

labour unions in this country, we find that the mainspring is on the other side of the line. I am strongly in favour of an organization of labour in this country, but I say that it should be under the control of our own people and our own government. We should not have before us continually the danger of being obliged to follow any particular organization to the other side of the line and beyond the control of our own people. The time may come when we shall be rushing to arms to protect this country from that kind of thing. This is the time for the government to take hold of the question. I do not say how that should be done, but they will be able to say. They should take hold of this and deal with it, apart from politics, framing measures solely with the view to meet the difficulty that faces us. At the present time it is a very difficult matter for us to say when the military power should step out and the civil power should step in. I certainly think in this case the civil authorities in Montreal should have had power to deal with the difficulty and deal with it firmly. I believe with the hon. member for North Norfolk (Mr. Charlton) that the individual in this country has rights. I am willing to concede to a labour organization also that it has rights. But when the organization undertakes to interfere with the individual and with his personal rights, the whole power of the country and the government should be brought forward to put a stop to that interference at once. The difficulty in the United States, as we know, is want of power in the central authority to deal with these matters. In these troubles the people who suffer most are not the workmen, not the manufacturers, not the capitalists—the whole accumulated evil falls upon the consumer, upon the masses of the people who have to pay the bill every time. If you prevent miners from getting out coal, they will get back at you, because they will merely charge a dollar or two more for every ton and, so far as the capitalist is concerned, he will be as well off as ever. The men who are posing as representatives of labouring men forget that in every one of these contests the workingmen come out at the small end of the horn. They always do. Not a single case can be named where the workmen have not got the worst of it. So I say the proper course is for a good strong government to take hold of this matter and prevent these people from the United States coming in here and agitating in this country, for it can be seen that their only object is agitation. They do not care that these poor longshoremen are out of work, they are idle and spending money sometimes very injudiciously. All they want is to pose before the people of this country and the United States as being anxious for the welfare of the people for whom they are agitating, although they are causing them to lose not only their time, but their money.

Mr. BROCK.

I do trust the government will see their way to do a little more—

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS (Hon. A. G. Blair). What would the hon. gentleman (Mr. Brock) suggest that a good government should do?

Mr. BROCK. If I were Minister of Labour I should be in a position not only to make suggestions, but, I hope, to do something. Why, this is almost childish. When an hon. gentleman on this side presents the view that the government are not doing all that they ought to do we are asked: What is your policy, what suggestions have you to make?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS. Certainly, because you do not make out a case until you do.

Mr. BROCK. Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to detain the House any longer. But I can assure you that, to myself personally as well as the city I represent, this is a very serious matter. Before sitting down, I may mention one thing. At this season of the year the importers of this country are bringing in a very large quantity of what we call spring and summer goods. We know that shipments of these goods are in the vessels in the port of Montreal; but the goods cannot be delivered, they cannot be distributed throughout the country, under the present circumstances. The result is that a serious loss is going to fall upon these importers. For, the goods now coming in are usually of light material—what I may call fashionable goods—and suitable for the season. If the goods are not sold now, there will be a serious loss in carrying them over, because, next year they will be unfashionable and worth almost nothing. Therefore—there may be some selfishness in it—I am associated with those who are anxious that this difficulty be put a stop to as quickly as possible.

Mr. RALPH SMITH (Vancouver). Mr. Speaker, I deplore the existence of industrial struggles, such as those going on in Montreal and in other parts of the country, just as much as any hon. gentleman in this House. But I want to say that, so long as hon. members of this House are not prepared to assume that some fault may be found on both sides in this struggle, so long will affairs remain in the present condition. Now, Sir, these people have reason for the position that they take. It is true, their reasons may not always be good reasons. But, when large bodies of men who depend not upon a bank account, but upon each dollar as it is earned as a daily wage, without any prospect of maintaining a living whilst on strike, take the course that these men have taken, we may depend upon it they have some reason for entering upon such a struggle. Now a great deal has been said including what has been said by the hon.