

nation will reconsider the asinine stupidity of giving any class a blanket right to exploit the lives of its people in the future as in the past.

Canada is a country where manufacturing can be carried on quite as advantageously as in any other country. I say this despite all the howls of ruin indulged in by the manufacturers and their representatives in this House. We have been inundated during the last two or three years with literature regarding the dying state of the cotton and woollen industries. Let us see how some of them stand to-day. Let us see how some of them have fared since 1921 when this government began "monkeying" with the tariff and when they created an "instability", as I think it is called. Montreal cottons is the first I have on my list. The lowest quotation of its stock in 1921 was 90, and in 1925 it went up to 116. Penman's common stock in 1921 was quoted at 91, and in 1925 that stock was quoted at 185. Does this look like ruin? The lowest quotation for Penman's preferred in 1921 was 78, but in 1925 it was quoted as high as 103.

Mr. CAHAN: You are giving the lowest in one case and the highest in the other, are you not?

Mr. EVANS: In 1925 the highest was 103 and the lowest 99.

Mr. CAHAN: That comes nearer to it.

Mr. EVANS: In 1921 the lowest quotation for Penman's preferred was 78. Now let me take Dominion Textiles. The lowest quotation for the common stock in 1923 was 61½. In 1925 the highest quotation was 95½. Now Dominion Textiles preferred: In 1921, the lowest quotation was 89½ and the highest 105. In 1925, the highest was 119, and the lowest 111.

Mr. CAHAN: Does the hon. gentleman think that indicates increasing prosperity on the part of the industry?

Mr. EVANS: Well, I do not know why people would be buying the stock at an increased price unless such was the case.

Mr. CAHAN: I could furnish an explanation quickly.

Mr. EVANS: It seems to me that the more ruinous legislation this government brings in, the better these industries thrive. Such are some of the facts as they stand to-day. I would not have spoken on the budget this year but for the fact that the wail of the industrial lords filled the House.

Mr. H. G. Wells lately said he was out to salvage civilization before the disintegration became irreparable. Our ears are deafened

[Mr. Evans]

these days by the clamour of press, platform and parliament to quit our individual self-seeking, forget our vocational and class interests, stifle our sectionalism and devote ourselves to—what? To the welfare of the members of an acquisitive group arrogantly regarding themselves as the state, who, having control of all those agencies for the moulding of public opinion, try to make us believe that in doing so we are patriots when in truth both agriculturists and workers are made their slaves.

Mr. PRICE: May I ask the hon. gentleman a question? The mileage from Regina to Fort William over the Canadian railways is 776 miles, and the freight rate twenty cents per hundred pounds. The mileage from Glasgow, Montana, to Duluth is 783 miles, or seven miles farther, and the rate is thirty-five cents per hundred pounds over the American roads. Would the hon. gentlemen suggest a further reduction in the Canadian rates?

Mr. EVANS: If the hon. gentleman wants an answer to that question I will say that the stand taken by the Progressive party ever since its inception is public ownership and operation of all public utilities, and that these public utilities should be operated at cost and without profit. There is no other country in the world with a railway system with which you can compare the railway system of Canada. Canada has a long haul for heavy commodities such as wheat, twice as long as that in most of the other great exporting countries. So it is unfair to compare the railway rates in Canada with the railway rates in any other country.

On motion of Mr. Donnelly the debate was adjourned.

On motion of Mr. Robb the House adjourned at 11.33 p.m.

Friday, May 7, 1926

The House met at three o'clock.

REPORT PRESENTED

First report of the select standing committee on Banking and Commerce.—Mr. Malcolm.

CHANGES IN THE BUDGET

On the Orders of the Day:

Right Hon. ARTHUR MEIGHEN (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Finance (Mr. Robb) stated there would be no substantial changes in the budget. I do not think I am far astray in drawing the inference that there will be some