

not manufacture the coffins, but they bought them from the dealers, and there was a combine to prevent manufacturers selling them to other people. How is the Government going to deal with such cases? This clause of the tariff will be inoperative, and it cannot be applied to any of these combines. You cannot punish them by this Act; but the Government would be able to put screws on the manufacturers at a critical period. They could threaten them; they could say: We have heard, and there is no investigation, and no evidence taken. Can these hon. gentlemen opposite give any reason why the illegal acts of combines should not be taken before the courts? If the law to-day is not strong enough and long enough to reach them, then make the law strong enough and leave it for the courts of the land to decide. That is the only proper course to adopt in regard to that matter. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Government should reconsider this clause referring to combines, and that they should withdraw it, because they cannot point to one good result that will come from it.

I wish now to refer to another matter in connection with preferential trade. According to the resolution introduced, the countries that are to have preferential trade with Canada are to be selected by the Controller of Customs, subject to the authority of the Governor in Council; and we were told this afternoon, that the Controller of Customs has full power to do all this himself. Sir, I do not think such power should be placed in the hands of any man. The power of making treaties, which is not so great a power as you propose to confer upon the Controller of Customs, has been most jealously guarded by all parliaments, and here in Canada the Government is not given power to make a treaty. It must come to this House, and be discussed, and be ratified, before it becomes the law of the land. Then, why does this Government seek for this great power to be conferred upon one member of the Government. I am free to admit, that if it is to be conferred upon any one member, the Controller of Customs is the proper officer on whom to confer it; but I hold that it is a great mistake to confer that power upon a single member of the Government, or even to confer it upon the whole Government. We in Canada want to decide that question upon the floor of Parliament, and we as representatives of the people have a right to be heard upon that matter. On every question that comes up with reference to preferential trade, the people's representatives on the floor of Parliament have an indefeasible right to be heard. Therefore, I say, that the proposal is entirely wrong in principle and should not be adopted by this House. Mr. Speaker, there are some other matters that I might refer to, but it is just about 6 o'clock, and I

thank the House for having listened to me so patiently.

In conclusion I wish to say, that taking the tariff as a whole, I believe it to be injurious to the people of Canada. I refer to those items in which the Government have made changes. Where they have left the tariff as it was, of course we on this side of the House, as well as gentlemen on the other side, must admit that it is pretty good. I contend that in every single instance where changes have been made these changes are indefensible, and that they will wipe out the industries of this country which are affected by them, and which industries have been built up under the tariff of the Conservative Government. We can recognize in the construction of the tariff, that there was an attempt made to please everybody, but the consequence is they have pleased nobody. The hon. the Premier can say to the free traders behind him: You say we have not a free trade tariff, but did you listen to our speeches on the floor of the House; did you hear the Finance Minister; did you hear the Minister of Trade and Commerce; would you desire to have better free trade speeches than they made? And then, he can say to his protectionist friends behind him: You object to our free trade programmes, but look at the facts, why nine-tenths of the articles are left where the protectionists left them. He will please one party by quoting the speeches, and he will please the other party by referring to the large number of articles that have been left at the same tariff as the Conservative Government left them.

The PRIME MINISTER. Then it is pleasing everybody?

Mr. CAMPBELL. That is what he is mad about.

Mr. WALLACE. Sir, I am delighted to know that to such an extent have this Government recognized the fact, that protection is the policy for this country, that they have left 90 per cent of the articles at the same rate of duty as under the old tariff. I have too much consideration for the welfare of the people of this country to be displeased with such action as that. I believe that the prosperity of Canada is bound up in a protective policy, and I say that in every case that the present Government has departed from that policy, they have made a very serious mistake.

It being Six o'clock, the Speaker left the Chair.

— OF DEPOSED.

Mr. MACDONALD (Huron). Mr. Speaker, in rising to make a few observations on the questions which have been discussed before this House for the last few days, I wish at the outset to offer my congratulations to the