

ern provinces will be continued in employment during the seeding season. In other words we may say that it is a measure of apprenticeship in farming, since some twenty thousand of those who were so placed are under the age of twenty-five. I give that figure to the house as an indication that these measures have placed these younger people in surroundings much more satisfactory than would have been possible had they remained in the cities or, I suggest, in the relief camps, though some members may question this. Not only that, but in many cases they are given the opportunity to reestablish themselves in what after all is and will be the basic industry of the prairie provinces.

It is quite true that Ontario did not decide to accept this scheme. As hon. members of the house are aware, the plan is one of joint participation; that is to say, the costs involved are divided equally as between the dominion and the provincial government concerned. The government of Ontario, together with all other provincial governments, was approached as early as September of last year in order that we might have plans in advance to deal with the problem of single unemployed and transients. I may say that the national employment commission had a very keen appreciation of this problem, and from my contact with the situation and also with the members of the commission during that period I know that their conferences with the provinces were enormously helpful in bringing about that degree of cooperation which has made the plan successful in those provinces where it has been adopted. The Ontario government rather took the view that owing to the great increase in work being carried on in the woods, through the stimulus given to the newsprint industry, there would not be the same problem with regard to single unemployed transients as there had been in earlier years. In fairness to the Ontario department of welfare I should say that it was also the view of the minister of labour of that province that the wages paid under the scheme were unsatisfactory, that they might tend to reduce the level of ordinary farm wages and interrupt labouring conditions in that province. At all events, for the reasons I have indicated, the province of Ontario did not think it expedient to adopt this plan. I believe I am justified in saying that the plan has worked out successfully in other provinces where it has been adopted.

Mr. MacNEIL: To what extent has farm placement work been conducted in British Columbia?

Mr. ROGERS: The figures for the different months are as follows: November, 79; December, 155; January, 260; February, 220. Those are the numbers actually placed in British Columbia. I should point out that from the beginning we realized that the farm placement plan was not applicable to British Columbia in the same degree as to the prairie provinces, where there were more extensive opportunities for farm placement. Therefore we asked British Columbia to submit to us a supplementary scheme which would deal with the same group of unemployed, but which would provide work for them more in accord with the basic industries of that province. Under this supplementary scheme the men placed were engaged in forestry work and to some extent on highway work which could be done satisfactorily in the winter months. A number were placed in British Columbia under supplementary schemes. In December there were 1,251; January, 2,000; February, 2,270.

Mr. MacNEIL: To what extent must the unemployed comply with regulations respecting domicile in order to come under the farm placement scheme? For instance, I understand that the agreements with the various provinces, and particularly with British Columbia, apply only to those who have domicile in the province concerned, under the regulations as enacted by the province.

Mr. ROGERS: I will have that information in a minute. The hon. member will recall that a peculiar situation existed in British Columbia in that a large number of transients collected in Vancouver who did not qualify for receipt of direct relief. When I was in Vancouver in November of last year I had discussions with provincial government authorities regarding the matter, and also with a number of interested organizations in that city. Although originally the transients who could not establish a domicile might have been excluded from these supplementary works, we did provide that the transients actually in the province at the time the agreement was made should not be excluded. In turn that involved the setting of a date which would prevent transients from moving in from Alberta to British Columbia with a view to obtaining work on the supplementary program. In order to stabilize the situation in the various provinces we sought to have similar plans arranged. Only a few weeks later we arranged a supplementary plan in Alberta. That is to say, we wanted to check transients moving both ways, and, so far as British Columbia was concerned, in order to do that it seemed desirable to set a definite