

1889? CONSERVATIVE ALLIES

The Toronto Star, a staunch supporter of the Government, in its issue of August 17, 1899, has the following editorial: "The attention of the Government, which affects blissful ignorance of violations of the Alien Labour Law, is drawn to an incident at an inquest last night in Mimico, where among the witnesses were Italian navvies working on the Grand Trunk Railway, one of whom admitted, in reply to a juror, that he had been hired in the United States to come here to work as a trackman, also that he and other Italians, among whom was the deceased, received passes to come to Toronto. This is not the first time the Star has called attention to the matter; this is not the first time the Government has been informed of similar violations of the law which is being held in abeyance on an understanding with the United States, but to which the United States does not live up. These Italian labourers do not make good citizens. They rarely make citizens of any sort; they are birds of passage, and they take the work which should go to men living in the country and who make their homes here. In view of the era of extensive railway construction upon which Canada is entering, the Alien Labour Law is a most desirable measure if it is to be enforced, and the matter calls for the Government's attention."

The publication of these facts did not arouse the Government to action, and alien labourers were free to come into Canada just when and where they pleased.

UNFAIR TO MINERS.

Bad as was the treatment accorded to Canadian labourers and operatives in the older Provinces, that given to the miners in British Columbia was even worse. A despatch from Vancouver, dated November 2nd, 1899, reads as follows:

"The strike in the Slocan country has reached a crisis, and the Silver Lead Miners' Association has commenced importing Italian labourers from the United States. The first consignment arrived to-day for the Payne mine from Seattle, being sent in under contract by a Seattle employment Agency to the Silver Lead Miners' Association."

"The citizens of Sandon and members of the Mining Union of Slocan are very indignant, and will take steps to have the Alien Labour Law enforced. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hewitt Bostock, M.P. for Yale-Cariboo, will be appealed to. The British Columbia Ministry will be asked to co-operate to secure the enforcement of the law. No disturbance is looked for, but the miners make frequent mention of the belief that the imported labourers are brought in for the purpose of inciting them to violence."

Instances like the foregoing might be multiplied to show the two-faced course the Govern-

ment has pursued towards the toilers of the Dominion, but they are not necessary. The independent press of the country has been loud in its denunciation of the Government.

We reprint a couple of extracts:

The Hamilton Herald, of Thursday, November 22nd, 1899, says: "The Dominion Alien Labour Law remains suspended. In fact, it never was enforced, and for this non-enforcement the lie that the United States Alien Labour Law is suspended has been the excuse."

To the foregoing strong statement the Ottawa Evening Journal, another Independent newspaper, in its issue of November 4th, 1899, makes the following addition: "'Lie' is a very strong word. But we really do not feel competent to take exception to its use in this case. Perhaps one should be grateful that DeBarry does not prevent the engagement of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to make nice speeches in Chicago and other places. Anyway, what do a few poor devils of Canadian workingmen matter? It is only the British Government which declines to submit to injustice to a single British citizen, though the protest must take the Empire into war."

WAGE EARNERS INDIGNANT.

The Government are aware of the indignation which their cowardly conduct has given rise to among the wage-earners of the Dominion, but they hope to appease their wrath by the passage of a clap-trap resolution about "a fair day's wage for a fair day's work." The attempt will fail, however, for a Government that have so signally neglected to protect the honest labour of Canada will meet with the punishment they deserve when the voice of labour is heard at the polls.

At great expense, the present Government brought thousands of Galician, Doukhobor and other foreign immigrants into the North-West. Some of these immigrants were induced to move to California; but were prevented from crossing into the United States because the Government had the United States Alien Labour Law enforced against them at Pembina and elsewhere!

Just think of the Canadian Government urging the American authorities to enforce their Alien Labour Law!! And this, too, against immigrants they had just brought to Canada at great expense to the tax-payers of the country.

When Mr. Taylor first introduced the Alien Labour Law Bill, the Hon. David Mills, who is now a Senator, and the Minister of Justice in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Cabinet, was a member of the House of Commons. In the course of a speech delivered against Mr. Taylor's Bill, he declared: "I cannot conceive a state of circumstances in which it would ever be to the advantage of Canada to adopt such a measure."

Evidently, Mr. Mills and his colleagues in the Government entertain the same opinion to-day.

What do the workmen think of them?