

ent Brown had engaged a number of American workmen, who are leaving for Toronto to-day.

This is evidently in direct violation of this Act. We would like to know from the Government what steps they have taken to bring this Act into force, or whether proceedings will be taken. The hon. Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies), when making the statement he did to the House, gave us no particulars, but said that proceedings were being taken and that the Government were doing something. We want to know now what they have done or, in the circumstances as detailed in the press in the case of the lock-out or the strike against J. D. King & Co., what the Government propose to do. I think this importation of alien labour, under the circumstances, is an outrage. The condition has been accepted by the House, the Government and the country, that while the United States Government raises the highest barrier against Canadians going into the United States, even when no such circumstances such as those existing in Toronto, prevail, even when no strike is taking place, but it is the case simply of people passing backwards and forwards in search of employment—while such Canadians are met by the officers of the United States Government and not permitted to remain in the United States, we prohibit the employment of aliens here. In this instance, a flagrant violation of our Act occurs. Superintendent Brown of J. D. King & Co., goes to Boston, because there is a strike on in Toronto, and engages a lot of American workmen to take the place of Canadians. What is the result? Those Canadians are thrown out of employment, they cannot go to the United States, because the American laws prohibit them even to seek employment there, and yet despite the law upon our Statute-book, those things are allowed to take place. I am sorry to say that I think the Government have been negligent in their duty. I know that last year members of the Government expressed their hostility to this Act. I know that some of them said they would take good care it was not carried into effect, so far at least as some portions of the Dominion were concerned, perhaps their own provinces. But this is the law that Parliament placed upon the Statute-book, and the Government is bound to name those officers who are empowered to prosecute under this Act. I would like to know who the officer having such power is, whether he has been instructed to carry out this law, and whether the law is being enforced to-day, when all the circumstances demand its rigid and proper enforcement.

The POSTMASTER GENERAL (Mr. Mulock). My hon. friend seems to think that a proclamation is necessary or some action on the part of the Government in order to give vitality to the Act of last session, which seeks to prohibit the importation, under con-

tract, of foreign labour. Permit me, then, to say that there is no such provision as that in the Act, but on the contrary, when the Act was passed on the 29th June, 1897, it then became in full force and spoke at that moment in every part of Canada. That Act is in force in Toronto to-day and it is quite competent for any citizen to call the attention of the Minister of Justice to any supposed violation of its principles, and thereupon it will be his duty, either to institute proceedings or give consent to proceedings being instituted by a private citizen. I am told that in all cases where any alleged violation of the Act has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Justice, steps have been taken to apply the Act.

An hon. MEMBER. Where?

The POSTMASTER GENERAL. At Windsor and along the frontier. At all events, I am told that all cases brought to the attention of the Minister of Justice have been dealt with according to the spirit of this Act, and if my hon. friend finds that the charge in the "Star" newspaper and others are well founded, I assure him the department will, as in the past, be equal to the occasion and apply the Act according to its intent.

Mr. MacLAREN. I have had a great many communications from Stratford and different points complaining about the non-enforcement of the alien labour law. People of my riding have asked me frequently to urge upon the House the enforcement of that law. In Stratford, which is a very large railway centre, a great number of the railway men have been dismissed and their places filled by Americans, and they cannot say a word about it. There is no law to protect such men. These men, who have their homes and their wives and families there, and who have spent their lives in the employ of these large corporations, should have more protection. They urge upon me every time I go home to do something to have this law enforced. I agree with everything the hon. gentleman for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) has said, and I would like to see something done whereby Canadian workmen could be protected, and I shall be pleased to do everything in my power to assert in passing a law of this kind.

Mr. COWAN. As I was the party who introduced this Bill last session, I desire to say a word. Clause 8 of this Act reads:

No proceeding under this Act or prosecution for violation thereof shall be instituted without the consent of the Attorney General or of some person duly authorized by him.

Residing, as I do, in the city of Windsor, immediately on the American frontier I applied after the close of last session of Parliament to the Minister of Justice to authorize some person in that city who could give consent for prosecutions under the Act,

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