

*Unemployment Relief*

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I am not referring to any other place at the moment. My hon. friend can do that in his turn, if he wishes. I want the minister, if he will, to insist that action be taken, no matter who is to blame for the delay. My information from the department indicates that in this instance the company has not been willing to proceed. That may or may not be true. The reason alleged, I understand, is that they have many of these disputes with their employees all over Nova Scotia—I hope I am correctly interpreting my information—that they have only one office staff to attend to the adjudication or trial, shall I say, of all these disputes, that they can do only one thing at a time, and so forth. That is not good enough. Here we are at war and an important industry in Nova Scotia, the biggest industry in that province, for which I hold no brief at all, is tying up the works, in a degree, with all these labour disputes. This government has asked for great power over men and resources in this country. Surely the government can go down there and get these things straightened out in jig time.

There is one thing I should like to add, because no doubt the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) will have something to say about the matter later. Before you can get anywhere in a matter of this kind you must have some good will on both sides. The company must have the will to adjust these matters, and the men in their turn must have the will also. What I should like to see, in behalf of the people of New Glasgow and Trenton, in behalf of the community as a whole, and in behalf of Canada's war effort—because here is a real opportunity to make a contribution to the war effort of this country—is some effort made to get these matters adjusted and out of the way so that industry, as represented in that locality by this company, can function. I cannot understand why a whole month should be permitted to elapse without this board meeting. I may be wrong in that statement; my information may be too meagre to warrant it, but if that is true it ought not to be at this time, or even in time of peace. All I can do from my place in this house is to call the attention of the minister to the situation and ask him to act. I believe he will act, and I should like to say to him, do not draw back or withhold action because Michael Dwyer says so. I am not going to say anything more about that; the minister can take his own implications from my words.

Mr. ISNOR: Then why say it?

[Mr. Martin.]

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): I think I know something of what I am talking about, and it was not really necessary to make that interjection. I am suggesting to the minister that he should not withhold any action because of any representations which may be made to him by an official of the steel company. Let us get action, for the good of the people of Pictou.

Mr. H. B. McCULLOCH (Pictou): I have taken up this matter with the Minister of Labour (Mr. McLarty), and he has promised immediate action. As far as Michael Dwyer is concerned, the words the minister used were that he thought he would have to step on Mr. Michael Dwyer's toes.

With regard to the work at Trenton, six hundred men are working there to-day. It is true that the car works will be idle following delivery of the last two hundred cars for the Sydney and Louisburg railway. A vote was taken by the men at the steel plant, and 62 per cent voted to work on Saturdays, at a pay increase of 7½ per cent. Mr. Barrett came up from Sydney and refused to let them work. I understand the boards of trade of Trenton and New Glasgow have tried to interview Mr. Clawes and Mr. Barrett, and the last word I had was that Mr. Clawes would give them a few minutes. It seems remarkable to me that Mr. Clawes and Mr. Barrett can refuse to let the men work in Trenton. I do not believe that an increase of 7½ per cent is enough for the men working there, since they are receiving smaller wages than are paid in other steel plants throughout the country, but as far as the conciliation board is concerned, the minister has given me his word that everything will be rushed as much as possible.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): Will the minister give further consideration to the five matters I mentioned last week? We are taking away further the revenues of the municipalities by way of the income tax, and so on. In these new agreements with the provinces will the government give consideration to relieving real estate of some of the burden of taxation by federal aid to help more to provide for relief and hospitalization? Then there is the question of those men, forty-five years of age and older, who cannot find employment in industry, and there is also the question of those employees who have been laid off by industries which have closed up altogether on account of lost markets in war areas, as I mentioned last week.

At six o'clock the house took recess.