

bring in a law absolutely prohibiting child labour. It is coming. If the reports from the Paris Conference are correct the age will be fixed at sixteen, which will be the youngest age at which a child may be allowed to go to work. If the manufacturers and others tell you that the industries of the country will fail unless men toil longer hours and undeveloped children be allowed to work, my answer is—let them fail, because any industry that requires the last ounce of strength from a man in order to make it pay, has, not, to my mind, the right to succeed. Let us clear this Province up if we are going to advance in social reform and be fair to the workers and toilers who, by their strength and muscle, have been helping some people to amass large fortunes. Let the people be properly protected by the Legislature, so that they can have a decent share of the joys of life, an ordinary decent share of this world's goods, including a decent home, a decent wage, properly clothed and fed children, with eight hours a day to enjoy God's sunshine, and then indeed the Government need have no fear of its future. You are building houses for these men: give them the time to enjoy them.

There are other subjects, but as the hour is late I do not propose to go much further. There is one other thing. In speaking on the liquor question just now, I mentioned the civil servants. I have mentioned it before in this House. I think the administration of the Province is the greatest commercial business in the Province of Ontario and as such it should be organized so that it would be the ambition and desire of every boy and girl leaving school to enter the civil service of the Province of Ontario. In order to do that, you have got to make it strictly non-partisan, so that the civil servant who comes in here knows that by doing his or her duty fairly and squarely he or she is there for life, subject to good conduct and efficiency, and that when the time comes for him or her, in the natural order of things, in sickness or old age, to retire, he or she can be certain of a fair competence for the rest of his or her life, in return for the service given the Province.

Mr. Carter: "Why not for all the people—why only the civil servants?"

Col. Machin: "I am speaking to the Government as a business concern. Manufacturers have prepared means of insuring as against accidents, old age, etc. So I say to this Government that it should place its civil servants on a proper footing and wipe out a lot of them by pension. There are cases within my own knowledge where there are two salaries provided for one office, simply because there are no means of taking care of an old man who has worn himself out in the service of his country.

There is one other matter I desire to refer to. I am very sorry the Prime Minister had to go. I thoroughly appreciate the fact that he was here this evening. I hope that he and each member of the Government will realize that in my remarks there was nothing personal. Among them are men with whom I am intimately acquainted and for whom I have strong regard. I speak to-night in no sense in a personal way; but because I believe absolutely what I have said, just as some of the honourable gentlemen who have sat here this evening have entirely opposite views from myself and express them equally as warmly as I have done. I have no intention to hurt or offend anyone; but I do want the right to have that privilege born with me, the free right of every free-born British subject.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say this: That the aim of our government, the aim of every government, whether it be this or municipal governments, must be to see that the people are made happy and contented, that there is ample time for work, play and rest, and that the German word "Verboten" (forbidden) does not enter into our national life and meet us at every turn. (Loud and continued applause).