

Mr. IRVINE: Seeing that the minister has just read the platform of the Liberal party which was drawn up at the national convention in 1919, would he indicate to the House how much has been done towards implementing it, and how much of it the government have discovered to be practicable?

Mr. HEENAN: The minister has not yet got far enough into his duties to ascertain all that has been done or all that is practicable to be done in this connection. But I do know that some of the things enumerated in that platform are to-day in operation in some of the provinces, no matter to whom credit is due for that condition of affairs. I do not say that we have gone too far or even far enough. I say that this is the platform as enunciated by the Prime Minister to be carried out by the Dominion in connection with the provinces. The premier of Ontario has also declared himself in favour of the same policy.

I think very great credit is due to the hon. member for North Winnipeg for moving this resolution, and on behalf of the government I can promise him that its subject matter will be submitted to the interprovincial conference which is to meet here during the coming summer.

Mr. HEAPS: Does not the minister think from practical experience that it would be far preferable to have something concrete to submit to the conference rather than just a bald question?

Mr. HEENAN: I take it for granted that the hon. member means that the committee on industrial and international relations would draw up something of a concrete nature for submission to that conference?

Mr. HEAPS: Yes.

Mr. HEENAN: I have already pointed out that I think we have available all the data that can be secured on this proposition. If, however, it is considered that the committee referred to can gather any further data I may say on behalf of the government that we have no objection whatever to the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. IRVINE: The committee could review the data which the minister says is available and bring in a recommendation on the subject matter of the resolution.

Mr. HEENAN: Like old age pensions, unemployment insurance has been recommended for a great many years, but personally I would rather see it in operation than read all the recommendations that may be made in regard to it.

[Mr. Heenan.]

Mr. IRVINE: That is all right.

Mr. HEENAN: I think there is something in the remarks of the hon. member behind me that we should be careful not—I think I will not proceed further along that line.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. STEVENS: The minister is getting on dangerous ground.

Mr. HEENAN: I recognize that some method should be devised for dealing with unemployment. Whether that purpose can be attained by transferring men from one part of the Dominion to another according to the conditions of employment prevailing I know not; but I do know from practical experience that the present system is not in the best interests either of the working classes or of the country at large. I mean the granting of relief to our unemployed in one industry and the bringing in of immigrants to meet the demand for industrial labour in another industry. If the committee could devise a system of moving our unemployed to those sections where there is a demand for labour I think its work would be well worth while. In conclusion, I wish to say that so far as the government is concerned there is no objection to this matter being referred to the committee on industrial and international relations.

Mr. E. J. YOUNG (Weyburn): Mr. Speaker, I am not much in favour of this resolution. It is true the purpose of the resolution is simply to refer unemployment insurance to a committee, and on general principles I am not opposed to such action, in fact I am generally in favour of it. But in the last two weeks I have heard arguments from the other side of the House stating that to refer a question to a committee is tantamount to the adoption of the principle involved.

Mr. BENNETT: That is only in connection with a bill; this is a resolution.

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): For my part I am not prepared to admit the principle.

Mr. HEAPS: Does the hon. member object to this subject being referred to a committee because such action would involve the adoption of the principle of the resolution?

Mr. YOUNG (Weyburn): Yes.

Mr. HEAPS: Will the hon. member take the same stand in regard to the Georgian bay canal?