

them, were misled, that it was in a moment of excitement that they entered into this, and that many of them now are sorry. I believe, and I take this opportunity of expressing the belief, that no good can come of bringing this matter up for further discussion here in all its harrowing details. I believe that society has to a great extent been satisfied, and I think it would be conducive to harmony and it would hasten industrial peace and the return of prosperity to our stricken town and district if the Minister of Justice could see his way clear to approach His Royal Highness the Governor General to ask for clemency at least in those cases, in which I feel sure the men have been misguided.

Mr. CARVELL: I desire to say just a word. I did not pretend this afternoon to give to the House the cause of the strike, because I did not know much about it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. CARVELL: Some hon. members say, 'hear, hear.' I quite agree with them. I was trying to show the Minister of Labour that he had not done anything to prevent it, and I ventured the opinion that my hon. friend from Nanaimo (Mr. Shepherd) had not done very much to prevent it. If any confirmation were needed for that statement, we have it in the confession the hon. gentleman has made here this evening. I do not know what the hon. member for Nanaimo was doing on that fateful 13th of August, but he has not told this House that he ever even spoke to the Minister of Labour, to say nothing of writing to him, to try to use his good offices and to use the power of his department to prevent this condition of affairs.

Mr. SHEPHERD: I did not think it necessary to go into that matter. But I may tell the hon. gentleman that I was in daily communication with the Minister of Labour from the 1st of May until the 6th of June before this House adjourned.

Mr. CARVELL: Then, the hon. gentleman took mighty good care not to say anything to the public. So far as his constituency is concerned, so far as the people of Canada are concerned, he was as dumb as an oyster; he sat here from the 1st of May until the 6th of June, and never a word was said by him; and he has been in this House since the 15th of January and has been as mute as he was last spring. The same with the Minister of Labour. They are linked together, and they are both in-

[Mr. Shepherd.]

competents so far as dealing with this matter is concerned. I am sorry to couple the hon. gentleman with the Minister of Labour, but as he wishes to take that position, I can only allow him to have his own way. I congratulate the hon. member on his confession to his constituents of his masterly inactivity in regard to bringing to a conclusion this unfortunate affair. The hon. gentleman says that he was in daily correspondence with the Minister. But both of them took precious good care not to give anything to the public as to what they did—and certainly they did not accomplish very much. I give the hon. gentleman credit for admitting that he would like to have settled this affair if he could. I am sorry I cannot throw the same bouquet at the minister, because I do not think he cares two straws whether it is settled or not. It seems to me he regards it all as a huge joke. The fact is, he is the 'Minister of Play.' But I wish to direct the attention of the hon. member for Nanaimo to this branch of the case: Can he tell this House and this country of a solitary movement made by the Department of the Minister of Labour from the 17th of September, 1912, until 29th July, 1913, to obviate or alleviate the condition of affairs existing in his town?

Mr. BUCHANAN: He sent a telegram.

Mr. CARVELL: Yes, he sent a telegram telling these members what the law was. I think the fact that they proclaimed a holiday rather than a strike is pretty good evidence that they knew the law without his telling them. Then, as I have said, he appointed his friend to go out and make a report. A lot of information there is in that report. If there is anything in it at all it is confirmation of the fact that the mine owners absolutely refused to allow one of these men to go back to work. He was prevented from getting employment not only in one mine but in the other mines, because he had made a true report as to the conditions in one of them in relation to gas. I want to take the hon. member for Nanaimo back to the matter we were discussing this afternoon, back to the incompetence of the Department of Labour. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he feels that the department did what it ought to have done or what any live Department of Labour should have done, in order to alleviate the condition of affairs which we have been dealing with this afternoon. I do not blame the hon. gentleman for not going into the harrow-