

That leaves pretty wide latitude to the employer. All he has to do is to prove that a man who has done service, who comes back as many men came back from the last war, not disabled but having undergone the rigours of three or four years in a theatre of war, is not physically or mentally capable of performing work. Then again:

In any proceedings for the violation of section 3 of this act, it shall be a defence for the employer to prove,—

(e) that he was employed to take the place of an employee who had been previously accepted for service in his majesty's forces and that such employee had been reinstated in his employment.

The same problem will arise there. Many men who will join the service from now on are at present holding jobs of men who joined the service before. When they come back, this bill will have no application.

Mr. MITCHELL: That is provided for.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): All the points raised by the hon. member are embodied in regulations which have been in effect since last June. I have had no difficulty at all in meeting any of these cases in administration.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): One would have to know how many cases the minister has been able to handle.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): All those that came to my attention.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): What percentage were those in relation to the whole? One would have to know that before one could say that this is working successfully. One would have to know what percentage of returned men have been successfully placed in employment.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I can give that information later on in this debate.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): It seems to me that the second weakness is the fact that there is no machinery set up under which a man could take the necessary steps to secure reemployment in the event of his former employer not employing him voluntarily. Again, I am not a lawyer, but I imagine that since a fine is provided for, this would come under the criminal code and the case would have to be taken through the courts.

Mr. MARTIN: The department has placement officers.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): That may be true, but what will be the *modus operandi*? Will a man have to start proceedings in the courts? Will he have to go to the attorney-

general of the province to have proceedings instituted, or will the placement officer institute proceedings in case reemployment is refused? When this bill comes into committee I think the minister should be able to set out clearly just what machinery will be available to these people. The average man has a dread of courts and lawyers.

Mr. MARTIN: Oh, no. You do not fear me, for instance.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): No, because I have not got into trouble yet.

Mr. MARTIN: And you are just an average man.

Mr. SLAGHT: No honest man has a dread of the courts.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): Machinery should be set up which would be automatically available for a man who is not reemployed by his former employer. He should be able to go to the placement officer—I suggest to the minister that more will have to be appointed because one in Regina for the province of Saskatchewan will mean a great deal of travelling which these people cannot afford—and lodge his complaint and then the placement officer would have the responsibility of taking the necessary legal proceedings to see that the man was rehired or justice given to him.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): To-day it is no one's duty.

Mr. DOUGLAS (Weyburn): As it is now, it is no one's business. The average man, not knowing what to do, will do nothing. He will simply grouch about it a bit and then put up with it. He will not know to whom to go, he will not know who is his champion, he will not know who is his advocate, so he will let the thing drop.

I was glad to hear the Minister of Pensions and National Health (Mr. Mackenzie) say that he proposes to make a statement on the appropriation bill. I hope we shall have an opportunity, not only to hear the minister but to discuss the government's scheme as a whole with reference to reconstruction, reestablishment and rehabilitation. This is a tremendous problem and it is going to tax the resources of this government. I am sorry the government has not seen fit to keep a standing committee in session during the years of the war. Such a committee would have been able to study the problem and to prepare and lay plans for the coming of peace.

As has been said, we are going to have, when peace comes, the greatest problem, apart