

cognizance of the correspondence (between the American and Canadian authorities), we find there is no way of escaping the conclusion at which my hon. friend has arrived, I will give him every opportunity at the next session of the House to pass his Bill, if he thinks proper. Therefore, I will move the adjournment of the debate."

TWO BILLS INTRODUCED.

The efforts of the past and present Governments having proved futile, in the session of 1897 two Alien Labour Law Bills were simultaneously introduced in the Canadian Parliament by Messrs. M. K. Cowan, member for South Essex, and George Taylor, member for South Leeds; but Mr. Cowan's Bill was given precedence, notwithstanding the Premier's solemn pledge at the preceding session. In the discussion which took place on these Bills, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said: "There cannot be any doubt as to the position of the Government upon this Bill. In fact, I do not know whether it is at all desirable to prolong the debate any longer, because so far as I can interpret the sentiments of the House, there is an unanimous feeling at this moment, whatever may have been the opinions of members in the past, that the persistence of the American Congress in keeping upon their statute books this very obnoxious law leaves no alternative to the Canadian people, but to apply the same law themselves. . . . The course adopted by our neighbours seems to leave no option to us but to apply to them the same measure of justice or of injustice as they applied to us."—Hahsard, 1897. Page 658.

A DEFECTIVE BILL ADOPTED.

He then moved that the Bill be referred to a special Committee, consisting of Sir Louis Davies, Messrs. Sifton, Langelier and Cowan, Liberals; and Messrs. Casgrain, Taylor and Wood (Brockville), Conservatives. A majority of this Committee recommended a consolidated Bill, which was strongly opposed for the reason that it was not a workable measure, and that any action for the violation of its provisions must be brought by the Attorney-General of Canada or by some person authorized by him. In Mr. Taylor's Bill anyone could set the law in motion. Notwithstanding many protests, owing to its defects, the Bill was adopted by the House on the 7th June, 1897, and was introduced in the Senate two days later.

Despite the fact that in the House of Commons on the 7th of April, Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared that there could be no doubt as to the position of the Government on this Bill, and that Parliament had no option but to pass the measure, his colleague, the Secretary of State, the Hon. R. W. Scott, used every means in his power to defeat the Bill in the Senate!

On June 19th, at Page 693, of the Senate Hansard, he declared, "It is absurd to suppose that the persons who wish to enforce the law can apply to the authorities to do so."

This objection was practically the same as that taken by Mr. Taylor in the House of Commons to the clause which provided that the Act could only be put in force by the permission of the Minister of Justice.

In his persistent efforts to defeat the Bill, Sir Wilfrid Laurier's colleague, the Secretary of State, used every means at his disposal to influence the Senate. He declared, "I do not think the Act is likely to be enforced, and when it is not enforced it is a pity to place it on the Statute Books, because it is not on a line with the views of the people of Canada. . . . I should be sorry to see it on the Statute Books, because I know it would be an idle Act. It would be an announcement that we were going to do it, and we would not do it. . . . I advise that it be dropped, because it is not a Bill that should be enforced unless there was machinery provided. . . . Under this Act persons can come in by thousands, and it is only when a report is sent to the Attorney-General, and he makes enquiry, that any action would be taken, and of course the party would by that time be absorbed in the community, and that would be the end of it. It is something which we do not propose to carry out. . . . We know as a matter of fact that this law is not intended to be put in operation. The manner in which it is drawn shows that it really is not a practical measure. . . . If the Attorney-General has to be appealed to in every important case, there is no serious intention of putting the law into operation. The 6th clause must have been introduced by some person for the purpose of throwing ridicule on the Bill."

Sir Oliver Mowat, then Minister of Justice, another of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's colleagues, on Page 698 of the Senate Hansard, declared, "He did not think it desirable to amend this Bill, as we run the risk of losing it altogether."

From the foregoing extracts it will be observed that although the Premier of Canada solemnly declared in the House of Commons that the Government were a unit in support of the measure, and that they felt constrained to take action because of the continued enforcement of the United States Alien Labour Law, yet the Premier's colleagues in the Senate announced that the measure was unworkable, that it was not intended to be enforced, and that it was inadvisable to make it workable lest the Bill should not pass at all. What do the workmen of Canada think of this two-faced conduct?

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