The Labour department was established originally in the year 1900. The Labour Department Act was not a Conservative measure; it was introduced by the government of the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a Liberal government, and the Labour department was established as a department of government to emphasize from a Liberal point of view the necessity of state intervention in labour matters. Speak of all the reforms you wish, but where was it possible to introduce on behalf of labour in parliament a greater measure of reform than to establish a department of government to be concerned

(Mr. Mackenzie King.)

with the problems of labour to the exclusion of all others? That was a reform introduced by a Liberal government. Perhaps I may be pardoned for reminding the house that I was honoured by the then Postmaster General, who was the minister of the Crown who introduced the measure, the Right Hon. Sir William Mulock, to-day Chief Justice of Ontario, by being invited to come to Ottawa and, under his direction, to organize the Department of Labour of Canada and to become the editor of the Labour Gazette, which was to contain the records and information which would be a guide for future legislation and which would assemble material which would be of assistance to legislators dealing with these matters. I accepted this position. I came to Ottawa and began in the year 1900, now nearly thirty-five years ago, the organization of the Department of Labour in Canada, and for eight years I held the office of deputy minister of that department. During those years I edited the Labour Gazette, a publication which continues to be published, and of which now there are something like thirty-five annual volumes. In that time I outlined more or less the particular subjects that were to be investigated by the department, the methods to be adopted in collecting and disseminating information on labour matters, and I find on looking at the report that the minister laid on the table last week, and at copies of the Labour Gazette, that they all continue to follow the lines then charted out.

There was another act passed at that time, the Conciliation Act, which concerned the Department of Labour. It was the first act of this federal parliament for intervention in industrial disputes—not compulsory, but voluntary intervention by the government—with machinery for bringing opinion to bear on any existing dispute. During the time I was deputy minister I intervened I think in something like forty at least of the most important strikes of that time. The record will speak for itself as to how successful I was. Out of the experience of those eight years in a practical and immediate way with labour questions, I believe I learned a few things supplemented later by wider experience and study that it was worth while to pass on to others in the form I have already indicated.

The next act referred to here is the Conciliation and Labour Act. That reminds me that there has been a consolidation of the measures since, but there was another conciliation act dealing with disputes on railways. It was known as the Railway Disputes Arbitration Act. It was introduced as a compulsory measure, but at the time of its introduction the minister of the day indicated that