

(Take in "C")

A word as to the significance of the clause in the Criminal Code which came down to us from the legislation introduced in the House by Mr. Clarke Wallace in 1889. Gentlemen opposite may be inclined to assert that much credit is due to the party to which they belong from having been the first to enact legislation to deal with trusts and combines. I am prepared to concede high praise to the late Mr. Clarke Wallace for the earnest and diligent manner in which he helped to bring this subject to the attention of parliament and the country, and in particular for the able manner in which he presided over a special Committee appointed by the House on his recommendation to enquire into the nature, extent and effect of certain alleged trade combinations. This Committee appears to have done its work expeditiously and thoroughly, and no stronger case could be made out for the desirability and advantage of investigation as a means of dealing with combinations and trusts or of the affects of publicity in helping to remove the evils incident to these large organizations than the work and report of this Committee. It might have been expected that, as a result of this enquiry and all that it revealed of the merits of investigation and publicity alike, the government of the day would have seized the one obvious conclusion of the whole enquiry, and have brought in a measure making provision for the exercise, as future conditions might require, of these powers of inquiry and publicity which had proved so effective in the enquiry just concluded. Instead of this, however, the government contented

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers
Volume C 4