

by the glaring economic inequalities, men who were fighting for social justice, slowly gathering to their ranks progressive thinkers from both the old parties. Their first triumph came in 1832 with the Reform Bill, which brought the voice of the middle class to the councils of the nation. With this accretion of strength they moved on to the great fight against the corn laws led by John Bright and Richard Cobden, men who, in the Biblical phrase, were the glory of their time.

The corn laws had been enacted as a supposed aid to agriculture, imposing an exorbitant tax on the importation of foreign grain. The British farmer could not supply the domestic needs and, as a consequence, he received an extremely high price for his grain, which resulted in raising the price of bread beyond the reach of the workingman. The great Tory and Whig landowners defended this policy by saying it had to be done in order to preserve the national economy, even though millions starved.

Bright led the battle against the corn laws with the great cry that the future British economy depended, not on restriction of trade but on the greatest freedom of trade, not on the starvation of the working people but on cheap food for the common people. He convinced the farmers themselves that they were not gaining by this policy, that the high prices they got were robbed from them by the great landowners and that only misery resulted.

Victory came with the repeal of the corn laws in 1846 and with that victory came a consolidation of Bright's followers into the Liberal party. That was the foundation of the Liberal party. If there are any in this house today who think the Liberal party should not support the fight against this ban, let them think what John Bright would say if he were a member of this house; John Bright, the father of the Liberal party, John Bright who, by his lifelong devotion to high principles and by his moral courage, swung millions into the ranks of the Liberal party, the John Bright who today after one hundred years is still the brightest and clearest star in all the Liberal firmament.

If he were here today he would stand up and denounce this ban with the same fiery denunciations which he used in his fight against the corn laws. The extraordinary thing about it all is that he could use the same speeches which he used against the corn laws, with which he swayed Britain, changing scarcely a word. Liberalism today needs more than high principles; it needs deeds and actions motivated by those principles. Here is an opportunity for such

action. Every Liberal who gets up and votes against this ban is, I contend, reaffirming the faith of his fathers.

If there are Liberals who will stand up here and speak and vote for the retention of this special privilege, they too are reaffirming the faith of their fathers, their very distant forefathers who were members of the long dead Whig party, the last political party which believed, not in freedom of trade but in restriction, not in the general good but in special privileges for their friends, not in the plight of the masses but in the special advantages sought by their own classes.

In summation, I submit that the present ban is unconstitutional in law, economically unsound, socially indefensible, morally reprehensible and in opposition to the political principles of every party in this house. It is a ban conceived in a mean and selfish spirit and, like most evil things, it has spawned an ugly brood which we see around us today—exorbitant profits being made on butter by speculators while the poor go without, a butter black market, butter sold at exorbitant prices or as a premium to force the sale of unwanted goods, bad butter sold as No. 1 butter. And there is a hint that two yet uglier progeny are still to come—the deliberate and cynical evasion in spirit of the Geneva agreements and the violation of the pact of confederation; all these things to be borne so that, in the words of a minister of the crown, "the dairy industry may be left undisturbed."

However, this Augean stable needs no Hercules to clean it. All that is necessary is the votes of members of this free parliament to whose high principles and good judgment I now commend this bill.

Mr. EUGENE MARQUIS (Kamouraska): Mr. Speaker, as a Liberal member I rise to put on the record a few remarks in opposition to this bill. First I should like to refer to a declaration made by the hon. member for Vancouver North (Mr. Sinclair) a few moments ago, that the ban on oleomargarine was put on to protect a selfish group in this nation. I wish to protest against such a statement about the farmers of this country. The farmers of this country do not put money in their own pockets. They put money in the pockets of the people of the cities and food in their mouths.

Since the origin of colonization and agriculture in the different countries of the world, nature has provided for a specific production in each of them. The climatic and geographic