

count the members and report the discussion."

The attorney-general spent a large part of his pamphlet on the same subject and the premier, writing to the Toronto Globe and the Toronto Saturday Night tells the people of the east what a bad man Mr. Moses Cotsworth is and then makes the following astounding series of statements: "For your information, I may tell you that Mr. Cotsworth, after interviewing members of the Liberal party, the Ministerial Association of Vancouver, the Federation of Labor, the Social Service League and other bodies, went to certain members of the Ministerial Union whose names appear in the foreword and a meeting of the Union was called to consider Mr. Cotsworth's pamphlet. The Ministerial Union has a membership of one hundred and fifty, but at this meeting only fifteen were present and of these only six appear as endorsing his statements." And from another quarter the people of Vancouver are asked to find out who the Ministerial Union are.

The Ministerial Union.

It does not seem to me that the Ministerial Union is the issue (applause), but since it seems so important in the eyes of the government certain facts should be made known now. First—The Ministerial Union is composed of the Ministerial Associations of Vancouver, South Vancouver and New Westminster with the men from intervening points and a few from the Fraser Valley. Like the Associations of which it is composed, it has never professed to speak for all the ministers of the community, but only for those who belong to its membership. That membership when "The Crisis" was under discussion numbered over eighty men to whom regular notices were sent. Second—"The Crisis" was not foisted on the Union by one or two men but was under discussion at many meetings from November till the end of April. I have been in Vancouver eight years and suppose I have attended as many meetings of the Ministerial Association and the Minis-

We have the right to demand an investigation. The government is the servant of the people and we have not only the right, but it is our duty to criticize where criticism is needed and to demand to know the truth where the truth is so evidently being concealed.

terial Union as any other man and I have never seen as large and interesting meetings as when this matter was

being decided. The six men who signed the pamphlet did so as representing the whole Union after being duly chosen by it. (Applause.) Third—Mr. Cotsworth acted throughout under the instructions of the ministers of the Lower Mainland in one capacity or another. He spoke by request to a meeting of the Ministerial Association of Vancouver in November, 1914. The facts he then had in his possession were of so serious a character that the association continued its sitting for two hours after its time for adjournment and reassembled again in the evening. No action was taken at that time, but at a very largely attended meeting a week later the Social Service Council representatives asked that they be given charge of the matter that a thorough investigation might be made. This was agreed to and two members of the Ministerial Association were appointed to cooperate with the committee of the Social Service Council. (A voice: "How many were at the meeting?") I will answer that in a moment. Mr. Cotsworth was employed by this committee to carry on his investigations and report to it. He spent nearly three months in Victoria, sending frequent reports to the committee and at every meeting of the Ministerial Association and Union our representatives made some reference to what was going on. When Mr. Cotsworth's work was completed his report was felt to be too voluminous for publication and was practically rewritten by the committee. Meanwhile the announcement had been made of an election in view of which the Vancouver members of the Social Service Council did not think it wise to commit that Council without a provincial meeting and the matter was handed over to the Ministerial Union for final action. At one of the largest meetings ever held by the Union, it was decided, after the whole report had been read and the original documents and the committee's verifications had been produced, to publish "The Crisis." (Applause.) Meanwhile a committee of six from the Union had been appointed to go carefully into the whole matter and a group of five other men were appointed to collaborate with these six. These made a final report which was passed upon by another large meeting before the matter was given to the printer. Thus for nearly six months this matter was under consideration and the great majority of the ministers of all the churches knew of what was going on, excepting that none of the Roman Catholic clergy have been identified with the Union, and only a few of the Anglican, and never once