

Mr. STEVENS: I gathered from the hon. gentleman's remarks that he blamed the hon. member for Nanaimo for not having discussed on the floor of the House all the features of this dispute and prophesying, shall I say, that there was grievous danger of an outbreak.

Mr. CARVELL: Oh no.

Mr. STEVENS: The hon. member practically took it for granted that we knew before the riot broke out that a riot was likely to occur. I do not think any persons were more surprised than those in British Columbia when the riot did occur, except for the day or two prior to their occurrence.

I wish to refer to what I consider to be the important feature of this whole trouble. In the first place, it was pointed out here to-night and conclusively demonstrated that the actual cause of that strike or labour trouble was the discrimination against Mottishaw. The unfortunate thing in this whole trouble is that when the miners, in a thoughtless, unguarded moment, broke out into violence they alienated from their cause all the sympathy which had been in the public mind up to that time. Right up to the day of the riot there never was a strike in the province of British Columbia conducted with more fairness on the part of the men or observance of law and order; but the minute they broke into a riot they alienated the sympathies of the public at large. So far as I am concerned, I am prepared to make the statement on the floor of the House on my responsibility as a member, that my sympathies lean largely towards the men in this strike; but there is nothing which can justify the violence which was perpetrated against innocent parties in that district. And the unfortunate part of the whole thing is that their actions involved the question so much that I believe it is now almost an impossibility to separate the causes of difficulties so as to place the blame where it actually belongs. This discrimination by the company is one of the vilest acts that can be perpetrated by an employer against an employee. As I remember, a suggestion is made in the report that some action should be taken by the Government to deal with cases of this kind. In British Columbia there is a law which makes it illegal for an employer to discriminate against an employee, and which fixes a distinct punishment for that offence. This Act has been applied in several cases where discrimination has oc-

[Mr. Carvell.]

curred. One incident was cited in the very mine in which the present trouble occurred. The foreman was deprived of his certificate as a mine foreman because of discrimination. We have provided for that in British Columbia, but there is no Dominion Statute and I think the Minister of Labour will be well advised to take that point up in the amendments he is now considering.

The insinuation was made by one hon. gentleman that the present Government, because of the friendly relations which have been said to exist with the employers, referring to Messrs Mackenzie & Mann, I suppose, refused to take any action in this affair. In fairness to the Government it must be stated that no such thing influenced them. There is no evidence of any such thing being the case. I do not think it is wise to throw out carelessly damaging insinuations of that kind. The evidence upon which the hon. gentleman based that insinuation was that last year we granted some heavy subsidies to the Canadian Northern. If there is logic and reason in that, what about the subsidies granted to the Canadian Northern in the years prior to the time at which this Government came into power? We could just as reasonably argue that the late Government was very friendly to this concern. There is no sense in this allegation.

I wish to refer to a man who has been very prominent in this fight and that is Mr. Frank Farrington. I met Mr. Frank Farrington on many occasions in Vancouver and discussed this and other matters with him. I found him a very intelligent man, a man whom you would recognize immediately as a very skilful labour leader and administer. He is the representative from, I think it is, Indiana, of the United Mine Workers of America. All the companies absolutely refused to deal with Mr. Farrington because he was the representative of a foreign union. This raises the question of how many members of this House are prepared to support the policy of acknowledging international unions in Canada. How many of us are in favour of having the labour organizations controlled by Canadian committees? The hon. member for Cape Breton (Mr. Carroll) who has arraigned the Minister so severely, is absolutely opposed, from his statement to-day, to the control of labour unions by a foreign organization.

Mr. CARROLL: I have never made any such statement.