

suffer; but it is the foreign labor of Europe that I would wish to get at. You are aware that in 1880 there was a little difficulty arose on the docks of Montreal. During that time the employers would not give what the men asked, so they resorted to hiring men in our own country and villages, such as Sorel and Berthier; but in a short time they got tired of that, and imported men from Europe. I believe that those men got \$1 per day while coming across and got their passages paid. These men got assisted passages and \$1 a day while coming across, and this was a good deal more than our own men were asking. The suffering that our men had to undergo was terrible. This did not go on for one year, but for three successive seasons.

351. In connection with this legislation would you recommend legislation for settling these disputes. You say that the men asked certain prices, which the employers would not give and the result was a strike which caused the employers to look for men at other points while you were idle. Do you recommend legislation with a view of settling those difficulties?—Yes; by all means—an arbitration committee.

352. Then you recommend legislation to prohibit foreign labor under contract and a committee to settle labor disputes by arbitration?—Yes.

353. You do not ask this Bill then as a retaliatory measure?—No; merely as a protection.

354. You heard Mr. Graham's statement about 350 men working in the cotton mill?—Yes.

355. And our people were not allowed to do it on the other side. You would consider that a case of hardship?—I would.

356. You are not affected that way in Montreal, you are not close to the line?—Yes, that is it.

357. When that state of affairs does exist, you think we ought to take some way of protecting our own people?—Yes, I think we should.

358. To compel them to live in the country when they want to earn money in it. That is while they are earning it. But you had no objections to all immigrants coming in, if they come in on their own account?—No objections to desirable immigrants.

359. If they pay their own way?—Yes, if they pay their own way. We do not believe in this contract labor. Some of the companies got the better of us for three seasons about nine years ago. They brought men out in the spring from the old country. These men used to leave here every fall and take their earnings with them, and all the money was sent out of the country, and then in the spring again they came to Canada.

*By Mr. McKay:*

360. You want to be protected from this cheap labor of Europe?—Yes.

361. And their manufacturers too?—Yes, it has driven a lot of our men out of the country from the time this Bill was passed in the United States. I have known men go out of Canada, and sell their little household effects and leave their house almost bare to get money to go across the lines to get a job on account of this contract labor.

CHARLES MARCH, called and examined by Mr. Taylor:—

362. Where do you reside?—Toronto.

363. What is your business?—House painter and decorator.

364. What light can you throw on this vexed question?—I cannot, of course, give the experience that I heard Mr. Graham give, in reference to the men down in the part of the country he came from. But as a measure of protection to the workmen, not retaliation, I am decidedly in favor of that Bill as far as it goes. While I would like to go a little further, while we have suffered to some extent in Toronto from this class of labor that this Bill aims to prohibit, still we have suffered very