

it was organized, the minister starts off to England to 'study labour conditions.'

Mr. NEELY: He took his camera.

Mr. CARVELL: Yes, he went out and bought a hundred dollar camera and took it with him to 'study labour conditions' in England, and asks the country to pay for it. It is no wonder he did not want to make a statement this afternoon regarding the Vancouver strike. He spent two months in England, with his camera. Men were being shot in Vancouver Island, women and children starving, the most terrible state of affairs existed that ever existed in Canada; and the Minister of Labour off on a junketting trip to England. If ever the time existed when a department of this Government required to be severely castigated, it is now in view of the action of the Minister of Labour over the Vancouver strike. And after this extremely serious condition of affairs had existed for some three or four months, down to November, the minister sent his deputy, and has made no attempt since then to settle the difficulty. Not only this side of the House, but the other side as well should refuse to give one dollar of Supply to this minister until this matter is settled.

If the Minister of Labour cannot settle this matter, he is not fit to be Minister of Labour; if the Government cannot appoint a man who is fit to be Minister of Labour, they should abolish the office. He says you cannot do anything under the Industrial Disputes Act; you cannot force these parties to arbitrate. But if my hon. friend had followed the example of his predecessor; if he had taken cognizance of the information to be found in his own office, he would have become acquainted with what former ministers of labour were able to do under conditions very similar to these. I believe the Act was first applied in 1903 to a dispute involving coal miners—which, the minister says, are the worst class of people in the world to get along with.

Mr. CROTHERS: I did not say anything of the kind.

Mr. CARVELL: Well, the hon. minister says that the troubles between coal miners and their employers are the most difficult in the world to settle.

Mr. CROTHERS: I did not say that either.

Mr. CARVELL: As to the dispute with the coal miners in 1907, I think it was at

Crowsnest Pass, the former Minister of Labour did not have any trouble in deciding the matter. As soon as there was any indication of danger of a strike he sent his deputy minister to the mines, and the deputy minister never left the locality until the matter was settled. He finally succeeded in inducing one of the parties to apply for a board, and immediately a commissioner was appointed in the person of Sir William Mulock. When he got there the matter was settled amicably, all through the good offices of the Minister of Labour, and by the very method which my hon. friend the Minister of Labour has simply snapped his fingers at and treated with the utmost contempt. Again, some years afterwards, another dispute arose in the same vicinity, the eastern portion of British Columbia. Again the then Minister of Labour, the Hon. Mr. King, sent his deputy there; they pursued exactly the same course as was followed in the first instance, and again they succeeded in settling the matter. I think that in 1911 there was another dispute—I am speaking from recollection, but hon. gentlemen will correct me if I am wrong. This dispute occurred in connection with the coal mining industry of British Columbia; I think it was in progress during the time of the last election. Efforts were made by the then Minister of Labour and by his deputy to conciliate the disputants, and I think the present Minister of Public Works (Mr. Rogers) went west shortly after the election. In any case, through the good offices of all parties concerned, these disputes were settled. Here you have three instances of industrial disputes—which my hon. friend ought to be thoroughly familiar with—in which the Minister of Labour, by exercising his good offices and acting as mediator between capital and labour, was enabled to settle, thereby returning the men to work and giving women and children the food and raiment to which they were entitled, and the country the benefit of the work done by these labourers. But by hon. friend the Minister of Labour folds his arms, takes his law partner out west on a pleasant trip, and then turns round and runs off to Europe. No wonder he calls himself minister of play. I think we are entitled to a little more information from the Minister of Labour in respect to this most important matter before a dollar of supply is granted to him. I am not going to say it is possible for the minister to settle every dispute that comes up; I am willing to admit that a very serious condition existed in British Columbia.