

but after the war. While it is a gesture, and is to be commended, I think it will have to be a part of something much bigger if it is to have any real value in the way it is intended.

For a few moments I should like to direct attention to the bill itself. In the first place it should be pointed out that it covers only certain classifications. That is, it covers men who have been in active service or men who, having taken training under the National Resources Mobilization Act, have been put on garrison duty. As I understand it from reading the bill, it will not take care of men who have been taken out of civil employment for compulsory training and released upon the completion of that training. They will not benefit under this legislation. I hope when we reach the committee stage the minister will tell us why these men who have been compelled to leave their jobs—

Mr. MITCHELL: I can tell my hon. friend now, if he will permit me. It is because they are already covered in the regulations dealing with men called up for military training, in somewhat similar but briefer language than this.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I have a wire here from a man in Regina who was working for a certain concern, and who was called up for training. At the end of two and a half months, his health not being able to stand it, he is discharged as medically unfit. He goes to get his job back, and they say to him, "Your job has been filled, but we can give you another job." After working two weeks they say, "You are not physically fit to take the other job, because it requires a much stronger person"—and he is discharged. This man has no means by which he can compel the firm for which he was working prior to his being called for training to rehire him in his former position. All his attempts have been in vain, and that is the position in which he finds himself.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Whom was he working for?

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I shall send the letter to the minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Every single case which has come to my attention has been reinstated.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): How many of them?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Not very many have come to our attention.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): Most employers are very generous.

[Mr. T. C. Douglas]

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Yes, and in every case they have taken the men back. If my hon. friend would give me privately the facts concerning the case he mentions, I will see that the man is reinstated.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I thank the minister for that. But the case has already been referred once or twice to government authorities.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Has it come to my attention?

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I do not think it has come to the attention of the minister.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Every single case—one hundred per cent of them—has been reinstated, under the order in council. There has not been a single refusal.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Representations have been made to the Minister of National War Services and Minister of National Defence.

Mr. GOLDING: When a quotation is made from a letter it should be laid on the table.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): The letter can be laid on the table. But if the hon. member who is scratching with his pen would listen to the debate, instead of merely popping up and displaying his general ignorance of procedure in the house—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn):—it would be more to the point. Further, I did not quote from the letter.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I do not wish to interrupt my hon. friend, but there is authority under the old order in council which this bill now supplants. I must repeat that no case has come to my attention which has not been reinstated. I would ask him as a matter of kindness to bring to my attention the case he has in mind, and I will guarantee action on it.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I thank the minister for that.

Mr. GOLDING: With reference to the hon. member's uncomplimentary remarks about myself, I do not think it is out of place to ask that any letter from which a quotation is made should be laid on the table.

Mr. COLDWELL: But it was not quoted from.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): I did not quote from the letter; I merely referred to a case.