

*Industrial Disputes Act*

hon. member (Mr. Martell), I know we cannot settle the question in this parliament; but the onus is on the government to call a conference of representatives of the Dominion and the provinces for that purpose. The Minister of Justice says he is going to bring the question up in connection with another matter affecting the Senate. Now is the time to settle these questions, and the government must have the courage to take the leadership or give way to others who will take it.

Mr. MARTELL: Who in Canada to-day is in favour of this change in our constitution?

Mr. MACLEAN (York): I am, for one.

Mr. MARTELL: I am glad to know it.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): I regret that my hon. friend has not that courage, although the people of his own province are waiting on the government to-day, almost in forma pauperis, asking to be helped out of their troubles.

Mr. LOGAN: Order.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Well, a friend of my hon. friend's went up to Toronto the other day and told a very doleful story of the condition of affairs in this country. The hon. member for Cumberland has been away to the West Indies to tell the troubles of this country there and how he seeks to get relief from them.

Mr. MARTELL: Will my hon. friend—

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Oh, sit down a moment, please.

Mr. MARTELL: We want the truth.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Go where the truth is. Now, I apologize for taking up so much time—

An hon. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Hocken) does not agree with me?

Mr. HOCKEN: I did not say a word.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): My hon. friend does agree with me very often. I read his paper carefully and I see that he is progressive in his views in the way of constitutional reform. But the responsibility of dealing with this matter is on the government; they cannot sidestep it by a measure like this. Constitutional government must be progressive in its character, its scope widens with the years; and we ought to see to it that we have the right to deal with these matters ourselves in our own way.

[Mr. W. F. Maclean.]

Mr. MARTELL: My hon. friend says the people of Nova Scotia came here in forma pauperis. That is a vastly different question from the one he is dealing with now and from the point he is advocating. Nova Scotia never willingly went into the confederation. We were sold into the confederation, as our people commonly say, for the price of a sheepskin. We were a prosperous people up to that time. I am not objecting to the constitution to-day as it affects the various provinces, but if we come here advocating what we believe to be our rights, we are asking only for what is justly ours, because we never had an opportunity at the polls to pronounce whether or not we were in favour of confederation. When confederation was brought about and the first appeal was made to the people of Nova Scotia, only one confederate was returned.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): I sympathize very much with my hon. friend, and if he has any move to make in this particular I will join him.

Mr. MARTELL: I am a constitutionalist and believe that our remedy lies in trade treaties and railway considerations.

Mr. MACLEAN (York): Well, I am sorry for that sort of constitutionalist.

Mr. LOGAN: The hon. member has been talking about half an hour; may I ask if he is for or against this bill?

Mr. MACLEAN (York): I am against the bill unless the government take the leadership in the direction of a real cure for the situation.

Mr. LOGAN: Even if the government takes such leadership, the change could not be brought about in less than two or three years, and in the meantime what harm will it do to pass this bill? We have to have some machinery for dealing with industrial disputes. I have listened to the utterances of my hon. friend from South York (Mr. Maclean) for a quarter of a century or more, and I am charmed to find that after all those years he still retains that buoyant expectancy, that everlasting optimism, under the influence of which difficulties, in his mind, seem to fade away. I only wish all of us had that happy disposition; and that we may all be as youthful in spirit as my hon. friend when we reach his age. But my hon. friend, in speaking upon these matters dismisses, with a wave of the hand, some rather serious difficulties. He is even a little inconsistent sometimes. For instance, at one moment he states that the