

In a number of instances these commissions functioned successfully with the aid of the provincial governments. What will be done now? I should like the right hon. gentleman to explain whether this commission, when it comes into being, can determine as a matter of decision just what amount is to be paid for relief purposes to Halifax, for instance, or London, or Winnipeg, or Calgary. Is it going to determine the standard of relief? Will it see that there is uniformity in that standard? Will it determine how much milk will be given per head? Are these matters to be determined by the decision and under the authority and direction of the commission, or will they be left in the hands of provincial and municipal authorities, the commission simply giving advice? This paragraph does not make that clear. The house has a right to know; and if all the provinces have agreed, there is one province which in days past, represented by the government of the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Gardiner), and sometimes by himself, certainly did not take that view. That is all I have to say in that regard.

With respect to the camps, I read the other day a report made by a committee appointed by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers) to report upon them. I wonder whether he does not realize that the report they submitted was the expression of the very purpose for which the camps came into being. Why did they come into being? For some permanent purpose? No. Did they come into being to provide homes? No. They came into being for the purpose of providing places where men might find food, clothing and shelter until they could obtain employment; and, what is more, up to the time we left office the average period of time during which men stayed in these camps was ninety-five days. They passed through the camps until they got employment, and the greatest number in the camps has been only between 20,000 and 25,000. In the summer the number dropped to between 12,000 and 13,000, and when I last spoke in this house it was, I believe, 12,800 or 13,000. The very purpose is that which these gentlemen explain in their report as being, in their opinion, desirable; the only difference being, apparently, that they propose to make some payment to the men for the work they did, which it is true was not obligatory; in the sense in which that term can properly be used it was merely for the purpose of furnishing them with some exercise to enable them to live healthy and decent lives. One of the gentlemen on that committee was connected with Frontier college, which did a great deal of work in connection

[Mr. Bennett.]

with the education of men in these camps. I have already explained, from another place in this house, what was done with respect to giving them religious services, in both the Catholic and non-Catholic faiths; I have pointed out that chaplains had been appointed and that an effort had been made to look after their morals and health and happiness. Magazines were collected to give them reading matter, and the camps, those at least which I visited, were decent and well conducted. But they were not permanent; they were intended merely to help the provinces, to relieve them of difficulties in relation to these younger men seeking employment. I shall speak of this later. At any rate, because of influences that got abroad in the camps, their value became less and less, as everyone knows; and these influences were such as to induce men to leave their work. I had evidence of men having left their work and I took the trouble to ascertain the circumstances under which they had left. They had been misled by agitators into believing they should make this concerted move against these camps. The hon. gentleman knows that since he came into office there have been evidences of the same thing. In the camps there have been strikes that have to be quietened, and the method by which they have to be quietened we can deal with when we get to the estimates; it is not well that we should refer to it now. In any event it is clear that these camps to which references have been made were camps that came into being for one purpose and one only, to provide temporary shelter and food and clothing to young men who were not able to take care of themselves and whom the provinces said they could not take care of, and the average period of time that they remained in the camps, at least until the end of the last administration, was something less than 100 days; ninety-five, I think, was the exact number, to be correct about it.

The next point made is the royal commission that the mover of the address said had already settled some textile difficulties in Sherbrooke. I think perhaps he read his brief rather hurriedly and overlooked the fact that it is not indicated that the difficulty has been settled but that it is to be settled. I wonder whether the Minister of Justice has given any attention to the legal side of the matter. I wonder whether he realizes that the set-up of a commission under the Dominion Inquiries Act to inquire into one industry in one province is beyond our powers. I wonder whether he has looked at a case in the privy council that came up