

Judge Winchester and I, as Police Commissioners, took strong ground against any affiliation between the police force of our city and the American union but notwithstanding our attitude the men went on strike, and after two weeks we had a hard time inducing them to come back. The same thing happened in the Street Cleaning Department and in other branches as well. But what did we do under the circumstances? We had to use a little diplomacy, because you cannot talk to labour men to-day in the same tone that you could adopt 25 years ago; high-handed measures will not go down with them. If the Acting Postmaster General were better acquainted with the work which he has under his supervision and if he knew more regarding what he is talking about, above all, if he had a little more experience in the handling of a labour situation, he would not wield the big stick as he has done in this instance. The Minister of Labour and some other ministers can take a trip over to the Geneva Labour Convention to pacify Europe, and here we see them absolutely unable to pacify a few postmen. I think it is very unfortunate indeed that some ten or fifteen amputation cases have been let go without any consideration, and something should be done to take care of these men. There is no doubt that the average citizen of Toronto is unsympathetic to men in a public utility going on strike, but we must not forget that some of the returned men among the strikers are in very needy circumstances and have been the victims of unwise advice. But I would urge the government to provide better wages for the men. The government ought to be fair in this matter. They are making \$6,000,000 out of the city of Toronto in postal administration and they should certainly be able to afford the men more reasonable wages. The municipal council of Toronto employs some 12,000 men and certainly they could not afford to talk to their men in the way this government has done. We gave those men an eight hour day and fair working conditions.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Vien): Order. The item under discussion is No. 22 relating to salaries and contingencies and the hon. member is out of order in discussing the strike.

Mr. CHURCH: I do not intend to transgress the rules, Mr. Chairman, but as the charge has been brought against me of influencing these men I think it is only fair that I should be given an opportunity to repudiate it. Having said this, I will resume my seat.

Item agreed to.

[Mr. Church.]

Printing bureau—Plant, new, \$37,500.

Mr. MURDOCK: This item is \$28,500 less than the vote of last year. There is in a large plant such as the Printing bureau a permanent necessity for the renewing of certain machinery and this estimate is to meet these purposes.

Mr. MEIGHEN: The government took the vote last year to build a new bureau. Was anything done in pursuance of that?

Mr. MURDOCK: No.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Surely these men are not labouring under the dangerous conditions which the minister pictured at that time?

Mr. MURDOCK: The situation now is practically the same as it was then.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Then I take it the minister has decided that the opposition of that day was right.

Mr. MURDOCK: No, I have not so decided. Personally I think it would be better to go ahead but the desire to spend as little money as possible and try to get along under the circumstances explains the situation.

Mr. MEIGHEN: It is a case of the rest of the government coming to the point of view of the opposition and the minister being dragged along unrepentant.

Mr. MURDOCK: No; I do not expect and never have expected to have my own way.

Item agreed to.

Miscellaneous printing, \$20,000.

Mr. SPENCER: Explain.

Mr. MURDOCK: This is to cover the cost of printing and binding all books or publications issued by order of either or both houses of parliament or of any department.

Item agreed to.

Miscellaneous—To provide for compassionate allowance to the widow of the late Harry G. Andrews, \$1,080.

Mr. MEIGHEN: Was Andrews killed while in the government service?

Mr. MURDOCK: He had been in the department since it was established. He was suffering from tuberculosis, and before we could retire him he died. This is to give the widow the benefit of his allowance on retirement.

Mr. MEIGHEN: I understand there is no item in this year's estimates for the new Printing bureau?