

ployment commission would bring down a recommendation, which in turn would be placed before the government, the government in turn obtaining power from parliament. Under this bill I understand the government could give assistance in connection with wages on farms throughout the dominion. Is my understanding correct, if a recommendation is made by the national employment commission?

Mr. ROGERS: As a matter of fact, I believe that according to the terms of the bill—

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): You can give any power you like.

Mr. ROGERS: We are not forced even to wait for advice.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): A blank cheque, to do as you like.

Mr. ROGERS: Limited by an appropriation made by parliament.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): Limited by an appropriation made by parliament, certainly.

Mr. ROGERS: Yes.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): I believe the question of the hon. member for Weyburn was in order, and he did not receive an answer. He asked with reference to what industries would receive assistance, especially in view of the fact that while the Prime Minister has given us intimation this evening that even before his appointment by the governor in council.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Just a minute. May I interrupt my hon. friend, right there. He said "before his appointment by the governor in council."

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): Those were your own words.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend states those are my own words. I happen to have my own words before me. I have a transcript of Hansard for which I sent, and which I shall give to the committee. Here are my words—and I give them to the leader of the opposition as well:

I am very happy to inform the house that we have been so fortunate as to secure as chairman of the national employment commission Mr. Arthur Purvis of Montreal, president and managing director of Canadian Industries Limited. We have been discussing with Mr. Purvis matters relating to the work of the commission. We have also been in touch with other gentlemen who will be asked to become members of the commission, and we hope to be able to announce the entire personnel of the commission in a few days.

Nowhere is there mention of any appointment having been made by the governor in council.

Mr. BENNETT: "Secure the services" means that or nothing.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It does not mean that, and those words do not appear. There has been no appointment made; I repeat it. No appointment has been made but we have been fortunate to secure from Mr. Purvis his agreement to act as chairman of the commission, and he will be appointed in due course.

Mr. BENNETT: The right hon. gentleman read just now that "We have been so fortunate as to secure the services of Mr. Purvis."

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Agreement to serve as chairman.

Mr. BENNETT: The statute says that he can be appointed only by the governor in council. Therefore his services can be secured only by the governor in council. And it is so elementary, that if it were otherwise there would be no question about it. If conditions were reversed I think I could hear the right hon. gentleman's ecstasies regarding the constitution. I think I hear his loud cry calling upon us to save us from destruction because we have announced a man's services have been secured before the governor in council has been consulted. When in England such a thing happened the sovereign in at least one case declined to be a party to it.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The sovereign would not decline in this case, I assure my right hon. friend.

Mr. BENNETT: I have no doubt. There again, that action is a great breach of the constitutional privilege of the sovereign. It is belittling the office of the governor general.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: No, it is not. It is exalting the office by making it clear that the governor general may be expected to act on the advice of his ministers.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): I quite appreciate that even the sovereign power is doubtful when a party has a majority of 170.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is the real power, the power of the people's representatives.

Mr. ROWE (Dufferin): In view of the division of opinion this afternoon and this evening I think he might even doubt that. However I might say that the Prime Minister