

but they would not recognize men from Indianapolis or Seattle.

Mr. CARVELL: I am sure the House has been almost put to sleep by the careless manner in which my hon. friend (Mr. Crothers) has discussed this serious national problem. One would think to hear the hon. gentleman that it was a matter of no importance, something which happens every once in a while in the course of the day's work, and while it was unfortunate for these people that it did happen, it could not be helped; there was nothing more to do about it; and there is an end of the whole matter. If ever the hon. gentleman convinced the public of Canada that he has well earned the title of 'Minister of Play' instead of 'Minister of Labour' he has done it this afternoon. I am not dubbing him that—it is a name that he himself has coined. Here, Mr. Speaker, we have from the minister a most remarkable statement. A strike involving three or four thousand men took place on the 17th of September, 1912, and outside of sending a telegram to these people pointing out in a very general way the terms of the Conciliation Act, not a finger has been lifted, not an act has been done, not an effort has been made by the Department of Labour to settle these difficulties for some six or seven months until practically the whole island of Vancouver is aflame. Was ever such a contention made by a Minister of Labour in this House or in any other Parliament in any civilized country from the beginning of the world to the present day?

Mr. G. E. FOSTER: That is a long time.

Mr. CARVELL: It is, my friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Foster) realizes the position in which his colleague finds himself this afternoon. Not a finger has been lifted according to the minister's own confession to try to alleviate the terrible condition of affairs—

Mr. CROTHERS: I did not make such a confession.

Mr. CARVELL: No person of ordinary intelligence could listen to the hon. gentleman without coming to the conclusion that that is the only result of the confession he has made. Now, things went on until about the 1st of May, when, as I understand it, practically all the miners of that portion of British Columbia went out on strike. The Minister of Labour says he did not know this was going to happen. Well, again I assume that he is sincere in the

[Mr. Crothers.]

matter, but that is only another evidence of the absolute carelessness with which he views the whole subject. For, if he had looked at his own publication, the Labour Gazette, he would have found that he did have notice, or his department had; but I would be prepared to believe that his department might have notice of a great many things and he know nothing of them. At page 1299 of the Labour Gazette, 5 p.m. the issue of May, 1913, the following statement appears:—

The department was informed about the end of April that the United Mine Workers authorities had announced their intention of calling out for May 1, all men employed in and around the mines at Nanaimo, South Wellington and Jinglepot.

So, the hon. gentleman had notice, or his department had, that there was going to be a strike, that on the 1st of May all the men in that industrial centre were to be called out. But the same policy of masterly inactivity was followed as had been followed for six months before and not a finger was lifted to avert the strike. The thing went on, as I understand, for a month or so. Along about the 1st of July, the minister starts out on a junketing tour with his law partner. They left here in a private car on the 1st of July, if the records I have are correct, and went out West to try to settle the difficulty. Now, as the Minister of Labour was going out to settle this trouble, what on earth did he want to take a commissioner with him for? Why was it necessary for him to appoint his law partner as royal commissioner to take him out there? They went in the same car. The country is paying the expenses—and the Lord only knows how much it will be—to give his law partner a pleasant trip to the Pacific coast to accompany the minister who says he was going out to settle the difficulty. He went there and stayed a few days—I do not remember how many. He accomplished nothing and at once returned and made a hurried trip to England. No, it was even worse than that. He came back to Ottawa and yet did nothing. And about the 13th or 14th of August, at a time when the most serious labour conditions existed in Vancouver Island that had ever existed in Canada since Confederation, I believe, when there was almost a condition of civil war, when a thousand troops were called out, when that portion of Vancouver Island became an armed camp, at the very most important and most critical time in the history of this country from the standpoint of the Department of Labour since