

apprentices to learn the elements of employment in their particular industries, and so the young men who are untrained do not obtain employment. In many cases employers, in charge of manufacturing and industrial employment generally, are unable to secure the right kind of employees to start with.

When I was a lad in Nova Scotia, the boys of nearly every family were taught for a year or two by apprenticeship the elements of industrial work so as to fit them for earning their own livelihood in case other employment into which they later entered proved unsuccessful. But at the present time we are not educating the youth for manual work and the trade union arrangements do not permit of the employment of apprentices to learn the industrial trades as they did in the past. That is one reason why so many young men in a large city like Montreal find it practically impossible to secure a start in industry in which manual education or apprenticeship is necessary. If the Minister of Labour could bring about an agreement between the employers of industry and the employees so that both would recognize the duty of assisting in giving elementary work in industry to the youth of the land and so encourage and enable them to qualify themselves for industrial employment, he would be doing more to obtain relief from this so-called prevalence of unemployment than any vote of money that the minister could possibly get to assist in technical training. You cannot, under the present arrangements between the labour union and employers, secure employment for young men in the elementary work which they formerly secured by apprenticeship, even if you train them in your technical schools for that purpose. If the minister has any influence with labour unions and with employers of labour in industry I wish he would bring to their hearts and minds a full appreciation of the responsibility which they both have for the conditions of distress which prevail in many of the large cities owing to the unemployment of youth.

Mr. MASSEY: It would be of great interest if the minister would be good enough to give a sketch of the functional activities of the various offices. For instance, how does a man register and what happens after he registers?

Mr. ROGERS: I am not sure that I can answer my hon. friend except to say that the service rendered by the employment bureau is one of receiving applications and making placements where possible. The process of registration is one which is based upon forms which are uniform throughout the service. I should have mentioned that the

[Mr. Cahan.]

dominion government also assists in that direction in arranging that there shall be uniform forms available for registration purposes. The extent to which the employment service is able to make placements depends of course upon the degree to which it is utilized by industry. On the whole the record of the employment service in Canada, with respect to placements, compares favourably with employment services established in other countries. It is still true, however, that many of the larger industries prefer to take on personnel through their own personnel offices rather than work through the employment service of Canada. As a matter of fact I have had representations on a number of occasions from the manufacturers' association and chambers of commerce suggesting that the employment service of Canada as at present organized was not serving industry to the extent that it might. I am not prepared to say how far that is due to the employment service itself or how far it is due to the unwillingness of industry to give its full cooperation to that service. No doubt a part of the fault lies in each direction.

Mr. MASSEY: One receives at times various complaints regarding almost everything, but it has been stated to me by many different persons that they have registered for a certain class or kind of work and weeks have gone by and they have heard nothing. In the meantime several others have been placed who came later and registered subsequently to the time of registration of the persons to whom I refer. Does the federal department exercise control over these offices, or are they entirely in the hands of the provinces?

Mr. ROGERS: That aspect of it would be, but if any complaints of that kind are received I see no reason why they should not be brought to the attention of the provincial authorities by the director of employment service in Ottawa.

Mr. MASSEY: To what lengths does the office go to ascertain whether the claims made by a man as to his experience and training are bona fide? If a man registers as a skilled mechanic with nineteen years' experience with a certain type of lathe, for example, does the office satisfy itself that he is a mechanic of that class or kind, or does it simply take his word and send him to an industrial firm with the recommendation that he is a mechanic of that type?

Mr. ROGERS: It would depend upon the officials in charge of the employment office. Some officials would have the means of determining qualifications of the kind described