

their own money and the credit of the banks behind them and they deal in futures, which is one of the main causes of the discontent that prevails to-day against unfair economic conditions.

Now, the problem before us to-day is: How can we take the gambling element out of these bogus transactions in the staples of life, that is, cotton, sugar, flour, meats, and so forth. One deplorable feature is that nearly all the bankers of the world and the great newspapers and periodicals more or less justify this economic scourge of gambling in staples. If as the bankers and the great newspapers and periodicals say, there must be this dealing in futures, why do they not call for the creation of a department in every government for its further development? Our universities ought to have departments devoted to the elucidation of the principles that underlie this gambling in futures. But nothing is done. I will tell you how bad the condition has become. In the United States the people are thoroughly aroused to the fact that there is something wrong with the sugar market, and the government, through its attorney general, applied to the courts for an order prohibiting the produce exchange and the sugar exchange in New York from dealing in futures. The application was refused, but he is appealing to the Supreme Court of the United States, and I believe he will get an injunction. The United States is building up a great engine for the purpose of regulating this awful gambling in grains, in sugar, in cotton, in hides and all things of that kind. It is gradually reorganizing its financial and banking system. It has created a great reserve bank system in which every bank of the country has to have membership if it wishes to get along. The whole financial organization of that country to-day is under the control of congress, of the government, just as their railways have been under the control of the Interstate Commerce Commission. What the United States is going to do, as I size it up, through the control they have over the banks, is to take some step which will place this gambling business also under control. My prophecy is that the banks of the United States will be forbidden to use the savings of the people for the promotion of gambling in futures in the great staple commodities. That is the only cure I see for this condition which has come upon us.

You can observe how it is working out in connection with the sport of racing. We have allowed racing in this country, and it is now

getting away beyond the people's control. We have some legislation bearing upon the subject, and in England also they have some enactments designed to stop gambling of that kind. Men who never raised horses or who know nothing about the breeding of horses are putting up great sums in connection with races, and most of them lose. The same thing goes on in connection with this speculation in the main staples of the country. I do not quite know how it is to be stopped, but it must come to an end by some means. The sugar troubles of the people of Canada, which were emphasized here in the last week or two, had their origin in this scourge of gambling in futures. I wonder how much attention the farmers of the West have paid to the awful exploitation of wheat and their other crops in connection with ventures on the Chicago wheat exchange? It is time that the parliament of Canada and the congress of the United States took some steps in this matter. I would not like to see the state have to go into the management of the grain business of this country, but such a course may be forced upon the people if there is no other relief from the present condition.

It is out of order to refer to what is going on in the Banking committee or the Agriculture committee in the House, but there is one measure to which I will draw the attention of the Prime Minister, namely, the need of a new franchise act which will recognize equality of citizenship between men and women, which will recognize that all are entitled to some kind of representation and that the vote of one citizen is as good as that of another. We have not so far had that condition recognized in this country. Now, the Prime Minister may go to England this summer to take part in an imperial conference. I would like to hear some explanation in this House before the Prime Minister goes as to what may be the procedure in that discussion. Are the dominions to have equal votes with the Mother Country, or is there to be a leader of some kind? Are commitments to be made concerning Canada before we have had an opportunity of discussing them here? To my mind, before that conference is held there ought to be a full and fair discussion in parliament; the whole question should be threshed out—of what part we are to take in it, of whether we are to be bound by any commitments without parliament having first been consulted, and also whether one of the results of the conference will not be to give us what has been given to Australia, namely, the right to make and revise our own constitution as we wish.