

Unemployment Insurance

we are confronted is that although it is becoming more and more difficult for the individual to provide for his own social security, it is becoming progressively easier for us as national units to provide for the security of everyone. But this security can be achieved only by the various federal, provincial, municipal and maybe some forms of cooperative organizations working together and appropriating to themselves the results of their common labour.

I said a moment ago that the farmer and the industrial worker produced the whole of the country's wealth. Yet, although these workers produce the country's wealth, other people take it. That other people take it is patent, because the farmer and the industrial worker are becoming progressively more steeped in poverty.

I wish, as do other hon. members, that the government had gone further in this regard and asked for an amendment to the British North America Act which would enable us to inaugurate a comprehensive scheme of social security legislation. Other countries not so wealthy as Canada have made more progress in this direction. The Australian scheme of social security went into effect on January 1, 1939; the New Zealand scheme went into operation on April 1 last year; other countries have taken similar action. But if we cannot get a whole loaf we will take a half loaf, and if we cannot get a half loaf we will take a quarter loaf. But we shall follow the example of *Oliver Twist*; we shall keep on asking for more; and there is no finality as far as we of this group are concerned.

Mr. A. W. ROEBUCK (Trinity): May I have the privilege of saying a word in connection with this resolution? I should like to put on record my approval of it, for two reasons. The first is that I come from an industrial riding where in my judgment a great deal of benefit will be distributed among a very large number of people as a result of the projected measure. I should like to tender to the government the satisfaction which, I know, so many working men and women will feel on hearing of the success of this measure and their congratulations to the government for at last bringing it to a successful conclusion. My second reason is that for many years I have expressed myself on innumerable occasions as in favour of this legislation. I was present at the great convention of 1919 when it was referred to with approval by the Liberal party; and furthermore, in much more recent times I represented the province of Ontario before the privy council in England in the discussion of the measure when it was under review in the constitutional reference. On that occasion I made an effort on behalf of

[Mr. MacInnis.]

the province to save the measure constitutionally. We went over the various arguments which were advanced to show its constitutionality, and most of them were discarded. I pinned my faith to the one thought that it might fall within the clause: "peace, order and good government." The argument was not very strong, however, and at the time I doubted its soundness. The privy council agreed with me in the doubt. Still, it was an effort to save the measure and the advantages and benefits which I knew, and my province knew, would flow from it.

The measure has been attacked in the house this afternoon, first, by the hon. member for Lethbridge (Mr. Blackmore) on the ground that it is not a cure for unemployment; second, by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) on the ground that it is not a cure for social ills. Well, it does not purport to be either of those things, and it seems to me important that this measure be not damned in its initial stages by being advertised as something which it is not. It is hardly fair to attack legislation because it is not something which it does not purport to be. It is much fairer to consider it on the basis of what it is.

It is a limited measure. It does not purport to go to the root of unemployment or to prevent unemployment. What it does do is, in a limited number of cases, for certain classes, provide relief to those who have been in employment at one time and then lose their employment.

It should not be considered anything else than that, and should be judged on the merits of the proposed bill as it will be or as it is. But I am satisfied, after long consideration of this measure, that as years go by it will bring comfort and benefit to many, many thousands of our fellow citizens; and that, Mr. Speaker, is enough. On that ground, the ground of what the legislation is, not what it is not, I congratulate the government on at last bringing it to real success.

Motion agreed to.

SOCKEYE SALMON FISHERY

PRICE TO BE PAID TO FISHERMEN BY BRITISH COLUMBIA CANNERS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. A. W. NEILL (Comox-Alberni): I wish to call the attention of the government and particularly of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Michaud) to a matter so urgent, so important, that it might well justify the moving of the adjournment of the house. Possibly, however, this method will suffice. Within a few days the sockeye salmon fishing