

exceptional and very different line of action was being taken in Canada by other members of the Government. While the real Minister of Justice was interesting himself in the high-sounding phrases which found their way into the Peace Treaty, the Acting Minister of Justice was at Winnipeg calling the forces of Canada into play in order to drive the local labour leaders into the penitentiary.

And in view of what has taken place at Winnipeg the leaders of labour driven to the Stony Mountain penitentiary, and the post office clerks driven out of employment and themselves and their families thrown upon the streets because they did not immediately bow to the mandate of this Government and throw away every spark of manhood which they might possess. This is the condition that existed, Sir, that one section of the Government was writing a second "Sermon on the Mount" to labour, while another section was driving labour men to the penitentiary. Under those conditions I would join issue very sharply with the hon. member from Nanaimo (Mr. J. C. McIntosh) who thinks that labour should do nothing for the next three months but sing psalms of praise and glorification for the Prime Minister.

It is some concern of ours whether the constitution of this country is complied with. When we have Acts of Parliament providing that the labour of looking after the affairs of the country shall be divided up in a certain way with a competent man at the head of each department, it is our business to see that that is carried out. That is not the condition to-day. We have practically a vacant deserted house with the windows broken. If this is the era of reconstruction, Mr. Speaker, it is time, as the Right Hon. Lloyd George puts it, that the boat should be manned. Every department of this Government should be fully manned with the best personnel at the disposition of the Prime Minister. That is not the condition to-day. Where there used to be a full treasury bench and at least some capable men, we have nobody at all now—I exclude, of course, a few notable exceptions. If there is anything at all to be expected from a Department of Trade and Commerce it is that the head of that department will sometimes be here. But our difficulty has been that while we delight to see the genial countenance of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Sir George Foster) and to revel in his magnificent expositions, theoretically, of how he manages his department, it is only on

[Mr. McKenzie.]

rare occasions that we have him with us. However, we are delighted that he is present for the moment, and I take this opportunity of telling him how we love him, and at the same time that we expect him to do something for this country that stands so much in need of his services.

Since last session, Sir, the angel of political death, has touched with his wings many of the stars of this Chamber. We had sitting in front of us and, in fact, leading this House during last session, a very distinguished gentleman, who, while still a member, is now only an ordinary individual like myself as far as power is concerned. I have reference to our good friend, the ex-Minister of Finance, Sir Thomas White. He has gone so far as the Department of Finance is concerned. I would be false to myself and false to this House and to the country if I for a moment suggested that Sir Thomas White is a man without ability. Nothing of the kind. He is a man of great ability, a man who gave great energy to his duties as Minister of Finance. But he discovered that there was a point in the manipulations of his finances where the tether had wound around, like the story about the bull—the tether had wound round and round the stake so that his nose was to the stake and he could not do anything more. He had run the length of his tether; there was nothing he could do. There were a great many sources upon which he drew, from the Bank of England down to the Indian grave-yards, but he exhausted everything from which he could extract money, and with no possibility of conducting his department any longer he made the famous jump by which often we find an engineer saving his life, when his engine is about to plunge into the surging waters, and he got away.

Now, whom have we got in his place? We certainly have another "Sir." We have not yet had an opportunity of passing judgment upon his ability as Minister of Finance; but he will, I am afraid, find himself like old Mrs. Hubbard's dog when he went to the cupboard looking for a bone, he will find the cupboard bare and dry and Mrs. Hubbard gone away. Is it a case again of our hon. friend, the new minister, occupying that position where, it is said, people who are perhaps feeble-minded step in where "angels fear to tread"? Or is it a repetition of the old story about the bull and the locomotive, where the courage was splendid but the judgment most reckless? Have we much reason to hope that where the experienced, practical, well-trained Sir