

Mr. Speaker, it is not the duty of members on this side of the House to carry out the laws. It is to the government that duty is entrusted; and when this matter was brought before the Minister of Labor a year ago, he should have taken some action to have an investigation and find out whether the report made by my hon. friend from North Victoria was correct. The hon. Finance Minister who was then acting Minister of Railways declared in the House a few evenings ago that he wrote to Mr. Hays that these complaints had been made, and that Mr. Hays denied that they had any foundation. The Minister of Railways, or the acting Minister of Railways, even spoke to Mr. Hays, and Mr. Hays again denied that they had any aliens employed on the surveys. I bring these matters up to show that the Minister of Labor must have known practically the charges that were made many months ago; yet he took no action until the 19th of April to investigate whether they were true or false. Last January the Canadian Association of Civil Engineers wrote to different members of the cabinet, making these charges, and in March they offered to the government to prove their truth, if the government would give them a chance to call witnesses. But all the minister did was to write to the Grand Trunk to find out whether they were employing aliens or not.

The Grand Trunk Admits the Charge.

The Grand Trunk did not deny the charge, but sought to disarm criticism. A concern that will bring aliens into Canada under contract to labor, if it is willing to break the law in this respect, will be quite ready to make excuses for its action. In one of the communications from Mr. Hays, written not to the Minister of Labor (Sir William Mulock), but to the Prime Minister (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), Mr. Hays acknowledges the fact that aliens have been brought in to be employed in the service of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. That letter stated that 96 per cent. of the employees were Canadians, and the others were Americans. Here in this very letter is all the proof required by the Minister of Labor (Sir William Mulock) if he really desired to put the law into effect. The other evening the Minister of Labor in-

quired tauntingly what hon. members on this side of the House had done to bring this matter to the attention of the House and the government. Well, Mr. Speaker, the House met on 10th of March, and on the 15th of March, the hon. member for Hamilton (Mr. Barker) gave notice of motion for a return as follows:

For a return showing:—

1. The number and names of all persons employed by the government or otherwise in surveys for the purposes of the eastern division of the proposed Transcontinental Railway?
2. The date of the employment of each such person, his salary, the nature and term of his employment, and the portion of the survey on which he has been employed?
3. Whether such person was so employed by the government; and if not, by whom?
4. The nationality of each such person, and his place of residence previous to such employment?

On March 17th the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke) gave notice of this inquiry:

Have any protests been received from or on behalf of the Society of Canadian Civil Engineers, or from any person or persons, respecting the employment of aliens on the surveys being made in connection with the proposed National Transcontinental Railway; and if so, from whom were such protests received, and when were they presented to the government?

The Minister of Labor must have known all this, as these complaints were laid before every member of the cabinet; and surely they tell each other what letters they receive—sometimes at any rate. On March 22nd the hon. member for Winnipeg (Mr. Puttes) gave notice of inquiry:

1. Is the government aware that survey parties are at work along the route of the proposed Transcontinental Railway between Winnipeg and Quebec?
2. Are these parties employed by the government or by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company?
3. If by the railway company, is there any understanding that the government will adopt the surveys, and pay the expenses incurred in making them?
4. In case the cost will ultimately