

view of the larger wage allowance, men who are physically able to work must work if required to do so; otherwise they will be dismissed. But the figures do not suggest that there have been very many dismissals for that cause.

Mr. REID: Has the minister any information as to the number of men who are leaving the camps of their own accord rather than go to this work? According to press dispatches a large number of men are beginning to leave the camps rather than take advantage of the offer of work. Has the minister any information in that regard?

Mr. ROGERS: I have not the figures before me, but, as I intimated a moment ago, at this season of the year there has always been a reduction in the population of the camps. My hon. friend is aware of that. That reduction of the camp population has been less this year than in previous years. At the same time I confess to having been surprised to observe the number that have left the camps since March 1. I have no doubt that the very fact that spring was approaching accounts to some extent for that movement. Another reason would lie in the fact that not a few sons of farmers who have experienced difficult times during recent years have gone into relief camps during the winter months and have returned to their homes during the summer months. It is impossible without further information to explain completely the movement out of the camps at this time. I should say that it is less than normal.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: What will be done with the older men, who form considerable numbers in some of the camps, and who are really not fitted for either farm work or construction work?

Mr. ROGERS: I agree with my hon. friend that that presents a special problem. It is one that we shall have to discuss with the provincial governments. As a matter of fact you find the largest number of these older men in British Columbia, but there is by no means any certainty that they belong to that province or could establish a domicile there at the present time.

Mr. STIRLING: If we are dealing with section 3 as a whole, I want to draw the attention of the minister to the words "a dominion engineer" on the eighth line. "A dominion engineer," I think, means just nothing. "Dominion land surveyer" definitely means something, but there is no such thing as a dominion engineer. The minister may not think this a matter of great import, but I

[Mr. Rogers.]

would ask my fellow-craftsman the Minister of Railways whether he knows what "a dominion engineer" is. "An engineer in the employ of the dominion government" would mean something definite.

Mr. ROGERS: That is the intention. That is to say, the section is designed to provide that all contracts entered into shall be approved by the minister and the work supervised by an engineer of the dominion government. Perhaps that change could be made. I do not think I am allowed to—

Mr. BENNETT: Oh, yes, you are.

Mr. MacNICOL: By a resident engineer or an inspecting engineer?

Mr. ROGERS: It is subsection 3 of section 3.

Mr. POWER: moved:

That subsection 3 of section 3 in the eighth line thereof on page 2 be amended by striking out the words "a dominion engineer" and substituting therefor the words "an engineer in the service of the dominion government."

Mr. MacNICOL: With reference to the amendment, that then would permit the employment of any local engineer in the vicinity where works may be carried on?

Mr. ROGERS: There is nothing to prevent the employment of inspectors locally to supervise construction works to which the dominion government has contributed. As a matter of fact that has been the case in the construction of various sections of the trans-Canada highway, which has been carried on in cooperation with the provinces. This is intended to provide rather than with respect to the approval of contracts entered into by the provinces with construction firms, the interests of the dominion shall be safeguarded by an engineer in the service of the dominion government.

Mr. MacNICOL: And the provinces may also have an engineer in their service on the same work?

Mr. ROGERS: Oh, quite.

Mr. BENNETT: What really is meant by works "under provincial jurisdiction"? Subsection 3 of section 3 reads as follows:

Where any such work or undertaking is under provincial jurisdiction, all contracts entered into with respect thereto shall be approved by the minister and the work thereunder supervised by an engineer in the service of the dominion government.

That imposes a condition that I cannot assume the minister has in mind, because there surely must be contracts which a province might desire to make without reference to the dominion; or, why should they super-