

night, and while perhaps in the interpretation of the strict law the minister may be correct that he need not interfere in that case, we are not interpreting the strict law in working out conditions of industrial peace. The men feel that the minister could give more sympathetic support to their request in such a case as that. I know they say that when the minister has to choose the third member of a board, he chooses a friend who is more likely to be in sympathy with the employer than with the employees.

Mr. CROTHERS: What class of men have you received this information from—the miners out West?

Mr. McCRANEY: No, not miners. My information was very largely obtained at an open meeting of the Trades and Labour Council at Saskatoon where the largest number of those present were railway men. That is the impression I gathered from those who are in touch with all labour matters. I have not discussed this question with miners, because I have not been brought into contact with them, but I have endeavoured to give to the minister the result of my observations in order, if possible, to impress upon him and his department the necessity of throwing the whole moral force of this Government behind an award when it is made.

Mr. CROTHERS: Behind what?

Mr. McCRANEY: Behind the report of the board appointed under the Act. Perhaps that is not possible, but I think a strong minister in a strong government could do a great deal more than has been done, could procure an acceptance of an award, and, especially when we find that the refusals to accept awards have of late been coming rather from the employers than from the employees; I think such a minister could use with the employers a much greater influence than he might be expected to use in dealing with employees with whom he might not get so closely in touch. I submit to the minister the views which I have set forth and the information which I have collected, because I want to see this Act a success. I want to see it have the most sympathetic administration of the department. I believe it can be made much more secure in the public confidence if greater effort is made by the department to ensure action on a report and the acceptance of it.

Mr. CROTHERS: We generally regard my hon. friend as a fair-minded man, and I [Mr. McCraney.]

think he desires to be fair-minded now, but I am very much surprised at his observations. I was not quite able to follow his logic. He started out by telling us that the workmen were becoming more and more dissatisfied with the administration of the Industrial Disputes Act, and he wound up by telling us that they were becoming more and more inclined to accept the awards made under it.

Mr. McCRANEY: Surely the minister understands me. I will just correct him if he will allow me. The men are becoming dissatisfied with the Act, because they are finding that more and more the awards of the board are not being accepted by the employers. As they understand the Act themselves, they are accepting the awards.

Mr. CROTHERS: I understood my hon. friend perfectly, and still the admission comes from him that the men are less and less dissatisfied with the administration of the Act as the years pass by.

Mr. McCRANEY: I did not say that.

Mr. CROTHERS: That is what my hon. friend said in substance.

Mr. McCRANEY: I was not speaking in substance.

Mr. CROTHERS: If the men are accepting the awards more and more, that surely means that they are becoming less dissatisfied and more content with the administration of the Act. In my hon. friend's city, only one board has been appointed since I took charge of my department and since the enactment of the legislation regarding boards of conciliation.

Mr. McCRANEY: Yes.

Mr. CROTHERS: That case was between the civic authorities and their employees, so that the railway men in Saskatoon have had no board appointed, and neither have the coal men. The coal miners of the West have never accepted this Act; they always ignored it. Only one board has been appointed in connection with disputes between operators and miners, and that occurred shortly after the Act was first passed. The original object of the Act was to prevent labour disturbances in the different coal fields of Canada. While I am and always have been a great friend of the Act, I cannot say that it has worked well so far as the coal mining industry is concerned, because in the West the coal miners have only once attempted to utilize the Act. That was in 1907, if I remember aright, and the award