

Mr. ROGERS: Certainly I would not go the length of saying that the directors of the employment offices in the various provinces are indifferent to the situation or are not desirous of correcting such abuses as exist. On the other hand I would not feel myself in a position to pass censure upon the employment service as it existed generally in a particular province. Undoubtedly there are weak points; possibly there are weak points in all provinces, and I would imagine that in all provinces there is a growing opinion that the employment service of Canada should be modernized, as suggested by the national employment commission, and made even more useful than it has been in the past. In all this criticism I think we should recognize that generally speaking the Employment Service of Canada has done a very good job with respect to placements for a number of years, but undoubtedly much can be done to improve and modernize it. If that cannot be done by nationalization it ought to be done by more effective cooperation between the employment services in the various provinces.

Mr. LOCKHART: There are one or two points in particular I have in mind, and no doubt the minister has encountered places where perhaps greater evils have crept in. Are definite efforts being made by the department to have difficulties eliminated at particular points that may have been brought to the attention of the minister? I imagine he is familiar with certain points. I know of one or two. Is a real effort being made by the minister to impress upon those in charge at those points the importance of having the difficulties remedied, difficulties that have been so apparent particularly within the last year or two? Is the Department of Labour bringing its influence to bear upon points where evils have crept in?

Mr. ROGERS: The answer to that question would be that the Department of Labour is and will be anxious to bring about an improvement in the Employment Service of Canada, and to correct any weaknesses that may exist. So far as personnel is concerned I have explained to the committee that it is effectively beyond our control, but certainly I would not say that the difficulties as to personnel are confined to any year or any period of years, and I am sure my hon. friend will agree with that. Possibly difficulties with respect to personnel in some respects go back to the beginning of the service. Certainly we will do whatever lies within our power to improve the service, but the question of personnel is one that actually lies within provincial control.

Mr. MacNEIL: May I ask exactly what facilities are available to a transient in British Columbia, now unemployed, whose domicile is in Saskatchewan or Manitoba? Can he go to the office in Vancouver and register, even though he is not a resident of British Columbia, and secure definite advice or assistance in connection with employment that may be available in the province of his domicile?

Mr. ROGERS: Clearly that would be a matter of internal administration. Personally I would feel that if the information were available which would disclose possibilities of employment in the province of domicile, he would be assisted by the officer of the employment office towards obtaining such employment. I cannot go beyond that.

Mr. MASSEY: A few moments ago the minister very kindly gave the number of jobs that had been obtained through these sixty-eight offices throughout the dominion. Has he any record of the number of applications that were handled, in order that we may have an idea of the success of these offices?

Mr. ROGERS: Perhaps it would serve the purpose of my hon. friend if I gave the number of applications in a given year and the number of placements in the same year.

Mr. MASSEY: Yes.

Mr. ROGERS: The year is from March, 1936, to March, 1937, inclusive. The number of applications was 680,183. The number of placements was 332,195.

Mr. MASSEY: Would the 680,183 be different individuals, or might an individual apply two or three times in the course of a year?

Mr. ROGERS: These would be the actual placements. A man might be placed several times in the course of a year.

Mr. MASSEY: And the same would apply in regard to applications?

Mr. ROGERS: One man might be placed a number of times in the course of a year, and each time would be included as a placement.

Mr. MASSEY: The 680,183 would be the total number of applications, and a man might apply several times in a year?

Mr. ROGERS: Yes.

Mr. MASSEY: Would the minister be good enough to tell the committee if the offices in the various centres advertise that they have registered with them mechanics, drill hands, and so on, whatever may be the