

settle that matter. I am quite ready to admit before the House that when we succeeded in settling that matter, about a month after we came into power, conditions had changed; both parties had become pretty well tired of it during the eight months. I do not take credit for being able to settle that strike. I did not go there. My colleague, Hon. Mr. Rogers, went there; we talked the matter over before he went and he succeeded in bringing the parties together and reaching a settlement. I do not take credit for the whole thing, conditions had changed, that is all. The matter was more easily settled a month after we came into power than it was six months before. It could not have been settled then at all. My hon. friend lives down not very far from Nova Scotia, and he must have a very poor memory if he does not remember that there was a strike in Nova Scotia that continued for twenty-two months, while my predecessor was in office. He was not able to settle it. No doubt he did all he could, employed all reasonable means to effect a settlement; but he did not effect it for twenty-two months. My hon. friend speaks of the difficulties in Nanaimo in 1903. The conditions at that time were very different from what they are now. It was not the same question at all, it was a matter capable of settlement and it was settled. Mr. King went there and he succeeded in settling it. My hon. friend speaks about our having notice in the last of April of the strike that commenced on the first of May. There was not very much time between the two dates. We heard on the 30th of April that there was likely to be a strike and it occurred the next day. My hon. friend says we did nothing from the 16th of September until the 1st of May. He is all out in that. I do not say that we did nothing; we were in communication during all that time not only with the miners, but with the mine owners endeavouring to bring about a settlement. To-day all the mines on Vancouver Island are being operated. There are to-day three hundred or four hundred more men working in the Cumberland mine than when the strike occurred on the 16th of September, 1912.

Mr. CARROLL: Chinese, are they not?

Mr. CROTHERS: Not at all, there are some Chinese and some Japanese. The other mines, it is only frank to say, are not being operated to the same extent as the Cumberland mine.

Mr. MACDONALD: How many Chinese and Japanese are there?

Mr. CROTHERS: Four or five hundred working underground at the Cumberland out of about fifteen hundred. The Chinese receive certificates from the Government of British Columbia to work in the mines. They have to pass an examination before a board of examiners, having passed which examination they get a certificate and are entitled to work underground. If they do not get the certificate they are not entitled to work underground. My hon. friend speaks about a camera costing \$100. That is quite true, a camera was got. It was got before I personally knew anything about it. When I came to know about it I had it sent back, and it has not been paid for by this Government. It was got by a man acting at the time as my private secretary, without my knowledge, and when I found out about it I sent it back, so that the country is not paying a cent for the camera. I thought it was improper to buy a camera and charge it to the country.

Mr. NEELY: Did not the minister take it to the old country?

Mr. CROTHERS: My secretary took it, but I did not know about it until I got back, and then I had it returned. That was long before the hon. member for Carleton (Mr. Carvell) objected, or anybody. I was not waiting for any person to object to it.

The hon. member has referred to the fact that the commissioner appointed by this Government was my partner. I have not felt it necessary to deny all of these things, but I think I should do so now. The fact is that Mr. Price and I practised together as law partners in St. Thomas from 1897 until he was appointed mining commissioner by the Ontario Government in the year 1906. The partnership was then substantially dissolved, but it was not formally dissolved until I was placed in charge of the Labour Department. Then it was formally dissolved before Mr. Price had done an hour's work for this Government or had ever received a single cent from this Government. That is all there is about the law partnership. We dissolved our partnership in 1906, over seven years ago, and formally dissolved it when we came into power and before Mr. Price was asked to do anything for this Government.

Mr. CARVELL: Will the minister tell the House why the commissioner, whom he