

Administration were charged, not only in this House by quasi-labour members, but on every public platform where a coal miner could be found in the province of Nova Scotia, with having been guilty of bringing out the militia to quell the strikers during the Nova Scotia strike. I am fair enough, and I have been fair enough, to say I am not charging the Department of Labour or the Militia Department—and no man knowing the Militia Act or anything about it would do so if he were sincere—with being instrumental in calling out the militia of this country in aid of the civil power; but very many people in Nova Scotia have been led to believe that. In this connection I want to say that the way in which the militia is called out in aid of the civil power in this country at the present time is, to my way of thinking, absolutely wrong. The operators, of course, always ask for the militia to be called out and how is it done? It is done by an ex parte application to either two justices of the peace, two stipendiary magistrates, or a judge of the County Court. Affidavits are read from friends of the mine operators; no person appears for the miner, and very often those affidavits are exaggerated or absolutely false. Yet the miner is not represented before the judge who, upon an ex parte statement of the case, calls out the militia to quell miners or other labourers, when there is absolutely no necessity for such a course. If the facts had been investigated, if the miners of British Columbia had been given a chance to be heard before the tribunal that ordered out the militia, they could have shown that it was the gunmen, the thugs, the Oriental labour, the coloured labour, brought into this country by the operators in British Columbia, who started these riots and in return were set on by the coal miners of British Columbia. Had there been a proper inquiry into the facts before the militia were called out the probabilities are that the scenes that have disgraced this country—the militia of Canada shooting down their fellow Canadians who were engaged in an effort to better their own positions—would not have been witnessed.

Mr. SHEPHERD: Does the hon. member think that it was not necessary to call out the militia in the Nanaimo strike after the riot at Extension of August 14?

Mr. CARROLL: I am not giving an opinion on that. I am giving the opinion that if it had not been for the introduction of the gunmen, thugs, coloured labour and Orien-

[Mr. Carroll.]

tal labour brought to that country by the operators, the calling out of the militia would never have been necessary, and if the Militia Act had provided for the appearance, by solicitor or otherwise, before the tribunal that called out that militia, of the miners, and had they been allowed to state their case, the militia would never have been called out. Of course, the hon. gentleman was on the ground: what does he think about it?

Mr. SHEPHERD: I will tell you presently.

Mr. CARROLL: I really think it is the duty of the Minister of Labour to introduce an amendment to the Industrial Disputes Act providing that his department may appoint a board of conciliation where the operators and employees do not ask for one, where a strike is called on, and providing that the recommendations of a board of conciliation may be enforced by penalty. If he does not propose such legislation during the present session of Parliament, he is not doing justice either to himself, to his department, to the labouring people or to the corporations or operators of this country. I do not think, as a matter of fact, that the Minister of Labour takes his work as Minister of Labour seriously. He has told us that he is minister of play. I do not envy the good times that the Minister of Labour gets out of being minister of play. I would surely expect that the Minister of Labour would do a little work as well as play. There is a time for work and a time for play. I say he does not take the duties of his office seriously. We had a visit from the Minister of Labour to the province of Nova Scotia last summer. I was pleased to meet him there. Some days before his appearance in the county of Cape Breton a large advertisement appeared in one of our local papers, the Glace Bay Gazette, telling the people that the Minister of Labour was going to hold a labour demonstration in King's theatre in the town of Glace Bay, and invited all to go there. Arrangements were made for special trains to Glace Bay from all the surrounding towns. We expected to get some wonderful pronouncements from the minister on that occasion. His visit was talked of all through the mining centres. The meeting was not supposed to be in any sense a political gathering. This was advertised in the Glace Bay Gazette. On the morning of the day when the minister was supposed to address this wonderful meeting a notice appeared in the Sydney Post, a