

*Employment Commission*

investigation. I believe that the commission would perform a useful service not only to the dominion but to the provinces and municipalities by giving study to some long-range plan of national development as contemplated in this paragraph.

Mr. MacINNIS: I quite agree with the minister that it is necessary to review the various projects that may be brought to the attention of the government before the government starts any undertaking or incurs the expenditure of money. I am quite sure that this is necessary because at the present time almost everyone is compelled to do something in order to make a living, and if anyone can exploit such a proposition as a colonization scheme and put it over the government, there is no doubt in the world that there are many people who will be quite willing to do it.

Mr. ROGERS: I hope my hon. friend understands that such was not my suggestion. These proposals are put forward by the provincial governments in good faith.

Mr. MacINNIS: Who put them forward to the provincial governments? I have been long enough in public life to know how these propositions originate. I think the minister will have to have a versatile commission if it is going to be able to give an opinion on all the various phases of national development that may be brought to its attention. In almost all these matters of planning, the project will have to be examined from various angles. The engineers will have to view it from their angle; there may also be legal and technical aspects to be considered, and undoubtedly there will be the financial side, all of which will require experts. I thought possibly the government itself would have some plans for national development that it would place before the commission for investigation immediately it was set up.

Mr. BENNETT: Just before the minister replies, might I say that we have a habit in this country of forgetting what other commissions have done. In my time a commission investigated the resources of the British empire. A distinguished Canadian was a member of that commission, and its report dealing with Canadian resources is still available in the departmental libraries as well as in the library of parliament. Then the conservation commission added more details to that, and the several provinces have from time to time had surveys made of their resources. I have in mind two of the provinces that had very extended investigations made in that regard.

[Mr. Rogers.]

With respect to the resources that lie outside provincial boundaries, under the control of the dominion, we have had several reports made, geological and others, carrying us back to the early days of Mr. Dawson's report on the coal, gas and other resources of western Canada. We have a habit, I say, of piling commission upon commission, and forgetting what the last one did.

I agree with every word that my hon. friend said as to the desirability of this dominion assisting the provinces in matters that are beyond their power to deal with. I only point out this in connection with technical education and industrial training, that in every case their value in the ultimate analysis is determined by the effectiveness with which every province does its work after we have given them assistance. That is the real difficulty. We have no controlling voice so as to secure a standard of effectiveness. Each province must itself determine the extent and nature of the work which it will carry on with the assistance of the dominion. That is the reason there have been varying results in different provinces in connection with the work that has been done by way of technical education and industrial training. That difficulty cannot be overcome as long as our constitution remains as it is. That is the point to which I originally directed attention.

Paragraph agreed to.

On paragraph (j)—Publicity.

Mr. BENNETT: I hesitate to have to object to this, but surely it is one of the most dangerous and at the same time one of the most unfair provisions that ever will be found in a statute. This contemplates a purely political control of publicity. That is all that is, just that and nothing more. If the minister does not like the way in which a particular business is carried on, all he has to do is simply to give his approval of publicity in the one case, and on goes the publicity; or to disapprove in the other. With every word that was said by the Prime Minister the other day as to the value of publicity as a weapon in the hands of a government or a commission for the purpose of securing obedience to the laws of the country, I am in accord. Publicity has been found to be extremely valuable. That is the reason the United States gave publicity to the salaries paid to high executives. That is the reason they give publicity to the extent to which the income tax is paid, because they find