

Employment Commission

nation, and it seems to me that when you put boys into relief camps and leave them there you are doing something which in the end will not be to the advantage of this dominion.

The two paragraphs contain immense possibilities. Let us make use of them to the full. Down in my province there is a great fishing industry, which at the present time is facing world markets and world conditions that are terrible. With a little stimulation that industry could employ thousands of men who to-day are seeking employment. These are not men who crave a high standard of living. They are men who can live on the \$49 or \$50 monthly that it costs to keep a man in a relief camp; many men who maintain families live on even less than that, in the fishing and farming districts especially. They ask for an opportunity to live, to live on a scale that people in this section of Canada would think very low. Take the merchant marine of this country; we are a sea-faring people, a maritime people; we must live upon the sea. In the days of decentralized effort on the sea our men built their vessels and sailed them to every port in the world. To-day with the centralization of shipping they find no opportunity to go upon the sea, and there is nothing else they can do. We cannot compete with the farmers of upper Canada to the extent we would like, although my county is one of the best farming counties in Nova Scotia. But this great fishing industry supplies the local market for the farmers of that section. If we can start the boys as apprentices on the ships, or put them into industry, the old fellows will look after themselves in time and we shall be looking after what will make the future citizenship of this country, which is the biggest problem this parliament has to meet.

Mr. HEAPS: Has the Minister of Labour at his disposal now any information respecting apprenticeship systems that have been in effect in certain industries, say in Ontario?

Mr. ROGERS: I was going to say, in answer to the question put by the leader of the opposition, that we are fully aware that for the dominion government to interfere directly with apprenticeship would be to interfere with provincial jurisdiction as it relates to contracts and indentures. But all that is proposed in this paragraph is that there should be an investigation and a report upon plans for the establishment of an apprenticeship system in industry.

Mr. BENNETT: Obviously that must be provincial.

Mr. ROGERS: The apprenticeship system itself, yes.

[Mr. Kinley.]

Mr. BENNETT: The plans must be provincial.

Mr. ROGERS: Yes, quite so. But it will be noted that at the dominion-provincial conference it was proposed that the national employment commission—I will quote the precise words:

That under government leadership a system shall be devised for the training of youth in habits and technique of work and industry and for a thorough and well integrated apprenticeship system.

Mr. BENNETT: That would be, I take it, under the leadership of a provincial government.

Mr. ROGERS: Under government leadership, this says. As far as this paragraph is concerned, it is designed simply to bring about a study of the possibilities of enlarging apprenticeship throughout Canada. Intimation has come to me from various sources, as was indicated a moment ago by the hon. member for Queens-Lunenburg (Mr. Kinley) that as a result of the disorganization of industry during the past few years there has been a lack of the normal training of youth through apprenticeship. If that is the case we ought to have information which would enable us, possibly in conjunction with the provinces, to stimulate apprenticeship or some other form of vocational training. My right hon. friend is aware that there is upon the statute books now a vocational training act. It is in force but it has not been put into operation. It can be put into operation only when provinces have submitted certain definite schemes and when these schemes in turn have been accepted by the dominion government. I am not sure that it would operate as a suitable medium through which cooperation with respect to apprenticeship might be obtained, but at any rate we have that legislation upon the statute books and as far as technical training is concerned we have in the past assisted the provinces in what has been regarded as their own field.

Mr. MacNICOL: Through technical schools.

Mr. ROGERS: Through technical schools, but this proposes, what I think is desirable at this time, an investigation of the possibilities of apprenticeship for training the youth of our country in mechanical arts.

Mr. MacNICOL: All the minister really can do is to request that each of the provinces makes an investigation along this line.

Mr. ROGERS: No; there is nothing to prevent us from making an investigation, and indeed I think from the standpoint of progress