

VANCOUVER HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS
—*Con.*

and that the Governor in Council should exercise it after obtaining a report from the commissioners as to the propriety of disposing of the lots. All the foreshares belonging to the Crown in harbours all over Canada have been disposed of for years past in that way. There has never been any sale by public auction. Under the laws governing it the man who owns the ripa, or bank, has an equity in the foreshores, 2389. The policy of the government in all these harbours is against selling, but simply to lease for a period of 21 years, 2390. In every case the interest of the public is safeguarded, 2391.

McKenzie, D. D. (Cape Breton North and Victoria)—2392.

It strikes me as a most unsatisfactory way that the rights of the Crown should be transferred to some private corporation and that corporation empowered to exercise the rights of the Crown in respect of that land. I cannot conceive of such a method working out satisfactory, 2392.

Sinclair, J. H. (Guysborough)—2390.

There is also the very important question of policy involved in this Bill, as to whether the harbour should be kept free, and not pass into the hands of private owners, 2390.

VANCOUVER ISLAND LABOUR TROUBLES.

Motion.—Mr. Verville, 1267.

Borden, Rt. Hon. R. L. (Prime Minister)—1325.

Motion is in somewhat peculiar terms, 1325. A motion in such extreme language cannot under any consideration, command the assent of House. Invite hon. gentlemen to vote it down by a large majority, 1327.

Carroll, W. F. (Cape Breton South)—1276.

Wish to discuss the coal strikes in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and United Mine Workers of America. Real beginning of trouble was in September 1912, when the employees of the Canadian Collieries Company came out on strike, 1276. Strike cannot be carried on in this country without the operators first having recourse to Industrial Disputes Act. Minister must know that the time to settle these disputes is at their inception, 1277. There has been open war between the United Mine Workers and operators for years. Almost every labour organization in this country to-day is in international union, 1278. Question involved is as to the right of miners in British Columbia to organize in whatever union they see fit, 1279. Worst feature of it is Mr. Price never attempted to hold a consultation with the men who had strike in hand, 1280. This is not the first time that a serious proposition of this kind has occurred in this country, 1281. Believe that minister approached question with a pre-conceived prejudice against United Mine Workers of America, 1282.

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Carvell, F. B. (Carleton, N.B.)—1288.

In speaking on this subject, have but little knowledge on it from a practical standpoint, 1288. Have been receiving many communications from British Columbia within last three or four weeks, 1289. Correspondence on, 1290-91. That gives crux of matter in one short telegram, 1291. If minister had grasped this matter like a man of mettle, would not have had the trouble having to-night. Miners claim that two of their members had been discriminated against, 1292. Because of reporting gas in mine miners were discharged. Cannot make the ordinary man believe that the real fight is not a fight against international unionism, 1293. Correspondence on, 1294-95. Nothing further was done by British Columbia Government, 1295. Correspondence on 1296-97. Minister only sent a telegram stating the law, which they all knew, 1297. Minister could have settled strike simply by lifting his hand, 1298. It is no laughing matter to labouring people all over Canada that minister has seen fit to do nothing, 1299.

Crothers, Hon. T. W. (Minister of Labour)—1305.

Fact is that conditions have been grossly misrepresented. Letter on, 1305. Telegram and correspondence on, 1306. Correspondence on, 1307-8. Quotes from United Mines Worker's Journal, 1309-10. Everything that occurred on Vancouver island must be read in light of that communication. Moral degenerates themselves, their vision discerns in others nothing but depravity, 1311. Reads short extracts from judgment of certain gentlemen, 1312-13. Attitude was that strike in Vancouver island could not be settled except through officials of United Mine Workers of America, 1313. Only fair to say that a number of these men when they reached Winnipeg were persuaded not to go on to Vancouver. Refers to 'General Strike', 1314. Believe it come out in evidence of Angelo's trial that he was a paid agent from Indianapolis. Have been many base assertions made, 1315. Orientals have to get certificate before they can go into a mine to work. Majority of labour leaders whom I have met are reasonable men devoted to best interests of men they represent, 1316. Have never understood that it is a dishonourable thing to take back anything you should not have said, 1317. Did not go to Glace Bay because I was not able to carry out programme, 1318.

Green, R. F. (Kootenay)—1299.

Am far from having any decided opinion as to merits of case, 1299. Government of British Columbia have tried to handle the affairs of province in a just and fair manner to all interests concerned, 1300.

Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Quebec East)—1300.

Certainly is a severe indictment against a minister of the Crown, 1300. Corres-