

sense at all, knowing those workmen in Cape Breton as the honourable gentleman ought to know them, or knowing them as I know them, he would understand that the sending of such wires as those the Minister of Labour sent to Cape Breton would only pour paraffine oil upon the fire. That is shown by the response the honourable gentleman has received. There is the response from Mr. McLachlan: "What are you going to do about it, Mr. Minister?" he says. "You are as bad as I am—what are you going to do about it?" What reply can the honourable Minister of Labour have to that statement.

Hon. Mr. MARTIN: Does he reply to it?

Hon. Mr. TANNER: He has not replied at all, for the simple reason that his own order of sabotage upon the railways is set down side by side with McLachlan's order for sabotage in the coal mines. The chickens have come to roost—that is all there is about it. I want to be fair to the honourable gentleman. I do not want to say unkind things about him so soon after his assuming the position; but, from what I have observed of his career, both before his entering this Government and since, I am forced to the conclusion that the honourable gentleman is more concerned about being heard from the house-tops than about doing practical things in the interests of the public.

Some of the gentlemen, the mayors of the towns in the mining districts, who are here interceding with the Government, and who, I understand, had an interview with the Prime Minister the other day, also put themselves on record as resenting the attitude which the Minister of Labour had adopted towards the men of Cape Breton. I am referring to what one of them said—Mayor Morrison, of a very large town, as it is called, which as a matter of fact is a city—this was published on the 23rd of this month. He said:

Long ago, the miners of Nova Scotia began requesting intervention by both the local and Federal Governments. The best they have had so far is a couple of lectures from the Minister of Labour. The first lecture drew a fitting reply from the secretary of the district; and I have no reason to doubt that the second will receive equally fitting treatment. Mr. Murdock may think it good policy to call the miners of this province un-British, un-Canadian and cowardly but he may be assured that their record for personal and moral courage will compare favourably with his own.

"We are going to Ottawa," Mayor Morrison added, "because we feel that the time has arrived when all the authority of both the local and Federal Governments should be addressed to this question. We have had enough of back-and-filling. We want some effective action."

That is the attitude of independent men like the Mayor of Glace Bay. It indicates how ill-advised on the one hand was the want of action, and on the other hand, the action of the Minister of Labour, in sending these telegrams, with which in a sense we may all agree as an assertion of principle, but which he should never have sent if he had, as I would suppose he would have an understanding of the mentality of the men whom he was addressing.

Now, honourable gentlemen, I have no wish to prolong this matter any further. I simply wished to place the situation as I see it before the Government and before this House, hoping that the leader in this House will be able to give us an assurance that some practical action is to be taken to bring about a settlement of this very serious affair.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Before the honourable gentleman sits down, may I ask if the company did appoint any of the arbitrators?

Hon. Mr. TANNER: No.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: By whom were the arbitrators appointed?

Hon. Mr. TANNER: The law, as I understand it, is that when the company refuses to appoint an arbitrator the Department of Labour appoints one on behalf of the company. The company in this case refused to become a party to the proceedings by appointing an arbitrator; consequently the department appointed two and the miners' organization appointed the third.

Hon. Mr. CASGRAIN: Did the company accept the award in which they had no part?

Hon. Mr. TANNER: The company appeared before the arbitrators, and I think were quite willing to accept the award, because a very considerable reduction was made.

Hon. GIDEON ROBERTSON: Honourable gentlemen, I rise not to join in the criticism of any Minister of the Crown, but because I happened to occupy the responsible position of Minister of Labour at the time this trouble started, and therefore I feel that maybe I can say a few words which will throw some light upon the situation, and which I hope may tend in some respect to assist in pointing towards a solution of the trouble.

The difficulty between the employers and the employees in the mining industry in the province of Nova Scotia is one of long