

Mr. CASGRAIN: Where are those offices situated in Quebec?

Mr. GORDON: Chicoutimi, Hull, Montreal, Quebec city, Three Rivers, Rouyn and Sherbrooke.

Mr. HANSON (Skeena): May I have the same information for British Columbia?

Mr. GORDON: Kamloops, Nanaimo, New Westminster, Penticton, Prince Rupert, Vancouver, Victoria, and Nelson.

Mr. HANSON (Skeena): How many were placed through the efforts of the employment office at Prince Rupert in the year 1934-35?

Mr. GORDON: I have not the figures separated, but I should be glad to have an officer of the department look into the matter and inform the hon. member.

Mr. HANSON (Skeena): How many were placed through the efforts of employment offices in the whole province of British Columbia in the same year?

Mr. GORDON: I shall supply the information later.

Mr. CASGRAIN: May I have the same information for Quebec?

Mr. SPENCER: Do the provinces meet any of the expenses in connection with these employment offices?

Mr. GORDON: Yes. The federal government makes a contribution of \$150,000, by statute, and the provinces employ the office staffs. They are at liberty to add as much expense as they wish, and they do in fact add some.

Mr. SPENCER: I notice that Ontario has twenty-six employment offices while Quebec has only seven. Can the minister give a reason for that?

Mr. GORDON: The location of and necessity for the offices is determined by the provincial governments. The dominion government does not exercise any control over the opening or the maintenance of employment offices. It is a provincial matter.

Item agreed to.

Fair wages and inspection, \$11,000.

Mr. HEAPS: From time to time I have received complaints about the wages paid on government contracts. As I am not aware of what method the government adopts respecting the enforcement of the fair wage

[Mr. Gordon.]

clause in government contracts I should like the minister to tell me what the Department of Labour does to see that that clause is properly observed in all government work.

Mr. GORDON: The Department of Labour is asked by other departments of the government to outline what the wage schedule shall be on any federal government undertaking. The Department of Labour determines what those wage scales shall be and they are incorporated in the contracts of those who are carrying on works on behalf of the federal government. In order that there shall be no departure from the terms of the contract and that the schedule of wages outlined shall be adhered to, the Department of Public Works acting in conjunction with the Department of Labour withholds from the contractor a percentage in each case until the contract is completed so that if there is any bona fide complaint against the contractor that he has departed from the schedule of wages established in the contract there will be moneys available in order that those who may have suffered injury by reason of such delinquency may be taken care of out of the contractor's money. That is the practice that has been pursued, and so far as I know—and I have been very closely in touch with the matter—it has not been departed from.

Mr. HEAPS: How many inspectors has the government to see that the fair wage clause in government contracts is being lived up to?

Mr. GORDON: At the moment I have not the number of inspectors at hand, but I shall probably be able to supply some information in that regard in a moment or two. The department, however, not only has recourse to those who come under this particular vote but if occasion arises may refer for information to other labour departmental officials scattered across Canada. Those employed directly under this vote number four in all, but as I say the department refers to many sources of information, not merely those connected with government activities but to those interested in seeing that the schedule of wages is not disturbed. Frequently reference is made to labour organizations.

Mr. HEAPS: The minister has stated that he waits for a complaint to come in before action is taken by the government. I think most hon. members realize how difficult it is at times for those who are being discriminated against through the payment of low