

Strike of Grain Handlers

amendment is accepted and the policy of an all-Canadian pipe line is accepted, I believe this may well mean tremendous industrial development in northern Ontario and northern Quebec, and a new type of industrial development, as well as increased expansion in the industrial areas of southern Ontario and southern Quebec.

We are assured that those who make the application in this case and in the other case are able to finance the enterprise. As has been pointed out before, it is not for us to decide which corporation will receive permission to carry out this operation. Whichever corporation is allowed to do it, I strongly support the amendment and believe that it is in the best interests of Canada that we should assure an all-Canadian route for the transmission—to the east in this case—of the natural gas which will mean expanded development and new types of development over great parts of Canada. I approach this subject in a spirit of unrestrained optimism as long as we only see the breadth and brightness of the horizons that now stretch out before us.

Section stands.

Progress reported.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: At eight o'clock the house will resume consideration of the business which was interrupted at five o'clock.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at eight o'clock.

SUPPLY**LABOUR CONDITIONS—STRIKE OF GRAIN HANDLERS AT VANCOUVER AND NEW WESTMINSTER**

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Fournier (Hull) for committee of supply.

Mr. Howard C. Green (Vancouver-Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have one matter I should like to place before Your Honour and hon. members before we go into supply, and that is the strike in the elevators in the cities of Vancouver and New Westminster. I do this because ships are lying at anchor in the harbour there. The last dispatch I have reports that eleven ships are lying in the stream. The report also intimates that because of this strike about 15 million bushels of grain have not been shipped from the west coast, which otherwise would have gone overseas. Therefore the strike is a very serious matter for our port. We do not wish to have it spread all over the seven seas that it is impossible to have business carried on from

[Mr. Drew.]

the port of Vancouver. The strike involves a great deal of expense to the ships, to the men who are out of work, to the companies, and of course to the farmers of the west, particularly those of Alberta who are suffering most because most of the grain which is not being moved to market is from that province.

I believe the government could give a stronger lead in bringing about a settlement of this strike than has been given thus far. It began, I believe, on February 16, which was just seven weeks ago yesterday. The following day a question was asked of the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe). The question and answer may be found at page 2000 of *Hansard*. The minister replied that his department was quite satisfied to leave the settlement of the strike in the hands of the Department of Labour.

That was on February 17. Three days later, on February 20, Mr. J. L. Phelps, who is the chairman of the interprovincial farmers' council in western Canada, and also I believe the president of the farmers' union of Saskatchewan, offered to mediate between the parties concerned. They did not accept, and on February 26 another question was asked in the house, again of the Minister of Trade and Commerce. That question and answer will be found at page 2416 of *Hansard*. The minister had nothing to offer in the way of a suggestion for bringing this strike to an end. He was questioned again on March 2, the question and answer being found at page 2513. In his answer that day the minister concluded with these words:

I have no doubt that negotiations are being expedited for an early settlement.

On March 4 I had word from Vancouver that nothing had been heard as yet from the Department of Labour. Your Honour will notice that these questions thus far had been placed before the Minister of Trade and Commerce and not the Minister of Labour. On March 4 Mr. Henry G. Young, who is president of the farmers' union of Alberta, entered the picture because of course the farmers in Alberta are just as much concerned as we are about this strike. Mr. Young had this to say in an interview with the press and I am quoting from the *Vancouver Province* of March 4:

President of farmers' union of Alberta today declared "it is time to quit stalling", and take immediate action to end the Vancouver strike at five huge grain terminals.

In Edmonton, President Henry G. Young said shipments of grain from Alberta—90 per cent of it comes through Vancouver and New Westminster ports—are at a standstill "and the situation is becoming increasingly serious to Alberta farmers."

"No real effort is being made to settle the strike", he said.

Mr. Young said an offer by three prairie farm unions to mediate had been accepted by the strik-