

lock regarding the complaint of the civil engineers of Canada that preference was given to foreign engineers on the surveys of the Grand Trunk Pacific. I do not know why the hon. minister chose that particular evening to bring on the discussion, unless he wished to bring it on before a thin House. On Friday evening a great many members, as a rule, leave for home, and the hon. minister probably thought to take advantage of their absence and thus avoid the full discussion which would have taken place had the subject come up on another day. The hon. the leader of the opposition had made a motion asking for copies of letters and documents from the civil engineers, and the Minister of Labor knew that he had not done his duty when he failed to investigate the complaints which these men had laid before the government, and was anxious to avoid discussion as much as possible. But if the debate turned out disastrous to himself and his party, as it did, he had only himself to blame. In his attempt at defence, he tried to draw a herring across the trail by making a most unjustifiable and unfair attack on the hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Clarke). The course of that gentleman on the labor question needs no defence. If there is a man who has stood by the laboring classes, it is the hon. member for West Toronto. He has not played to the galleries as is the custom of the Minister of Labor, and as that minister did the other night when he read the letters from the civil engineers. For many years that hon. gentleman was in this House before he became a minister of the Crown, and in all these years he cannot show that he ever had anything to say in the interests of the laboring classes. But take the record of the hon. member for West Toronto, and we will find that for over thirty years he has been continuously identified with the labor interests of this country. He gave his energetic aid to the men to vindicate their right to organize themselves into unions, and that at a time when the political friends of the Minister of Labor and his party were trying to crush the unions by sending men to jail, including the hon. member for West Toronto himself; and never under any circumstances was he known to have re-

ceived one cent of money from any labor union for his services.

The Government's Gross Neglect.

When the Minister of Labor charges my hon. friend with having made his living out of a labor commission he makes a charge which he must know to be thoroughly unwarranted in fact. My hon. friend (Mr. Clarke) has had conferred upon him by the citizens of Toronto the highest honor at their command. In that city, where he is best known, he has had the honor of being elected mayor during four consecutive years; in the Ontario legislature, he represented the city of Toronto during 8 years; and at the last election he polled the largest vote obtained by any candidate elected to this House, as well as the largest majority gained by any hon. member in the province of Ontario. I venture to assert that my hon. friend, who is printer, and who knows the needs of the working men of this country, has done more to alleviate their condition since he has been a member of this House than the Minister of Labor and the cabinet which he belongs to ever dreamt of accomplishing. Does the Minister of Labor forget that it was the hon. member for West Toronto who brought up in this House year after year the question of remuneration of the civil service? Does he forget that it was my hon. friend who was the first to raise his voice in the interests of the trackmen of the Grand Trunk Railway, who were getting from ninety cents to one dollar per day? And if the government have appointed an officer to examine into and report on the causes of all railway accidents in which human life is lost, who was it that impressed on the government the necessity of doing this? It was my hon. friend; it was he who first brought that matter to the attention of this House. In connection with the civil engineers, the Minister of Labor tried to defend the work he had done. Last session the hon. member for North Victoria (Mr. Hughes) openly declared that the great majority of the civil engineers employed to make the surveys of Grand Trunk Pacific Ry. in the Northwest were Americans and allens. Yet still the Minister of Labor has the assurance to ask what hon. members on this side have done for the workingmen. But,