

Mr. WOODSWORTH: The board of trade is the city of Calgary in the hon. gentleman's opinion.

Mr. BENNETT: It is the most representative body in the city of Calgary. The young and old men's board of trade is a representative body. If I had said citizens, I would have more nearly expressed my meaning. I did not intend to convey the view that the municipal body had passed resolutions or had taken any action in the matter, if that is what the hon. gentleman means. I desire to make it perfectly clear that that is not what was in my mind.

I had hoped, Mr. Chairman, that under the circumstances I have described this government would not precipitate this discussion nine years after the event, and in the last hours of a dying session, but if it keeps this house in session for many hours I at least cannot become a party to it. I can only voice my protest against it. To some people the securing of votes seems more important than anything else in the world. But I believe that the great mass of the labour people in this country with whom I come in contact, the men with whom I have discussed it, the men in the service of the railways, who have had similar punishment meted out to them when they committed an offence against their regulations, feel that these men in Winnipeg understood what the results would be and they accepted them as part of the trials of life; they were warned, and understanding the consequences, they took the chance, and the chance having failed, we are now asked to say that they shall be put in the position they would have been in if they had succeeded. Surely the government cannot seriously mean that. They cannot seriously ask us to do it. It is not analogous to the case in Toronto. That case is entirely different. In Toronto it was not a sympathetic strike. It was a strike of the postal workers because of their own grievances, not the grievances of somebody else. The postal workers struck because they had been injured. Believing they could not secure what they wanted in any other way, they struck, and the government of the day thought that they were right in the strike, and gave them back their positions. It was not a case of a man striking in sympathy with somebody else, not a case of striking even for some imaginary grievance. In Winnipeg the strike was an endeavour to destroy constituted authority. If the Toronto strikers had done that, the government would not have intervened. I know the minister who intervened in that regard, and he intervened properly, because their grievances were

just, and he gave them back their positions, and gave them the benefits to which they would have been entitled, and additional benefits.

There are other matters in this connection which I shall reserve to bring up as the debate proceeds. I have outlined the considerations that govern me in determining what my attitude shall be in connection with this question.

Mr. HOWDEN: I dislike very much to detain the house at this time, but I come from a constituency in Manitoba and represent part of the city of Winnipeg, and I desire to put myself on record in this matter. Notwithstanding all that has been said by the leader of the opposition, I wish to associate myself with the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, whose attitude I heartily endorse in this matter. The hon. leader of the opposition has said that we have taken this attitude in order to gain political kudos. I might say to him and to this house that I realize very well that the action which the government has offered to take in this matter has not met with very much favour in many districts of Manitoba and in the city of Winnipeg, and I have no hope of gaining any political influence whatever by my attitude in this matter. But I believe that this is only justice and fair play to these men.

There is a good deal that can be said on both sides. There is a good deal that can be said in support of these men, that they were not given a fair chance. They were supposed to have a meeting with the then leader of the government and the Minister of Labour, but through a miscarriage of the mails and one thing and another, the meeting was never consummated. I might say that the Prime Minister of Canada at that time and the Minister of Labour did make an arrangement to meet these men, but they never turned up at the meeting.

Mr. BENNETT: Is not the hon. gentleman mistaken? Did not the Prime Minister and the Minister of Labour meet them in the post office on Sunday?

Mr. HOWDEN: They did, but that was on the 25th of May, and the 24th was a holiday, and a Saturday, and there was no mail that day, and these men did not get word that they were expected to meet the Right Hon. Mr. Meighen and the Minister of Labour at that time, and so the meeting fell through. When they did not meet these gentlemen on Sunday, an arrangement was made that they would be met on Monday, but when the men turned up on Monday they