

understanding of what the employment service is. I assume it is a place where employers can register that they have places available for men, and where men can register for jobs. If there are no jobs available with the employment service, that is the end of it as far as any aid it can give to the men is concerned. I suppose this is true, that were it not for the fact that men are compelled to register before they can get relief, there would be far fewer registrations in times of intense unemployment than there would be in normal times, because once the men have registered and have received no results from the registration they are not going to go there from day to day. I know that from experience in visiting these employment agencies and finding out the circumstances for myself. I think the minister must admit that work is not available for these men in British Columbia. The other day I read a letter from the mayor of Vancouver stating that conditions were worse than they were last year, and that because of the arrangement between the province and the dominion the city is carrying a greater burden. Unless the minister can demonstrate in some effective way that there are openings for employment, I cannot see how these men can be denied relief.

Mr. MacNICOL: For some time I have been wondering whether this particular expenditure is not more or less wasted.

Mr. BENNETT: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacNICOL: In the old country, of course, the branch which corresponds, although in name only, to this department does a great deal of work. I assume that what is done in the old country under the branch of the labour department which looks after the same work that this is supposed to look after, is done in this country by the provincial governments. I have been wondering for what purpose we give these sums of money, large in some provinces and small in others, to the provincial labour departments. In 1937 a little less than \$4,000 was given to Nova Scotia. What could the federal representatives in Nova Scotia do in assisting in the administration of the labour department in that province in connection with the employment business when they had only \$4,000? I do not find anything in the auditor general's report to show what was done with that \$4,000, and I cannot see what could be done. I believe there is an office in Toronto?

Mr. ROGERS: Yes, several offices.

Mr. MacNICOL: An unemployed man passing the dominion government labour office naturally assumes that he will at least learn

[Mr. MacInnis.]

something about employment. He goes into the office and says that he is a carpenter or machinist, or whatever he is, and is looking for a job. What does the federal representative in Toronto do?

Mr. ROGERS: There is no federal representative in the employment office in Toronto except for the handicapped ex-service men. The personnel in the employment service in the province and the whole administration of it are looked after by the provincial governments through their departments of labour. The dominion government under the Employment Offices Coordination Act assists the provinces through a grant in aid to maintain the employment service. Under the same act we also provide for a clearing house of information at Ottawa.

Mr. MacNICOL: It is really not a clearing office in the sense that such a labour department in the United Kingdom is. I have sat in a labour office in London for many hours watching how they operate it, and I have discussed matters with the officials and with men coming up to the counter, because the officials were kind enough to let me sit behind the counter and talk with the men. What I cannot understand is what the Canadian federal offices do with a vote like this. We grant to Ontario nearly \$62,000. What does the provincial government do for that sum, which is granted by this government for a service which the province is already carrying on inasmuch as it has its own offices everywhere? I shall be glad to support anything that will help men to get work, but it seems to me this is another instance of duplication and we are throwing away \$150,000 a year for practically nothing. I do not know when it was started; but the time has come, seeing that we are getting no results, to change or put a stop to it and put the money to better use.

Mr. ROGERS: It has been in existence twenty years. This is not a case of duplication but a grant in aid made by the dominion government to assist in establishing an employment service right across the dominion.

Mr. MacNICOL: Does the federal government pay the salaries?

Mr. ROGERS: The federal government contributes on the basis of actual expenditures in each province in relation to the total expenditures across the dominion. In other words, the \$150,000 we pay is allocated to the provinces on that basis, and in addition to that we maintain an office here for the purpose of collecting information from all the provincial employment offices in order that there may be this clearing house of information with respect to employment opportunities.