

consultation with the member for our county, as to the best course to pursue, we agreed that the better plan was to visit Ottawa and lay the matter before the Minister of Customs, my official head. Accordingly, I went to Ottawa, and there met the Minister of Customs, the Minister of the Interior, and the Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and the result was that I was asked in my official capacity to visit the frontier ports of the United States, and ascertain just how far the law was in force, and to get the views of different sub-collectors. I did so, and made a report on the 15th of June. I visited Rockport, and interviewed the sub-collector there, Mr. Dixon, and some of those who had been driven home, and found as stated, that men who had been employed for years were, without any notice whatever, told that their services could not be retained any longer. The Alien Labor Law had been called into operation and the employers had been told that they were liable to a penalty of \$1,000, and they did not wish to run that risk. I proceeded to Ogdensburg, and met the collector there Mr. Harrison, and found he was not in sympathy with the Act. He gave me the particulars of the Bouch case, which was the first case. When that decision was given from Washington, then the turmoil commenced.

83. Tell us the particulars of that case?—A young man named Bouch, in his teens, residing back of Prescott, went over to Ogdensburg, and having no luggage passed on without interruption. He travelled on to Lisbon, and there met with a farmer with whom he entered into an engagement. After spending a week or so, it was suggested and mutually agreed to that the young man should return to Canada and bring over his clothes and serve the farmer for a year. He arrived in Canada, and spent probably a week bidding his friends good-bye, and returned with his handbag or satchel, or valise, whatever you may term it. The sub-inspector from Washington, happened to be there and this young man was taken to the Customs House and peremptorily told that he must return to Canada. The collector not being in sympathy with the Act demurred and refused to use his official authority in sending the young man back. The case was referred to Washington, and if you want my private opinion I would say that the most ridiculous part of the whole matter was the opinion given by the Secretary of the Treasury. He argued that the first visit was a prospective visit and when he came back for his luggage he returned under contract, and must go back to his own country. The young man was ordered by the collector of customs, in duty bound, to return to Canada. As I said, that case had been published in the newspapers and all along the line employers of labor were notified that Canadians must either reside in the United States permanently during their engagement or must leave. Of course, the collector told me there were several cases in which passengers from Prescott had been sent back. I then visited Alexandria Bay which is opposite Rockport, and ascertained there that the deputy-collector had somewhat modified his views and appeared to be more in sympathy with the head of his Department. The collector in that district was formerly a resident of Clayton and he spoke knowingly. He informed the collector at Alexandria Bay that the enforcement of the Alien Labor Law would cause perhaps retaliatory measures on the part of Canada, and if that took place that the hotels at Alexandria Bay and Clayton might as well be closed.

84. That is to retaliate by enforcing the fishery law?—Yes, with the enforcement of the fishery laws. I found that the collector even seemed to be in sympathy with the Canadians if there was any possibility of their being allowed to return, but still there were others in Canada who were compelled to leave. From there I proceeded to Clayton and found no cases there to speak of. The deputy-collector there told me that some parties had come in and had informed them that certain parties were there under contract but there was no action taken however. In the meantime I had stopped at Morristown opposite Brockville. I there found that the collector had not ordered any Canadians who had been residing there to leave, but he had refused certain persons. There is one case which strikes me—of three cheese makers. He said, of course, in refusing to act I render myself liable to censure from the Department at Washington, but it appeared to be a hardship.