

*Employment Commission*

... it is necessary to have the effective co-operation of the provinces and municipalities, and to enlist the cooperation of employers' and employees' associations throughout the dominion, as well of such other public and private agencies as may be in a position to provide employment or to suggest what is practicable in the way of reemployment projects ...

I do not quite follow what is meant by re-employment projects, but we can leave that for the moment.

... and whereas, it would appear that such nation-wide cooperative effort can best be effected through the appointment of a representative national commission, with power to cooperate with the provinces, municipalities and other agencies in the administration of unemployment relief ...

That is exactly the negation of what the minister has been saying all during the discussion of this bill. I desire to point this out, not in any controversial spirit at all, but as indicating that the preamble is at variance with the minister's statement as to section 7, because section 7 clearly indicates that no administrative duties are to be conferred upon the commission until action has been taken by the governor in council. But this preamble says power is conferred—

... to cooperate with the provinces, municipalities and other agencies in the administration of unemployment relief ...

I repeat, Mr. Chairman, that this is exactly the opposite of what has been said during this whole debate. This commission is not to cooperate in the administration of unemployment relief; that is not being dealt with by this measure, at least so the minister states. I think that is a correct statement of the situation.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The word of real significance is the word "cooperate."

... the appointment of a representative national commission, with power to cooperate with the provinces, municipalities and other agencies ...

If my right hon. friend would prefer to substitute the words "in respect of" for the words "in the administration of," I do not see any objection to that. The possibility which he fears would then be removed.

Mr. BENNETT: It is not a question of fearing anything; it is a question of the preamble being at variance with the bill.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It would not change the intention of the preamble as it existed in the mind of the government. This portion of the preamble would then read:

... with power to cooperate with the provinces, municipalities and other agencies in

[Mr. Bennett.]

respect of unemployment relief, and in an endeavour to provide work for the unemployed ...

Mr. BENNETT: If you stopped at "with power to cooperate with the provinces, municipalities and other agencies," I think you would cover it all.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The two purposes in connection with which cooperation is desired are in respect to relief and in providing employment, and I therefore think those words should remain in the preamble. However, I am quite prepared to move, and do move that in lines 20 and 21 the words "the administration" be struck out and the words "respect of" be substituted therefor, so that the clause will read:

... with power to cooperate with the provinces, municipalities and other agencies in respect of unemployment relief, and in an endeavour to provide work for the unemployed ...

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. BENNETT: Now I desire to make just two observations with respect to the preamble. It has been suggested that there is some analogy between this legislation and that having to do with the Canadian Patriotic Fund. I desire to point out briefly that there is no analogy in the world between them. The Canadian Patriotic Fund is based on the British North America Act which, by section 91, confers exclusive legislative authority on the parliament of Canada to deal with:

7. Militia, military and naval service, and defence.

That exclusive jurisdiction being vested in the parliament of Canada, no province or any other authority had any jurisdiction to deal with it. It followed, therefore, that when parliament passed the Canadian Patriotic Fund Act of 1914 parliament was the only authority that could do so. In the next place, a corporation was created by those named in section 2, and the objects of the corporation, as defined by section 3 of chapter 8 of the statutes of 1914 were as follows:

The objects of the corporation shall be to collect, administer and distribute the fund hereinbefore mentioned for the assistance in case of need of the wives, children and dependent relatives of officers and men, residents of Canada, who, during the present war, may be on active service with the naval and military forces of the British empire and Great Britain's allies.

In other words there was a distinct and positive limitation upon the class of persons on whom the benefits be conferred, namely the wives, children and dependent relatives of officers and men, residents of Canada. There was no question as to that, and there