

engaged in agriculture and others requiring advances the amounts which they require on the direct security of chattels. A simple form comprehensive in terms could easily be made a record, and when made of record would create a lien on the chattels. In this way there would be a fair, proper, and safe extension on banking accommodations, and agriculture would receive a stimulus. I submit this for the consideration of those who may have this matter in charge.

Another matter that is referred to in the Speech is an investigation into the alleged combine in connection with shipping rates. That brings to mind the allegation, particularly, of the member who now occupies the position of Minister of Labour (Mr. Murdock) in this government in the last election campaign, that combines were rampant, that they were numerous, and the Dominion Textiles Corporation was mentioned. It was pointed out that they were simply eating up the poor people of this country, and he promised that there would be investigations; that there would be prosecutions, and that this matter would be attended to at once. Since he has come into the House, we have not heard so much about the matter. We have not had any investigations; we have not had any prosecutions, and if these combines did exist, they have been allowed to continue and to flourish.

Redistribution is in order, and this suggests a subject of considerable difficulty and possibly of bitter strife. I hope this will not be necessary, and I do not think it is necessary if the government who will have the measure in charge, is prepared to follow well-established lines, to make a fair distribution, to adhere to county boundaries, and to appoint a committee of all parties represented in this House who will, upon these general principles, settle the details of this troublesome matter. I think it was one of the members of the Progressive party who suggested that we might have proportional representation in some of the cities. I do not know why this experiment should be wished upon cities and not upon other parts of the Dominion. I suggest that it might as well be tried out in Manitoba or Saskatchewan or Alberta; but I am not in favour of it at all. I think, when you consider the fact that only about sixty to seventy per cent of the electors vote in any general election, you will find, if you ask them to adopt a new and complicated system, that a smaller proportion of the vote will be cast. The results of this are uncertain; it leads to groups and to group government with all its compromises, with all its uncertainties, and

with the difficulty of fixing responsibility. What I think the Canadian people desire is that they shall, by a direct, simple and positive method, be able to cast their votes in favour of a government which they approve or against a government which they do not approve, and the present method is the best calculated to accomplish that result. I admit, of course, that there are anomalies and inconsistencies in connection with the present method. Sometimes the majority of the voters do not elect a majority of the members of this House. But then again, I think this is due to some faulty redistribution of the constituencies. This may be overcome, and there are anomalies and difficulties also in connection with the system that has been proposed. We had better, I submit, "bear those ills we have, than fly to others that we know not of." Therefore, I submit that proportional representation should not be adopted, either in the cities or in any other part of Canada at this time.

I was pleased with the address of the last speaker (Mr. McConica) who dealt with the subject of economy in such an illuminating manner. I was pleased to hear him say that he was prepared to go the whole way in connection with this very important matter; but really if he was prepared to go as far as he outlined, I could not see how he could be hurt very much by voting for the principle that is involved in the resolution of the hon. member for Calgary West (Mr. Shaw). I can see, however, how he might fear, and his party might fear, that this would embarrass the government of the day, and of course they do not wish to do that.

I wish to refer to another statement that was made during the course of the debate. The hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Hoey) moved the amendment, and I have before me Hansard at page 69 of which he is reported to have made this statement. He seemed to go a little bit out of his way, I thought, to make some references to the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Meighen) and to this party. In order that we may have exactly his words, I will read a sentence or two of Hansard. He said:

I could not help but think as the right hon. gentleman concluded his remarks that he himself was rapidly becoming Canadianised. But what of his immediate followers? I trust the Canadianisation of my right hon. friend will not lead to the fossilization of his immediate followers. Why this ominous silence? The country did not expect much from them, we know, but surely the country expects something. Well might an angel exclaim "Why seek ye the living amongst the dead?"

I wish to assure that hon. gentleman that this party is neither dead nor sleeping. I