

Mr. MEIGHEN: I explained this Bill on its introduction. It is to enable the minister to make the grant provided for by the former Act, in the case of institutions carried on by municipalities, where the provinces decline to avail themselves of the Act.

Mr. BUREAU: This applies to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick alone?

Mr. MEIGHEN: And Prince Edward Island.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: This Act was assented to on May 24, 1918. The Act required that any assistance that was given to carry out its purposes and to encourage the co-ordination of employment offices, should be given to the provinces in accordance with its provisions. The Act made no mention of any assistance being given in any other way. I was very much surprised to find that, notwithstanding the legislation which has been enacted in that form, the Government, by Order in Council, have undertaken to give a much wider construction to it than that which Parliament placed upon it. I have in my hand a copy of Order in Council No. 3171, assented to on the 24th day of December, 1918, in which I find the following paragraph:

Therefore His Excellency the Governor General in Council, under and in virtue of the provisions of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act, is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered as follows:

(a) The Minister of Labour may establish and maintain for a period of eighteen months from January 1, 1919, such employment bureaus as may be necessary, and not established under the provisions of the Employment Offices Co-ordination Act.

(b) The Minister of Labour may establish and maintain offices at such points as he may deem necessary, provided the municipality supply office space and equipment required.

There is an Order in Council that distinctly gives power to the Government in regard to a matter on which this Parliament has legislated and these powers are completely beyond those that are granted by statute. I hope, when the minister refers to this matter in committee, he will have some satisfactory explanation to give to Parliament on the subject. It is perfectly plain how the money to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act was to be expended. Section 5 reads:

The moneys appropriated for each year shall be allotted and paid to the governments of the respective provinces in the proportion which their expenditure for the maintenance of employment offices bears to the total of the expenditures of all the provinces for such purposes, but in no case shall the allotment to any

province exceed one half the amount expended for the maintenance of employment offices by such province.

The moneys were to be appropriated and paid to the governments of the respective provinces. That is what Parliament said. Parliament said nothing about authorizing payments to or for municipalities. Parliament said nothing about giving the minister power to establish offices under Order in Council as might suit himself. This is a very serious departure from what can be considered at all right and proper in view of the statute as it has been enacted by Parliament. Further, section 6 of the Act says:

The payments hereinbefore authorized shall as to each province, be conditional upon agreement between the minister and the government of the province.

This Order in Council says:

The Minister of Labour may establish and maintain offices at such points as he may deem necessary, provided the municipality supply office space and equipment required.

There is no reference to the Government of the province at all, the clause simply empowers the minister to make any arrangement he pleases with individual municipalities. But that is not all. There is, it seems to me, another flagrant violation of the practice and rights of Parliament, in another Order in Council which was passed on the 12th of March, 1919, in relation to the very same matter. I have a copy of the Order in Council in my hand. It is No. 537 and it was assented to on the 12th March, 1919. I find that the last part of the Order in Council is as follows:

The minister therefore, recommends that an amount estimated at \$30,000 be placed to the credit of the Department of Labour from the War Appropriation for the purposes of making subventions to various provinces on the basis stated, the said sum of \$30,000 being over and above the appropriation of \$50,000 named in the statute for the fiscal year 1918-19.

Here is another most important departure. The statute itself fixed the amount which Parliament authorized the Department of Labour to pay. Clearly, in fixing that amount, Parliament intended to place a limit upon the extravagance of the Government in the matter of the establishment of these employment offices and assisting other employment offices which were established. Notwithstanding that legislation is before the ministry they pay no heed whatever to the law but take public moneys that have been appropriated for one purpose and use them for an entirely different purpose. We have had so many instances of this kind of indifference to Parliament and the legisla-