

*Employment Commission*

ployment to a large number of people and providing an absolutely necessary service, because it is at a strategic point and there was no place in which the men could be properly cared for. In that city there was no proper place in which the accumulated records of the mounted police could be kept together, this being the central point from which the force is governed and directed. It was necessary that they should have a building of some sort.

Opinions will differ as to how this commission of seven men is going to serve any purpose, or be of any value. To refer these questions to them means what? Are they going to travel and look into things? Are they better able to do it than engineers of the public works department, men trained all their lives in such work? If the hon. gentleman will read the reports of the district engineers made to their chief during the last few years he will find that with great care and much precision and with a wealth of technical detail they have reviewed every project placed before the government and the public works department and have given good reasons why it should or should not be gone on with. I do not believe that any commission selected by any government, whether this or another, can do the Dominion of Canada any better service than these men, whose job it is and who have no thought of anything but public service.

As far as coordinating activities is concerned, in the end it always gets down to the governments, of the provinces, the municipalities and the dominion. Notwithstanding all the pious hopes and aspirations, if the seven men appointed for this particular purpose follow the usual course of political predilections, then you have substituted another form of political administration for the present form of political administration, and that is all it will mean.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Perhaps the right hon. leader of the opposition will let me say a word as to one class of activities in which the municipalities, the provinces and the dominion are interested, and which might be co-ordinated for the benefit of all. The tourist trade is becoming a matter of increasing interest to municipalities, provinces and the dominion. It constitutes to all an important source of revenue. It is something we are anxious to develop, and to promote which every municipality and province as well as the dominion is doing what it can. As matters stand at the moment the activities of these different governmental agencies are not correlated. There is a considerable overlapping, a good deal of waste, a lot of money being

[Mr. Bennett.]

spent without proper direction. A body such as a national commission would be in a position to take a birdseye view and make a general survey of the work being done to further the tourist trade and might make a report which would be of the greatest possible service not only to the dominion government but to the provinces and municipalities. Where large sums of money are being spent for public works to provide employment, expenditure should be directed into the most profitable channels. For example, to promote the tourist trade it is necessary to provide the best possible approaches by road from one part of the country to another or from the country to the south to different places of interest in our own. Would it not be to the advantage of the provinces as well as of the dominion to build up a scheme which would serve to bring into the various provinces tourists from other parts of Canada as well as from other countries. In providing accommodation of the kind to which I have referred, money is required for highways, bridges and the like; a great scheme to coordinate activities which would be presented to this parliament and to the provincial governments and to the municipalities, would, I believe, be accepted as something distinctly advantageous to the country as a whole. It is that kind of thing—

Mr. BENNETT: That would hardly be covered by paragraph (e), would it?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, that is the kind of thing which would be covered by paragraph (e):

(e) recommend to the minister measures with respect to programs of public works and projects of the dominion, the provinces, the municipalities, and other agencies, intended to aid in providing employment in a manner which will serve to mobilize and coordinate their activities.

All these projects help to furnish employment. The object is to make the money go as far as possible. In other words, wherever possible to kill two or more birds with one stone.

Mr. BENNETT: Three birds.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Yes, perhaps kill half a dozen.

Mr. BENNETT: I quite agree with what the right hon. gentleman has said regarding the tourist trade. I had proposed to say something about it later on because I had not thought it was covered by paragraph (e). We have already set up a committee to deal with the tourist trade. We have appointed an agent and appropriated \$250,000 a year to develop that trade. The tourist trade depends upon three factors: First, the natural scenery