

ception of it; everyone—and this is true of legislators in particular—thinks the business world is always making money and can stand anything. To-day it is becoming a gold-digging proposition with all governments to get money out of the business world in every possible way, whether or not it is making money. I hope this resolution will never pass this house, and if it does I hope it will not pass the senate. If the senate does not throw it out I hope it will be thrown out by the House of Commons in England, which I think will be the case. No provincial government should be given any such power as this.

Mr. MERCIER: You will have a tremendous amount of work.

Mr. SPENCE: I did not understand the question. If the hon. gentleman wishes to ask me something let him speak up, and if it is a sensible question I will answer it if I can. Do not be mumbling across the floor.

This means a great deal, and I wish to direct the attention of the house to some of the things that will result. Under this resolution we are to have indirect taxation within the province in regard to retail stores. Why should such power be given to a provincial government, say to our own provincial government in Ontario, that has set out to dig out of the public every dollar it possibly can get, and I believe the same applies to every other province? That seems to be the intention. Every bit of legislation that has been introduced in both provincial and federal parliaments for the last few years has tended to create more monopolies. This legislation is going to do the same thing; it will drive business into fewer hands. Thousands of independent retailers, along with thousands in the wholesale trade have been driven out of business, all due to interference by governments and legislatures similar to this. A few years ago the number of months you could stay in business depended upon how many thousand dollars you had, so hon. members can figure out how many more will fail and go out of business if this resolution goes through. It will take only another year or two to finish the whole lot.

Let me refer to Canadian Industries Limited as one example of a monopoly, and let me remind the house that legislation of this kind tends to create monopolies. The great terminal warehouse on the waterfront of Toronto was promoted by Sir John Willison and Sir William Hearst, two men of good repute, and many innocent men and women who had money with which to buy bonds invested it in that company. They constructed a building costing \$7,000,000, thinking it would make money. This was another case of people

[Mr. Spence.]

who did not know anything about what they were doing promoting a proposition and deceiving the innocent public into putting money into it. They lost barrels of money; that concern has lost from \$200,000 to \$300,000 a year ever since the building was constructed, and now it has been sold to the Du Pont people in New York, who control Canadian Industries Limited. I have warned this house time and again that before long the United States will own this country through systems of that kind. No wonder the people of Toronto are discouraged to-day when, after investing their money in this concern, the Du Pont people of the United States were allowed to come in and acquire that building, which cost \$7,000,000, for \$2,400,000. Just imagine that!

Mr. FINN: Why did the hon. member not buy it?

Mr. SPENCE: How could I buy it? I had nothing to buy it with. I might have had the down payment a few years ago, but I would not have enough now, due to too much interference, I will not say by whom.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. SPENCE: May I tell you this, Mr. Speaker? Ever since I have been in this house the Liberal party, which is in power to-day, has interfered with business. They tinkered with tariffs; they put this industry and that, this man and that, out of business, and to-day we do not know where we are. They were the first to start interfering with business, when they came into power in 1921.

This resolution will also give the provinces the right to impose a turnover tax, as I understand it. Just what would a turnover tax mean? Does anyone know anything about it? Take the business I am in; supposing I turn over \$10,000 worth of grapefruit, oranges, celery, lettuce and commodities of that kind, which would not be too much for me to turn over. Supposing I lose \$1,000 on the deal. Will they come along with a turnover tax of one per cent, say, and take another \$100 away from me? How would hon. members like a turnover tax of that kind? No man should make laws unless he knows something about what will be the result, or gets advice from someone who does know. Did Sir John Willison and Sir William Hearst ask one man who had practical knowledge for any information when they promoted that great warehouse on the waterfront of Toronto? If they had done so, that warehouse would never have been built, but they did not ask anyone. They did not know anything about what they were doing,