

then passes away. In their eyes it is as a snowdrop in the river, a moment white and then melts forever. But it is another thing altogether when it comes to deal with time in respect to their friends who are paying the penalty in jail for their rascalities. That is a different thing entirely. Then a day becomes as a thousand years, and the Minister of Justice goes around with tickets-of-leave and a year of Jubilee in his pockets, by which the doors of the jail are opened and those culprits are let loose upon an innocent people. When they find the country may be against the proposal they bring down, and the wrath of the people is about to break forth upon their heads, and when they know that proper and free voice of Parliament in putting the facts before the people is adding to their danger and cutting short the time within which the storm will break upon their heads, they resort to this alternative of cutting our time down to a miserable twenty minutes. Why, Sir, on the question of time, the only act of constructive statesmanship that stands to the credit of the Minister of Trade and Commerce for his six years of office is an effort to interfere with time and daylight. So, they are experts on the question of time. The hon. Minister of Trade and Commerce, finding time heavy upon his hands, and finding that the conditions arose under which he and his Government must go and give an account of himself to the people, he tried to strike on a scheme that might add a little to their time, and he started to put back the clock. The clock would yield, of course, but he found that the roosters of this country, who were in the habit of crowing at four o'clock in the morning, refused positively to crow at three. The hon. gentleman who has been accustomed to globe-trotting during the last few years, and knowing the crowing time of the rooster in India, the rooster in England, the rooster in California, the rooster in the New England states, and in New Zealand and in Australia, knew they were crowing at very different times, and he thought it would be well to introduce an Act that would bring about an amalgamation of the crowing of roosters the world over. In this, however, he failed. He found that he had to give it up, for the rooster put down his legs at an angle of forty-five degrees and said: "This far shalt thou go, and no further." The Minister of Trade and Commerce has found after all his efforts that he had to come back to the Minister of Finance and say: "I have failed in commanding the other

crowing birds, you are the only bird that crows at will, and you will have to go to it." This was done, and the Minister of Finance crows on every occasion. He crows with his hat on, and he crows with his hat off. The Minister of Finance also crowed over the Secretary of State—and let me congratulate the Secretary of State, now that I have for the first time mentioned his name in that capacity. This is a union government we are having now; a union in the sense of concentrating half a dozen offices in the one man, as they evidently cannot get anybody to step aboard the ship in her present precarious condition. When the Minister of Finance was crowing in praise of the Secretary of State, then and now the Solicitor General, there was no stint in his crowing; and let me give him at least one consolation, that whatever else may be questioned about him he is the boss bully of the crows of the whole aggregation and federation of the universal combination of the financial roosters. He is the financial crower of the roost. He crows when he has money; he crows when he has no money; he crows when he pays low interest; he crows when he pays high interest; he crows when he is going to get the Canadian Northern on the bargain of 1914, and says that it is absolutely and completely good, and that nothing can be comparable with it in the heavens above, in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth. You would think nothing could be more lusty than such crowing, but he comes down in three years, at another time, when there is another bargain made, and the crowing of 1914 is put absolutely in the shade by the crowing in regard to the new bargain. So you do not know when to put any confidence, or trust, or finality, in the crowing of the Minister of Finance. He crows for reciprocity, and he crows against it. He crows for free wheat, and he crows for no free wheat. In all those cases we have at least one consolation to offer to the Minister of Trade and Commerce that while he might not be able to control the fantastic notions of time as carried in the breasts of ordinary birds, he has one bird on a string that answers his every pull, and crows for the Government at every hour of the day and at every hour of the night. So much for the question of time.

We have no evidence before us to-day, and we never had any evidence that Mackenzie and Mann wanted this transaction at all. My right hon. friend who leads the Opposition asked that a committee be appointed before whom Mackenzie and