

*Employment Commission*

They were employed on effective work, and when they were not doing this they were being taught different trades. I recall that a class was called up and asked what they were being taught and they told what trades they expected to work at and were being taught. I remember that one young man who could speak English said he was being trained to be a diplomat, and when asked how he liked his life in the labour camp he said that he loved it. Last year, after I was elected in York-Sunbury, I visited the relief camp in my constituency where there are some eight hundred men. Conditions were good as regards food and clothing; the men were well clothed and were given good food. But with the exception of a very few of them, they were not doing effective work, and that seemed to be the lack in that camp. I think it is a fine thing that the government has taken steps to change all that and to provide that these men shall have work and instruction. When the men went out to the camps they did not know what to do; in many cases they had not been taught. It is much better for them to be engaged in effective work, and this employment commission will no doubt be a help in this respect.

Section agreed to.

On section 8—National advisory committee.

Mr. BETTS: What will be the function of the national advisory committee? How many members will be appointed to this committee? What limit, if any, will be imposed upon travelling expenses and living allowances?

Mr. ROGERS: No numerical limit is attached to the national advisory committee. As set out in the bill, it will include representatives of industrial, occupational, philanthropic and social service organizations. So far as its functions are concerned, I do not know that I can go further than to say that they will be advisory. The commission itself, as my hon. friend is aware, will consist of not more than seven members; and as I pointed out yesterday, these members will be so selected as to be qualified to deal, on the one hand, with problems relating to employment and, on the other, with problems relating to relief administration. In the work of relief and reemployment for the entire country there are many organizations which have direct contact with these problems, and representatives of these organizations will be able, I think, to give marked assistance to the national employment commission. That is particularly true, I should say, of social service and charitable agencies that have had experience of relief

[Mr. W. G. Clark.]

administration from 1930 to the present time. We have not set a definite limit to the number of the advisory committee, nor have we set a definite limit to travelling expenses. Obviously that is a matter for which the minister himself must take responsibility.

Mr. BETTS: Then some of my objections to this commission can be crystallized from the answer of the minister. He will not tell us, or even estimate, how many members there are going to be on this national advisory committee that is going to advise the national employment commission that is going to advise the government. He will not define the functions of that committee. He refuses to undertake to us that the principle of preference to returned men will be observed in appointing members of the staff. He will not tell us whether organized labour will be represented on the commission. He will not say whether a woman will be there. And although he quoted Carlyle to us and presented a whole lot of high-sounding platitudes, I do not like the look of this commission any better than I have liked it from the start.

Mr. GRAY: That will help it.

Mr. WERMENLINGER: I rise to suggest to the Minister of Labour the inclusion, in subsection 1 of section 8 of Bill No. 14, between the words "industrial" and "occupational," the words "technical (engineering, architectural, sanitary) advisers." I do not wish to discriminate between or reflect upon either philanthropic or social service organizations, but I believe that since the last election the people of this country, at any rate the unemployed, are expecting work, and it is the duty of social workers and philanthropic organizations to look after the unemployables; but, reading over the preamble of this bill, I find that its main objective is to provide work for the unemployed until such time as industry can absorb a great percentage of workers, and so lessen the burden of relief and taxation. I feel that engineers are the men best qualified to locate and survey in all localities of our dominion necessary public works so as to employ the greatest number of skilled men, men who have passed through an apprenticeship and became joiners, carpenters, tinsmiths, blacksmiths, plumbers and the like, men who are the back-bone of any community. If workers of this kind have employment so found for them, remunerative employment, according to the preamble of this bill, automatically rents will be paid, purchasing power will increase, and taxes will go into the coffers of all city councils. By this