

Just in passing I may say that it is remarkable that we have heard not a whisper in regard to the matter from the member for that portion of Canada. If I remember rightly—and I was here during all of the last session of Parliament—he did not open his mouth on the subject, or if he did I did not hear him. Of course I am subject to correction if I am wrong. It is somewhat interesting to compare the attitude of this member with that of the former member for the same district, when labour troubles were present in his constituency. However, I suppose the hon. gentleman in question will be able to speak for himself on that point. A member has a perfect right to act or not to act, according to his discretion; not so with the Minister of Labour—it is his duty to attend to these things.

Mr. SHEPHERD: May I suggest to the hon. member that there was no labour dispute in the constituency of Nanaimo during the last session? The labour dispute was in the constituency of Comox-Atlin.

Mr. CARVELL: I must accept my hon. friend's assertion, but Comox-Atlin, I understand, is in the island of Vancouver, and so is Nanaimo, and my hon. friend cannot get away from the responsibility thrown upon him by drawing any such fine line as that. The case is worse than I thought it was. My hon. friend the Minister of Labour is paid to look after these things, and he cannot hide himself behind any such curtains as that behind which the hon. member for Nanaimo seeks to hide himself. The minister must take the responsibility. During a period of six months, when a strike of fifteen hundred men was in progress in British Columbia, he did nothing. Then, after the whole mining industry became involved in the strike, he made a hurried trip to British Columbia, and afterwards, as I have said, went to Europe. If this is all the Minister of Labour is good for, if this is all his department does towards settling these strikes, then the sooner they are out of commission the better. I think the members of this House would do well to refuse the granting of one dollar of Supply until this whole industrial dispute is settled.

Mr. CROTHERS: As usual, my hon. friend draws upon his imagination instead of presenting facts to the House. He speaks of three strikes, and how they were settled. I am not here to find any fault with my predecessor's actions in respect of

these labour troubles; I think he did the very best he could under the circumstances. But when my hon. friend tells this House that my predecessor succeeded in settling all these disputes, he shows either that he does not know the facts or that he is very careless in handling the truth.

Mr. CARVELL: Were not the three strikes I refer to settled?

Mr. CROTHERS: Yes.

Mr. CARVELL: Then what is the hon. gentleman talking about?

Mr. CROTHERS: I will tell my hon. friend how they were settled. There was a dispute amongst the coal miners in the eastern part of British Columbia, in the course of which seven thousand men went on strike—more than double the number that went on strike in Vancouver Island. They were on strike for eight months, and my predecessor did not go there at all during that time, nor did he send his deputy. In the usual way he appointed a board under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act. A few days after that we came into power, and we, not my predecessor, settled that dispute. I am not finding any fault at all with my predecessor, especially in view of the fact that he is not here to answer for himself. I am glad to admit that he did his very best, and the gentleman who was his deputy is now my deputy—a very efficient man in such matters. I am willing to admit also that my predecessor's deputy, Mr. Acland, did everything possible to have the matter settled. However, they did not succeed, nor did they go there.

Mr. CARVELL: Did the minister not send an official of the department there?

Mr. CROTHERS: He sent one of the fair wage officers.

Mr. CARVELL: What was his name?

Mr. CROTHERS: J. D. McNiven—the same man whom I sent to Vancouver Island. My predecessor did not go to Crownsnest Pass neither did he send his deputy; he appointed a board. As I say, I am finding no fault; I am simply pointing out that the minister did not feel it necessary to go or to send his deputy; he did send one of his fair wage officers. That strike continued for eight months, and it was settled a few days after we came into power. I do not say that we were able to go out there and in a few hours

[Mr. Carvell.]