

and the farms to take up work which was quite hard for them to do. Men changed from town to town, from one job to another, and worked hard to produce the materials necessary for victory. Speaking last night, the minister paid a tribute to the workers who produced the weapons of war. He said:

I would be remiss if I did not say how splendidly our men and women played their part during the war years.

These are fine words, but the fact is that these people whose efforts were being praised, and they deserved to be, are to-day being confronted with many difficult problems. These workers through their unions adhered during war time to a "no strike" policy, but to-day in many industries they are being provoked into strikes. During the war many workers often felt that they had no other resort than to strike, and then their labour leaders would try to urge them to stay on the job despite all provocation. I saw a couple of union leaders who had received black eyes because they had urged the workers in a shipyard in Montreal to go back to work. It was not easy for trade union leaders to convince the workers that they had to stand for all kinds of dirt because the weapons of war had to be produced.

As a reward, labour to-day is being faced by a certain attitude on the part of some employers and, unless the government steps in, we shall have difficult times and instability for a long time to come. During war time I attended quite a number of union meetings in Quebec; I spoke to many workmen, and I have always been proud of the fact that it was lodge No. 712 of the Montreal aircraft workers, which contained a majority of French Canadian workers, that brought forth the idea of labour-management committees to increase production. They, too, are confronted to-day with difficulties.

There are some employers who unwillingly accepted collective bargaining in war time because there had to be production, but before the war was over they were planning to go back to what had obtained during pre-war years. The most outstanding example of this is the anti-union Ford Motor company. After seventeen months of boards and more boards, the workers had no alternative than to strike. There comes a time when workers ask: What do we do next? Then comes the strike. The workers at Ford went out on strike and this strike has become a test for post-war labour-employer relations. It is also a test, as far as I am concerned, of the government's attitude toward rewarding workers who did such

a fine job during war time. I must say that the government's role has not been the best; it has not been encouraging to labour.

On a number of occasions in this house we have heard the minister give the reasons for the delay in settling this strike. The company offered the alibi that the power-house was closed and that their executive staff could not get into the offices. We were told of the calamities that would befall the city of Windsor and the Ford Motor company if the power-house were not opened. That was the reason given for sending the police to Windsor. The R.C.M.P. went there; the provincials went there. The Ford Motor company does not seem anxious to open the power-house.

Acting in what I thought was a most conciliatory manner, the union offered to reopen the power-house and give the executive staff access to the offices. Negotiations were opened between the union and the company and every one hoped that an agreement would be reached. The minister spent a few days there in a sincere effort to bring the two parties together, but sincerity does not always get results especially when one is confronted with an anti-union element that is ready to do everything in its power to smash the union.

In a statement issued yesterday the company now charges that the union's offer to open the power-house was a hollow offer. On the other hand, the union states that when they got together with the company a few days ago for a discussion there was a basic understanding that the company would discuss the twenty-two points in dispute. But here is what happened, according to the union's statement:

We were amazed to discover at to-day's session, however, that the company was only prepared to discuss six minor points of the twenty-two in dispute.

And again:

On the union security issue the company definitely refused to discuss any phase of the issue, even in exploratory fashion. When asked if it would discuss a mild form of union security as a tentative settlement pending further negotiations in order to bring about the resumption of the plant in the interests of the workers and the nation, they gave a definite no.

A number of other suggestions were offered in the form of compromises but the company indicated in no uncertain manner that they were not willing to discuss any but the six points. They displayed a complete irresponsibility to the needs of the hour by refusing to discuss such vital issues as veterans' seniority, seniority, severance pay, hospitalization, insurance and reconversion committee, which are basic requisites to bargaining in good faith.

There are other employers, some anti-union, who are to-day watching the Ford Motor