

made in continuing the policy of economic sectionalism that has grown up in this country. As the hon. member for Regina City has pointed out, Saskatchewan is being denuded of its labour. That labour is coming to eastern Canada and causing congestion down here; it is creating confusion, creating new problems with which this government must deal. When the war is over there will be a large number of people in eastern Canada whom eastern Canada will not be able to take care of, and I suggest that the problem arising in that connection will be more serious than most of us realize. If the administration would consider the question of increasing the little bit of work that is given to Saskatchewan—and the work is practically infinitesimal, being confined in a large degree to the bits-and-pieces programme—we would avoid a great deal of trouble after the war and obtain a far greater maximum war effort and greater efficiency in that effort. Under the provisions of the labour regulations as they stand now, in connection with the granting of contracts to a corporation or company which leases out the work or puts it out on the basis of the bits-and-pieces programme, does the Department of Labour have control over the rate of wages paid in the plants that do the bits-and-pieces work? If not, why not?

Mr. MITCHELL: Not unless it comes within the fair wages policy of the government. That applies to building contractors.

Mr. BENCE: That policy is applicable to a main contract, I understand.

Mr. MITCHELL: I am speaking of building contracts.

Mr. BENCE: With respect to a contract that is let for the manufacture of gun carriages or something like that, is there any control by the department over the rates of wages paid?

Mr. MITCHELL: I do not know whether it is in Regina or Saskatoon, but wherever it is, the regional war labour board will make the adjustment. That is where the adjustment would be dealt with.

Mrs. CASSELMAN: What the hon. member has said about Saskatchewan applies with equal force to Alberta. We have a number of natural resources that could be used in creating new industries, and to bring the industry to the province would be better in my opinion than bringing labour to industries here, especially in view of the fact that there are so few industries now in Alberta. If possible, I would urge that.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I support enthusiastically what has been said by the members who have spoken. I am not sure that the minister's department ought to accept responsibility; perhaps it should be the Department of Munitions and Supply. However, in view of the fact that the Minister of Labour will be faced with a problem in connection with the labour supply, and seeing also that there are in many of the smaller towns on the prairies a great many machine tools that are not being used—I saw last February a list of 277 that were not being used at all in war work—I think the government ought to be having some long-term plan not only with a view to maximum production during what may be a long war, but with a view to the period of reestablishment which will come afterwards. If the minister wants to avoid facing the problem of a tremendous number of unemployed and the consequent dislocation after the war, it is wise now to be laying some plans on the prairies to build up industries that will use up the labour that is there instead of moving that labour to eastern Canada. Although the responsibility may not be in the labour department, I hope the minister will use his influence in the cabinet to see that the claims of the prairies are kept in mind when the government is encouraging the development of war industries.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: I might mention a new departure with regard to the Department of Labour. I refer to the matter of labour shortage in the agricultural industry which faces the western plains at this time. I understand that the registration of people comes under the Department of Labour, and that department should have a fairly good picture of what there is in the way of skilled and unskilled labour. The department should know where seasonal labour can be obtained for the problem facing western agriculture. There will be a heavy crop in the west this year. With large numbers of available labour in that area having moved east to war industry or having gone into the army, there is a problem of such magnitude that the people to-day are alarmed. If the anticipated crop in the west materializes, there will be a terrific waste unless labour can be sent there for a few weeks this fall. Has the minister any plans or suggestions to offer in order to solve that problem, which does face those people to-day.

Item agreed to.

102. Combines Investigation Act, \$46,475.

Mr. MacNICOL: Inasmuch as this item is pertinent to the Combines Investigation Act I have a question to ask the minister. The