

Unemployment Continuance Act

whom the affidavits I read were made have been found guilty. One of them has been found guilty of stealing \$4,000. That same individual had the expenditure of federal aid money and in the month of December, 1930, he returned a pay sheet to the provincial government for federal aid to the extent of \$350, not one bit of work having been done for that amount of money. I read affidavits from men whose names were on that pay sheet for December, wherein they swear that they never did work and never saw cheques for the amounts opposite their names. Yet the minister stands up here and says that no concrete cases have been laid before him. The gentleman he sent down to the county of Gloucester to investigate did investigate some cases and he came back here and intimated that he would make no report on the cases he had investigated because they did not come under the federal aid but involved provincial money. The other night I proved from documentary evidence submitted to the legislature of New Brunswick that on every one of those roads I had mentioned in my complaint federal money had been expended; yet that gentleman reports to his minister that these works do not come under federal aid. I do not know where he got his information, but whoever gave it to him led him astray.

I am going to read some of the concrete cases I laid before the department. Here are the details of one in particular. The Blue Cove road is on the federal list which I read the other night. The Blue Cove road was reported by Mr. Carter not to have received any federal expenditures. The Minister of Public Works of New Brunswick, at the request of one of the members of the legislature, submitted the list I have here, giving the names of the roads on which federal money was expended, and this road is among them. Now what are the facts? The supervisor was one Omer Blanchard, a man living five miles away from the road, in another district; yet under the act it is stipulated that the work shall be carried on wherever possible by residents of the district. This man was taken from another district and brought in to do the work. This man refused work to Liberals—now this is political, this end of it—the day after the election; he said, "Not a damned Liberal will get work". He also refused certain men the right to sign their work slips. Incensed by the treatment given them by this supervisor, a number of men went to work in spite of him; but when told that they would not be paid they stopped working. In discussing the situation with the supervisor, some of the men to whom he had refused work be-

Mr. Veniot.]

cause of their politics asked him why no such discrimination was made by him in the St. Leolin district, which is six miles further west. He replied that that district had given a majority to the Conservative candidate while Blue Cove had given a majority against him. Now Mr. Carter, the gentleman sent by the department to investigate upon my complaint, has in his possession the evidence of thirty men to prove that every word stated here is true. After seeing these men he called upon the supervisor. The supervisor, as he was alone with Mr. Carter, attempted to deny the statements of some thirty men. Now there is a concrete case for the department. They have the evidence obtained by Mr. Carter. Oh, it may be said, you have this merely from hearsay. I had that from the lips of Mr. Carter when he returned from Blue Cove after I had given him the names of the witnesses. Mr. Carter had in his note books the names of the gentlemen who had given him this information, and yet he refrains from submitting his report to this house.

There are other cases just as bad as this. There is a case in a certain district where the supervisor went to a man working on the roads two or three days before October 26, the by-election day, and said to him, "If you will vote for the Conservative candidate in the provincial by-election I will guarantee you \$20 worth of work after the election." The man refused and said, "I cannot; I am a Liberal and I cannot support a Conservative candidate." This man got off the day of the election in order to vote and when he came back to work the next day he was discharged. There is no hearsay about these statements; this man has made an affidavit and is prepared to swear to it in any court of justice.

There is another case down at Shippigan island. An individual wanted to get work but was turned down because he was a Liberal. He went to work in spite of this refusal but at midday of the second day the foreman came to him and showed him a letter signed by the defeated Conservative candidate in the provincial elections of 1930 stating that if he continued to work he would receive no pay.

I want to be fair with these things. I am not blaming the Department of Labour for what has taken place, but I do say that when these things were discovered, when they were reported by me as being true on my word of honour as a member of this house, they should have been investigated to the full. But this was not done and that is why I blame the department. Whose word was taken for the statement that this was not federal aid, I do not know. I repeat, and