

COMBINATIONS IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE—*Con.*

Laurier, Rt. Hon. Sir Wilfrid (Prime Minister)—1363.

Cannot give any information to-day; matter under consideration, 1363.

Sproule, T. S. (East Grey)—1363.

Asks when the Bill referred to in the Speech from the Throne will be introduced, 1363.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT.

First reading of Bill 100. Hon. Mackenzie King, 2056.

King, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie (Minister of Labour)—2056.

The age of combines; people look to government for the protection of their liberties, 2056-7. Explains the procedure; two factors to be kept constantly in mind, 2058. The section which refers to the board of investigation. Powers of reducing the tariff, 2059. Patentees using their rights to prevent competition penalties, 2060.

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT.

Bill 101 in Committee. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, 6904-7881.

Armstrong, J. E. (East Lambton)—7892.

Asks why farmers are not included as well as consumers, 7892. The farmer may sell his produce to a combine, but has no redress under this Act, 7893.

Barker, S. (Hamilton West)—6906.

Wrong and injustice arising from attempts to prosecute under the Combines Act, 6906. A notorious case, the prosecution of Grocers' Guild, 6907. The proper course would be to refer this Bill to a special committee, 6908. They could not even lower the price, 6921.

Best, John (Dufferin)—7935.

They would be at loss of time and expense and should be remunerated, 7935.

Blain, R. (Peel)—7914.

It was suggested that when a year had passed by some people in Canada would not have been reached, 7914. After a year goes by may have something to say as to their legislation, 7915. This has been on the statute book since 1897 and there has only been one case, 7919. Better put into force legislation the government has than make more, 7920. The thing is whether in an Act any clauses can be placed repealing clauses of the Tariff Act, 7938.

Borden, R. L. (Halifax)—7890.

Understands that the price is not regulated by any antecedent act of a combine, but by the run of fish, 7890. The minister has not made perfectly clear and plain his position in respect to certain matters, 7898. A case where the

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combine sells at a fair price, but restricts the price paid for raw material, 7899. Would rather have an answer than a lecture on political economy, 7900. The raw material produced makes little or no profit, 7901. Asks if the whole investigation will have to be gone through again, 7921. The minister means that the evidence would be a sort of brief in the hands of counsel, 7922. You have to prove that he was guilty in the past and is guilty at the present, 7923. The interpretation clause does not seem to be of very much assistance, 7928. Is there any reference here to the interpretation clause, 7929.

Eristol, E. (Toronto Centre)—6905.

No complaint of existing legislation from the public, some of the combines have complained of injustice, 6905. Should deal only in such combines as do enhance prices and restrict competition, 6906. In addition to the state of affairs continuing to exist, this Act goes beyond the criminal law in one most material respect, 6908-9. First of all the criminal law is not repealed, it is simply enforced, 6910. Clause (c) gives an interpretation to a combine beyond what the criminal law does, 6917. The words 'to the detriment of the public' are nowhere contained in the definition, 6921. Was it not possible for the minister to have brought this Bill down before, 6926. On the point of business changes there are many who want their evidence taken, 6929.

Campbell, G. Lyon (Dauphin)—6914.

The only excuse for the minister's argument is his youth, 6914. Coffey & Merritt sold their monopoly to an American monopoly, 6915. Want to send the perpetrators of harm to the place where they belong, 6916. The government is bringing forward this legislation some years too late, 6926.

Conmee, James (Thunder Bay)—6912.

It seems a more moderate means of investigating such questions, 6912. The Bill seems to him to have a great deal of good in it, 6913. Would like to see it become law, 6914. The judge only goes as far as to order an investigation, 6925. The amendment goes too far. They should not be precluded from working on the band, 7939.

Crosby, A. B. (Halifax)—7893.

Does not think this Act will have the desired effect, 7893. In all these matters we are speaking only of the consumers not of the producers, 7894. Is speaking particularly on behalf of the men who produce the raw material, 7895. The cold storage men and the producers of fish do not restrict the output, but the price, 7896. Desires the fishermen to get a much better price or a chance to regulate it, 7897. My reference was to the