

I shall be having another meeting with the ministers of labour of the provinces to discuss future labour relations. Some provinces want a national code; others do not.

As members know, with certain exceptions, labour relations normally come under provincial jurisdiction.

Under the industrial production cooperation board there are 447 labour management production committees. The plants covered have more than 245,000 workers.

As of May 1, we had 10,867 men who were exempt from military service on conscientious grounds. Sixty-five per cent were employed in agriculture and on June 27 this year there were seventy-three in four alternative service work camps.

These conscientious objectors contributed more than \$2,300,000 to Canadian Red Cross under arrangements by which part of their earnings were earmarked for Red Cross work.

Our Japanese administration work comes under two main headings—repatriation and relocation.

With respect to repatriation, the records show that 6,892 adults voluntarily signed requests for repatriation covering a total of 10,632 persons; while 4,527 adults have requested cancellation of their applications for repatriation, covering also their 1,786 minor children.

I would like to review the situation with respect to compulsory repatriation.

After the Prime Minister on December 17 last explained in this house the purpose and scope of the three orders in council dated December 15, 1945, providing for deportation and repatriation of Japanese, strong representations were received not only asking for a review of the programme but challenging the validity of the orders.

As a result, the government in January 1946, made a reference to the Supreme Court of Canada for an opinion as to whether the orders in council were ultra vires in whole or in part.

The supreme court upheld the validity of the orders except as they affected the dependents of deportable persons.

The judgment of the court was not unanimous. At present an appeal to the privy council from the supreme court ruling is being taken by a committee on behalf of the Japanese. The government has accordingly considered it advisable to suspend deportation proceedings under the orders in the meantime, but is continuing arrangements for the repatriation of those who wish to go to Japan on a voluntary basis.

[Mr. Mitchell.]

Including a sailing on August 2, 3,151 Japanese have left Canada for repatriation to Japan. Hundreds more have expressed a desire to go and they will be accommodated as soon as we can secure another vessel.

Now with respect to relocation, since the beginning of April more than 2,000 Japanese who desired to remain in Canada were moved east for resettlement and employment.

At present there are 21,100 Japanese in Canada, of whom a little less than fifty per cent remain in British Columbia, with the rest about equally divided between the prairies and eastern Canada.

All employable Japanese with few exceptions are in useful employment on a self-supporting basis at prevailing wages.

It is hoped that relocation will be substantially accelerated by the evidence of increased desire on the part of the Japanese to cooperate, and the growing appreciation by the public of the wisdom of the government's dispersal programme.

An effort is being made to resettle as many as possible in smaller communities and rural areas where they will help to increase production of badly needed farm and forest products, and where the shortage of housing accommodation is not so serious.

Our proposals for this year summarized are:

- (1) To repatriate to Japan as soon as possible all those desiring to go voluntarily;
- (2) To disperse and resettle across Canada in 1946 those who have proven their firm desire to remain in Canada, by giving them every assistance and encouragement possible, including the progressive relaxation of war-time restrictions;
- (3) To delay compulsory deportation until a decision has been handed down by the privy council on the appeal, at which time government policy will be reviewed.

The Annuities Act is administered by the Department of Labour. As of March 31, 1946, there were 151,000 active contracts including 450 group plans.

Total premium payments since the act became operative in 1908 amount to \$318,781,000. In the last fiscal year, 25,500 new contracts were recorded and these with previously existing contracts brought in \$46,900,000.

Canada, as one of the eight states of chief industrial importance, has a permanent seat on the governing body of the I.L.O. This body last met in Montreal in May.