

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I brought in the United States simply because we are told that this is a United States union and that in this country we will not tolerate any American unions.

I suggested in my last statement that it had not been very easy for labour to organize in Canada. Under these circumstances it does seem to me that this government has a very decided obligation to take some definite stand regarding this situation at Oshawa. Apparently at the moment all that has been done has been to place our Royal Canadian Mounted Police in large numbers at the disposal of a provincial government which has already placed itself definitely behind the company.

Mr. DUNNING: That is not right.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): Why make these rash, untrue statements?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am not making a rash statement; I am merely stating what is reported in this morning's press. If it is incorrect I hope the minister will correct me.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): It is more than incorrect.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Would the hon. member care to read the full statement regarding what he alleged?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I was trying to read the full statement, but objection was taken.

Mr. McLEAN (Melfort): Then why repeat the definite statement?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: If I may be free from all these interruptions I can conclude in a moment or so. I do say that it seems to me it is the responsibility of a government charged with the maintenance of law and order, a government that has definitely stated its policy to be a larger measure of control of industry by the workers, to use some other means than merely repressive measures. I would beg that before there is violence of any kind or before the workers are crushed by the combination that seems to be arrayed against them, this government should exercise its utmost authority and influence in mediating this situation and guaranteeing the workers of this country the right to organize.

Hon. ERNEST LAPOINTE (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning I was twice called on the telephone by the Premier of Ontario, and following those telephone conversations Mr. Hepburn sent me the following telegram, which I think the house is entitled to hear:

Hon. Ernest Lapointe,
Minister of Justice,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ont.

Following our telephone conversation would urgently request that assistance of dominion police be made available to maintain law and order in strike areas. Would further urge that first detachment be sent to Toronto where services will be available in case of emergency. Have only seventy-five trained provincial officers available without impairing other necessary services throughout Ontario. Please let me know to what extent we may anticipate assistance. Prepared to swear in additional force but am sure you appreciate the fact that special constables could operate more efficiently in conjunction with trained police. Report just submitted to me indicates situation becoming very acute and violence anticipated any minute also impairment of heating plants and fire protection services.

M. F. Hepburn.

I replied as follows:

Hon. Mitchell Hepburn,
Prime Minister,
Toronto.

Your telegram received. Seventy men unmounted will leave at three o'clock for Toronto. Thirty-three all ranks mounted will leave at six o'clock for Toronto. All to be placed at your disposal with understanding that all expenses as usual will be paid by province.

Ernest Lapointe.

In the telephone conversation I was told that officers of the company had been prevented from entering their own offices. A certain number of men, then, have been sent to Toronto at the urgent request of the Premier of Ontario to help the province preserve order and uphold the laws of the country, and my hon. friend has just stated that it is the duty of this government to preserve law and order in the country. The same step would be taken if a similar request were made by any other provincial authority in Canada. Unless the necessity arises for the purpose of upholding the laws these men will not intervene in any way.

There are precedents for the action which has been taken. Police assistance was requested at Port Arthur a few years ago by the attorney general of the province of Ontario, and it was sent. Police assistance was requested at Cochran in 1931 by the attorney general of Ontario, and it was sent. Police assistance was requested by the province of Quebec at Rouyn, in the mining district, a few years ago, and it was also sent. I would remind the house of the provision contained in section 12, subsection 3, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, chapter 160 of the Revised Statutes of Canada:

Every member of the force shall be a constable in every part of Canada for the purpose of carrying out the criminal and other laws of Canada . . .