

they were prepared to substantiate all the charges made in the petition, and they sent at the same time affidavits to the Immigration Department for the purpose of bringing to the attention of the department the breach and violation of this law, and also asking for the remedy I have mentioned. That petition was written to the department on the 11th of March, 1913. From that date until the 17th of March the Department of the Interior did absolutely nothing to remedy the grievances which these photo-engravers had to complain of. Between these dates the executive of the union apparently telegraphed to the Superintendent of Immigration or to the acting Minister of the Interior that matters were getting worse, and on the 17th of March, 1913, the following letters were written by the Superintendent of Immigration to Mr. E. Nunn, secretary of the Photo-Engravers' Union.

Ottawa 17th March, 1913.

Sir,—I am in receipt of your night telegram of the 15th instant and have discussed with the Hon. Mr. Crothers, acting Minister of the Interior, the contents of your similar message addressed to him, and have wired the Dominion immigration agents at Halifax and at St. John the following rush message:—

Reported here that photo-engravers are entering Canada giving other than their correct occupations. Question closely all immigrants destined Montreal and Toronto and if any found to be photo-engravers reject if that action can be legally taken.

I trust that these instructions will prevent the entry of further numbers by misrepresentation, and should any cases be brought to the department's attention where the party in question secured entry through misrepresentation, an investigation will be at once commenced, and if it is found that the party gained entry through misrepresentation, deportation proceedings will be commenced.

Your obedient servant,
(Sgd.) W. D. Scott,
Superintendent of Immigration.

I want to refer to the latter part of the telegram that was sent to the officers at Halifax and St. John.

Question closely all immigrants destined Montreal and Toronto and if found to be photo-engravers reject if that action can be legally taken.

It strikes me that that telegram on the face of it is rather peculiar and strange coming from a department which should be conversant with the laws and regulations governing the entry of immigrants into this country. Would it not be supposed that the acting Minister of the Interior (Mr. Crothers) and his officials at Ottawa would know whether or not such action could be legally taken? They should give the officers instructions as to whether or not these immigrants could be legally detained. In my humble opinion, they knew well that such action could not be taken.

Mr. CARROLL.

That telegram was sent merely for the purpose of hoodwinking the Union of Photo-Engravers in the cities of Montreal and Toronto and of leading them to believe that the department was anxious to do something when as a matter of fact it was not. I wish to refer to section 38 of the Immigration Act, which reads as follows:

The Governor in Council may, by proclamation or order whenever he deems it necessary or expedient, prohibit for a stated period, or permanently, the landing in Canada, or the landing at any specified port of entry in Canada, of immigrants belonging to any race deemed unsuited to the climate or requirements of Canada, or of immigrants of any specified class, occupation or character.

That is the section which the union at Toronto had in view when they brought this matter to the attention of the acting Minister of the Interior. No one knew better than the gentleman who drafted that telegram to the officers at Halifax and St. John that no such proclamation, as is mentioned in section 38, had ever been issued by the Governor in Council. That is the reason why I say that in sending that telegram the Department of the Interior presided over by the present acting minister (Mr. Crothers) was not sincere in making the best efforts it could to help out this union which was on strike in the cities of Montreal and Toronto and to prohibit immigrants from entering this country to take the places of those strikers. On the following day, the 18th of March, this letter was sent by the Superintendent of Immigration to Messrs. Grip, Limited, of Toronto, one of the firms, who were instrumental in getting these people to come to Canada for the purpose of taking the places of strikers, and who were bringing them in indirect violation of the immigration laws:

It has been brought to the attention of the department that owing to a strike of photo-engravers in the cities of Toronto and Montreal firms employing this class of labour have been securing employees from the British Isles, and as the department does not look with favour upon an influx of any class of labour or skilled mechanics coming to the country when a strike is in progress—

If they did not look with favour on these people coming in, why did they not take the only precaution which they could take under the Act and proclaim by an Order in Council that that specified class of immigrants be debarred from coming into this country for a specified period of time or during the progress of that particular strike? (Reading):

—the ocean port officials have been notified that all photo-engravers applying for admission must be warned of the strike and rejected if that action can be legally taken.