

ince concerned would be at a disadvantage in its competition with the backward one. Not only that, the first province would be an attraction for workmen living in the second, and therefore the difficulties of the first province would be again multiplied and the cost of producing its products in industry further increased. That seems quite obvious; so that we cannot get away from the fact that whatever is done must be done either in a broad national way by the federal parliament or, on the other hand, by the individual provincial parliaments acting with the utmost cooperation and in unison as to both time and character of their legislation.

The matter of the British North America Act has come up. Far be it from me to undertake to discuss that act, but as a citizen and as one who has read at least the ordinary news of the day, I know many difficulties must be faced in regard to the conflicting interests of federal and provincial jurisdictions. It is the easiest thing in the world for a critic to ignore the existence of a constitution, throw it aside and then proceed as if by a mere wave of the hand the constitution had been dealt with, set aside and the legislation placed in a position to go full-steam ahead. Hon. gentlemen know that cannot be done, hence it is that from time to time the federal authorities and the provincial representatives have held conferences dealing with various matters in respect to jurisdiction, amongst them being this very question of unemployment insurance. I do not and I presume other hon. members do not yet know exactly how far those conferences have gone or what conclusions they have reached. I presume many difficulties arose and we are advised, by rumour at least, that those difficulties have not yet all been cleared away. So that, in our calculations as to what steps should be taken nationally in respect to unemployment insurance, we must take account of the position in which those conferences have placed us. Finding fault with this or that province in its attitude on this or other questions regarding which there is conflicting jurisdiction, will not get us anywhere. We are brought to the point where the representatives of this parliament and those of the provincial legislatures are placed in the position that at least for the time being they must arrive at what is the most advanced point to which the various provincial authorities and the federal government can go. That may not be the ideal, but I hope, when the various acts are introduced, we shall attain as nearly the ideal as possible. For the time

being this is not a problem of going through the British North America Act, but rather one of going around it, of arriving at a point where we may be convinced that the best position, so far as the various parts of Canada are concerned, has been reached. We must not overlook the fact that in Canada there are many industries; that the same industry conducted in one part is perhaps conducted on a different basis from that in another part of the country; that different sections of our people have differing outlooks in regard to the conduct of those industries and consequently, we must assume that in the dominion-provincial conferences the rights of all the people in the various districts of Canada must be considered and that no offence is extended to any. Therefore we are confronted with the situation that cooperation is the first essential in arriving at a safe basis in legislating for unemployment insurance. Personally, I am in favour of such insurance and shall be glad to see the legislation introduced whether in this house or in the provincial legislatures or in all at the earliest feasible date. When that time comes those who have been in conference with the provinces and who have been most closely in touch with what has been proceeding will be best informed as to what steps are the most advisable to take so far as this federal parliament is concerned.

Passing on to the general consideration of unemployment insurance and leaving aside the chief point of the resolution itself, may we consider for a moment in rapid review the historical background leading up to the advisability of introducing an unemployment insurance scheme in this country. Going back exactly 100 years to 1834, to the Poor Laws of the old country and the principles which were included in those laws and following along during all the years, we find a slow, sure but steady progress in conditions of the workmen in the old land and in this new country. Following along from 1834, if one had time to consider the living, working and housing conditions, the matter of child labour, woman labour and so forth, one would have to review what legislation was introduced during the years to improve all those conditions of which I have spoken, and one would be able to show that from 1834 onwards there was a gradual upward step taken on behalf of those who labour in industry. One could go further and show the development of labour unions and what they meant for labour people, the inauguration of collective bargaining, the question of strikes and lock-outs and so forth. All these have to do with the steps that have