

"The word *unreasonable* ought to be struck out, because any combination to raise the price of an article must be *unreasonable*, since it is contrary to the natural state of the market. The prices of articles are already reasonably protected by the tariff. To allow of a further protection by private tariffs is to allow private individuals to assume the powers of Parliament and tax the people without legal right to do so."

Gentlemen, are you doing this? As I said before, these lords are very genial, nice gentlemen. I am every day amongst them, and I never met a more genial class of people in my life—but what are they doing? Have they come to this House to legislate for themselves, or have they come here to legislate for the people? That is the question the people of this country will ask. They will name them one after the other, from Lord Sugar to Lord Coal, Lord Codfish to Lord Pickle Herring, Lord Coffin and even Lord Salt. Look at the combination in coffins which follows a man into the grave? Combinations to bury the dead? Yes, by the rules of the combination they return dust to dust, ashes to ashes, on a regular tariff of rates, no matter what becomes of the poor widow and orphan. It is an unholy combination.

THE SPEAKER—It being six o'clock, I now leave the Chair.

After Recess.

HON. MR. MCCALLUM resumed his speech. He said: When six o'clock was announced, I was about to make a few remarks about salt, in reply to the hon. gentleman from Toronto. I am going to speak from personal knowledge about it, and I think that is generally the best kind of knowledge. In my part of the country salt was sold at from 90 cents to \$1 a barrel. I do not use much of it—about thirty or forty barrels a year—but that is the price that I used to pay for it. To-day you cannot buy a barrel of salt for less than \$1.50. Now, why is this? I know for years the salt manufacturers of this country were probably not making a fair profit on their investments. It has been stated here that they now get 15 cents a barrel more on the salt that they produce. Who gets the other 35 cents? Where does it go? It goes to the salt combine. Is it in the public interest that that should be so? Are these men, who have raised the price of salt, producers? No; they are drones in the hive of industry. My hon. friend from

Toronto spoke about a cheese combine. There is cheese made in the part of the country from which I come, but there is no combine about it. The farmers unite to put up a building and hire a cheesemaker, and dispose of their products. That is not a combine: they are not drones—they are producing something. It may be said that combines in this country are insignificant yet. Do you want to have such combinations as exist to-day in the United States? If you do not check them now in the bud they will ruin this country yet, in my opinion. We have been told that farmers' institutes are combines, and that their representative was down here before the committee. My hon. friend from Alma read letters from two farmers in the Province of Quebec—

HON. MR. ABBOTT—My hon. friend is mistaken; they were not farmers, but merchants from Montreal.

HON. MR. MCCALLUM—No doubt there were a good many merchants from Montreal here and they displayed a great deal of anxiety to keep those words in the Act, and to take as much as they could get from the public before rousing the people. There are farmers' institutes in the Province of Ontario. What is their object? Not to combine against the public. They meet to discuss agricultural questions, to see how they can manage to make the soil produce most and for mutual improvement. If there should be a combine in cheese or any other agricultural produce, put them under the law and prevent any form of combines. I have mentioned something about combines in the United States. I have here a pamphlet by W. W. Cook, an eminent authority, of New York, whose words ought to prove a warning to the people of this country. He says:

"POPULAR OPPOSITION TO TRUSTS.

"The American people have become alarmed at the growth of 'Trusts.' The Standard Oil Trusts and the American Cotton Oil Trust have sown their seed in a fertile soil, and the rank growth is to-day polluting the air and stifling the existence of healthy life and progress. It is currently reported and believed that the 'Trust' monopolies have drawn within their grasp not only kerosene oil and cotton-seed oil but sugar, oatmeal, starch, white cornmeal, straw paper, pearled barley, coal, straw board, castor oil, salt, cattle, gas, street railways, whiskey, rubber, steel, steel nails, steel and iron beams, nails, wrought-iron pipes, iron nuts, stoves, lead, copper, envelopes, paper bags, paving pitch, cordage, coke, reaping and binding and mowing machines, threshing machines, ploughs, glass and waterworks. And the list is growing day