

Mr. ROGERS: Yes. The inspector reports directly to the commissioner of unemployment relief in Ottawa, and as a matter of fact many of the difficulties are settled by the inspector on the location.

Mr. MASSEY: Would it be too intimate a question to ask in how many instances there have been difficulties that have had to be followed up?

Mr. ROGERS: I have not an actual record of the number. The daily correspondence of the department does, however, often include complaints with respect to relief in one form or another. We try to follow them up as quickly as possible and remedy the situation. There is a daily report from the various inspectors.

Mr. MASSEY: I ask the question because one hears in connection with all these matters that there is a certain amount of difficulty and dissatisfaction, and I was interested to know whether the trouble had been extensive and whether there were many hazards in the way of satisfactorily carrying out the work. Is the difficulty widespread or is there only an occasional complaint?

Mr. ROGERS: I would not say the difficulties have been extensive during the past year. I understand that the number of complaints over a period of years has not varied greatly, in proportion to the work done and the money expended. Something of course depends on the staff of inspectors, their competence, tact and experience. I do not feel that during the past year we have had an abnormal number of complaints.

Mr. MASSEY: In projects where men are taken from centres where there is permanent accommodation for them to where they have had to camp, if they have a complaint in regard to food or shelter or whatever it may be, is their only way of complaint through the inspector, or how does the complaint reach the department?

Mr. ROGERS: Unless the work is being done by day labour the men are employed by contractors, if they have a complaint presumably they would make it first to the foreman. If they do not obtain redress in that way there is nothing to prevent their taking the complaint to the inspector and having it brought in due course to the attention of the Department of Labour in Ottawa.

Mr. BARBER: I take it that before this amount is arrived at and placed in the estimates there has been discussion with the several provinces in regard to proposed works. Take British Columbia, for instance; I suppose

[Mr. Massey.]

before this time of year agreements have already been signed?

Mr. ROGERS: No.

Mr. BARBER: The question of works has been discussed?

Mr. ROGERS: Has been discussed, yes.

Mr. BARBER: But no agreement has been made?

Mr. ROGERS: Correct.

Mr. BARBER: And on the basis of that discussion a certain amount is arrived at to be allocated to British Columbia?

Mr. ROGERS: Only in a very tentative way. My hon. friend will understand it is not legally possible to make an allocation until the estimate has been approved by the committee and until the new relief act of 1937-38 has received royal assent, so that any discussions with any province have been purely tentative. As far as particular projects are concerned there is almost continuous consultation; that is, provincial governments will frequently send in lists of proposed projects very early in the year, before the dominion government has power to enter into new agreements.

Mr. BARBER: I believe the people of British Columbia expect a considerable program this year, on account of an election coming on in May or June.

Mr. ROGERS: I can only say that the amount for new works this year is considerably less than it was last year. I am not sure that my hon. friend will accept that as evidence of our virtue.

Mr. TUSTIN: I understood the minister to say a daily report is made by the inspectors on these projects. Do I understand from that that the inspector is continuously on the job?

Mr. ROGERS: Yes.

Mr. TUSTIN: He does not travel from one project to another?

Mr. ROGERS: Yes, he does, but the inspection areas are so arranged as to enable an inspector to cover the work satisfactorily. He is continuously in touch with the projects in his district.

Mr. MASSEY: Are the inspections of a clandestine character? Are the visits unexpected, or are they advertised in advance?

Mr. ROGERS: Certainly they are not advertised in advance. But the contractors are aware that inspectors are appointed by the department to see that the terms of the agree-