

by my hon. friend; others would obviously not be able to determine such qualifications. In that situation it would really rest with the industry to which the man had been sent.

Mr. MASSEY: If a man were to present himself to one of these offices with credentials or recommendations or references or letters "to whom it may concern," saying that he had held some reasonably important position, would he be likely to get a preference over a man who had registered a month before but who had not the same qualifications?

Mr. ROGERS: That is so obviously a matter of internal administration that I cannot give a definite answer. I should certainly assume that in making selections for openings those in charge of the employment office would be guided by priority of application and the qualifications of the candidates.

Mr. MASSEY: Has the minister any figures as to the numbers who were placed through these offices during the last year?

Mr. ROGERS: Yes. It might be useful to place these numbers on Hansard. This is from the beginning. The Employment Offices Coordination Act was passed in 1918, and I have the figures from that date forward:

1919 (10 months)	305,905
1920	445,812
1921	355,756
1922	393,522
1923	462,552
1924	366,132
1925	412,825
1926	410,155
1927	414,769
1928	470,328
1929	398,367
1930	368,679
1931	471,508
1932	352,214
1933	352,097
1934	406,091
1935	353,802
1936	331,450
1937	389,526

The number has fallen off to a marked degree as from 1928.

Mr. MASSEY: How many offices are there altogether?

Mr. ROGERS: There are across Canada 69 centres in which offices are established. In larger cities there are three or four offices.

Mr. MacNEIL: In some respects the national employment commission put its finger on certain definite needs in the service. At page 19 it recommends:

Prompt establishment of a modernized employment service, under national direction so far as all broad principles and policies are concerned, but with such measure of decentralization as will provide effective handling of problems peculiar to each province. This ser-

vice to provide the administrative local units required to bring about the separation of employables from unemployables, and to formulate such local plans as will increase "employability." To this employment service would be attached regional and, where necessary, local advisory committees, of community-minded citizens, including representatives of employers and labour, in order to ensure that such plans are really practical instead of theoretical.

My experience has been that the service has abandoned the policies which were inaugurated by the late Senator Robertson back in 1919-20. At that time there was formed The Employment Service Council of Canada to advise the Minister of Labour. In several provinces steps were taken to form provincial advisory committees thoroughly representative of employing interests and labour, and in some cities committees were formed. In that way the employment interests felt some responsibility to cooperate with the service. At that time it was possible to secure agreement to abandon the independent employment agencies which were in competition with the government offices, with results which in some ways were disastrous. Is it not possible to implement the recommendations of the commission in such a way as to revitalize this employment service, making some effort to establish the regional and provincial, as well as national, advisory committees, see that the work of the service is properly publicized, and that there is effective cooperation on the part of all interests? In connection with the remarks of the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Green), is it not possible to return to the effective exchange of information between all points in Canada, so that if a shortage of labour exists at one point and a surplus at another a quick and effective exchange may be accomplished; also to deal effectively as far as possible with the seasonal labour requirements in Canada? I think there is much to be said for the terms of this recommendation.

Mr. ROGERS: As to the exchange of information, I am informed that that is done at the present time. Obviously in these last few years the information respecting available employment has been rather limited, and in most provinces has extended rather to certain trades than to general labour, in which, and particularly in the building trades, there has been a surplus rather than a shortage. But the facilities exist for the exchange of information.

As to the setting up of these advisory committees, I agree that there is much to be said in support of the idea, but our experience with committees of that kind has been that if they are to succeed they must be focussed on some