

petition than the original act itself. I want to state right here that a real reign of terror has been inaugurated by the Customs department, by the board that administers this act, and so effective is this court of the inquisition that none of its victims will dare to give information as to the treatment they have received, lest the screws be put on a little tighter next time, and the rack be screwed a little further. Indeed, the whole idea of the dumping act is to make it absolutely impossible to import goods of any kind. A paragraph in a letter from one of the great distributing firms in western Canada has this to say regarding the dumping act:

The imposition of the dumping duty means we are trading in the dark not knowing just exactly what our costs are until after the goods are received and re-shipped out, the duty in some cases being applied after we have even made collection.

Now, while in some years the duty collected under this dumping clause has not exceeded \$75,000, yet we keep an army of inspectors in foreign countries to harass the exporters there, and to examine the books of the manufacturers to see that they are not falsifying their invoices. In face of this I ask is it any wonder that our foreign trade is falling off when we invite the foreigner in this way to treat us always with suspicion.

I am glad to see that the government has seen fit, on second thought, to cancel the regulation made on April 8, this year and restore the regulation of September 1, 1914. Coming as it did concurrently with the changes provided for in the budget it looked as though the manufacturers had again been satisfied that the budget provisions would not in any way hurt them. Here let me again state that changes of this nature should not be left in the hands of any one man or even a board to administer, more especially a board that is appointed with the sanction of those who are interested in tariff protection only. The dumping act is administered to-day in the interests of the manufacturers by a board trained by themselves, the head of that board being in former days a servant of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association as their tariff expert. I want to tell the House that no statutory regulations govern it at all; each case is decided according as they see fit and the exigency of the matter from the viewpoint of monopoly and exploitation.

As far as the consumers of this country are concerned the dumping act is a piece of galley-slave legislation, robbing citizens of their rights as such and giving a favoured few the right to exploit the rest of us. The old dumping act as redrafted in 1907 was surely bad enough, and gave the Minister of Cus-

toms wide latitude of privilege on the one hand while it permitted exploitation on the other. Our agricultural societies have for many years been discriminated against in its application, in that those who have had to administer it would not concede to co-operative companies the right to be classed as jobbers or dealers in any lines of goods they wanted to import notwithstanding their continuance in the business or the amount of goods they were buying. I maintain, as I have done before in this House, that in the matter of importations no government has the right to discriminate between one citizen and the other. If I can go to the United States, or any other country and buy from a manufacturer at manufacturers' prices, all that I should be expected to do is to pay the scheduled rate of duty on my purchases on entry into this country.

That is my right as a citizen and unless I am accorded that right I am not exercising my citizenship to the full as I should do. To-day the Minister of Customs can actually determine the purchasing power of the dollar of the workers, or the meagre earnings of the agriculturists, who have to shoulder the burden of providing for the protectionists' voracious appetite. The dumping act with these changes mentioned is the one thing to-day that stands between us and the lowering of the cost of living in this country and bringing the cost of production in line with world prices. My protectionist friends to my right and protectionist Liberals opposite wish to distract our attention from this to the state of Europe. Here, they say, lies all our trouble. Europe may be in the best state imaginable as to trade, but here is a measure that prevents the non-protected class of this country from coming in line to take advantage of any improved world conditions. I say it is at the bottom of all our troubles to-day. Abolish the dumping act now and next year you can abolish the bonus to the civil servants, and they will thank you for it. Abolish the dumping act and wages on the farm and in the factories and on the railways can be immediately lowered. Production will come in line with world's prices, and transportation rates will be cut so that the commerce of this country can move freely to and from the markets of the world. It is certainly a sorry business for a government to step in between one citizen and another and to say to one, "You may import on the manufacturer's invoiced price", and to say to the other, "You will have to pay a dumping duty, equal to the difference between the price you bought the goods for and the fair market value for