

newspaper having a circulation in some parts of Glace Bay, but not having anything like so large a circulation there as the newspaper that heralded his coming. The notice in the Post advised that, owing to bad roads in that part of the country, the Minister of Labour was unable to meet his friends in King's theatre. Of course, there are not very many in this House who understand our local conditions there. When I tell you—and remember that this notice did not come from the Minister of Labour or from the agent whom the Minister of Labour had advertising his meeting in Glace Bay—that the town of Glace Bay has connections by tramway every hour of the day from seven o'clock in the morning till twelve o'clock at night with the city of Sydney, where the Minister of Labour then was, you will be surprised at the excuse the Minister of Labour gave for not being able to be at Glace Bay: bad roads. Now, Sir, what happened? Hundreds of people gathered at King's theatre that night to hear the minister speak. People of both political parties were there. They were glad he was coming to their midst. But what was their surprise when eight o'clock, half-past eight, nine o'clock came, and no Minister of Labour appeared. Finally a chap came along with a copy of the Sydney Post and said: 'The bad roads have prevented the minister from coming to the meeting; and from that day to this the Minister of Labour has given no excuse and no apology to the miners and workers of Glace Bay for his non-appearance at that meeting.'

I give this as an illustration, Mr. Chairman, to show that the Minister of Labour was not serious in his task. Had he been serious, he would have considered before advertising this demonstration, and if he had been serious, after having advertised it, he would not have fooled the poor people of Glace Bay by getting them to congregate there and then not putting in an appearance. He has dealt in the same manner with this labour situation in British Columbia. He dealt with it in a jovial, good-natured way. He has not shown that he has any strength behind him; he has not shown that he has any backbone. When the serious part of the labour strike in British Columbia came on, when the riots and shooting began, the Minister of Labour went away to England to study the labour conditions there. Probably he thought he might have better roads than he had found on the island of Cape Breton. He has not handled

this question well from start to finish. If he had I believe he would have achieved the very same success that Mr. Mackenzie King achieved during the eight years between 1900 and 1908. The situation is a serious one. It is due not only to the miners of British Columbia but to all wage earners that the Minister of Labour shall exhibit a strong arm in this matter. If there is no provision made in the law under which he can act, let him bring down some of the amendments that he and his party preached about before 1911, let him amend the Act so as to make it applicable to all cases that may arise, let him bring those amendments down this session, and if the minister brings them down this session, he will have the satisfaction, small though it is, I admit, of knowing that I, at least, will come to the conclusion that he is giving the affairs of his department some serious consideration.

Mr. F. H. SHEPHERD (Nanaimo): Mr. Chairman, representing as I do, a constituency on the Island of Vancouver, I wish to say a few words in regard to this matter. I will commence by referring to the charge of the hon. member for Carleton, N.B. (Mr. Carvell), that I have been guilty of apathy during the last year in that I have not taken any interest or part in the trouble on Vancouver Island. I assure the hon. gentleman that during last session there was no disturbance such as he would lead the House to believe existed at that time in my constituency. At one mine, belonging to Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann, in my constituency, the men had been on strike since September 16, 1912. The men employed in the mine at Nanaimo had been on strike from May 1, and, of course, the House adjourned on June 6, 1913. But there was no disturbance in my constituency such as the hon. gentleman would indicate to this committee. We have been led to believe, and I think rightly so, that the main object of this trouble is to secure the recognition of the United Mine Workers of America. But this was not the initial cause. I wish particularly to refer to this feature of the matter because it bears upon a report that appeared in the Citizen a few days ago reflecting very seriously upon the Minister of Mines of British Columbia for not ordering an investigation to be made in reference to the discrimination of the Gas Committee who examined the mine at Extension. I wish briefly to put forward the position of the Minister of Mines in that regard. The Mines Regula-