

*Unemployment Insurance*

individual agreements with the provinces. Might I express the thought that I do not believe there will be a great deal of difficulty in arriving at such an agreement.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): In the event of the dominion joining with the provincial employment services, shall we take over the provincial staffs?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Not necessarily. If they can qualify.

Mr. McLARTY: They would have to qualify under the Civil Service Act.

Mr. MacNICOL: But this government would not want to take over all the staff which is now employed in Ontario?

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): That is a leading question.

Mr. MacNICOL: I will qualify that. This government would not want to take over all those who are now employed in Ontario in all the districts where offices are operating, because we now have four labour offices in the city of Toronto—I speak subject to correction.

Mr. McLARTY: I believe there are four.

Mr. MacNICOL: The hon. member for Trinity will know exactly how many there are. If I say there are half a dozen in and round about Toronto, is that too many?

Mr. ROEBUCK: Yes.

Mr. MacNICOL: I know there is one in South York and one down-town on Lombard street. Are there just the two?

Mr. ROEBUCK: That is the only one in the city of Toronto.

Mr. MacNICOL: Is there not one out at Mimico, or in that direction?

Mr. ROEBUCK: Yes.

Mr. MacNICOL: I would not be far wrong if I said that around Toronto and York suburbs there are about half a dozen labour offices. That is as many as there are in greater London, with about eight million people to take care of. Surely under this system we are going to set up, we are not to be loaded up with political offices such as are scattered around Ontario?

Mr. GREEN: In this section there is no reference to placement work. Subsection 2 stresses the collecting and disseminating of information. Is it the intention of the government that there shall be a special staff working on placements? In other words, whose duty will it be to get in contact with firms and try to persuade them that they

[Mr. McLarty.]

have room for more men, in order to find jobs for the unemployed? This is one branch of employment service work which is not at all adequately covered by the present service. I hope the system to be set up under this bill will be of a more modern type, putting more emphasis on placements, which means finding jobs. Is there any intention that work of that kind shall be done?

Mr. McLARTY: No programme has been worked out as to the exact scope of the work which will be undertaken by the employment offices when they start to function. For that reason all I can say is that the suggestion he makes will, of course, receive consideration as and when the offices are to be opened.

Mr. GREEN: I believe that the minister will find, if he refers to the report of the national employment commission, known as the Purvis commission, that they stressed this feature.

Mr. McLARTY: Yes; I remember.

Mr. GREEN: They held that more placement work should be carried on in these employment offices.

Mr. JACKMAN: Will the youth training scheme come under this bill?

Mr. McLARTY: No; it will be entirely independent of this bill, but there will be cooperation with it in the matter of placements, and of training.

Mr. NEILL: It is not the intention of the government to occupy exclusively the field of employment offices?

Mr. McLARTY: We cannot do that. The provinces will still have the right to maintain and operate their employment offices. We have the right only to the extent of employments which are covered under this bill. To attempt exclusive operation would be to transgress the powers which we have under this bill and under the British North America Act.

Mr. HOMUTH: These three sections are most important, almost as important as the provisions for insurance. The big work is going to be the placement of men. Half a dozen men are laid off, and come under the Unemployment Insurance Act. The duty of the offices is to see to it that these men are placed as quickly as possible, the quicker the better; for the sooner they are placed in work, the more actuarially sound the insurance fund will be. Therefore the job of the employment offices is to get unemployed men back to work as quickly as possible. Supposing the office in Kitchener, if one is established there, finds work in the city of Toronto for