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Jobless Insurance Plan Bill Presented to House

First of New Social Legislation. Follows Plan of British Act with Some Important Modifications to Suit Canadian Conditions.

Premier R. B. Bennett has introduced his Employment and Social Insurance bill, planned to inaugurate unemployment insurance in Canada, and being the first of the major reform measures that Hon. Mr. Bennett intends to present to parliament at Ottawa this session.

The bill follows very largely the model of the British Employment Insurance Act, though there are some important modifications to meet Canadian conditions and to avoid objections raised against the British bill by the Royal Commission that investigated that act.

When it is noted that the bill introduced by Hon. Mr. Bennett takes up 37 printed pages of Hansard, seven pages being required for the schedules alone, it will be seen that the bill in its entirety can not be published in its full form. A review of the bill is herewith as follows:—

The plan is to have an employment and social insurance commission with headquarters at Ottawa. This commission will administer the act, providing for the payment of benefits to all entitled thereto, and also seeking to secure work for those out of employment and generally devising ways and means of meeting the unemployment situation of the day.

Though the commission will co-operate to relieve unemployment, it is understood that unemployment relief will still remain a responsibility of the provinces and the municipalities. This means that present methods of relieving distress will continue until the unemployment insurance act has opportunity to get working smoothly and even after it is in full force the municipal and provincial powers will be expected to deal with cases not covered by the new act.

Insurable persons under the new act will be those over the age of 16 years of either sex, who were engaged by contract or by oral agreement, either on a time or a piece-work basis, including those employed outside Canada by Canadian employers and who

were insurable under the act before they left Canada.

The benefits under the act are to be paid out of funds contributed equally by the workers and the employers, with the Government adding one-fifth to the total of the other two. Some of the figures showing how the act works in respect to the various contributions are given as follows:—A man worker aged 21 years or over will contribute 25 cents a week, his employer, 25 cents a week, and the Government 10 cents a week. A woman worker aged 21 years will contribute 21 cents, the employer 21 cents and the Government 8.4 cents per week. Workers under 21 years will contribute as follows:—18 to 20 years, men, 18 cents; women, 15 cents; 17 years, boys, 11 cents; girls, 9 cents; 16 years, boys 7 cents; girls, 6 cents. The employers and the Government will make the same proportionate contributions as in the case of adults.

The Dominion Government will pay all the costs of administration of the act.

The benefits to individual adult workers during their period of involuntary idleness will average around \$6.00 per week.

There is a considerable list of occupations that are excepted and that accordingly will not make contributions to the funds nor receive benefits. The excepted employments include agriculture, teaching, fishing, lumbering, banking and financial businesses, government employees, police, army and navy, agents and casual workers. Railway employees come under the insurance scheme but sailors and fliers do not.

Hard-boiled Grocer: "No, sir. No checks. I wouldn't cash a check for my brother."

Disappointed Customer: "Well, of course you know your family better than I do."

—Exchange.

Seldom Nervous About Famous Flier Husband

Mrs. "Punch" Dickins Prefers to Remain Close to Earth Herself, but has Great Confidence in the Skill of her Daring Husband in his Air Flights.

By LOTTIE C. DEMPSEY
Central Press Canadian Writer
Edmonton, Jan. 31.—To the admiration and respect the rest of the world has accorded Clennell H. "Punch" Dickins, daring flier of the north, Edmonton, his home, adds a love and affection that is as personal as it is deep. It is not unnatural, then, that practically every one of the 70,000 citizens of Canada's most northerly city reached a state of desperate and frightened panic when the lately created member of the Order of the British Empire was reported missing for the fourth, fifth and sixth day during his brilliant flight to the shores of the Arctic, in search of the McAlpine party a few years ago.

That is, practically every citizen but one. She was a charming, gracious young mother who answered telephone calls, talked to reporters, communicated with flying stations hour after hour, and seemed to give strength and courage to all of those who were gradually losing hope. Perhaps after all, she was in a position to know that "Punch" was safe, because she realized most fully his capacity for meeting emergencies, his cool-headed, systematic planning in the face of all conditions and his perfect control of nerves.

She was Mrs. Punch Dickins. To-day, she admits that perhaps that was one of the most difficult of her many experiences as a flier's wife.

Alberta, a clever young actress and a charming member of the western city's younger set as the daughter of one of its best-loved clergymen and war-time padres, the late Captain Gerrie, Mrs. Dickins did not know in 1927 when she married "Punch" that he would take up flying as a vocation. But when the opportunity came, and she realized how much it meant to him, she fully agreed. When he is at home for a few days and she sees how restless he is away from his machine, she realizes that it was the only choice.

Strangely enough, it was on an occasion when Punch was lost for only a relatively short period of time that Mrs. Dickins experienced her greatest anxiety as a flier's wife. In 1902 the young aviator and his wife went to the little settlement of Gold Pines in Northern Ontario, from which Punch made two trips daily to a mining district. Living in a log cabin, the young bride waited each day to hear the whir of the engine before putting on lunch and dinner. One noon there was no sound of wings, even in the night passed, and it was not until the next day that a search party discovered the forced landing spot of the flier after they had passed it a dozen times, in a maze of lakes and little islands.

"Such an occasion would mean nothing now . . . but in those days I wasn't accustomed to it," says Mrs. Dickins. Enjoying keenly the "shop talk" that



Mrs. Clennell H. "Punch" Dickins is the petite, charming, clever, wife of that daring Lindbergh of the North, "Punch" Dickins of Edmonton, Alberta, the recently created member of the Order of the British Empire. She is a delightful hostess, and mother, and has many abilities of her own. She admits that there are times when she wishes "Punch" were a taxi driver!

as well as being Punch's own admittedly most thrilling adventure. Yet she knew then, as she knows now, that the man who has done so much to open up the great north, and whose services in the cause of life and justice and commerce have been inestimable, never takes unnecessary chances, and doesn't fly unless the conditions are right.

Always Has Control
"Good nerves," she says unhesitatingly when asked her opinion of the flier's greatest asset, knowing that the man who has been called The Lindbergh of the North shares the American idol's splendid control and command of himself as well as his machine, in every situation.

Petite, and with the delicate charm of the Barrie heroines she has so ably portrayed in more than one production of the Little Theatre and in university dramatic clubs. Mrs. Dickins is the centre around which Punch's home life and that of their two delightful children, John and Mary, aged six and five revolve. Although she has enjoyed occasional flights with her husband (including one from New York to Winnipeg) and looks forward to the day when she may join him in a journey north, Mrs. Dickins is infrequently found at the flying field.

The Secret Fear
"Of course, there are times when I wish Punch were a taxi driver," Mrs. Dickins admits smilingly, and for a moment there is a sense of that hidden fear which is secreted in the hearts of all those women who wait at home for the adventurers of this earth.

Again reluctantly she admits her hope that John will find the soil more entrancing than the clouds when he grows to manhood. Yet she does not discourage the golden-haired, brown-eyed little boy who brings her books on aviation and pictures of fliers in technical magazines and questions unceasingly about mechanical devices of all sorts. Both children enjoyed their one brief experience in the air recently tremendously.

A graduate of the university of Al-

Denies Conditions Serious at the Jail

Haileybury Officials Make Reply to Complaints in Regard to Danger of Communicable Diseases.

The following in regard to Haileybury jail appears in The Northern News of Kirkland Lake this week:—

"Allegations that effective segregation of inmates suffering from social and other contagious diseases from men in normal health but who, it is claimed, might become infected and in turn spread germs in the North Country is not in effect in the institution were made recently to the provincial authorities by prisoners confined in the district jail at Haileybury it has been learned.

"The official report which the complaints evoked, however, stated that representation of conditions asserted to exist had been exaggerated and that there was no real occasion for alarm.

"A Matachewan man just discharged after serving a short sentence told The Northern News of the letter he said had been written and sent to Hon. Dr. J. A. Faulkner, minister of health for Ontario, and outlining the complaints. This man signed a further note in the presence of the reporter, this purporting to be a copy of the communication which went to Queen's Park. This was confirmed by Dr. W. C. Arnold, jail physician, to whom the original had been referred through the usual official channels. Dr. Arnold said he had been asked for a report on the points raised in the letter, and in sketching briefly the answer, declared that health conditions in the institution were satisfactory.

"Briefly, the complaints were that, among about 70 men of all classes in the jail, four cases of social or other contagious diseases were alleged. Three men were said to have been suffering from two different types of venereal diseases and the fourth to have been a tubercular case formerly under treatment in hospital. Three of these men, the minister was told were in daily contact with other prisoners, and the remaining man, although in a separate cell, was enclosed in the same block as five others. It was asserted that in the circumstances, it was difficult to escape contamination, and it was claimed these men wore similar clothing to that given other prisoners and on occasion, had used the same

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wash bowls.

"Regarding the last-noted item, Dr. Arnold said there was no need for this and that it was a matter which the inmates could control for themselves. The doctor spoke of three cases that came under the allegations made, but he insisted their health conditions were not as set out in the complaints made, and that there had been no objections raised to them by two other prisoners who occupied the same corridor.

"So far as the tubercular case was concerned Dr. Arnold said this particular man had been suffering from tuberculosis of the bone, but had been discharged from hospital as cured. Examination of his arm, the affected part of his body, had borne out this fact. Dr. Arnold said, and he added emphatically there was no question of any contagious form of tuberculosis in this case.

"Of the other men, Dr. Arnold said one was an individual who had been committed as insane and who was awaiting removal to an institution. He had been examined by two doctors before he was taken before the magistrate and while they had certified him mentally affected, had made no report of any disease of the body. This man did not rank as a prisoner and so was not subject to the usual regulations with regard to health examination by the jail authorities. The men who had written the minister had only the word of this man himself on the subject, Dr. Arnold said. He declared he was satisfied all reasonable precautions had been taken and he asked what more could be done beyond putting these three men in one block. There was no danger to the public health, Dr. Arnold emphasized.

"From other enquiries made, it is learned that complete segregation is difficult in a district jail, where there are not the facilities that are available

at Burwash, for instance. Provision had been made in the original plans of the district jail to give treatment to men who come under this category, but the scheme had been dropped later on the score of expense.

"The magistrates are not informed of the health condition of prisoners brought before them, as a general rule, it is stated, and from one source it was stated that men in certain circumstances have sought jail terms to enable themselves to obtain treatment of a suitable nature. They are less dangerous to the public health, while in jail than they would be at large in the country, the reporter was told.

"The letter to Dr. Faulkner noted that "we understand we are all prisoners, but the majority are in for minor infractions of the Liquor Control Act, and when they are discharged it is easily seen that they will carry some of the germs into their homes and thus spread the disease." It was urged that a number of the prisoners were married men, with homes and families to return to on expiration of their sentences, and some fear of spreading infection in this manner was expressed to the minister of health. The man who approached the reporter had no other complaints to make arising out of his sojourn in jail, and he said it was realized by the inmates that the local authorities were more or less powerless in the matter. The solution of the problem, it had been suggested to the minister, was that men suffering from venereal or contagious diseases should be sent direct to some special institution where they could receive proper attention."

Sudbury Star:—In Boston small boys are being taught to scrub their own necks. That may be culture, but it looks, like a violation of the laws of nature.

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