

Fruit Wastage—Containers

Mr. MITCHELL: My hon. friend is giving the best exhibition of sitting on the fence that I have seen in many long days. He wishes me to be frank, but he is afraid to be frank himself.

Mr. REID: Sometimes it is safer.

Mr. GREEN: I think the minister meant that the statement of the chief justice was fair, sensible and sound. Then he continued:

I hope that the I.W.A. will have the good sense to see to it that they recommend it to their membership so that the necessary assistance can be given to farmers of British Columbia in connection with the forthcoming crop in that province.

That was three days ago. Press dispatches this morning from the *Montreal Gazette* state that the chief justice and the minister of labour of the province have been in touch with our federal Minister of Labour continuously up to the present time. The I.W.A. has rejected the proposal put forward by the chief justice, whereas the operators have accepted it.

The Minister of Labour is in a difficult spot; there is no doubt about that. I have great sympathy for him. But a recommendation has been made. Responsible people have said it is a fair recommendation; and if the Minister of Labour believes that is so, then he should say so this afternoon, so that the people in British Columbia may have his statement before them.

Mr. ILSLEY: He said so, did he not? He said so the other day.

Mr. GREEN: I should like to have him say it to-day. I am afraid that in connection with these disputes we are getting into a position where everyone is neutral, with the result that there are certain people who have as their objective the creation of trouble of one kind or another in the country. Right along, the public have had a tendency to say, "Oh, well, it is just one of those things that cannot be helped. We have just to suffer and put up with it. After a while everything will be straightened out." I believe we shall have to devise some way of getting the actual facts before the public better than we are doing to-day, and also of having these strikes settled more quickly. They are upsetting the whole economy of the country, and we must devise some way in which they can be settled more quickly than they are under present conditions.

I would ask the Minister of Labour to go fully into the question when he speaks. So far as I know, I believe everybody would be wise to get right back to work on the basis of the proposal the chief justice has made. It

[Mr. Green.]

is only for one year; I understand it is recommended that the basis be accepted only for that length of time; during that time it might be possible to work out a solution more satisfactory to both sides. Action should be speeded up right away in order that we can have the wheels turning and supply the starving people in other parts of the world with food in so far as Canada is able to do so.

Mr. H. G. ARCHIBALD (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I should like to state first that I am not going to take a non-partisan view; I am going to take a partisan stand on this matter. I notice that this debate has been brought about because a crisis now exists in connection with the packing of fruit. If it had not been that there was this crisis in fruit packing; if it had been just a case of the loggers being out on strike, then, if any one had risen and pointed out that the families of the loggers were suffering he would never have been able to be heard on this floor.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): Did you try?

Mr. ARCHIBALD: No, I did not try. I just happen to know that.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): The hon. member for Fraser Valley did on behalf of his farmers.

Mr. ARCHIBALD: It was tried last year in connection with the Ford strike. This strike has been caused because for years there has been an exploitation of the loggers. I happen to know because I have worked in the camps and I have worked on the rigging. During the war the loggers received no wage rate comparable with those paid to war workers, especially in the shipyards.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): On the Queen Charlotte islands they got \$18 a day.

Mr. ARCHIBALD: They paid high wages on the Queen Charlotte islands, but I should like to see the hon. member in one of those camps on the Queen Charlotte islands where it rains all the time.

Mr. MACKENZIE: He was in Africa.

Mr. ARCHIBALD: He was in Africa where it is nice and sunny. I went through the battle of Prince Rupert and at times it was rather damp. I was sent by a government that did not have sand enough to conscript enough men to send over there. That is the answer.

Mr. SINCLAIR (Vancouver North): You were conscripted!

Mr. ARCHIBALD: I was not conscripted.