

interests of labor. What I principally objected to, and what the working people of Canada objected to, was that while we had a law on our statute-books we had no provision by which the people most interested in the enforcement of that law could take action to insure its enforcement. As the law stood at that time no action could be taken without the consent of the Attorney-General of Canada, and I considered it my duty to bring in a Bill which would enable the law to be enforced without any expense by the people who were most interested in its enforcement. I shall read a few lines from "Hansard" of the statement I made in this House at that time:

Mr. Clark Wanted Workable Alien Labor Law.

The object of this Bill is to provide a simple way to carry out the law now in force, which was passed in 1897. I do not believe that the mechanics and laborers of this country wish to have high-salaried officers to carry out the Act, if a more simple, efficient, and economical way can be found to enforce that law. As it is at present, the Act is entirely in the hands of the government to enforce it, and I do not believe that the government has enforced it in the interest of the laboring class and mechanics of this country. On the other hand, I believe that the officers who were appointed to enforce the law were engaged more for the purpose of keeping the government and the members of the government party out of trouble than of assisting the mechanics and laboring class.I believe that if the Bill I am now discussing were enacted, the law would be more strictly carried out, and with not one cent of expense. My Bill provides that any person, for instance, any laboring man or mechanic, who is interested, should have the power to lay information before two magistrates and so enforce the law. That would not cost the country one cent, for those who are most interested, the mechanics and laboring men, would see that the law is strictly enforced. I myself have quite a number of men in my employ. In my own business I am protected from foreign competition, and I see no reason why the laboring class and mechanics in my employ and in the employ of other manufac-

turers of this country should not be as well protected from foreign competition as I am, especially as the people to the south of us have a law to the same effect.

Had that Bill been allowed to go through this House we would not have had any discussion of this kind at present. There would have been no aliens working on the Grand Trunk Pacific surveys, for the men who are interested, the engineers of this country, would have seen that the law as provided in my Bill was enforced, and the carelessness of the Minister of Labor would not have prevented the deportation of these aliens from this country. Unfortunately the Prime Minister refused to allow my Bill to go through. He side-tracked it and brought down a Bill on behalf of the government. That Bill, while to a certain extent an improvement on the original Act, had the very same objection as the Bill of 1897; that is, it put every possible obstacle in the way in order to make it unworkable. Instead of appealing to the Attorney General of the Dominion for the enforcement of the new law it was necessary to apply to the Attorney-General of the province of Ontario or to a Judge before the matter could be brought before the magistrate. The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) opposed this proposition and moved a resolution both on the second reading and on the final passing of the Bill. I wish to read what he stated at that time:

When the Bill passed the committee stage, through the courtesy of the right hon. the premier it was allowed to stand for a day or two for the third reading in order that an opportunity might be given to consult those who are deeply interested in this measure as to the efficacy of the amendments which have been made to the Alien Labor Law. I have taken the liberty, since the Bill passed the committee stage, of consulting labor men who are deeply interested in this matter. I have sent them copies of "Hansard" containing the discussion which took place in the committee; I also sent them copies of the amendment which I suggested should be made to the Bill; and I am authorized to say—and their opinion is in accordance with my own—that the Bill will not be as efficient an instrument as it