

petrated against Canadian citizens, who endeavoured to find employment in the industries of the United States, although the matter had become so pressing that, unasked by parliament, without it having even been mentioned in the House, two members of the government had gone to Washington for the purpose of interviewing the government about it, and after they had been informed that the Washington government had passed that Act for their own protection, and that it would have to apply against Canada, as well as all other countries, the leader of the Conservative government rose and said that he would not support a policy which would apply to the whole of Canada, when the grievances existed only in certain localities. When the member for South Leeds introduced his Bill in 1890, the matter was, for the first time, brought to the attention of the ex-Finance Minister, and a committee was appointed. On April 15, 1890, they recommended :

That negotiations be had with the United States, and unless they ceased enforcing the Alien labour law against Canada, Canada should enact at its next session similar laws against the United States.

You will find exactly what the committee stated upon that point, at page 295, of the *Hansard*, of 1892 as follows :

Your committee find, on examination, that the Bill is similar in all respects to a Bill passed by the Congress of the United States in 1885 and amended by that body in 1886.

Your committee have had before them witnesses from different points along the frontier, and find from their evidence, a copy of which is hereto annexed, that the American alien labour law has been enforced in such a way as to compel many of our people to relinquish their employment in the United States, or to remove with their families and reside there permanently, while citizens of the United States are permitted to work in Canada every day, and to return to their homes on the American side every night, without interference of the Canadian authorities.

Your committee recommend that the attention of the authorities at Washington be directed to the oppressive application to Canadians of the American alien labour law, and to allow of such representation being made, and to afford time for its due consideration, recommend that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed until next session; and if some suitable measure for granting relief to Canadians from the grievance complained of be not passed in the interval by the American authorities, that your committee recommend that a Bill dealing with this question be introduced next session and taken into consideration.

That report was made on April 15, 1890. I find that on May 5, 1891, *Hansard*, page 106, the hon. member for South Leeds again introduced his Bill. On May 12, it went to the second reading, and at the request of Sir John Thompson, he withdrew it. I find that on March 3, 1892, for the third time the matter was drawn to the attention of the government, *Hansard*, page 295. The report of the committee I have just read,

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was read in the House, and on May 11, page 2457, Sir John Thompson moved the six months' hoist of that Bill, and the ex-Minister of Finance and his colleagues agreed to it. Although the report of that committee had been made two years previously, drawing attention to the necessity of similar legislation in Canada, although during that time, the alien labour law of the United States was being rigorously enforced against Canadian citizens, still we find the Premier moving the six months' hoist of the Bill, and the ex-Minister of Finance agreeing to it. Nothing was done in 1893. For the fourth time, the matter was brought up on June 14, 1894, page 4307, Mr. Lowell, the member for Welland, asked if the government had entered into negotiations with the United States concerning the alien labour law, and Sir John Thompson, the Premier answered No. Although that committee had reported four years previously, although several hundred dollars had been spent in taking evidence upon the point, which evidence had been submitted to parliament, although that committee had recommended that negotiations should be entered into with the United States, still the leader of the Conservative party, and of the government rose in his place, and made the admission that no effort had been made and the report of the committee disregarded. In 1895, Mr. McLennan, the member for Glengarry, introduced a Bill to prevent aliens from becoming interested in public works contracts, as will be found in *Hansard* for that year, page 2520. The hon. member for Glengarry (Mr. McLennan), in support of his Bill, pointed out that a law existed that practically prohibited Canadians from engaging on public works in the United States, and he went one step farther and pointed out that there were many states that passed laws prohibiting the employment of aliens on such works, and that this prohibition even extended down to municipal institutions. The hon. ex-Minister of Railways and Canals (Mr. Haggart) spoke against the Bill. A colleague of the hon. member for Haldimand, who shouted so loud and long in this House about a present grievance existing concerning alien labour, the hon. member for East Grey (Mr. Sproule) said at page 2538, that he was glad to see foreigners spending their capital here, and on the next page, he used the words that he would be sorry to see this proposal become law. The debate was adjourned and the Bill died. That was act No. 5 in connection with alien labour, and it is the history of hon. gentlemen opposite. On the 24th of April, 1895, the hon. member for South Leeds introduced his Bill. That was brought up for the sixth time. It was apparently seconded by the hon. member for West Assiniboia (Mr. Davin), because the hon. member for West Assiniboia, although parliament had sat for three solid months after the Bill had been introduced, on the day that parliament pro-