

is no reason why this bill should not be read a second time, but there are three points of major importance that must be considered. The first strikes one the minute one reads the title of the proposed company: The Equitable Life Insurance Company of Canada. "Equitable" is a name that has been associated in the public mind with "The Equitable," which is the short name of one of the oldest and most powerful insurance companies in the world. It has had a difficult history at times, and is now a mutual company. I will not discuss that phase of the matter for, presumably, having regard to what this company is, the superintendent of insurance has dealt with that phase of it. We had great difficulty some few years ago in connection with a company that was incorporated in the United States and sought to do business in Canada. The name of the American company conflicted to some extent with that of a Canadian company, and where a company seeks to do business outside Canada and to become licensed in other jurisdictions the difficulties, if the name is such as that suggested in this bill, will be very great indeed.

The next question, of course, affects purely the security of the policyholders. With respect to that I do not propose at the moment to make any observations.

The third and last point refers to a matter which is not of any great importance in one sense, that of the position of the stockholders, but which obviously, for public reasons, may become one of very great importance. The history of the company the assets and liabilities of which are being taken over is not unknown to many of us, and it is therefore of the utmost importance to know that the superintendent of insurance has carefully investigated the assets and liabilities of the enterprise. That, as the hon. member has very properly said, can be better dealt with, I think, by the committee to which the bill will be referred than by this house.

Subject to the reservations which I have made, and which are, in my judgment, of great importance, I repeat that I see no reason why the bill should not receive its second reading and go to the committee that deals with such measures.

Motion agreed to and bill read the second time and referred to the standing committee on banking and commerce.

[Mr. Bennett.]

## EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

### ADMINISTRATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF AND PROVISION FOR NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. 14, respecting the establishment of a national employment commission—Mr. Rogers—Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre) in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN Mr. Johnston (Lake Centre): Section 6, paragraph (g).

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Chairman, when the committee rose at six o'clock I was going to point out what seemed to me to be an essential lack in a measure of this kind. I have no desire whatever to delay the passing of this bill, but it does seem to me that each clause as it comes along only shows more clearly the futility of the whole bill and of the legislation that we have placed before us. Now that we come to the suggestion that this commission should investigate and report to the minister upon plans for the establishment of an apprenticeship system in industry, it seems to me that not only are we taking action that is not going to lead us anywhere, but we are really asking the commission to travel up every blind alley that we can think of. I was reminded that it was twenty-five years ago that I happened to be on a commission to investigate the question of technical education, which seemed the best way of supplementing the deficiencies of our apprenticeship system. I did not know whether I had a copy of the report but I have managed to find one. I wish I could impress upon the committee the fact that conditions have so changed that we cannot very well go back to the old system. This report of the royal commission on technical education and industrial training is dated August 26, 1910. It was a commission set up by the Manitoba government. I should like to quote from the report a few sentences:

There is, further, a large class of young men engaged in the trades who, through the conditions under which modern industry is carried on and the increased tendency towards specialization, have little opportunity for mastering the craft in which they are engaged. The one operation performed day after day becomes entirely mechanical.

There is the first class that we have with us to-day, to whom the apprenticeship system would be of very little value; in fact, there is no move at all on the part of these industries to go into any such arrangement as an apprenticeship system.

With regard to skilled labour, I quote again:

With the exception of a few employers—for the most part large corporations—there