

Mr. R. BICKERDIKE (Montreal, St. Lawrence). Mr. Speaker, we all realize the truth of what the hon. member who has just taken his seat has said. Every one is anxious to have this strike settled, and everything possible has been done to settle it. We are all offering suggestions, but none of them can be put into effect. We have had meetings between representatives of the longshoremen and representatives of the ship owners in Montreal during the last two or three days, at which I have been chairman; we have sat three nights trying to bring about a reconciliation. The ship owners have agreed to the demands of the men in every instance, they are willing to give them the wages they want, but they refuse absolutely to recognize the union. On that point there is a deadlock. The longshoremen refuse to go back to work unless union men and union men alone are employed. The ship owners, on the other hand, say that they will engage the men who suit them best whether they are union men or not. The hon. member for Montmorency (Mr. Casgrain) has spoken of the St. John troops. They are there now; they came yesterday. There is no trouble on the wharfs; order is being kept; any man who wishes to go to work is protected, and everything that could be done has been done. I have just received a telephone message from the President of the Steamship Association, in which he says they have about 1,100 men at work now on the wharfs, and that a great many of the teamsters who struck have gone back to work. Matters are in a little better shape than they were yesterday, though they are not by any means satisfactory. Nothing more that I know of can be done at the present time. I would be very much pleased if the Labour Bureau could bring about a settlement. The steamship men will not recognize the union, and the longshoremen will not go to work unless the union is recognized, and hence the deadlock.

Mr. C. MARCIL (Bonaventure). May I ask if this union is a Canadian or an American union?

Mr. BICKERDIKE. The union is simply an association of longshoremen which is not incorporated. The head of the union is an American, who is over here now, and is agitating.

Mr. CLARKE. The organization is purely voluntary, is it not?

Mr. BICKERDIKE. Purely voluntary.

Mr. GALLERY. I would like to ask the hon. member for St. Lawrence, Montreal, (Mr. Bickerdike) if the majority of these longshoremen are citizens of Montreal?

Mr. BICKERDIKE. No, they are not. A great many are, but most of them are from the country districts around Montreal. A great many are shantymen who, after working in the shanties in the winter, work

Mr. CASGRAIN.

on the wharfs at Montreal in the spring. Ninety per cent of them are Canadians, but they are from different parts of the district of Montreal.

Mr. F. D. MONK (Jacques Cartier). Nothing which the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat has said goes to show that the citizens of Montreal who are mulcted in an expenditure of about \$8,000 a day in connection with this strike, and who are contributing their share to the support of the Labour Bureau, receive from that bureau the help they are entitled to receive at the present moment. The question I asked was intended to elicit from the hon. Minister of Labour (Hon. Sir William Mulock) an answer showing that since this strike has been in existence, the Department of Labour has taken some steps to bring it to an end. It is incumbent on the hon. gentleman to show that his department has been of some use in this very serious affair. It is certainly the duty of this government to interfere, it is certainly the duty of the Minister of Labour to see what can be done, and the Department of Labour should have had a representative at these meetings which were held, and to which the hon. member for St. Lawrence division (Mr. Bickerdike) has just referred. This strike has now been on over twelve days. It is the duty of the government, which is interested in the maintenance of the reputation and the good fame of the port of Montreal, to use all the means at its disposal to have that strike brought to a close.

Mr. JOHN CHARLTON (North Norfolk). The question was asked whether the party who had been influencing the longshoremen to strike is a Canadian and a native of Montreal, and we are told that he comes from the United States. Sir, the emissaries of the labour unions of the United States are traversing this country from end to end, fomenting difficulties, instigating strikes, and acting in a manner detrimental to public interest. Their business is to create difficulties in order that they may give some showing for the salaries they receive, and unless they can foment strikes, their labours are apparently fruitless.

Mr. MONK. Is the hon. gentleman aware that this strike at Montreal has been fomented by Americans?

Mr. CHARLTON. I merely take the reply given to a question with reference to that matter by one of the hon. members from Montreal (Mr. Bickerdike). I am also aware that American emissaries are engaged in the business of fomenting strikes—strikes based on the demand that the labour union shall alone be recognized, based on the monstrous assumption that no labourer can be employed unless he becomes a member of the union. That was the crucial trouble in the great anthracite coal strike, which disorganized business in the United States. This strike was based on the demand that