

from this side of the river to the United States in search of employment finds himself denied employment. That I have known to be true in the case of Mr. DuBarry the officer of the United States government at Buffalo. But, failing to convict him for an offence under this Act for simply going over there to get work, they come at him in this way. If he returns home to his family on a Saturday and remains over Sunday, they say when he goes into the United States again that he has entered in pursuance of a contract previously made. The point I wish to press on the First Minister is this, that in the event of any negotiations taking place between his Government and that of the United States, which I think would be right and proper, I think the interpretation of the law which the United States officers have placed on the Act itself ought to be brought more particularly to the attention of the United States Government; and, unless there is some spirit of hostility, which I would fain believe does not exist in the United States, against this country, I think some good might be done in that direction. What we are aiming at is not the existence of the law in the United States against any other nation: because it is not enacted in any spirit of retaliation against Canada—it is enacted against the whole world: and if we could represent to the Government at Washington that that harsh interpretation is not the proper one—as, apart from my own judgment, I am informed by many Americans with whom I have talked on this subject that it is not—this Government would be accomplishing a desirable purpose without enacting legislation, which I admit would be attended with a great deal of difficulty. With regard to the amendment which the hon. member for South Leeds says has been enacted by the United States Congress, I saw the same authority that he has referred to, that is, the newspaper report; but I did not know that the law had been passed. If it has, so much the worse; but it does not render any more difficult the task which I humbly suggest the leader of the Government might undertake in his negotiations with the Washington Government. That this is a serious matter to all of us is admitted. That is shown by the report alluded to by my hon. friend who introduced the Bill. The serious part of it is that many hundreds of workingmen have left this country and become citizens of the United States by compulsion. I can only express again my gratification that the leader of the Government has been so favourably impressed with the spirit of this Bill, and I can commend the course of the hon. member for South Leeds as one likely to meet the sense of the whole House and country.

Mr. McCLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the Bill which my hon. friend from South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) has introduced to-night will not be side-tracked, as it has been in former years, and our working-

Mr. WOOD (Brockville).

men and artisans still continued in the humiliating position of being refused a day's work in the United States, while United States workingmen and artisans are allowed the free use of our country to obtain work. I represent a county which is, I presume, affected by this question as much if not more than any other county in the Dominion. Not only are our workingmen and artisans refused admittance to the United States—that is not the grievance of which we so much complain; but the work which our workingmen and mechanics should have is taken from them by the contractors and workingmen who come across from the city of Buffalo or the city of Niagara Falls, and work during the day and cross over to the United States again at night, while our mechanics are denied any similar opportunity among our neighbours. I should be sorry to have to go back to my constituents and tell them that I had sat in a Canadian Parliament which had refused to give to our workingmen the protection to which they are entitled in this regard. I just rise to say that I hope this matter will not be dilly-dallied with or delayed, but that our workingmen and mechanics shall receive at the hands of this Parliament the consideration which they have a right to expect.

Mr. MACDONALD (Winnipeg). It was my intention to have spoken at considerable length on this subject, for it is one on which I feel so strongly that had not my hon. friend from South Leeds (Mr. Taylor) introduced this measure, I should have felt it my duty to have introduced one couched in similar terms. As the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin) has pointed out, this is not a question that affects merely border counties, but it also has a very great effect on any place that is a railway centre, even though it may be removed many miles from the border. For instance, take the constituency I represent, the city of Winnipeg. From that city the Northern Pacific Railway runs to the United States. At first the Canadians and Americans employed on that line in various capacities, as conductors, locomotive engineers or otherwise, had exactly the same rights and were treated in exactly the same manner. But now the Canadians find themselves heavily handicapped; for, while the Americans are allowed to take any train that may be given them, whether in the United States or Canada, the Canadians, while allowed to cross the line, are only allowed to do so under such disadvantageous conditions as render it almost impossible for them to do the work. You can hardly understand what a feeling of discontent such a state of affairs arouses and must continue to arouse if it is allowed to exist for any length of time. I was glad to hear my hon. friend the First Minister say that he agreed to a very great extent with the spirit of the measure we are now considering; although