

and I merely give this, not as legal proof that the province has power to pass prohibition, but as showing the distance to which their Lordships of the Privy Council went on the very point I urge before this House to-night, that is the power of the provinces to deal with manufacture where it is a provincial and in no sense a Dominion matter. They say:

In the absence of conflicting legislation by the parliament of Canada, their lordships are of opinion that the provincial legislatures would have jurisdiction to that effect (to prohibit the manufacture of intoxicating liquors) if it were shown that the manufacture was carried on under such circumstances and conditions as to make its prohibition a merely local matter in the province.

They point out that the parliament of Canada had certain rights to pass laws touching liquor from the standpoint of revenue and of trade and commerce, but where, as was pointed out, it was merely a question of manufacturing, then the province itself would have power to prohibit if it was only a local matter.

Take the case of a match factory. I quite understand that if the danger from matches lay in their use by the public at large, possibly an argument might be raised by the Minister of Labour that it was a matter with which this House could deal, because it was a matter of Dominion concern, but there is no pretense that the danger is to the public; the danger is to the manufacturers themselves, to the people working in the factory in Deseronto, or Hull, or Halifax, or wherever it may be. The people working in that local factory are the people this House is asked to protect. I submit with all deference, and ask the leader of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to consider the question: Is it reasonably clear that this House has jurisdiction to interfere in the management of this local factory, whose whole business of manufacture is carried on within the small space of half an acre or so of ground? There is no question of trade or commerce involved; they have the right to manufacture under provincial law.

I do not wish to occupy the time of the House longer, but I hope I have convinced the Minister of Labour (Mr. King) that if he is to follow the example he asks us to follow, that of the mother land, he will have to get a requisition from the manufacturers themselves. Then it will be his duty to see whether there is any ulterior motive, or what it was that may have influenced the manufacturers of that country. He will have to consider whether this is a gold brick that is handed out—as I think it clearly is—by the Diamond Match Company. Then he will have to consider whether this legislation is in the interests of the country as a whole. And, while he

Mr. NORTHRUP.

is making such ample inquiries, he might seek to learn who this Diamond Match Company are. I know nothing about the matter personally, but my information is that this is, beyond comparison, the largest match company in the United States. I do not think the minister will contradict that statement. I speak subject to correction, and have had no means of learning the facts, because our trade and navigation returns are made up in such a way that it is impossible to learn what the importation of matches really is, but I am informed, and would like to know whether it is a fact, that not a dollar's worth of matches manufactured by the Diamond Match Company has come into Canada, except in the short time that elapsed between the burning down of the Eddy Company's factory and the rebuilding thereof. If these are facts they are very significant. Supposing that this House has jurisdiction, I hope the minister will consider what he is submitting our manufacturers of matches to. He is asking the small manufacturers to put themselves within the grasp of a mighty trust by compelling them to manufacture under a formula which this trust allows them to use, and to use, of course, on the trust's own terms. If they manufacture under a fixed royalty, it must be made known to the trust where the business is being done, and so the manufacturer must make known to a competitor who is strong enough to crush him in a week the very facts that it is necessary for the success of his business that he should withhold. And so the victim is subject to conditions for the calculation of the royalty that are more onerous and dangerous than the payment of the royalty itself. I trust the Minister of Labour will satisfy himself whether he has the right to pass this legislation, and also whether it will be beneficial to this country, and, after that, whether the evils of which he speaks cannot be prevented by the provincial authorities. I trust he will do this before he asks this House to pass this legislation.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER. I followed very closely the argument of my hon. friend from East Hastings (Mr. Northrup). For this evening, at all events, it would be sufficient, I am sure, if, without going into the merits of the question of the advisability of passing this legislation, which may be more fully considered when we come to the second reading of the Bill. I confine myself to considering whether we have, or have not, the right to pass this proposed legislation. The hon. gentleman has argued that it is beyond our powers, and that such legislation, if it can be passed at all, can only be passed by the provinces. Perhaps it will be sufficient for the present purposes for me to state, as