

Inquiries of the Ministry

be such as would enable him to earn at least ten times the amount of transportation expenses involved.

The pattern of employment followed by these persons is such that they habitually work away from home in the lumbering and logging industry. This is taken into consideration by the insurance officer, as also is the length of time he has been unemployed, special domestic circumstances, and the opportunities for employment in his home area.

Although the rates of pay offered would appear to conform to the requirements I have mentioned, nevertheless all of the suspensions of benefit already imposed will be reviewed in the light of these principles and, if the employment is found to be unsuitable, benefit will be restored in full.

[Later:]

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour in connection with the statement he has just made. What steps does the unemployment insurance commission take to ensure that the employment offered is going to be ten times the amount of the fare, if I heard the minister correctly, and what jurisdiction has the commission to see that that condition is carried out?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): The unemployment insurance commission has complete and full jurisdiction over the local employment offices. Moreover, if a claimant is not satisfied with an insurance officer's decision he may appeal to a board of referees which is a body independent of the commission and comprising a chairman, a representative of labour and a representative of employers. Should the claimant still be dissatisfied he may, under certain circumstances, appeal further to the umpire who is the final authority under the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Mr. Balcer: I should like to ask the minister a question. Have any refunds been made to any of these claimants since the question was brought up in the house?

Mr. Gregg: I covered that in my statement. If these principles that I have mentioned have not been fulfilled, then payments of benefit will be made in full.

Mr. Balcer: Can the minister tell us if any actual refunds were made? The minister says this is going to be the policy, but have any refunds been made?

[Mr. Gregg.]

Mr. Gregg: I cannot say at the moment whether or not they have been made.

Mrs. Fairclough: Did the minister's statement assert that the rate of wages paid was that prevailing in the locality of employment or that prevailing in the locality in which the man was domiciled and was registered with the unemployment insurance commission?

Mr. Gregg: Perhaps I had better read that again so there will be no mistake. That was No. 1 of the two points. The rate of wages offered must be that prevailing in the area in which the employment is to be performed and not less than that offered by good employers in that area.

REPORTED TIE-UP IN CAMPBELLTON AND
EDMUNDSTON OFFICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. C. Van Horne (Restigouche-Madawaska): Will the Minister of Labour please inform the house why information is not available to show how many of the 7,106 cases referred to the Moncton regional office by the Campbellton and Edmundston offices were delayed for more than two weeks?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I will read my hon. friend's question and if possible bring forward a reply.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING
CORPORATION

REFERENCE TO FORTHCOMING RADIO PROGRAM
ON LIFE OF JOSEPH HOWE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. T. Purdy (Colchester-Hants): Mr. Speaker, I have a question of privilege. At confederation Hants county, Nova Scotia, now part of Colchester-Hants, was a separate constituency. The first member elected was Joseph Howe. On Wednesday, March 21, at eight p.m., and again on the 28th at the same hour, the C.B.C. will carry over its trans-Canada network a two-hour program—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Purdy:—on the life and times of this great Nova Scotian.

Mr. Speaker: This is not a question of privilege.

FINANCE

INQUIRY AS TO REMOVAL OF SALES TAX
ON SEMEN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. L. E. Cardiff (Huron): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance