

Supply—Labour

service in the national employment offices in over 200 centres across Canada.

The commission operates a free—that is, free to the applicant—employment service available to all employers and workers whether engaged in insurable employment or not. That is an important fact to remember.

At the end of the fiscal year the regular staff of the commission numbered 6,917 as compared with 6,885 at the close of last year, 1951-52. The number of casual employees was 1,115 as against 1,140 on March 31, 1952. There are now in operation more than 200 local offices located across Canada from Newfoundland to the Pacific. They are administered by the commission from Ottawa through five regional offices.

During the calendar year 1952 the number of vacancies filled—that is, job vacancies—was 969,916 as compared with 918,238 in the previous calendar year.

On the insurance side, the latest available figures show a balance in the insurance fund, as at February 28, of \$858,159,269. The total amount paid out in benefits since the inception of the plan, up to February 28 last, is \$545,142,962. It will be quite obvious that the distribution of this appreciable sum has not only proved to be of great assistance to the direct beneficiaries, but has helped to maintain economic stability in our country.

Since contributions began in the summer of 1941, the sum of \$1,070,082,806 has been paid into the fund by employers and employees. The government's contribution has totalled \$215,852,552. The sum of \$117,223,515 has been added to the fund as the result of interest on investments and profit on sale of securities. The fund itself is invested in federal government bonds, or bonds guaranteed by the government.

Mr. Chairman, in presenting my estimates for 1953-54 I should like to pay tribute to the loyal and devoted work of the staffs of both the department and the commission. More and more has it become necessary for these two government agencies, while maintaining their own identities, to co-ordinate many of their activities. This has been carried forward. I can assure the committee that every effort will continue to be made by both to improve their services to the people of Canada.

Mrs. Fairclough: Mr. Chairman, in speaking to this item I should like to join with the minister in his tribute to the former deputy minister of labour, Mr. Arthur MacNamara, for the services which he rendered to Canada in that capacity. Like other speakers tonight on this and various subjects,

[Mr. Gregg.]

I find the hour so late and everyone in the frame of mind where they wish to get on with the business of the house, that it is my purpose to curtail my remarks as much as I can and still touch on the points I wish to place on the record.

I should like to say, Mr. Chairman, that I am greatly impressed with the current trend of thinking which in all fields of production is becoming more and more serious about the type and volume of that production. I was much impressed on reading the address given in February of this year by Mr. Walter P. Reuther, president of the C.I.O., at the Ontario federation of labour convention at Windsor. I wish to quote part of one sentence, in which he said:

... the real challenge that we face as free people is to prove to the world and to ourselves that we know how to achieve full employment and full production in peacetime, making the good things that people need in their everyday lives.

I think it is one of the achievements of the twentieth century that workers and management are drawing ever closer to a realization of their mutual problems. Of course they still continue to have their individual problems but, Mr. Chairman, I believe there is a growing respect for the viewpoint of the other, on both sides, which augurs well for the production potentialities of Canada.

It is interesting to read words such as those uttered by this outstanding labour leader and it is also interesting to find that labour leaders, both here and in our neighbouring country to the south, are considering more and more the prospects of peace and the conversion of our industrial life to peacetime work.

To put it bluntly, Mr. Chairman, I believe it is the duty of the Department of Labour in Canada to be prepared in this regard, to be ready to make suggestions and to deal with industrial problems, as they are sure to arise, so that the production of the nation may flow with a minimum of disruption when we once more enter an era of peace.

It is interesting to notice in the current issue of the *International Labour Review* that a study is also being undertaken with regard to methods of increasing productivity in manufacturing industries. Without going into the matter to any extent, Mr. Chairman, because the whole study is here for anyone to read who may be interested, I should like just to quote the first paragraph and the introduction to the conclusion of the experts in which it says:

In the broadest sense the problem of raising productivity is the problem of making more efficient use of our resources in general—of using them