

recognize any union) recognized and did business with the Provincial Workmen's Association. The Dominion Coal Company recognized it, but the Dominion Coal Company could not recognize two labour organizations, which were most hostile, the one towards the other, because one organization would ask for one thing and the other organization would ask for another thing, and so it would be impossible to get along with the two. I point this out to the minister to show him that there is the greatest difference in the world between the Nova Scotia case and the Vancouver case, because, as the minister has told us, there was only one mine organization in the province of British Columbia.

I am not going to argue that the late Administration did all they could do to settle the dispute in Nova Scotia; I will not give them that credit. They may have done so; but I am not in a position to state that they did. I rather think they did not, but that does not justify the Minister of Labour in the attitude he has taken on this strike question in British Columbia. I tell the Minister of Labour, that had he, and the Prime Minister, and other members of the present Government, who were approached in June, 1912, by representatives of the United Mine Workers of America with reference to the importation of foreign labour into Canada—I will not say foreign labour; I will say immigrant labour—had they listened to the protests and representations made by that delegation as to the importation into British Columbia of strike-breakers, who were induced to come to that province by fraud, perhaps the conditions which have obtained for the last two years in British Columbia would not have been so bad.

In the case of the Nova Scotia strike there were no importations of labour to break the strike. As a matter of fact there was no strike in existence because the mines, with the exception of one, were operated by the Provincial Workmen's Association, and they got good Canadian white labour from Nova Scotia and from the other provinces of the Dominion. The Minister of Labour and the Minister of the Interior of that day saw to it that no company in Nova Scotia was allowed to attempt to induce immigrant labour to come in as strike-breakers in that province, and especially so on fraudulent representations.

The agitation and the unrest increased considerably in British Columbia when it was found that the present Minister of

Labour and the Government allowed the coal operators of British Columbia to induce, by fraudulent representations, immigrants to come in and act as strike-breakers in the mines of Vancouver, and other mines in British Columbia.

Mr. CARVELL: Was the Prime Minister notified?

Mr. CARROLL: The Prime Minister was notified. I do not think the Minister of Labour caught the point made by the hon. member (Mr. Carvell) in reference to the date at which this report of Commissioner Price was brought down, and if he did, he did not deal with it. I want to point out that there was no very severe disturbance, in the nature of riots, in British Columbia, until the 13th of August, 1913, and then the rioting began, and began in good earnest. On that day 300 militiamen were called in, and on the day following they came to Nanaimo and Ladysmith. The Conservatives when in opposition blamed the Minister of Labour of that day for being instrumental in calling out the militia in the case of the strike in Nova Scotia, but I will not follow that example and blame the present minister for calling out the militia, because I know the members of the Government have nothing to do with that. I want to be fair in the discussion of this question, and I admit that the militia are called out under a special statute. While I think that statute should be somewhat amended, still the law is there, and if certain persons go before a magistrate or county judge and declare that the civil authorities are not able to cope with the situation, then the militia may be called out. I want to be fair in this matter. It is however a marvellous coincidence that the moment the strike became most serious in those provinces, on the 13th day of August, 1913, and the moment that the militia were introduced there to quell those riotous disturbances, the commissioner's report was brought down. Is it a coincidence? If it is, it is rather a remarkable one. I should rather think that, from the 13th of August, when the riot broke out and matters became very serious, a commissioner on the ground to investigate the matter would have been of more value than a commissioner who had investigated the matter in the first instance, when everything was in a peaceful condition. That was the point made by my hon. friend from Carleton (Mr. Carvell). While it may be