

*Labour Dispute—Oshawa Strike*

company, if put into effect, would rule out all the legitimate labour organizations in this country.

I do not know whether I should make any special appeal to a Liberal government. But I would remind the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) that the Liberal program contains this plank on the democratization of industry:

The Liberal party believes that industrial reconstruction is the problem of the future. It will seek in industrial relations as opportunity offers, to give to workers and consumers a larger share in the government of industry.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Hear, hear.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am glad the Liberals say "hear, hear." It occurs to me that this is good opportunity to check the dictatorship being attempted by the management of this industry at Oshawa.

An hon. MEMBER: By the management only?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I have on the order paper—I do not know whether it will be reached this session—a bill which would give to trade unions the right to organize.

Mr. LAPOINTE (Quebec East): They have that right now.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, theoretically they have. In practice they have never been able fully to exercise it, and there is no positive legislation on the statute books. It would seem that in this country positive legislation, with penalties for infringement, is highly desirable. It is unfortunate that it should be left to a private member to introduce such legislation.

Mr. ROGERS: Will the hon. member permit me to ask whether he is aware that the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and other labour organizations have brought this matter to the attention of the government over a period of years? Is he also aware that the Trades and Labour Congress prepared a draft bill protecting the right of association, which was submitted to every provincial legislature in the dominion within the past few weeks, and that this submission on the part of the Trades and Labour Congress to the provincial legislatures recognized that so far as the right of association is a civil right to be dealt with by provincial law, any sanction behind that right of association should also properly be applied by provincial law?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am quite aware of the facts as related by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Rogers). But I know also that [Mr. Woodsworth.]

under the British North America Act it is doubtful where the line comes between civil and criminal, between provincial and federal jurisdiction. I need not say that to the house. The Trades and Labour Congress, almost in despair of getting any action by this government, attempted to get it through the provincial governments.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: That is not the fact.

Mr. ROGERS: That is not a true statement, if I may say so. As Minister of Labour I had a number of discussions with representatives of the Trades and Labour Congress and other organizations on this very question. When the matter was brought to the attention of the provincial legislatures it was not done on the basis of any feeling on the part of leaders of organized labour in Canada that the dominion government had in any way failed to accept its due responsibility in the matter.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That may have been the statement made to the minister. I have had statements along other lines made to me. However I do not intend to discuss that matter now; if my bill can be reached I shall be able to discuss it then. But I should like to emphasize that it has been extremely difficult under existing legislation for the workers in this country to exercise the right to organize. In Great Britain that right is conceded in practice as well as in theory. In the United States it is only in the last few months, largely through the efforts of this new organization, that the right of labour to organize is being recognized in practice.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that I think the house has been generous in its attitude in affording him the opportunity to discuss the Oshawa situation as a matter of urgent public importance. In his motion he indicated that he wished to speak about the Oshawa strike and I suggest to him that it is hardly fair to begin under that head a general discussion on the question of rights of organization and other subjects of the kind. I think he should hold to the point on which he asked leave to move adjournment of the house.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I quite accept what the Prime Minister says, but I think I have not transgressed very far, and I am about to conclude.

An hon. MEMBER: Why bring in the United States?