

the union should be recognized, and acts of violence were committed in order to prevent men from exercising their rights as citizens to make contracts with their employers, unless they belonged to the union. That strike was referred to a board of arbitration. That board sat a long time, it examined into all the circumstances, it delivered its findings, and decided that labour must be recognized as such, that the individual must be recognized as well as the labour union, and that while the labour union might be and should be dealt with, it was not entitled to take the position of preventing the individual from selling his labour to an employer and giving that labour unmolested by the union. The whole country is pervaded by rumours of strikes, fomented by these agitators who are not, as a rule, Canadians. They come here from the labour unions of the United States to create a state of things which must inevitably lead to great trouble, and even to violence on the part of those who desire that no one should work except under the auspices of the labour union and at its dictation. It is high time that this matter was taken into serious consideration. I believe that the government would be justified in excluding these agitators from the country, in considering them as disturbers of the public peace, and requiring them to go forth with about their business.

Mr. A. W. PUTTEE (Winnipeg). There has been nothing brought up this afternoon which entitles the hon. member for North Norfolk to draw the inference that the strike at Montreal has been caused by union emissaries from the United States. As a matter of fact I believe—and I think that hon. members from Montreal will bear me out—that the strike was on before these men were sent for, and that as a matter of fact the strikers sent for them to come and try to effect a settlement. If men who come here at the instance of the labour element to settle a strike, are to be called agitators, I do not think such language calculated to have any good effect. It was well known throughout Montreal that this strike was bound to take place this year. The shipping federation declared last year that they would not again be put in the same position in which they were last year, when labour was scarce, and said they were about to import men to do their unloading, irrespective of the trade organizations. There is a Bill before the House asking for the incorporation of the Shippers' Federation with that very purpose in view. At present it is said that there are a thousand men on their way from the port of Liverpool to come and unload vessels at Montreal. The shippers may be perfectly within rights, but they are making an attack on the longshoremen, residents of Montreal. I rise specially to protest against the unwarrantable inference being drawn that this strike has been brought about by foreign agitators or that

the condition of affairs has been aggravated by foreign emissaries. As regards what was said about the regular troops being more generally employed to take the place of the militia or the civil authorities, let me say that we should be very careful how we endorse the calling out and keeping out of regular troops. The civic authorities of Montreal have ample means at their disposal for the keeping of the peace, and I believe that that work should be done by special constables.

Mr. MONK. Hear, hear.

Mr. PUTTEE. It seems to me that it is wrong to resort to the military in these matters, and I do not think that such a proceeding will commend itself to the people of this country.

Mr. W. R. BROCK (Toronto Centre). Coming from Toronto, I think it but right that I should give my views on the matter before the House. The strike is not only a very serious grievance to the merchants and the manufacturers of Canada, but also to those who have agricultural produce to ship at various points. I have seen a notice this morning that the railway companies are refusing to take possession of freight to be brought to Toronto, and at present there are some 1,200 or 1,300 of our young men in the militia guarding the wharfs at Montreal. I can speak feelingly of this myself because nearly a dozen are out of my establishment in that city, and these young men are kept out these very cold nights without proper provision being made to protect them from the cold. I think that the city of Montreal should add to its police force on occasions of this kind, so that the regular police could attend to the difficulty on the wharfs and additional police do patrol duty in other parts of the city.

This whole matter of trades unions in this country and the way they are governed and worked is a serious menace to business. It is one of the most serious matters we have to deal with at the present time. Any man wishing to enter upon any kind of enterprise must face the fact that directly he has done so, on the one hand he is assailed by labour agitators and on the other by politicians—and, in fact the whole question is too much mixed up with politics, so seriously that I can understand the difficulty the government have in attempting to deal with such matters, fearing that what they do may be used against them with this numerous body, and that they may be made unpopular with one class. Notwithstanding what I understood the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttee) to say, I here assert, without fear of contradiction, that the agitation is brought largely from the United States. It is all very well to get up and say that nothing has been brought forward in this House to establish this, but I tell you the papers are full of it; and I say that in any of the difficulties we have had in