

*Employment Commission*

eers and other experts, for the sake not only of my municipality but of all municipalities concerned. Sanitary conditions to-day in our congested districts are absolutely terrible. In my own constituency we have doubled our population in the last twelve or fifteen years, and our sewage system is no longer adequate to take care of the situation. As I briefly remarked in this house on February 19, we are threatened with floods all the time because our dykes are not sufficiently protected. We also need to widen our main road, which also is part of the trans-Canada highway. Public buildings are needed; fire stations are required. I believe that while our philanthropists and social workers have done their best in the past, to-day we need technical men in order to make a survey of the needs of our communities so that not only our generation but future generations may be afforded the protection they deserve.

We have had enough of charity. I have no grudge against philanthropic institutions or social workers, but I believe most hon. members will agree that to-day we have too many social workers and not enough real workers. The philanthropists and social workers can always look after the unemployables, the sick and the crippled, but this is not only a charitable but also a technical proposition. We want to build something. When the history of the last few years is written the people of to-day will find their names in its pages. We have done our very best, and at no time in the history of humanity have so many people been cared for by others. It is a glorious page of history as far as charity is concerned, but what has been the result of unemployment? The loss has been appallingly high. People have lost courage; their spirits have been broken, and in many cases they have even lost their self-respect. The moral cost has been great, but the physical cost has been equally great. The more qualified a man was, the more trained he was, the more skilful he was, the greater has been the loss and the greater his downfall.

I hope these remarks have been taken in a constructive way. I had not intended to criticize the government at all, but I am not given to throwing bouquets. Much as I admire the Minister of Labour I will throw him a bouquet only after he has accomplished what the government pledged themselves to accomplish last October.

Mr. STIRLING: I am not at all sure even yet that I understand what the minister has in mind with regard to this advisory committee. When I first read this proposal I [Mr. Wermerlinger.]

thought it meant that in the course of its studies, when such assistance was required, the commission would be able to appoint an advisory committee to be composed of those who were expert in the matter under consideration. But apparently that is not at all what this wording means. Stripped of the explanatory wording, and coming to the essential meaning of the words, it says:

The governor in council may ... name a "national advisory committee" ... to include representatives of industrial, occupational, philanthropic and social service organizations.

It does not limit their number. It may appoint one committee, and these various people may appear on that committee. True, they are not to be paid, but they may draw travelling and living allowances, and if the commission is being empowered to appoint a committee that will include all these various people it will not be of any assistance to the commission in studying the matters which the commission takes up for study, but will merely be another commission advising the first one.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear. That is what it says.

Mr. STIRLING: If the commission, when dealing with something which, we will say, concerns the fishing industry, had power to appoint an advisory committee of people expert in that business—and you could multiply the example in many directions—I could understand the situation. But where the governor in council takes power to name the committee it does not seem to me that this would be of much assistance.

Mr. ROGERS: The first words of the clause are as follows:

8. (1) The governor in council may with a view to more effectively enabling the commission to carry out its functions name a "national advisory committee".

The functions are those we have already considered, functions which relate to investigations bearing upon the most serious problems which confront us at the present time.

Mr. BENNETT: And making recommendations.

Mr. ROGERS: Yes, and making recommendations accordingly. The commission, as I indicated a few minutes ago, will consist of not more than seven members; that is set out in the bill. When the national employment commission was considered we felt it was desirable that it should be representative in both a geographical and an occupational sense. As I suggested, we have in view a nation-wide