

of the Mayor of Montreal to that effect has been published in all the newspapers. But the whole thing has been done under a misapprehension. The law provides that when peace and order is threatened, the municipal authorities may call upon the military authorities to give assistance. The municipal authorities have made a request to the military authorities to supply them with troops. Colonel Gordon, commander of the district, has called upon certain volunteers to do patrol duty on the wharfs. I understand that it is contemplated by Colonel Gordon to replace some of these volunteers by the permanent force—

The MINISTER OF MILITIA AND DEFENCE. Within his district.

The PRIME MINISTER. Yes, within his district. All this is a matter for the consideration of the military authorities, and it is a peculiarly military question.

Mr. RODOLPHE LEMIEUX (Gaspé). I may inform the hon. Minister of Labour (Hon. Sir Wm. Mulock) that I have just received two telegrams from the agents of the Franco-Canadian line stating that as one of their ships cannot be discharged it will have to leave the port of Montreal with its cargo. It is also stated in these telegrams that the crew of the ship were threatened that if they tried to discharge the steamer they would not be allowed to do so. That ship sails under the Russian flag, and the Russian Consul has telegraphed as follows :

Failing to get ship discharged will have to leave port with cargo.

Might I ask, if anything will be done by the Labour Department concerning this matter ?

The PRIME MINISTER. My hon. friend is aware that the Labour Department has no power to interfere with the militia in maintaining order. The military authorities have provided men to protect that crew and it shall be protected.

Hon. Mr. TARTE. With the permission of the House I would suggest that my hon. friend the Minister of Labour make an offer of intervention. In some cases such an offer has been made unofficially, and with very good results. The hon. minister has at his disposal, I am glad to say, very able officers, especially the deputy minister, and I am inclined to believe that if an offer of intervention were made, it might have some good results.

Mr. T. C. CASGRAIN (Montmorency). Mr. Speaker, I am probably not in order, but I will conclude with a motion, if necessary. I think the present state of affairs in Montreal has lasted long enough, and some step should be taken by the government to put an end to it or to relieve the municipality of Montreal from a difficulty which is not local in its character, but the effects of which

are being felt all over the country. It is well known that the trade not only of Montreal, but of the whole country is being paralyzed by this strike—the cattle trade and every other trade concerned. Every day more ships are coming to that port, and there are no ship labourers to take the cargoes off the ships. I understand from a very competent authority that merchants all over Canada will suffer to a very great degree should this strike be prolonged. I understand that a great many merchants throughout Canada, retail merchants as well as wholesale merchants, will probably be ruined if this state of things continues. It seems to me this is an occasion on which the Labour Bureau should exert its influence to relieve the tension. It is high time the Labour Bureau did something. I do not know whether they have done anything at all; it is not reported that they have made any effort to intervene between the longshoremen and the ship owners to put an end to the strike. The House and the country should be informed on this point. If nothing has been done by the Labour Bureau, I trust that the hon. Minister of Labour will put as many of his employees as necessary, especially the head of the department, at the disposal of the people who are interested, so as to bring this strike to as prompt a conclusion as possible. As I said before, it is a matter which interests not only the city of Montreal, but the whole trade of this country. The city of Montreal is paying out large sums of money every day for the maintenance of troops to keep order. We have in different parts of the country, not only in the military district of Montreal, but at Quebec, Toronto and other points, soldiers who, though doing their duty to the best of their ability, have very little to do, and it seems to me that they might be brought to Montreal to perform the duty which the citizens of Montreal are now attending to. It is a great hardship to many of these people to be obliged to be under arms. Many of them are losing their positions. Members of the Sixty-fifth regiment, the Royal Scots and others have to obey the command of duty, but the employers of many of them are telling them that if their services are required much longer, they will lose their positions. Under the law of this country the militia are liable to be called under arms at any time; but at the same time, when we have troops stationed at Toronto, at St. John, at Quebec and other points, who are paid their allowances every day, it seems to me that the authorities might bring them to Montreal and relieve the local militia. I hope in the first place that the Labour Bureau will do everything that lies in its power to bring this strike to an end as soon as possible, and in the next place that the military authorities will come to the aid of the civic authorities in keeping the peace on the wharfs. I move, seconded by Mr. Kemp, that the House do now adjourn.