

*Unemployment*

requirements when provision is made for the appropriation of the moneys. It would not, however, meet the case of governor general's warrants, to which reference was made this afternoon. It might be desirable at this time, although perhaps I should do it in connection with the next clause, to point out that the next clause, which is not to be repealed when the act lapses on March 31 next, opens up a field which, I think, the right hon. gentleman would also wish to consider at some length before any final conclusion is arrived at.

I cannot think that the government would seriously decline to accept the suggestion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) that where some contribution is made by the dominion to a province or an industry, an industry or corporation in this case, the fair wage clause should prevail. As a matter of fact, as the Minister of Labour will no doubt tell the committee, in the agreements made by the late administration such a clause was included in the agreement itself dealing with steel companies for the manufacture of rails and other matters.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): In the agreement?

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, in the agreement itself. That is my recollection because I had occasion to look into the agreement in connection with a matter that arose with one of the railways, and the clause was inserted that they should pay—I forget the exact words—the wages approved by the Department of Labour.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It is covered by the statute I referred to.

Mr. BENNETT: Does the statute cover it where it is a mere contribution?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes.

Mr. BENNETT: Which statute is that?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The statute to which I referred when speaking in reply to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, "An act respecting fair wages and hours of labour in relation to public works and contracts." The clause in particular is clause 5, which relates to agreements for works involving dominion aid, subsection 2 of which reads:

In every such agreement, there shall be inserted stipulations, in such form and terms as the governor in council may approve, designed to secure, so far as may be practicable, the observance, in the execution of the

[Mr. Bennett.]

work contemplated, of the following conditions respecting fair wages and hours of work, that is to say, the condition respecting fair wages set forth in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of section 3 of this act...

Paragraph (a) sets forth the condition which governs fair wages in connection with government contracts.

Mr. BENNETT: That was the act of 1935.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The act was passed last year but as regards this particular feature it reenacted legislation in the fair wages act of 1930.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not think that mere contribution was covered by the act of 1930, because that was one of the matters which the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre did strenuously press upon the attention of the government of that day. My recollection is that the statute of 1930 was amplified and extended so as to cover the particular case to which reference was made, namely, where contributions had been made. I am speaking subject to memory and my recollection may not be accurate, but I do recall that it was contended that the statute of 1930 was hardly wide enough, and the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre kept constantly pressing that point in connection with assistance to the railways and steel companies.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My right hon. friend will perhaps let me point out that this act does not come into effect until the first of May of this year. It will govern all agreements of the present government but my right hon. friend was careful to see that it would not necessarily have governed agreements made at the time he was in office.

Mr. BENNETT: There were some contracts which did not contain this provision and which should have contained it, and the basis of the contracts having been without this provision, the first of May was fixed by the committee of the house as a reasonable date from which all future contracts should run, and therefore every contract which is made after the first of May next, and in connection with which contributions are made, will be subject to the provisions of that statute.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Then the argument of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre falls to the ground.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. I remember the discussion that took place at the time, and I recall having got from one of the railways