

Mr. King related how in 1907, when he was deputy minister of labor, there was a strike among coal miners in Western Canada. He was sent out to bring about a settlement, he said, and before he left he went to the Prime Minister, the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and asked for instructions as he wanted to know how far he could go. Sir Wilfrid, he said, told him that if he found the workmen were wrong and wouldn't yield to tell them that he (Sir Wilfrid) was prepared to send to Wales to bring in men to work the mines so that the consumers would be cared for. If the employers were wrong and would not conciliate, he said Sir Wilfrid had told him to inform them that he would take over the industry and nationalize it as a government industry.

Fullest Investigation

"I want to say to Mr. O'Brien and his employes and to all employers generally who make such statements that if those statements are carried out, the Liberal government, when elected, will get in touch with Premier Hepburn, see that his government gives assent so that there will no doubt of jurisdiction, and we will take over that plant and see that it is run. I say further that any employer may expect the fullest investigation into industry. We will have to find out how much is a safeguard to industry and a safeguard to consumers as well as to those who are getting special preferences. It will be interesting to find out how much is going to the wage earner and how much is going into the pockets of those others as profits. That's what is necessary.

"What does that assertion mean? I say it is a display of power begotten of special privileges; money power in its most arrogant form. Do you wonder that the people of Canada are in terror with those in power seeking to browbeat employes?"