

I am following the Minister of Labour, I think it only right to present to the House the statement of the labour men. I hope there is still prospect of the minister doing something about it, even though of a post mortem character. I put this in Hansard in the hope that more attention will be paid to it and some remedy found for the evils complained of:—

1. Violation of sanitary requirements—gross negligence in regard to the protection of the health of the workers, in camp and plant construction.

2. Lowering the wage standards already established in different sections of the Dominion.

3. Elimination of the eight hour day and the introduction of the 10, 12 and 14 hour day, and seven-day week.

4. The unnecessary dilution of labour by the introduction of female labour, before proper steps have been taken to utilize available skilled mechanics.

5. Where dilution has occurred no general effort has been made to maintain the same standard wages as received by the men.

6. Substitution of cheap, semi-skilled labour from rural districts for construction work, because of their willingness to accept less than the Trades Union rates.

7. A declared policy of refusing to recognize Trades Union representatives in determining the wages and hours on contracts let by them.

8. Challenging Trades Union officials to obtain reasonable conditions by use of their organized power instead of through negotiations which would result in strikes.

The unanimous conclusion was reached that the time had arrived for the re-organization of this board on the basis of equal representation of labour with the employing interests.

We therefore ask that you endorse the conclusion arrived at by forwarding a letter to Premier Borden, House of Commons, Ottawa, and to the federal representatives from your constituency. Give this immediate attention. It is important.

These are the conditions of labour under the benign control and direction of the hon. gentleman who has just addressed the House. By dealing with these matters, he would be doing something calculated to assist in bringing more men to the support of the country and towards making the voluntary system more popular. I need hardly tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it is highly important that the people of this country should be as well treated and as carefully looked after as possible, if we expect them to be in a proper frame of mind to volunteer to meet the public demands made upon them in connection with the war, or any other public matter.

The hon. minister has spent a great deal of time in proving that this law is not new, that it is merely the law that has been on the statute-books for the last fifty years. If so, why then introduce this new Bill? If it is the same law, a law which has pro-

duced good results, with which the people are contented, and which has raised no trouble or obstacle in the minds of the people, why does the Prime Minister introduce this new measure causing trouble, dissatisfaction and fear among the people? Is this of the nature of a war dance? We know that savage tribes, when engaged in war, hold war dances to get up their fighting blood. But there was no necessity to stir the blood of the people of Canada after the fashion of an Indian war dance. I trust not; the old plan is always as necessary, and I trust we shall fall back upon it and that there will be no further trouble and no further question of the people with this new law.

When we said in 1914 that we would do everything we could in this war, and when we are saying to-day that we are willing to do everything we can do in this war, it must certainly be borne in mind that we are going to do everything we can do as a united people, that we are going to do everything that Canada can do as a nation, working together, every man from the Atlantic to the Pacific a Canadian, a true subject of the King, doing what, according to his best conscience and his best knowledge and his best understanding of his constitutional rights, thinks is his duty to do. And if we are going to introduce in Canada any other methods of carrying on the war or assisting in it, we are taking steps that are going to break up this country, and the end will be worse than the beginning. I assure you that the getting of 50,000 men or even 100,000 men in Canada, after we have broken up the ties of love and affection and good-will that are to-day binding together every nationality and province, if we smash Confederation in doing it, the Kaiser would be very much more pleased at the breaking up of Confederation than he would be afraid of the number of men we would so obtain. It is therefore up to those who are in charge of the Government of this country, to carry on the war, to help the war, to bring it to a satisfactory conclusion, along lines, that are not going to break up happy communities in the Dominion of Canada.

Hon. gentlemen opposite may think that I am not sincere in anything I say on this point, and that I am disposed to talk politics. But there is an hon. gentleman sitting among themselves who, until a few days ago, occupied the high position of a minister of the Crown and who was honoured by the Prime Minister by being picked out from the large number of good