

the United Mine Workers of America, and you must agree the Royal Commissioner's report is destitute of justice to the striking miners.

That is the view expressed by the gentleman who directed the miners in the strike on Vancouver Island; that is the charge he makes against the commissioner who made the report with which we are dealing to-night. The views of this gentleman should be received and considered by the members of this House. I know that the mine workers' officials are anxious to promote the interests of the miners; they feel that they are in just as responsible a position and that they are just as worthy of consideration in a case of this kind as the men who direct and are in control of the mines. I think that if the Minister of Labour would treat both elements in the same way, and do his utmost to bring about better relations between the employers and the employees, he would be doing something which would make the administration of his department worth while. This gentleman refers to the matter of wages as connected with the commissioner's report. He says:

A number of Nanaimo miners, as well as the mayor, testified before the Labour Commission referred to in the quotation. They told of low wages, blacklists, discrimination, disobedience of laws, robbery and other injustices suffered by the men, but their testimony failed to supply the commissioner's wants. What was needed was something to indicate the men were earning substantial wages, so the testimony of the men was ignored and that of the mayor was incorporated in the commissioner's report. The fact that the mayor had never worked in the mines a single day in all his life and was not in a position to furnish first hand, reliable information as to the conditions under which the men worked or the wages they earned does not seem to have made any difference. The mayor had something that had a tendency to verify the managers' assertions that the men were receiving good wages, and that was sufficient to make his testimony worthy of mention in the report.

That is a rather serious assertion: that every statement made to oppose the contention of the mine owners was given prominence in the report, and that the testimony of the miners was not given the same prominence—in fact, was not treated at all. I believe there is much to be said in criticism of Mr. Price's report, of the methods he adopted in obtaining the information upon which he based that report, and, in fact, of his appointment. Mr. Price knows no more about mining conditions in western Canada than I do about fruit conditions in eastern Canada; yet he was sent to western Canada to investigate these con-

[Mr. Buchanan.]

ditions—the most serious industrial conditions that have ever arisen in this country—and he made a report which is open to this criticism on the part of the men he was supposed to be anxious to conciliate; whom he was supposed to be endeavouring to establish on better relations with their employers.

The minister took occasion to-day to boast of one settlement which was effected by this Government. If that is all he had to boast of so far as the administration of his department since he took charge of it is concerned it does not say very much for that administration. I want to say that the Alberta strike of 1911, to which he referred, was not settled by the Minister of Labour or by any member of the Government. That strike was settled before the minister of the Government got to the city of Lethbridge. The terms were agreed upon and the miners said: If the Minister of the Interior will get anything more for us, let him come along. The minister went there, but he did not get anything more for them than had been agreed upon with the operators before his arrival.

Mr. ROGERS: I should like to correct that assertion of my hon. friend, which is absolutely incorrect. No agreement whatever was made.

Mr. BUCHANAN: I have the authority of an official of the miners' union, a gentleman who was a member of the conference held on that occasion, that this is true, and that an agreement had been reached. Anyway, the agreement that was signed in connection with that strike was the one recommended by the Rev. Dr. Gordon of Winnipeg, who was the chairman of a board appointed by the late Government to investigate that particular trouble. The miners accepted that agreement, and the reason that the strike was prolonged was because of an addition made to the report by the representatives of the operators. As soon as that addition was removed, they accepted the report of Rev. Dr. Gordon, and the strike was settled. I say, therefore, that this settlement is no credit whatever to the Government; it is a joke in my part of the country to talk about the Government having settled that strike. If that is the only thing that the Minister of Labour has to point to in respect of his administration of the Labour Department, then no credit is due for his administration of that department of the Government since 1911.

Mr. H. H. STEVENS (Vancouver): I think it is somewhat unfortunate that the