

at their hands for the last two, three, five or six years, month by month? We are supposed to be considering the matter of unemployment, and I think it would be a good idea to know how much unemployment there is whether it is seasonal or periodical, so to speak, and whether it is getting worse or better.—A. Mr. Rigg can furnish the Committee with returns quite readily. They are listed month by month through the employers' returns on the one hand, and the returns we have from the workers' organizations on the other hand.

Q. Coming down in the list to the biggest class, where do you get your data on that?—A. I am sorry to say that as to the subject generally, there are no statistics available as to the total number of unemployed who are on the market at any one time.

Q. Do not the cities have records of the unemployed that they relieve?—A. Of unemployment relief, yes. But, of unemployed, no. There are no statistics, as such, of the number of unemployed at any one time, and the estimates that have been made range over a very, very wide range. One notices the same thing when you turn from our own country to the United States. Only this week there has been brought down in Washington a statement by the American Secretary of Labour—Mr. Davis—in which they give an estimate of 1,800,000 odd unemployed in the United States, as compared with statements which were made in the discussion of the subject in Congress by Senator Wagner of New York, a few weeks previously, I think, of four or five million.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: May I suggest that we now begin to question Mr. Rigg with regard to the details of unemployment?

The CHAIRMAN: Any other questions for Mr. Brown to answer.

Mr. HEAPS: One short statement instead of a question. The reason I referred to the Manitoba Commission as to unemployment was to show the fact that the Manitoba government was the first government to bring in a report dealing with a recommendation of this character. The Commission was unanimously in favour of recommending to the Dominion Government a scheme of unemployment insurance.

The CHAIRMAN: What date was that?

Mr. HEAPS: This year.

The CHAIRMAN: Any other questions? Thank you Mr. Brown for the help you have given us. You want now simply to question Mr. Rigg?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: It seems to me we will have time only for that, unless we ask Mr. Rigg to come back.

The CHAIRMAN: We have about half an hour left, and perhaps that will be the better policy.

Witness retired.

R. A. RIGG called and sworn.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. State your name in full, and your position with the Department, Mr. Rigg?—A. Richard A. Rigg, director of the Employment Service Branch of the Department of Labour.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rigg is now ready for your questions.

*By Mr. Woodsworth:*

Q. I have a few questions that occurred to me while Mr. Brown was speaking, and that perhaps will draw out the extent of that work. What proportion of the employers report to you?—A. I cannot say as to the proportion. I do not know how many employers there are in the Dominion of Canada; but normally, a little over 6,000 report, not to us, but to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

[Mr. R. A. Rigg.]