

and thus save the inconvenience, if inconvenience it might be, of applying to the Minister of Justice for a special permit, I must say that the Department of Justice immediately responded to that request, and Mr. Kenning, the collector of inland revenue at Windsor, was duly appointed. And, from the time the Act came into force, at all events since the close of last session, there has not been in the county of Essex one single Canadian citizen turned back from the city of Detroit. So far as the locality I represent and the locality I live in is concerned, the Act has been a decided success. And, no doubt, if the hon. member for Perth (Mr. MacLaren) and other hon. gentlemen opposite who are so anxious to find fault with the Bill, had made application to have a person appointed, I have no doubt they would have met with the same kind consideration at the hands of the Government as I have met with.

Mr. CLANCY. It is a well known fact that one member of the Government was hostile to this Bill when it was before the House. The Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Sir Louis Davies) took very strong ground against it, and, in order that it should not apply generally he tied it up with so many restrictions so as to make it almost inoperative. Now, it seems to me that it was the duty of the Government to appoint officers to put the law in force in those localities, at least, where there was not a Minister opposing it. As it has not been done, however, it has been almost a dead letter on the Statute-books. Why should there be this restriction in regard to an Act which may need to be put in force every day, almost every hour, particularly on the frontier? The hon. member for Essex (Mr. Cowan), it appears, succeeded in getting the consent of the Government to the enforcement of the law. I do not say that that consent would have been denied in any case, but I say it should not be placed under such restrictions as to require the assent of the Minister of Justice. If the Act is to have any force, let us not have all this machinery of applying to the Minister of Justice, and so on, but let officers be appointed to carry out the law. I say without hesitation that if this law is not to be a sham and mockery so far as it affects the working people of Canada, these restrictions upon its operation must be removed. I say that the Government are at fault and must stand convicted of having hampered the Act, so long as it stands in the present position.

Mr. MCGREGOR. In answer to the hon. member for Bothwell (Mr. Clancy), I will just say that, in my opinion, it is very well that the Government should keep their hands on this law, and that their appointments under it should be made with great care. The appointment made in our city has given satisfaction. It is not the

Mr. COWAN.

desire of this country to trouble our neighbours across the border more than we can help. We want to deal with them much as they deal with us. Now, they happen to have a man acting for them at Buffalo who acts very meanly with some of our people crossing at that particular point, but, at Windsor, where we have the honour of living, our people go to Detroit and work all day, some 600 or 700 of them, and return at night. These people spend their money in our country. And we allow the American people to come over to our side. They have about 150 or 160 coming over daily to Windsor to work. And so, we have reciprocity in this matter. There is no trouble at our point. If our interests were entrusted to a person who would nag at the Americans there is no doubt the day would not be far distant when our people working in the States would be deprived of that privilege. Our young men cross to the United States and work in any portion of it and come back when they see fit. There are isolated cases concerning which some complaint could be made, but, as a general thing, we have reciprocity in reference to labour at the particular point where we live, and we should be the losers and not the gainers if the law were carried out to the very letter. The appointment made by the Government is well made, the gentleman who has been appointed is a prudent man, a careful man, and one holding a high position; and he would not do anything that is not fair and just to the other country.

Mr. McCLEARY. I do not think it can be pretended that the half-hearted manner in which this law was placed on the Statute-book, though with the consent of the Government last year, has met the expectations, much less gained the approbation, of the people who are directly interested in this matter. Yesterday I gave notice of some questions relative to this very subject, which questions, I presume, will come up on Monday or Tuesday. The hon. member for North Essex (Mr. McGregor) has told us that at the city of Buffalo the Americans have appointed a man who does not do the right thing by Canadians. We have very great complaint to make against the enforcement of the alien labour law against Canadians on the frontier in my riding. I have here a letter which I received yesterday, part of which I will read:

Ask the Government again what their intentions are in regard to the Alien Labour law. It is reported here that Mr. Spain, of Bridgeburgh, has been appointed as an officer to enforce the law, to take effect on the first of April, but nothing has been done up to the present. Men are coming here every day from Buffalo, and doing little jobs of work, while our men are left idle. Italians are coming over every day in squads to work in the stone quarries at Ridgeway, while hardly a Canadian can get work there. The American foreman informed Mr. Rathbun they can get plenty of their own men to look after without employing any Canadians.