

*Employment Commission*

the part of the federal government, realizing that it could not take any real action, to point out the evils that would result from, shall I say, an undue strain being placed upon our resources at particular times regardless of the claims of future generations. A few days ago I was reading that in the United States they were beginning to realize that certain of their resources would be exhausted within a hundred, a hundred and fifty or two hundred years, and that they were beginning to see what might be done to take care of that situation. During the early part of my life I spent many years in trying to point out that there were two kinds of resources in this country. One kind is irreplaceable. When we have utilized our coal, our nickel, our gold, our silver and our copper, they are gone forever; they cannot be replaced. There is also the other kind of resource that may be replaced. We realize that in Ontario, for instance, they have already taken certain steps in the direction of reforestation. Not too many miles from this city there are evidences of an effort in that direction on the part of this province, and in British Columbia they have also taken some steps. There is in Canada now very little land left over which the dominion has any legislative jurisdiction, outside the parks, the northwest territories and what land may be left in the east that is not under provincial jurisdiction. Those are the only areas over which our legislative action may run. The question of conservation in the far north has engaged the attention of successive ministers of the interior, and regulations have been promulgated from time to time within the last few years. Something has been done in that regard concerning pitchblende and minerals of that sort, but as I see it this contemplates that within the ambit of our powers, by cooperation with the provinces, we shall endeavour to formulate plans of such a nature that they may be discontinued without involving the loss of the plan as a whole.

Apparently that is what is in mind, as the paragraph reads, and the limitation placed upon it is obvious. For instance, in building a new factory the modern method would be to lay out the plans for the factory in such a way that you could add another fifty or one hundred feet to it at any time if business warranted this without in any sense interfering with the plan of to-day. That would be a long-range plan with respect to that particular factory. I read this paragraph as meaning that whatever long-range plan might be recommended by this commission, it would be a plan which, if it went on for three years

[Mr. Bennett.]

and then conditions did not warrant its being longer continued, might be discontinued at that time, but it would be effective as a plan prior to the expiration of the three year period during which it had been in operation, and would continue to be of value during succeeding years notwithstanding the fact that it had been discontinued at the end of three years and would not be carried further until conditions again made it possible for that to be done. I say frankly that I cannot see what can be accomplished by this. If the provinces, realizing their position, are not willing of their own volition to take the necessary steps to safeguard their own resources, unless and until they are prepared to give this parliament some authority in the premises any long range plan that contemplates action must be action by the province, which we can neither accelerate nor diminish except so far as by moral suasion we might be able to induce them to see that it is inadvisable to pursue a given line of action.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: In regard to what the leader of the opposition has just said, may I point out that my right hon. friend each time comes back to viewing the powers of this commission as being confined to matters which come wholly within the jurisdiction of the dominion parliament. That appears plausible enough, but may I say that a commission if so authorized has power to gather information on any subject, and information so gathered may be of very great service not only to the dominion but to the provinces as well. This evening the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Woodsworth) was quoting from a report of a royal commission on industrial training and technical education. I recall it was on my recommendation as Minister of Labour that twenty-six years ago there was appointed the Royal Commission on Industrial Training and Technical Education. At the time there was much opposition to its being appointed, on the score that the question of education, whether technical or in any other form, did not come within the jurisdiction of this parliament. But the government of the day took the position that it was within the power of the federal parliament to gather information on any subject and place it at the disposal of the provinces as well as of the dominion, and that by so doing it might be expected important developments would flow therefrom.

Now what happened? After the report of the commission was presented an extensive system of industrial training and technical