

*Employment Commission*

behind the appointment of one representative of organized labour on this national employment commission? We have not heard that stated yet.

Mr. ROGERS: I think I have been as definite as I could be.

Mr. BETTS: Then it is too bad.

Mr. ROGERS: When my hon. friend put the question as to the personnel of the commission I think the Prime Minister said, and also, if I mistake not, in my own answer I indicated that it would be most proper that labour should be represented. But it is not for us here and now to perform the functions of the governor in council.

Mr. BETTS: For whom is it, and when?

Mr. ROGERS: It is for the governor in council, and I have indicated again to-night that in the selection of the personnel of the national advisory committee I have no doubt whatever as to the claims of labour for representation upon such a committee.

Mr. BETTS: Will the claims of labour be honoured?

Mr. ROGERS: My hon. friend need have no misapprehension on that point.

Mr. BENNETT: This section in my judgment is not ample for the purpose intended. When we provided an advisory council for the wheat board we provided it in these words:

(1) The governor in council may appoint during pleasure an advisory committee to advise the board, which committee shall consist of not more than seven members of whom four shall represent wheat producers.

(2) The members of the advisory committee shall not receive any salary but shall be paid their necessary travelling and living expenses and an honorarium of ten dollars per day for each day of absence from their homes while travelling to, attending and returning from the meetings of such committee.

(3) The board may call meetings of the advisory committee to be held at such time and place as the board may decide, but not less often than once in each month.

(4) The minister may call meetings of the advisory committee to be held at such time and place as he may determine.

(5) The advisory committee, as soon as convenient after every meeting, shall report the proceedings thereof to the minister.

That was the section we agreed upon in the committee that dealt with the act last year. It will be observed that there is no limitation as to the numbers of the advisory committee in this bill. There may be, and there would be if all these classes are to be taken care of, perhaps forty or fifty members, and there is no provision for their meeting

[Mr. Betts.]

at all, either as to place or time. It is provided, however, that they are to receive their travelling expenses and living allowances incurred in connection with the business of the commission. If I might, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, refer to some of their duties as indicated by the next section, it will be observed that they are to report upon measures and means of aiding in the employment of women and in the employment of the youth of the country. Let us look at the section as it reads as contrasted with the section contained in the Wheat Board Act of last year. I am bound to say that the new board has swept that advisory wheat committee out of existence. It has not met since the new board took over so far as I am advised; it had not met up to a short time ago.

Will the minister now look at section 8 of this bill and read the words that I desire to direct attention to. First of all this commission of not more than seven members is to enable the government more effectively to discharge its duties. That is a summary of the statement as to why the commission comes into being. The Prime Minister pointed out that it might be too much for the Minister of Labour to have to bear this whole burden alone, and this whole commission idea is to enable the government, and particularly the minister, to discharge their and his duties more effectively. Second, this commission, the more effectively to discharge its duties, is to have the aid of an advisory committee. In other words, there is an admission that an advisory committee will enable the commission more effectively to discharge its duties. So here are not more than seven men, under the statute, to be advised by a number that may be as many as fifty to enable them more effectively to do their job. In other words, between the government and the advisory committee there is a commission, but the commission can only more effectively do its job if it has the assistance of an advisory committee, for the meetings of which no provision is made as to time or place, and, non constat, it may ever meet at all, although it may be named. If the minister desires to make this section effective I suggest that it is desirable to pursue the same course that the select committee pursued last year when drafting that section in the Wheat Board Act, and to provide that the committee shall meet. Remember, your commission will the "more effectively" discharge its functions because of this advisory committee. That being so, I suggest to the minister that he is not fair to himself in leaving this section as it now reads. He is not being fair to his own