

together, probably enlarged to forty-five or fifty members and then broken up into subcommittees to deal with vocational training and resettlement under 7633. The subcommittees could come together for general discussion, and all legislation dealing with related matters could be referred to them. The whole picture would then be presented. The objection is not that the government has ever said that this bill is all-inclusive, but that we have not had anything that is all-inclusive.

What machinery does the government propose to set up under this bill to make it operative? I said yesterday that this bill is an empty gesture, and the Minister of Labour said that was not fair. But I ask the minister to look at it. I am not a lawyer, but I cannot find anything in the bill providing for the setting up of the administration to make it operative. I asked yesterday across the floor what a man who finds that his former employer will not reemploy him does to make this bill operative.

An hon. MEMBER: He goes to the placement officer.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): The placement officer operates under the Unemployment Insurance Act. So far as I can see, this bill does not envisage any machinery for carrying out its purposes.

Mr. MARTIN: He goes to the crown attorney.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): It does not even say under what department or what minister it will operate. What will be the procedure by which a man wishing to avail himself of the benefits of this legislation can do so? To whom will he go? Does he have to lay a charge before the attorney general?

Mr. MARTIN: The crown attorney.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Unless we have a statement as to the machinery that will be set up and how it will operate, this bill will be just a dead letter. It can be worth something, and that is why we want the minister to give some content to it.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): Under section 11 of the bill some contingent powers are provided. The department over which I preside has administered the order in council since last June and has not had the slightest difficulty. Our welfare officers all over Canada are instructed that if any cases of complaint come to them of an employer or municipality or school board refusing to reinstate an ex-service man, immediate action shall be taken. A case came to my attention yesterday afternoon, and that

will be dealt with. There is no necessity to report to any legal tribunal. We will take the necessary action.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): If we had had that explanation earlier it would have cleared the point up. But the bill does not say it will be operated by the minister's department.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): It was in the past.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): As I understand the set-up now under order in council P.C. 4758, the Minister of Pensions and National Health is directly chargeable, but this bill does not say so.

Mr. MITCHELL: The bill is to be discussed clause by clause. This would come under the last clause, and I shall be prepared to answer at that time.

Mr. MacNICOL: The short title indicates that this bill relates to returned soldiers and their reinstatement in civil employment. I think the minister should make a comprehensive statement on this clause. I pointed out the other day, from experience following the last war, that returned soldiers will not all be reinstated in industry. Some will; a large number may not. I hoped that the minister would tell us just what is going to be done, because the bill does not tell it. Some hon. member this afternoon pointed out something that is very clear to me now, but I did not think of it before—that a large number of returned soldiers from the last war are at present employed in industries. I know many myself, hundreds, perhaps; many of those men might be displaced by men coming back who have to be provided with work similar to that in which they were engaged before they enlisted. Neither the minister nor anyone else wants returned soldiers of the first world war to be displaced. There should be some provision to take care of those men.

To-day the hon. member for Lake Centre made an excellent suggestion; I had made it myself on Wednesday last. In the United States they are setting up a research committee or board which I take it would correspond with what the hon. member has in mind. It is imperative that some board or committee, either of this house or outside, men qualified to deal with industrial employment, should be set up to discuss and present to the minister a plan under which returned men can be reemployed. On Wednesday last I said, as reported at page 1037 of *Hansard*:

I suggest that the minister set up a committee. I shall be glad to serve on any research committee free of charge in connection with the job of providing jobs. The munitions plants should be kept going if at all possible.