

placed in a contract if it were placed by the Imperial Government for work to be constructed in England or by the Canadian Government for work to be constructed in Canada, would be inserted in these contracts for the protection of the employees.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am not very familiar with the work of the committee which consists of a number of business men throughout the country who undertook to ascertain whether or not these articles could be manufactured in Canada; the only way in which the matter has come to my knowledge is that with respect to, I think, one firm representations were made on behalf of labour interests, to the effect that the rate of wage was not quite adequate. I think there are about 60 firms or companies engaged in this work. So far as I remember, there were complaints in regard to only one, and that was not in the Maritime provinces. The representations that were received were communicated to the chairman of the committee, and he was asked to give consideration to them and to get into touch with the particular firm or company with reference to which complaint had been made.

Mr. MACDONALD: I am glad to know that my right hon. friend is in a position to deal with these cases when they arise. If a formal request with reference to a particular case is necessary in order to enable my right hon. friend to remove the difficulty, I can supply that by correspondence. My object would be attained if I had assurance from my right hon. friend that he will see that the request I have made in regard to this matter is carried out and the fair wage schedule is observed by those various committees just as if they were contracts with the Federal Government.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: I am not quite sure as to our power to insert the fair wage clause in such contracts; the principals for whom we are acting would have to be consulted. Any representations that are made will be given the best consideration in our power.

Mr. MACDONALD: There is a fair wage schedule in regard to Imperial Government contracts, which was, in fact, the basis of the fair wage schedule in Canada; so between the two the difficulty ought to be avoided, and it ought to be possible to guarantee the employees of these various industries of the country a continuation of their employment at reasonable wages and without an increase in the number of hours.

I was very glad to see, in an address delivered in the Maritime provinces, that my eloquent friend Mr. Rowell, leader of the Opposition in Ontario, whose activity in his public addresses upon the subject of the war has been most worthy of comment and whose ability in dealing with the various phases of this question has been attracting the attention of the Canadian public, had ventured to say that he hoped that one result of this war in the after days, when the readjustments would necessarily take place and peace would come after victory had perched upon our banners, would be the inclusion of the colony of Newfoundland in the Dominion of Canada. In 1866 and in 1867 the fathers of Confederation saw the importance and desirability of including the whole of British North America in the federation which was then formed and which has existed without that colony during the ensuing years. The machinery for the inclusion of that colony is provided in the British North America Act. One does not need to enter into a discussion as to why it was never perfected. In 1884 an occasion arose when Newfoundland came to the Government of that day; and I may say, speaking without any partisanship, that hon. gentlemen on both sides and the press of this country have agreed that it was a most regrettable fact that the Government of that day was so parsimonious in dealing with the older colony that they prevented Newfoundland from entering into Confederation at that time. Conditions, it would seem as days go by, would point to the probability of the whole federation being rounded out within a short time by the inclusion of Newfoundland. When one contemplates the ambitions and ideals of the fathers of this Dominion and when one realizes that this most ancient colony within the Empire is but the outpost of this Dominion, that it stands as a sentry almost guarding the great St. Lawrence; that here in Canada, in order to ensure safety of navigation on the St. Lawrence in summer and from Nova Scotia in the winter, we have to maintain in this colony, which has no rights in this Dominion, our life-saving stations and lighthouses and all the provisions necessary for safe navigation; that we have there a colony with very great wealth in minerals and timber and fisheries; and that, having regard to that unity and nationality within the Empire which will become all