

*Employment Commission*

the seven commissioners, being appointed by the government and by nobody else, will be in sympathy with the general policy of the government in relief matters. The hon. member for Témiscouata just referred to evening prayers; I would like to make a little prayer that the commissioners in dealing with relief matters will not be guided by the policy of the Prime Minister as declared in this chamber not once but twice, to the effect that he would not grant a five cent piece—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

An hon. MEMBER: Sit down.

Mr. BETTS: I repeat, would not grant a five cent piece to any province in which a Conservative government was in power.

An hon. MEMBER: He will not have to.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): He never made that statement.

Mr. BETTS: Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, we heard a good deal from the Minister of Finance (Mr. Dunning) about the danger of creating fear throughout the country by remarks made in this chamber. I venture to suggest that there is no more certain way of creating fear throughout Canada than by introducing legislation which is not in accordance with our constitution. This bill contains certain provisions which are either unconstitutional or meaningless. For example, hon. members will note that power is given to the commission to make recommendations as to an apprenticeship scheme. That clearly is something within the sole jurisdiction of provincial legislatures. While the Prime Minister has told us that he expects complete co-operation from the provinces, and has spoken at some length about the complete harmony that prevails throughout the Liberal party from one end of this country to the other, I have heard some very discordant notes from Queen's Park in Toronto. I suggest that if an apprenticeship scheme is approved by the commission and submitted to Queen's Park, there is perhaps better than an even chance that the Honourable Mr. Hepburn will say, "Well, that is your scheme—"

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. BETTS:—"but I do not like it; I do not like your Prime Minister, I do not like your cabinet and I do not like your commission, you can take that scheme and stick it in your pocket." I say that that section is either a complete nullity or unconstitutional.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In connection with his reference to the five cent speech, my hon. friend seems to forget that since the remark was made, which he has not correctly

[Mr. Betts.]

quoted, there have been two general elections, the result of the last one being to put him in opposition as one in a group of about thirty-nine, and to put me at the head of a government with the largest majority of any government in the history of Canada.

Mr. BETTS: Does the Prime Minister imagine that his five cent speech contributed to his victory?

Mr. CAHAN: I suggest that that clause might be clarified by the suggestion which I sent over to the Prime Minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that he has been kind enough to clarify it, his immediate neighbour has been kind enough to send me over a suggestion to clarify it, and the leader of the opposition (Mr. Bennett) has made a suggestion to help to clarify it. I think that what the minister has proposed does equally well what the three hon. gentlemen opposite have suggested.

Mr. CAHAN: That ends it, but I do not think so.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I think we should let it go through at that.

Paragraph agreed to.

On paragraph (a)—Registration and classification.

Mr. HEAPS: This paragraph makes it mandatory upon the commission to carry out as soon as possible a national registration and classification of persons on relief. I do not think that is going far enough. This bill is supposed to be a measure for the creation of employment and for this reason an employment council is being appointed. I do not think any scheme of registration undertaken by the commission will be complete unless there is a complete registration of all the unemployed in the Dominion of Canada. I do not see in the bill as it is at present worded anything to cover a registration of that kind. In order that we may know something of the magnitude of the unemployment problem facing the dominion at the present time, I think it is extremely important that we should have some reliable data as to the number of persons out of work. I do not want to move an amendment to this paragraph, but I should like to ask the minister to give his approval of the suggestion I am making so that for the first time we shall have some reliable information as to the number of persons in Canada who are unemployed.

Mr. ROGERS: If I remember correctly, the point raised by my hon. friend was brought up during the debate on the second reading. There would be difficulty, perhaps not insur-