

concrete task. Simply to have a general advisory committee to deal with the employment service would not be very effective. The national employment commission in making its recommendation had in mind that the employment service would also be utilized in connection with youth training plans and the rehabilitation of the unemployed. I am far from saying that even in the existing organization more might not be done in that direction; I simply point out that in setting up these committees, if one expects results from them it is very important to see that they are focussed on the particular task.

Mr. TAYLOR (Nanaimo): Would it not be possible to obtain greater efficiency by having a national clearing house to which these various offices would send their returns? Is that done?

Mr. ROGERS: Yes, that is done. That is one of the functions discharged by the dominion office.

Mr. GREEN: Is there no possibility of the dominion government taking over the employment service, as the Purvis commission so strongly recommended? Why can we not establish our own dominion employment agencies in the different provinces, or, if some provinces did not want it, let them carry on as they are? I am sure that certain provinces would be willing to allow the dominion to take over the field.

Mr. ROGERS: That is a question I have had occasion to discuss before in this house. It is true that there are certain provinces that would even now consent to the employment service being taken over by the dominion. It so happens however that these are provinces in which the problem of unemployment is less acute with respect to industrial labour; I refer particularly to some of the western provinces. I would question the desirability of the dominion setting up a competing system of employment service. From time to time this government and other governments have been attacked on the ground of duplicating services. I have discussed this matter with a number of the provinces. I am bound to say that while some would be agreeable, others are definitely opposed, and while some of the larger industrial provinces are opposed to having the employment service nationalized, I question the wisdom of our proceeding in a piecemeal way.

Mr. MacNEIL: What steps are being taken to coordinate the work in the various provinces. The minister is aware of the necessary movement of labour from point to point

[Mr. Rogers.]

between the great lakes and the Pacific coast to take care of seasonal requirements. Is there any coordination so that men move as efficiently as possible from one job to the next as it may open up, without being released in large numbers and then picked up again in a more or less haphazard way? Is there a general plan in effect in that respect between the four western provinces?

Mr. ROGERS: An effort is made to collate all information with respect to available employment and seasonal opportunities for employment. For example, special arrangements have been made with the railways to see that when there is definite promise of employment no man shall fail to reach that employment by reason of the fact that he is unable to meet the railway charges.

Mr. MacNEIL: Is the service equipped to deal with a situation such as that in Vancouver to-day? It has been suggested that work is available at various points and that these single unemployed men should apply for it. Can we safely give assurance that work is available for them?

Mr. ROGERS: I would not suggest for a moment that one could say that on a given day all of a certain group of men can be given employment in one province or another. The employment office in Vancouver would be advised of possible opportunities for employment in other provinces. But as my hon. friend fully realizes, in the past few years in most of the provinces there has been, generally speaking, a surplus of general labour and of workers in the building trades. We are hoping that this situation will be very largely rectified shortly. Of course it does not follow that all employment in a city or province must be obtained through the Employment Service of Canada.

Mr. LOCKHART: Having regard to the apparent evils that are in the minds of all hon. members and have been expressed to the minister, would he from his contact with the provincial officers up to the present time express an opinion as to whether such abuses are being rectified? Is there a willingness on the part of the employment offices to cure some of the evils that have been so apparent, and that I know are in the minds of those who are in close touch with employment offices? Does the minister feel like expressing an opinion as to whether there is any indication on the part of the employment offices that they are ready to assist in eradicating these evils, or are they indifferent to the whole situation?