

circulation to a very much larger extent. Consequently, the depositors and others interested suffered enormous loss. The Bank of Yarmouth could not have gone down, causing enormous losses to the people of that district, if there had been a system of government inspection. This system has been possible for forty-three years in the United States. And, let it be remembered that, in one city alone, the city of New York, there is a greater banking capital than in the whole Dominion of Canada, and the banks of that city are inspected regularly. We hear of the evidence with regard to the old Ontario Bank. It is common for people to say: Oh, the Ontario Bank was a gambling institution; it went to pieces through gambling. But, if we had a system of inspection, the Ontario Bank could not have gone on gambling year after year; it could not have gone on sending to this government, month after month, returns which were absolutely false. But, while we are on that point, is there no other gambling bank in Canada? Has not the Minister of Finance had the knowledge of one such, has he not had it before him since the publication of the report of the Royal Insurance Commission, that the Bank of Commerce is the biggest gambling bank in the Dominion of Canada? Yet, has he opened his mouth—has any man opened his mouth in this House, or raised his voice with regard to the Bank of Commerce? It was a matter of gambling. McGill placed his money on the red and lost. Hon. Geo. A. Cox and Mr. B. E. Walker placed their money on the red, and I am inclined to think that they have lost, judging from the report of the Royal Insurance Commission. At any rate, we find, according to that report, that Hon. Geo. A. Cox and Mr. B. E. Walker—we look up to Mr. Walker as a great banking authority in this country, a man who goes about the country lecturing on banking, a man who has written on banking—well, Sir, we find him joining in a pool for the purpose of gambling in the stock markets of this country. We find Mr. B. E. Walker having a five per cent interest in a pool formed to manipulate Dominion Iron and Steel and Dominion Coal. We find it stated on page 16 of the report of the Royal Commission on Life Insurance that Mr. Walker led the Canadian Bank of Commerce to buy 1,000 shares of Dominion Coal because Hon. Geo. A. Cox wanted to buy 1,000 shares. And Mr. Cox bought 1,000 shares of Dominion Coal at 112, and the Bank of Commerce bought 1,000 shares of Dominion Coal around 112; and I venture to say they have it to-day. And, if Hon. Geo. A. Cox and the Canadian Bank of Commerce have Dominion Coal to-day, they have made a net loss of \$144,000. But that is not all. Hon. Geo. A. Cox saw Twin City disappearing down the toboggan slide, and he jumped in and took 1,000 shares. And he admits in his evidence that he said to the Canadian Bank of Commerce: You support the

market and jump in and buy 1,000 shares of Twin City. And the Bank of Commerce, being pulled about by Hon. Geo. A. Cox, jumps in and buys 1,000 shares of Twin City; and Twin City—an American security—as we know slumping from that day to the present, has never seen the prices at which these men jumped into it. I say the time has come when men in this House, irrespective of the influence of the banks, should speak out, so that we may get an amendment of our banking laws which will prevent great banks like the Canadian Bank of Commerce speculating in the market. It is true the Canadian Bank of Commerce lives to-day and the Ontario Bank has gone down. It is true that McGill, who, if he had followed the market, probably would have been successful, is to-day suffering punishment for what he has done, while these other gentlemen, who are just as guilty as McGill are paraded as great financiers. I am not speaking about something which has not been proved. It has been absolutely proved, and the report of the Royal Commission on Life Insurance, says in clear terms that Hon. Geo. A. Cox was able to use these banking institutions, the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Dominion Securities Corporation—that the Dominion Securities Corporation borrowed \$500,000 at 5 per cent from the Canada Life Assurance Company—and then goes on to say:

These transactions indicate to your commissioners that the funds of the company were employed with the utmost freedom in transactions with institutions in which Mr. Cox was largely interested. In many of these transactions the conflict of Mr. Cox's interest with his duty is so apparent that the care of the insurance funds could not always have been the sole consideration.

So, they say also:

In April, 1903, the Canada Life Assurance Company's board authorized the purchase of 1,000 shares of Dominion Coal Company's stock, together with 1,000 shares of another stock (Twin City), and in connection with that purchase Mr. Cox states that the Bank of Commerce, of which he was the president, was acting in concert with the Canada Life Assurance Company, purchasing a like quantity of both stocks.

I ask the Finance Minister if this was not made known to him many months ago, when the report of the Royal Insurance Commission came down? There is no man in this House dare open his mouth and mention the name of Hon. Geo. A. Cox, or find any fault with the Canadian Bank of Commerce for gambling in the stock markets. If he does he is immediately put down by the bankers as attacking the banking institutions of this country. As far as I am concerned, I think it is time we spoke out clearly on these matters, and if we can get a law, if we can so amend our law, as to prevent our banks from using the funds of the people for speculation, then I say let