

I have risen simply to add to what has been stated so eloquently by my friends to the left. I wish also to compliment the minister upon his observations in favour of labour. In my opinion too much cannot be said in praise of that great section of our population, one which is so worthy of everything we can do for it, and which, with agriculture, forms an important part of our national community. They must have our very best consideration and attention.

When the minister comes before the house again I would urge that he bring in his estimates, his labour policy and plans early in the session, because it seems to me that we will deal with nothing in the next session, despite what anyone may say, which is more a part and parcel of our war effort than the welfare of the labouring class. We should have an opportunity to discuss and to deliberate upon all details connected with labour problems.

I have a further suggestion which I shall not develop at length, because of the brief time at my disposal. I should like to see the minister have a little more influence in the cabinet. He may be new, but as he grows and develops in stature in his department he will grow and develop in stature in the deliberations of the cabinet. I would ask him in season and out of season to pull hard, to see to it that no quasi-legislative body is formed without proper representation from those two great classes in our community, agriculture and labour. I believe some steps have been taken in that regard in connection with agriculture, but the Minister of Labour must see to it in cabinet council that when these boards are set up that great labouring section of our population, which means so much to us and which is contributing so much, should have its legitimate and proper place, and that it has the representation to which it is so justly entitled.

Mr. BLACKMORE: It has long been my feeling and belief that labour, wisely led, is going to be one of the chief determining factors in the life of this nation in days to come. The minister is placed in a position of responsibility, where it will be his privilege to help labour to be wisely led. I assure him that in all his good endeavours with respect to the improvement of labour conditions he will have the complete and whole-hearted support of the body of people I represent in parliament.

Mr. NOSEWORTHY: I came to the house elected and largely supported by the labouring community. Since sitting in the house I have had numerous occasions to consult with the

[Mr. Graydon.]

Minister of Labour respecting labour problems which have been called to my attention by the organized workers. May I say that at no time have I had any difficulty in approaching him. On each occasion I have found him ready to listen sympathetically to the grievances I have placed before him.

I do not approve of many of the government's labour policies. In the past few days we have heard much about the incentive we must give the man whose capital is invested in industry. To-day we have been reminded of the four million workers in Canada. When it comes to a question of production it must be remembered that we can replace the owners of capital much more easily and readily than we can replace the four million workers upon whom in the last analysis production must depend. I sincerely hope the Minister of Labour will be able to take advantage of the opportunity to which the hon. member for Vancouver East has referred, and build up in this country under his good policies a great labour movement.

Mr. COLDWELL: Since the Minister of Labour has stated that Mr. Bevin is an old friend of his and since he is going to give consideration to Sir Walter Citrine's letter, may I recount an incident which occurred in the presence of the six members of parliament who visited Great Britain last autumn? We were having a brief conference with Mr. Bevin, and I asked if there had been any serious labour disputes since he had been Minister of Labour. He said there had been none, not only for the time he had been Minister of Labour but since the war began. I asked him how he accounted for that. He said, "In large measure I attribute it to the fact that our working force is thoroughly unionized. If anything occurs that is unfortunate and likely to lead to trouble, the two groups, the managers and employers"—he said they had had more difficulty in organizing them than they had with the workers—"and the workers can get together and the difficulties are ironed out." He said they had had some trouble, but it was of minor importance. I said that at the moment in Canada this government took the view that in government owned or controlled industries or in the departments of the government there should be no labour organizations. I asked him what they did in Great Britain, and I think I can give Mr. Bevin's reply verbatim, because it struck me so forcibly. He said, "I will answer it in this way: I suppose our largest number of government employees in the labour field will be found in our great dockyards. They are all organized in their own national union, and I am the national secretary of that union." I