

*Unemployment Insurance*

Mr. BENNETT: I do not know why. I can only say this is the conclusion at which they did arrive.

Mr. HANBURY: Would the Prime Minister give his interpretation of that again?

Mr. BENNETT: Part II of the bill mentions the excepted employments, that is the employments to which this system does not apply. The first was employment in agriculture, horticulture and forestry; the second employment in fishing, and the third employment in lumbering and logging. But the amendment does not make that universally applicable; it provides that it shall not apply to such saw mills, planing mills and shingle mills as are reasonably continuous in their operation.

Mr. HANBURY: But that would not include logging in British Columbia. In a large part of British Columbia logging is conducted twelve months in the year. I assume from that interpretation that that logging is excepted, but saw milling is not. I cannot understand that.

Mr. BENNETT: I am only reporting it just as it is. It will be remembered that some discussion took place in this chamber with respect to lumbering and logging and the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard (Mr. Hanbury), as well as the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Neill) made some reference to it. Representations made in the committee resulted in its being put in this form.

The next change, however, is a departure from the principle agreed upon by this chamber. It will be recalled that when I was dealing with the bill I pointed out that banking, mortgage, loan, trust and insurance and other financial businesses were excepted from the operation of the bill. After hearing the representations made these were taken out of the excepted class and the statute applies to them. I am bound to say that the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Mackenzie) thought this should be done originally, if I remember correctly.

Then at page 33 are added the following words:

Employment in which persons are employed and paid for playing any game.

We are now dealing with the excepted employments. The last one is (r) and this is added as (s), so far as I can see.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): Does that include members of parliament?

Mr. BENNETT: Judging from what we have listened to this evening, the hon. member might conclude that.

[Mr. Neill.]

At page 33, part II, entitled "Rules as to payments and recovery of contributions paid by employers on behalf of employed persons," at the beginning of the section these words are added: "subject to section 25 of this act."

An hon. MEMBER: What is the difference?

Mr. BENNETT: The hon. gentleman will remember that there is a long list of persons excepted, including special classes of casual and seasonal workers, and in order to make it beyond peradventure they put in the words "subject to section 25." Had I been writing it I should have said "subject to the provisions of section 25."

Then we come to paragraphs 3 and 4 on page 34, which they have entirely rewritten, and if I may I will read them to the house because I think they have in some respects improved the expression of the intention of parliament:

3. Where the employed person receives any wages or other pecuniary remuneration from the employer, the amount of any contribution paid by the employer on behalf of the employed person shall, notwithstanding the provisions of any act or any contract to the contrary, be recoverable by means of deductions from the wages of that person or from any other remuneration due from the employer to that person and not otherwise: Provided that no such deduction may be made—

(a) from any wages or remuneration other than such as are paid in respect of the period or part of the period for which the contribution is payable; or

(b) in excess of the sum which represents the amount of the contributions for the period (if that period is longer than a week) in respect of which the wages or other remuneration are paid.

If hon. members have been following paragraph 3 in these rules as to payment I think they will agree that perhaps that puts it a little more clearly than it was in the original bill. Paragraph 4 reads as follows:

4. Where the employed person does not receive any wages or other pecuniary remuneration from the employer, but receives such remuneration from some other person, the amount of any contribution paid by the employer on behalf of the employed person shall (without prejudice to any other means of recovery) be recoverable summarily as a civil debt, if proceedings for the purpose are instituted within three months from the date on which the contribution was payable.

There is no substantial change, but I think it is put more clearly. Paragraph 10 on page 35 is amended to read as follows:

Subject to section 25 of this act, for the purposes of this schedule, the expression "calendar week" means the period from twelve o'clock in the afternoon on one Sunday to twelve o'clock in the afternoon on the following Sunday.