

petition with millers in all other countries in Europe; and they can cut prices whenever they choose in foreign countries, depending on the profits they filch from the home consumer to recoup them. Not only this, but we producers in Canada who find our market in foreign countries, where our prices are made, have to meet this competition at the other end as well. Any time they choose our millers can lower the price of flour in competition with our wheat on the British market, and so set the basis for procuring their supplies of wheat at home. It is not fair, it is unjust. But the whole tariff system is a one-sided, vicious piece of legislation, with everything free for one class, while the other class is by law exploited. Even were it the ideal state of affairs to make Canada a manufacturing country, one would think that this could best be attained by reducing the cost of living and thereby lessening the cost of production. It is this class privilege, which stands on our statute books to-day, which is fast depopulating the farms of Canada. And in saying that I am not speaking for the West in particular. Colonel Dennis, of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is responsible for the statement that last spring 5,000 farms in old Ontario which ought to be producing were vacant. Another fact. Nearly half a million dollars worth of mortgages were thrown back on the hands of one company operating from Saskatoon last fall, and the superintendent told me himself that over 90 per cent of these farms are abandoned.

Perhaps that is not the worst feature of it after all. There is a bitterness caused by these conditions. The bitterness which exists amongst the agriculturists of Canada to-day is not born of hard times caused by world conditions and bad crops, but to the fact that anything the farmer has to sell is out of line with world prices, and that owing to artificially made conditions at home due to class privilege the price of everything he has to buy is enhanced. Now the farmer is willing to take his hard luck as well as any man, but he will not forever make fortunes for others, for skilfully organized minorities who are able to get legislation through this House to suit themselves and are placed in a position to exploit the masses to pay for it. Our cabinet ministers can traverse the whole world making treaties of trade with foreign countries, and by one amendment take away the inalienable rights of the people to buy and sell where they can to the best advantage.

The dissatisfaction with our economic system is not peculiar to the West. I will now come to that wonderful province by the

sea of which the member for Hants (Mr. Martell) spoke the other day as being so prosperous. The Solicitor General for Nova Scotia on the 18th January last year, when speaking before the Halifax Board of Trade, declared that the relations between the Maritime provinces and the rest of Canada would become so weakened that dissatisfaction with confederation would become general, and would lead to serious results. I think it will be admitted that the Solicitor General for Nova Scotia knows as much about that province as the hon. member for Hants.

Mr. McKENZIE: If the hon. gentleman is referring to me I would say that I would have liked to have had the honour of addressing the Halifax Board of Trade but I never did.

Mr. MARTELL: Like all the hon. member's complaints.

Mr. EVANS: My mistake, I should have said Attorney General. I got this from one of the most reliable newspapers.

Mr. McKENZIE: I doubt its reliability.

Mr. EVANS: I did not know the hon. member was Solicitor General for Nova Scotia. In parts of the Maritime provinces to-day there is tremendous unrest, and in the West many are asking the question: "What good is Confederation to us?" I want to warn the government now that this feeling will not down until we have the complete elimination of class legislation and class privilege.

Mr. McBRIDE: Will the hon. member explain, when he says there is a combine in the fruit industry of British Columbia, how it is, when we are selling fruit for 75 cents a box, the Grain Growers at Battleford are charging 60 cents a box for handling the apples?

Mr. EVANS: That statement has occasioned considerable laughter, but he laughs best who laughs last. I have for many years been connected with the particular concern he has accused of profiteering. I have been connected for years with an association which has handled British Columbia apples. We have handled all the way from three to seven hundred cars of apples in one season, and never once did we charge 60 cents a box, or the half of it, for handling apples.

Mr. McBRIDE: I have a letter here in my hand from that company which states that that is the profit made.

Mr. EVANS: No grain growers' association in any province has ever charged 60 cents a box for handling apples.

Mr. McBRIDE: Have I the privilege of reading this letter?