

Miss WILEMAN.—Yes. Before I touched this subject at all I studied on the spot the labour exchange systems of Great Britain and the labour bureau system in Germany and the United States of America. I have all the publications of the New Zealand and Australian system, as well as the continental ones, and I have studied the United States Labour Bureau on the spot.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—These exchange bureaus of Great Britain, for instance, have for their object the calling in of labour from one congested city or town to other places where there is need for labour and vice versa; I suppose that the chief bureau would distribute the labour from one town to another wherever it is required.

Miss WILEMAN.—Yes. I might mention that by practical international consent an arrangement has been agreed on that the labour bureau shall remain absolutely neutral during strikes or lockouts; that if a strike or lockout occurs, each association either of employers or workers, receives a statement of the condition in existence at that time, and workers are then free to follow any ruling that might be made by the trade union or other organizations to which they belong, and the employers may do the same as to any employers' association to which they belong. That is felt to be the only just and impartial way of handling the situation.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—We have in nearly every province in Canada, I suppose, a provincial labour bureau; I know that we have in Quebec.

Miss WILEMAN.—Yes; both Messrs. Verville and Dr. Paquet were telling me about it, but they say it is not strong enough alone; that, as in the case of the United States, it is just one unit struggling by itself, and wants the co-operation of all the units with the central authority which will give strength and backbone to the whole work. Then I may tell you that you have a provincial labour bureau here under the Ontario Government. I made it by business to go in and inquire at the Ottawa office. The man himself is perfectly honest and does all that he can with what he is supplied with; but when I tell you that he has just a sheet of paper provided by the government, and an envelope (exhibiting paper and envelope), and that that is the sole limit of the stationery and forms and everything else that he has to work with, I do not think that you will feel that the Ontario Government, at any rate as far as the Ottawa Labour Bureau goes, is doing very much to make the work efficient or to make it of any practical use to the employers and the workers.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—In this province of Ontario we have labour bureaus in every city of the population of Ottawa?

Miss WILEMAN.—They have two or three in existence; I think it is three.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND.—I suppose London, Toronto and Hamilton?

Miss WILEMAN.—They have their bureau in Toronto at the Parliament Buildings, and they have another bureau facing the railway station in Toronto. Let me tell you another point: this man in Ottawa is a watchmaker and jeweler who attends to his business on Sussex street and at the same time gives what time he can to this work. The government pays him \$25 a month. No, you cannot possibly make such a system efficient in that way; it is hopeless. To do the work properly, there must be a man in charge who understands his work and studies it, and does his very best to study the conditions of the employers and the workers and the needs of the district for which he is working. A man who is given \$25 a month, and who is also a jeweller and watchmaker, cannot do his work efficiently.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC.—I suppose the Central Federal Bureau, established here, could have an arrangement with the provincial authorities to co-operate with them.

Miss WILEMAN.—Most certainly.

Hon. Mr. BOLDUC.—Without that it would be possible to have it work.

Miss WILEMAN.—Most certainly. That could be arranged all along the line; wherever an isolated labour bureau exists it can be brought into very close co-operation with the federal bureau, they could work together. I merely quoted this case to show