

and influence in with those who, if they had succeeded would have destroyed constitutional government in Winnipeg. They failed and when the strikers failed and the strike failed they came back for employment. But they came back too late. That is all this case is.

My hon. friend put this case. He said: Other employers take back their people and give them positions. Let us admit all that. That has nothing at all to do with this case. This is the body politic fighting for its life. This is the nation fighting for its existence. This is the struggle between constituted government and bolshevism. It was a struggle between the municipal institutions at Winnipeg and the soviet form of government and that was the case put by my hon. friend in his prosecution. He may not have put it in those words, but that is the case he put and that is the case upon which a conviction was made. Now we are asked to do what? This parliament, which is not like an ordinary employer, which provides its oath of office for those who are its employees, which protects all the citizens, which makes the laws, the criminal laws, and provides in part for their administration, within the province, it is true, and under provincial jurisdiction, is now asked to say that those men who went back to work afterwards shall be placed in the same position so far as their employment is concerned as if they had never gone out on strike. We are asked to vote \$115,000 to do that. The letter carriers may have insufficient pay; the railway mail clerks may be badly paid; but \$115,000 is to be raised by the taxpayers of Canada to provide for additional compensation to those who left the service and declined to return under the conditions I have mentioned.

That is the case and that is a case to which I am opposed and to which I think most thoughtful citizens are opposed. You may curry favour for a moment with men by adopting the position that you are the champion of their cause; that you are going to see that they are placed in the position which they do not now enjoy; but within their hearts they themselves know that they have not been treated unjustly or unfairly. I have talked with some of them. I have talked with one of them who came from the old province of New Brunswick and who is now in California. He belonged to a very ancient family in New Brunswick. He fought in the Boer war. He lost his position; he yielded to the importunities of those who would induce him to relinquish allegiance to the state. He gave up his position; he went on strike without a grievance. He could not get back his posi-

[Mr. Bennett.]

tion and he is still without it. He left Canada, and in the conversations that I have had with him I have never heard him say for a single moment that he did not deserve the punishment that he received for his action.

Is the House of Commons to put a premium upon this sort of thing? Are we prepared to say that those who do this shall be rewarded? You say: Ah, well, these men are receiving a very small wage. Some of them have never risen from the position they first occupied. Some of them are still in the position in which they were originally and have made no progress upwards. Perhaps half of them in Winnipeg and Calgary have risen to the position which they formerly occupied and are receiving the salary which they were receiving at the time they left the service of the state. Others have not. It is too bad that this is so; but justice is blind; justice is concerned not only with the offender but with the body politic against which the blow was struck. The criminal courts, as was said this afternoon, are not there to punish persons vindictively; they are not instruments to enable one man to effect an evil purpose against another. But the criminal courts are established in this country for the purpose of enabling the rights of all the citizens to be enjoyed without impairment and without destruction by any man. These men, when they took their choice, when without any personal grievance they left the service and declined to go back, contemplated all that and justice to those who remained, justice to those who went back and justice to the people of Canada demands that we shall not interfere; that the logical and inevitable results of what men have done shall visit them in all their conduct. There is not one of us who does not appreciate and understand that. Now we are asked to interpose the strong arm of the state between cause and effect. The cause was there. The effect was there. We are now asked that the state shall remove the effect. I cannot agree to that.

The city of Calgary which I represent has sent me telegrams and letters with respect to this matter. I have received them from Vancouver and from other places.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Does the hon. member say that the city of Calgary has sent telegrams?

Mr. BENNETT: Not as a municipal body, if that is what my hon. friend means.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That is what I am asking about. What body in Calgary was it?

Mr. BENNETT: The board of trade.