

shall feel both obligated and delighted to give every credit to the splendid part you played at Calgary. Your readiness to take up the question of reducing the hours of labour for outside men at my solicitation will ever be remembered by myself, more especially in view of the fact that it produced results, and it is results that count. Again thanking you for your assistance, and fully appreciating the delicacy of your position in appearing before employer and employee.

I have dozens of letters of that character coming from leading representatives of labour in Canada. And yet my hon. friend from Saskatoon picks up something that he hears the members of a labour council in Saskatoon had said,—men who have never had anything to do with the Industrial Disputes Act,—and talks about the labour people of Canada becoming more and more dissatisfied with this Act and feeling that they have not the sympathy of the Department of Labour. The hon. gentleman does not take the trouble to inquire at the source where he could have got the facts before speaking in this way.

Let me give the hon. gentleman one or two more instances. I had not been long in charge of the department before my attention was called to what purported to be a copy of an agreement which a large employer of labour required his men to sign, one of the provisions of which was that he would have no man working for him who was a member of a labour organization, and if he found one of his employees to be connected with such an organization, he would dismiss him. Without having received complaint from anybody, I wrote to the manager of this concern telling him that I had seen this document. I received a reply which was very amusing. Among other things, the writer said he never had had a member of a labour organization in his employ, and never would have, even though it meant that the wheels of his factory did not turn for forty years. I wrote back that a man was not to be discriminated against because he thought it in his own interest or in that of his wife or family, on intellectual, social or other grounds, to belong to a labour organization, so far as I could influence or assist in preventing it. About two and a half years after that I was informed that this same employer of labour had received a contract from the Government for the making of militia supplies. I wrote to him to this effect: When our former correspondence took place you were carrying on a private enterprise, but I am told that you now have a contract with this Government for the making of certain

goods. Had I known at the time you would not have got that contract, if I could have prevented it, and I will take good care that you do not get any more contracts, if I can prevent it, unless you waive that obnoxious agreement which you insist upon your men signing. He came down off the perch as rapidly as the postal trains could bring a letter. He said: I have already advised my men that I will not require them to sign that agreement any more; and I hope you will do what you can to get more contracts for me

Mr. MACLEAN: The man changed his view because he had got a Government contract?

Mr. CROTHERS: Changed it to the benefit of his men.

Mr. MACLEAN: I do not understand that to be the case.

Mr. CROTHERS: Does the hon. gentleman understand that he waived that term of the agreement—

Mr. GRAHAM: Yes, because he got a Government contract.

Mr. CROTHERS: I do not care why it was, the men got the advantage of my action in securing their liberty to join a labour organization if they desired to do so. Let me give another instance which occurred a few weeks ago. I saw it stated in the newspaper that certain coal dealers in Montreal were selling coal in the central part of the city at \$15 a ton and in the suburbs at \$20 a ton. I did not wait to write a letter even. I wired to the Mayor of Montreal, told him what I had seen in the press, and asked him whether there was any truth in it or not. I did not wait. Yet, the hon. member for Saskatoon thinks that we have no sympathy with the poor working men in this country and that they do not think we have any sympathy with them. All I can say is that any information of that kind which he has got comes from men who know nothing about the Labour Department or about the Industrial Disputes Act. The men who do know appreciate it and appreciate the way it is being administered. They did so before I was placed in charge of the department and they have done so since. I have no doubt, after five years' experience, that the principles of the Industrial Disputes Act are good, and that they are in the interest of industrial peace. They have prevented scores and scores of strikes