

It is true that the Fraser valley area is of tremendous importance to the economy of British Columbia. When one visits the great city of Vancouver and realizes how it relies for its food, for its milk, for its butter, for its eggs, and for its poultry upon that great area of the Fraser valley, he knows that these people have received a tremendous blow from which it will take them a long time to recover. What we are chiefly concerned about is not so much what has happened but what will be done in the future to prevent at any time a repetition of this disaster, because one never knows what nature will do in the mountainous areas of British Columbia. And given conditions such as we have had this spring, unless adequate steps are taken to prevent it, we can have just such a disaster again in the course of a very few years. That is the one thing we are anxious to avoid.

If a national survey had been taken in previous years, and a policy of flood control had been put into operation, it would not have cost anything near the same amount of money that this will cost the Dominion of Canada, whether provincially or federally. Therefore we are most anxious to see, not only that the damage shall be repaired just as soon as possible and the people rehabilitated, but that the government shall take a long-range view of the needs of that whole area in British Columbia to ensure that the best engineering minds are brought into the question and that adequate steps are taken to prevent a repetition of these events.

There are several other members from British Columbia whose constituencies have suffered considerably from flood damage. They may not all feel like speaking tonight and participating in this debate, but they, too, are wondering what will happen to their people.

I want to commend once again, as I have already done in the house, the action of the government and especially the Department of National Defence in the splendid efforts that have been put forth by all branches of the service. We also appreciate to the full what the civilian population has done. They have not just sat idly by and expected someone else to do the job for them. Many of them have toiled unceasingly to save not only their own homes but the homes of others. Mention has been made in the house tonight in appreciative terms of what the civilian population has done; but we do hope that in the very near future the Prime Minister will make a statement that will bring relief to the minds of those who are so bitterly distressed while we are gathered here discussing this matter, a statement of what the government is prepared to do by way of immediate rehabilitation.

SEAMEN'S STRIKE ON INLAND WATERS—REQUEST
FOR ABOLITION OF TOLLS ON VICTORIA AND
JACQUES CARTIER BRIDGES

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver East): I am not going to try to add to the excellent statements which have been made by hon. members of all parties in regard to the disaster that has befallen British Columbia. There is complete unanimity among the members as to the extent of the damage and what should be done both in the short-term and long-term program. I did not rise until now, because I want to speak on another subject. I have made sure that no other member from British Columbia is anxious to speak on the flood situation.

This morning on the orders of the day I asked a question of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mitchell) in regard to a serious labour dispute which exists close to this city, and which has been going on for some considerable time. I refer to the seamen's strike in which the Minister of Labour and his department have done some very active work. He brushed my question aside in a most frivolous manner. I gather from what the Minister of Labour said this morning that if certain employers and the Minister of Labour do not like the political affiliations of members of a trade union they are not going to receive the advantages which they should receive and which are available, by the law of the land, to all other organized workers when engaged in labour disputes. Certain employers' organizations can ignore and defy these laws if they do it on the basis of the political affiliations of the labour organizations they are dealing with. If they do it on that basis, then it is all right as far as the Minister of Labour is concerned. I think that is a dangerous position to take. What is required in the seamen's strike is that publicity be given to the facts. Let the people know exactly what is the cause of the strike, and that is what I am going to do tonight. In doing so, I shall use government documents to show what the situation really is.

Speaking during the Ontario election campaign in the constituency of Welland, the Minister of Labour said, as reported in the *Toronto Daily Star*:

I am a great believer in conciliation and I don't believe you can settle labour disputes by putting people in jail.

But that is exactly the way in which this particular labour dispute is being settled.

In the matter of the dispute between the seamen's union and Colonial Steamships Limited and Sarnia Steamships Limited, the Minister of Labour appointed a conciliator. The conciliator was not able to do anything,