

be a matter of careful inquiry and investigation. Some provinces may wish to retain some offices even though they may not find it profitable to do so. This is something which will have to be worked out. Generally speaking, we will absorb the provincial employment offices in so far as it suits the purposes of this legislation and in so far as the provinces are willing to have us absorb those offices.

Mr. MacNICOL: Then the matter has not been thoroughly discussed with the provincial labour departments?

Mr. McLARTY: It was taken up with the provinces by the national employment commission when they were functioning in 1937. I am advised that no objection was raised at that time by the provinces to our taking over the functions of the employment offices. Incidentally, we have obtained from the Department of Justice an opinion that in so far as it may be necessary to implement this legislation, we are entitled to operate employment offices in the provinces. What would happen in practice should a province decide to operate its own employment offices without agreement? Every insured man would come to the dominion office to get his card stamped. He would become accustomed to doing that, and by mere force of circumstances the provincial employment office would be pretty well forced out of business.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I hope that care will be taken in connection with this matter. There has been no suggestion of politics, from me at any rate, in connection with this measure, but here is a chance to hand out a great deal of patronage. I do not want to stir up anything to-night, but as far as my province is concerned it is well known that all the employees in the employment offices are there because they have been vote-getters; in most instances they are ward heelers. That is not an ideal situation in the running of an employment bureau. It may be that after a certain term of experience these men would be of some worth, but I think it is too much to suggest that they be taken over holus-bolus.

Mr. McLARTY: I wonder if my hon. friend realizes that the employees in the employment offices will be under the civil service commission.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): If the minister says that they are to be appointed by the civil service commission, I am content.

Mr. McLARTY: Under section 10.

Mr. HOMUTH: Does this mean that the government will discontinue all assistance to the provincial offices?

Mr. McLARTY: Yes.

Mr. HOMUTH: Is that to be the policy of the government?

Mr. McLARTY: While no decision has been definitely arrived at, I think it will follow inevitably that when the dominion government is setting up its own system of employment offices it would be rather far-fetched to make contributions to the provinces for the same purpose.

Mr. HOMUTH: I have been given to understand that Ontario is jealous of its position with regard to employment offices, and that it intends to continue operating those offices.

Mr. McLARTY: It can.

Mr. HOMUTH: A number of workers will not come under this legislation. This will mean another duplication of services in Canada and we have too much of that already. We have nine ministers of agriculture and we have a federal Minister of Agriculture. There is an unnecessary amount of duplication throughout the whole set-up of the administration of this country. Apparently no arrangement has been made with the provinces in connection with the setting up of these employment offices. I think the federal offices could look after those unemployed who do not come under this bill. This could be done by working in conjunction with the provincial authorities. We shall have to have more employment offices in Ontario than we have at the present time, and I feel that we as a federal authority should have full control of this matter, working in conjunction with the provincial departments of labour. This matter is important. I understand there is the possibility of a little cleavage as between the provinces and the federal authority. We should be careful to avoid anything of the kind. I was alarmed at being told within the last day or so that Ontario has no intention of closing its employment offices, that it intends to continue them. I do not think that should be the situation. Of course we have no power to stop it, but representations might be made in such a way that if the provincial government insists on operating the offices it will be clear that it is doing so to its own injury. Let me repeat that we dare not have a continuous duplication of services throughout the country.

Mr. McLARTY: I think the hon. member for Waterloo South is right when he suggests that there should be some measure of co-ordination with regard to employment offices as between the provinces and the dominion. I do not believe there will be any difficulty in that regard. Of course we have the power to open our own offices, but the natural and logical way to deal with the matter is by