

mission, I at once declared that I would support the proposal and would give my best assistance towards making the measure as perfect as possible. It received the consideration of the House of Commons for many weeks, and hundreds of amendments were made before it was finally passed. Since then it has been amended at various times, and its powers and jurisdiction now extend to telephone companies and express companies. I see no reason why its jurisdiction should not be further extended to telegraph companies and, indeed, to all public utilities. It is true that the work of the Commission has pressed severely upon its present members, and especially upon its able and indefatigable chairman. We believe that it should be reorganized, that additional members should be appointed if necessary, and that its powers and jurisdiction should be extended. It has outgrown its name, and in future it should be called the Public Utilities Commission of Canada. The Railway Commission of Canada is at present the most important judicial tribunal in this country. Its work touches more closely the every-day life of our people than does that of any other court. It has powers judicial, semi-judicial and administrative. It should probably be reorganized in two divisions, one dealing with matters of judicial or semi-judicial nature and the other concerned more especially with matters of administration. On this point, however, I would be very much guided by the advice of the chairman of that Commission, for whose experience and ability I have every respect.

#### A SAFEGUARD TO CAPITALIST AND PEOPLE.

A commission so constituted is at once a safeguard to the capitalist and to the people. It safeguards the people against the oppression or greed of any public corporation. It protects their lives, their property and their general interests. For the capitalist it affords a safeguard against hasty or unjust legislation based upon impulsive and unreasonable demands. Let one cardinal principle of the Conservative party be never forgotten—the sanctity of public contracts must always be respected. Any legislative action which in effect amounts to confiscation of private property must be carefully avoided. Canada requires for the development of its enormous resources a vast amount of money which can be thus profitably invested. It must, therefore, remain for many years a borrowing country. To sanction or enact legislation of a confiscatory character would be the worst possible service that any government or parliament could