

My recollection goes back to the criticisms, hour after hour, that were levelled against the late government for having taken power and authority to administer relief by order in council. Could there be a more striking or complete example of an exercise of power by order in council than stands out from the first to the last section of this bill? It is all by order in council. That is what I want to point out.

Mr. ROGERS: I may be mistaken, not having been in the house when the debates referred to by my hon. friend took place, but my impression is that exception was taken to previous relief acts, not upon the ground as stated by my hon. friend now, but rather upon the ground that the governor in council was under those relief acts given wide legislative powers.

Mr. BENNETT: So he is here.

Mr. ROGERS: Yes, but given wide and unlimited legislative power so far as dominion jurisdiction is concerned. That is obviously not the case here. All that is done in this case is to confer administrative duties upon the national employment commission by the action of the governor in council. An administrative duty is surely something different from a legislative act.

Mr. BENNETT: Section 7 is legislative power.

Mr. ROGERS: Section 7 of the bill? Section 7 gives the governor in council power to confer upon the national employment commission administrative duties but does not confer or allocate any legislative power whatsoever. My impression is that the exception taken to the previous relief acts was rather upon the other two grounds, first, the peace, order and good government clauses, and, second, the blank cheque with regard to expenditure. I have no desire to enter into recriminations on that score, but I think my hon. friend is not wholly correct when he says that we took exception to the relief acts upon the ground he mentioned.

Mr. STEWART: That is one of the grounds, but is there not, with regard to salaries, a blank cheque, just as blank a cheque as there can be?

Mr. ROGERS: There is no more a blank cheque with respect to salaries here than there is under the Inquiries Act, with respect to the appointment of any royal commission.

Section 10 as amended agreed to.

Section 11 agreed to.

On section 12—Laid before parliament.

Mr. CAHAN: In order that section 12 may be made to conform to the amendment that is made, I move:

That all the words after the word "sitting" in the twentieth line be struck out and the following words inserted in place thereof:

"And, if not, within two weeks after the opening of the next session of parliament."

That will ensure that all orders in council and regulations will be laid before the House of Commons forthwith if the house is then in session, but if the House of Commons is not then in session, they shall be laid on the table within two weeks after the opening of the next session of parliament. That is always convenient because, when once laid on the table of the house, they are open to discussion and notice may be taken of them in the debates which ensue.

Mr. REID: May I ask whether the hon. member is cutting out publication in the gazette?

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I see no objection to the amendment of my hon. friend, but it has been suggested by my colleague the Minister of Pensions that it is customary to use the expression "fifteen days" instead of "two weeks" in most statutes, and perhaps my hon. friend would—

Mr. CAHAN: Yes, I think that is better

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: And then, instead of "the next session of parliament," use possibly the words, "the opening of the next ensuing session."

Mr. BENNETT: Yes. That is better, too.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: It would read then:

Or, if not, within fifteen days after the opening of the next ensuing session.

Mr. CAHAN: Yes, I think that is preferable.

Section as amended agreed to.

Mr. BENNETT: There is no question about the gazette publication being left in.

Mr. CAHAN: No.

On the preamble:

Mr. BENNETT: I direct the attention of the minister, as well as that of the Prime Minister, to the preamble. Passing over some controversial propositions contained in it, I am only going to make a suggestion that, I think, is warranted by the language used. Let us commence at line 10: