

the tyrannical violence of any combination from disposing of his labour on such terms and conditions as he chooses on the one hand and on the other that no trusts or combines be permitted on any pretext to filch from him any part of the wages of his labour.

I have said there has been a confusion of ideas on this matter. I have pointed out the complete distinction which exists between annuities and old-age pensions. There has been a confusion also as to the number of men who are likely to be desirous of availing themselves of such a project, and who have the means of doing so. There has been confusion likewise, as I have said, as to the risk of interference with insurance companies, with which this measure at any rate does not interfere at all, and likewise, I think, over the question whether the government was likely to outstep its legitimate functions in providing such a means for those who choose to avail themselves of it, of guarding against penury in their old age. I do not want to lay too much stress—because circumstances differ in different countries—on the fact which has been alluded to by my hon. friend from Kingston, that an annuity which is a purchase where a man pays his money and obtains an equivalent and nothing more, is a totally different thing from a pension, in this, that the purchase of an annuity strengthens a man's self-reliance and independence, while the gift of a pension in a great many cases tends to debase and demoralize him. One of these proceedings—although it may be temporarily expedient under different conditions from those which prevail in Canada—is at the best a doubtful remedy. The other may well prove a means of preventing grave mischief in the not distant future. The duty of