

Unemployment Relief

must be able to function more promptly than in this case where application was made on May 3 and up to June 21 no notification of the board having been set up was received; that is, up to date, no chairman has been appointed to act in this capacity.

Mr. Muise, our representative on the board, carried out his part and submitted the names, while the company's representative did not submit any names and gave no reason for his not accepting any of the men whom Mr. Muise was willing to accept. The following are the names of men whom Mr. Muise submitted, any one of whom would be acceptable to him as chairman of the board.

Mr. McLARTY: I do not think my hon. friend should read those names. If as Minister of Labour I am to act upon a recommendation by Mr. Muise as to various representatives on the board, then the names should not be known.

Mr. GILLIS: The names which Mr. Muise submitted?

Mr. McLARTY: I do not think it would be fair to tell me that, let alone make it known to the committee. If with that knowledge I selected one of those names, the operators might contend that I did so because I had been asked to do it. I have been very careful in selecting the chairman of a board, where a chairman cannot be agreed upon.

Mr. GILLIS: That is the point at issue. The operators absolutely refuse to accept any of these men.

Mr. McLARTY: That, of course, is their privilege. The operators do not have to make a selection from some panel that is submitted by the local union, and on the other hand the union does not have to make a selection from some panel submitted by the operators. If they can agree upon a chairman, very well; if they cannot agree, it is my duty as Minister of Labour to appoint a chairman.

Mr. GILLIS: The point Mr. McKay had in mind in writing was that the application has been pending now for two months, and the workers' contracts have expired.

Mr. McLARTY: I understood the hon. member to say May 23?

Mr. GILLIS: Yes, and this is the latter part of June. Their contracts expired eighteen months ago. It is felt that the operators in Nova Scotia are taking advantage of the war and the men's desire to continue at work, instead of using their only weapon, which is the strike, and that the operators are simply dragging this thing along. There is absolutely no reason why the names that have been submitted should not be acceptable. They are the names of lawyers and judges, not connected with labour in any shape or form.

[Mr. Gillis.]

One of them, in fact, is a coal company official. There is no reason why the operators should take this attitude. Their refusal to accept a chairman simply means that the thing is dragging along and they are keeping wages where they are as long as they possibly can, taking advantage of the war situation. What Mr. McKay is afraid of, and what I am afraid of, is that the miners in these two sections are going to be forced into a false position through being compelled to strike regardless of the war.

Mr. McLARTY: Has the board not been set up? Is it not merely awaiting a chairman?

Mr. GILLIS: It has taken since May 3 to decide upon a chairman, and I think it is pretty nearly time for the Department of Labour to select a chairman.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr. Fournier, Hull): The hon. member is out of order. We are discussing section 3, which concerns agreements with provinces and others.

Mr. GILLIS: The reason why I brought this matter up was that by reason of the dispute the miners of these two sections may be on the government's hands, unemployed, if something is not speedily done. I am through with that subject, Mr. Chairman.

Another matter which I wish to bring to the attention of the Minister of Labour is unemployment among the fishermen of Nova Scotia. There are approximately 40,000 fishermen in our province, and the fisherman can very well be termed the forgotten man. Almost every phase of our economic life is discussed in practically all groups where any talking is done, yet the fisherman is seldom mentioned. I know that the federal government is assisting in the establishment of cooperatives. It has made a generous gesture in that connection which is appreciated very much, but on the whole the plight of the fisherman is deplorable. What I am concerned about is the contributing factors which put the fisherman in this plight, because, apart from direct relief, there are measures which could be taken that would be of material assistance to the fisherman.

In the town of Glace Bay, for example, a man whose earnings are \$200 or \$300 a year is practically on relief 365 days a year. The harbour at Glace Bay is in such a condition that it is retarding the fishing industry of that town. The harbour master of Glace Bay has written me a letter in which he sets out the facts. But first let me say that if the fishermen in that section do not receive assistance in the form of harbour improvements this season, the chances are that the harbour will have to be closed. Considerable correspondence