

education was developed throughout the whole of Canada on the lines laid down in that report. Not only did the commission set out on a nation wide scale the scheme of industrial training and technical education, which is now in existence in the different provinces, but the dominion supplemented the efforts of the provinces by giving a certain amount of financial aid to those provinces which agreed to comply with the conditions which the commission had laid down as essential in bringing into being an effective form of industrial education and technical training. I submit that no better example could be given of the service which this commission may render in dealing with the question of employment.

Applying this view also to the subject which has been under discussion, namely the conservation of natural resources, I feel that a commission which made a survey of the natural resources of Canada—I am not saying that this commission will take that particular step, but assuming it should—might render a very great service to the provinces, by drawing attention to the necessity of steps for conservation where necessary. Were it thought to be in the interests of the country as a whole, it might recommend federal aid to the provinces, which at the same time would afford employment to large numbers of unemployed. As my right hon. friend has said time and again, there is nothing to prevent this parliament from granting assistance to any province for any purpose which it may wish to promote, provided parliament is ready to take that step.

The hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Mitchell) has inquired as to the significance of the words "which may be proceeded with or discontinued from time to time as conditions may determine." Perhaps I can make clear what is intended by pointing out that at the moment this parliament is voting many millions of dollars, for the purpose of providing employment. It is hoped that these moneys may be so applied as not only to provide employment but also to permit of the furtherance of some developments which are of national importance. During this period when there are so many unemployed, if they can be put to work on important national projects, it will be all to the good. But assuming that we get out of this period of depression, and that this parliament no longer finds it necessary to vote money for the purpose of unemployment relief, it may well be that some of these projects developed for this purpose at the present time may advantageously be discontinued, to be gone

on with again in future years should a similar situation arise, or to be continued by the government of the day should the government feel that conditions warrant such action. It is simply to enable such steps to be taken as conditions may render advisable.

Mr. MacINNIS: Would the minister tell us what plans, if any, of national development the government have in mind that might be referred to the commission for consideration under this paragraph?

Mr. ROGERS: We are asking the national commission itself to recommend comprehensive measures constituting a long-range plan of national development. We would select the commission so as to have a reasonable expectation that the commission would be able wisely to present such a plan to us. In my brief experience in the Department of Labour I have been convinced of the wisdom of a more deliberate study of many public works projects previous to their being brought before parliament. Within the last few days, apart entirely from public works projects, two of the provinces have submitted schemes of colonization, on the principle that from their point of view the best solution of unemployment is to bring many from the cities to the land, either in remote sections of the province which have some prospect of rapid development, or in areas adjacent to cities where a process of decentralization could be carried out which would counteract in a measure the marked tendency towards urbanization which has characterized this country for the last thirty years. Those plans were presented without any previous knowledge on the part of the Department of Labour, and I am bound to say that although we have very efficient officers in the department they were not competent to pass upon the feasibility of the plans. I feel that in connection with colonization, or public works projects, or reforestation, or irrigation works and the protection of the natural resources of the country, there is everything to be said in favour of a preliminary survey and appraisal. For example, I believe that in Sweden, where there has been a national unemployment commission in existence since 1914, they have had studies of this kind and have created thereby what might be termed a backlog of public works projects. Some of these projects were undertaken by the national government, some by the provincial governments, and some by the communes. But at all events it was in accordance with a pre-arranged plan and after careful preliminary