

Unemployment Insurance

That is applying the census figures to the known figures for those years. The figure of 2,000,000, which I mentioned as the number of workers affected, had reference to 1935. According to the department's figures the average number not working was as follows:

1932..	465,401
1933..	497,133
1934..	402,760

Mr. VENIOT: I wish to direct the attention of the Prime Minister to what appears to be a discrepancy. The number of workers who would have been affected by this bill in 1929 is given as 1,848,493, while that same figure for 1934 is given as 1,804,743. That seems to be a discrepancy.

Mr. BENNETT: That is right.

Mr. VENIOT: There was no unemployment to speak of in 1929.

Mr. BENNETT: Yes, there was.

Mr. VENIOT: Very little; the best estimate was about 117,000. The number affected by this bill in 1930 would have been 1,874,981, but for 1934 the number is given as 1,804,743.

Mr. BENNETT: I supplied the hon. gentleman with the exact figures furnished me by the department of statistics. I think if he would allow for the increase in population he would find the explanation. The number of workers that would be affected by this bill is usually about seventy per cent of the whole.

Mr. VENIOT: I am not attempting to suggest the Prime Minister is giving anything but what has been handed to him by certain authorities. I know however that in 1928 there were 1,691,719 workers who would be affected by this insurance bill. In 1934, a year of great depression, there was 1,804,743; or nearly 200,000 more affected than in the year 1926, which was one of prosperity.

Mr. BENNETT: That is perfectly true.

Mr. VENIOT: It is true according to those figures, but it cannot be true in fact. There was no depression in 1928.

Mr. BENNETT: Of course the hon. member knows that seasonably there are large numbers of unemployed all the time, in this country. There never has been a time, and I do not suppose there ever will be a time, when that will not be so. The figures supplied by the department are the numbers which will be affected on the basis of the 1931 census, and the information supplied by industrial undertakings reported indicate the number of workers would be 1,733,707 in 1932, whereas in 1933 it had fallen to 1,717,083. Reports from

[Mr. Bennett.]

industrial reporting firms indicated much larger numbers of employed, at one time nearly 200,000 more. The figures furnished in this statement signed by the dominion statistician show the figure 1,804,743 for the year 1934.

Mr. VENIOT: Let me draw the attention of the Prime Minister to another point. He mentioned that there are large numbers of unemployed at all times. If he will look at the census returns he will find the census commissioner reported that over a period of ten or fifteen years the annual unemployment never exceeded 140,000 in number. He added that it was generally to be found that the greater proportion of the unemployed were people who were not asking for work and did not want work. The number cannot be as large as mentioned by the Prime Minister when the census return shows that over a period of ten or fifteen years the largest number has been only 114,000.

Mr. BENNETT: I can say only this, that the question put the other evening by the hon. member was submitted to the department. I believe the answers are as correct as they can be made; I believe they are accurate.

Mr. VENIOT: I do not believe they are.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I believe the committee is anxious to conclude the discussion of the several clauses of the bill. The Prime Minister has been kind enough to say he would at my suggestion allow the last section to stand. On reflection I believe it would perhaps better suit the convenience of the committee were I to move the intended amendment now. It is one I hope my right hon. friend may perhaps be ready to accept. Mr. Chairman, would you call section 48?

Mr. BENNETT: It stands; it has been called.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Then I shall move the amendment now. As it stands the section reads:

This act shall come into force when assented to: Provided that no contribution shall be payable or paid under the provisions of part III of this act until a date to be set by the commission of which due notice shall be published in the Canada Gazette and in such other manner as the commission may deem necessary.

The amendment I now move, seconded by the hon. member for Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) is:

That the first line of section 48 of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor: This act shall come into force on a day to be fixed by proclamation of the governor in council after the question of its validity has