

## BRINGING THE LAW INTO DISREPUTE

What is happening in some sectors of the asbestos mining district of the Eastern Townships does not have the earmarks of normal actions of Quebec workingmen. Continued violence including assaults and the setting off of dynamite blasts, has focused the attention of the rest of the province upon a locality which is ordinarily a peaceful one, and what can be seen there is not good. Any such approach to anarchy as appears to be developing in the district is bad for the province as a whole. The ultimate effect of such disturbances, if too prolonged, will be to strike a blow at respect for and observance of law generally.

Premier Duplessis, in an interview on the subject over the week-end, pointed out just why the strike is an illegal one. He in no way contended against the right of workers to strike, but he insisted that this right is predicated upon the observance by both employers and employees of laws created for the protection of both management and labor. The refusal of strike leaders in the Asbestos area to conform to these laws in the adjustment of their dispute with the mines made the strike an illegal one.

In the flouting of this law he saw the natural forerunner of the violence which breaks still other laws. "With the fundamental law held in contempt," he said, "it means there is no security or stability for anyone, and workmen would be the first to suffer the disastrous consequences brought about by contempt for law and constituted authority."

It is to be hoped that the Premier's words are heeded not only in the asbestos district, but elsewhere. Such conditions are particularly intolerable at a time where there are so many dangerous elements working, and cleverly, to set class against class, to destroy the confidence of the people in each other and bring into disrepute the laws of the land under which most citizens are content to live.

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