

Port contracts
re enforcement of laws
for port employees
or default of port act.

C 17428

Public despatch May 1904
Government Printing

United Port Workers'
from the Federal

A default, representing 700,000 port employees, was raised by the Liberal leader. (Mr. Mackenzie-Gladstone for Hon. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman)

- Mr. King, Secy. & spokesman of the dock and ask the Govt to do anything but carry out the resolution which had been passed by the House.

- In 1893 in contracts it had been stipulated that from wages to be paid. The result was that men working for contractors in the various port yards received 7^d an hr or 28^s a week of 48 hrs. — When the port companies, dealt with its employees it had no fair-wage clause inserted, with the result that they, the men who worked best & side with the contractors' men frequently under more arduous conditions only got 18^s to 20^s a wk for 48 hrs. Subsequent events had made the position of the port still more untenable. In March 1896 Sir John Lubbock moved a resolution, which was accepted by the Liberal Govt then in power, — declaring that the Govt should be the model employer — the Govt was the port men the most model in the city, paying the lowest wages & exacting the hardest work & getting the best men they found (except old). — Again when various labor questions were laid before the Labor Commission in 1894, the minority report recommended the Govt to immediately improve the condition of the port worker & raise his wages to a minimum of 24^s per week. — today even the dockers were better off. — The reply of the permanent official to all this was that the port employees had no right of complaint, but that was not true as to the dockers.