

some contribution in the days when he has power to do so towards his own social security. There is a saying that all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy; but while that is true it is also true that he generally has a bank account. We should all set aside a certain part of our income. The man who does not voluntarily realize the importance of thrift should be forced to assume his responsibility to himself for the days when he cannot earn his own living.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): I have consistently and annually supported the principle of unemployment insurance since I was a member of the committee of this house which in 1922 recommended old age pensions and unemployment insurance. I want to see a real system, and in view of the heavy burden which the government placed on industry yesterday it is their duty and function now to tell the employers what this scheme is. Is it compulsory; is it something the administration of which is later going to be shifted off in part on the municipalities or on the provinces? The employer yesterday was given six days to adjust income taxes with his employees. Is this bill going to be a meaningless thing or not? The government say, "as soon as possible." That is what the Liberal platform said in 1919 regarding unemployment insurance but twenty-one years afterwards it is still not in effect. It could have been put into effect by this government under the power in section 91 of the British North America Act under "public debt and property".

Following the practice of the last amendment by the parliament of the United Kingdom to the British North America Act the consent of the provinces must be given in the same form as this proposed address to-day, namely an address from each province. Another question is, how is this going to affect the present relief votes? Will it enable the government to shelter itself behind the statement that we have an act of the United Kingdom for unemployment insurance and cut these relief votes? Technical education was recognized as a federal responsibility by the commission appointed in the days of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, yet was shunted off on the provinces and municipalities, and so was old age pensions.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) must not be too sure about getting this amendment through the British parliament in a day or two. I can tell him there are other applications to amend a constitution, one of them dealing with a very grave situation in India; and the British government had to

tell them that it will have to be postponed until after the war. They want home rule all along the line, something that may affect the war effort. South Africa and the southern part of Ireland have been considering like applications. Anyone who has the interests of the empire at heart realizes that these are very grave times for the mother country; and while I have supported this principle and support this application now, this is a very grave time to ask for this legislation if we are not going to put it into effect right away. "As soon as possible" does not mean anything. Will it be put into effect this year?

Until the enactment of the statute of Westminster there was no doubt that we had to go to the British parliament for these amendments. But this Dominion of Canada has a written constitution, that of 1867, and rules of strict law off it under the British North America Act. The southern part of Ireland was given a somewhat similar constitution, by the Irish treaty of 1921. The moment the statute of Westminster had been passed, although Mr. Lloyd George, the attorney general of England; Right Hon. F. E. Smith; Sir Austen Chamberlain and many eminent lawyers said at the time that the statute of Westminster would not change one word of the written constitution of southern Ireland, they changed every article of that constitution, including the abolition of appeals to the privy council. What will be the effect of the statute of Westminster on this application as far as Canada is concerned? No doubt that point will be raised when the matter comes up in the imperial parliament. I hope this will not lead to giving Canada the right to change its own constitution at will, as was given to one other dominion; the provinces must also consent to that.

These are very grave times for the mother of parliaments, and while I support the application, as I have always supported this principle, I do not want to see this a meaningless thing, just getting an amendment of the British North America Act and then having it stand for months and years. We are thirty-one years behind the mother country. She got this splendid social legislation in 1909; under the Liberal platform we were to get it in 1919, and here twenty-one years later we have not got it yet; there is only a proposal for enabling legislation, with no details or plan. This is going to open the door to applications from India and the two other dominions I have named at a very grave time for the empire. In view of the heavy burden put upon industry and agriculture by the government yesterday the government should tell the house and the country, employers of