

engaged therein, there is much that may be committed to a Federal trade commission, thus placing in the hands of an administrative board many of the functions now necessarily exercised by the courts. This will promote promptness in the administration of the laws and avoid delays and technicalities incident to court procedure.

While the Progressive Platform had this to say, on behalf of the Federal Trade Commission:

To that end (protection against trusts and monopolies) we urge the establishment of a strong Federal administrative commission of high standing, which shall maintain permanent active supervision over industrial corporations engaged in an interstate commerce, or such of them as are of public importance, doing for them what the Government now does for the national banks, and what is now done for the railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Later on in January, 1914, or a little over a year ago, the President made to the Congress, the following statement which no doubt gave a certain impetus to this Act, which I have already stated became law on the 26th of September last:

The opinion of the country would instantly approve of such a commission. It would not wish to see it empowered to make terms with monopoly or in any sort to assume control of business, as if the Government made itself responsible. It demands such a commission only as an indispensable instrument of information and publicity, as a clearing house for the facts by which both the public mind and the managers of great business undertakings should be guided, and as an instrumentality in adjusting the remedy to the wrong in a way that will meet all the equities and circumstances of the case.

It would appear to me from these facts that this is what is needed in Canada to settle many disputes as they occur between capital and labour, no one will deny that there is price cutting preferential contracts on machinery used for manufacturing purposes or goods used in the manufacturing process, black lists, white lists, boycotts, espionage, coercion and intimidation. These evils have been before Congress at different times, but apart from references to their character as unfair practices, nothing so far as I know, has been done. However the commission has power given to this Act to gather and compile information respecting organization of business, conduct, practices, and management of those engaged in local or foreign commerce, in all cases except banks or railways. And while it is authorized to investigate trade conditions in foreign countries there are many other provisions made to provide for the complete carrying out of the Act in question. Like the Railway Commission, those who are appointed shall have salaries,

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and a secretary, and other employees will be appointed under the Dominion services. In the United States where they have found a Bureau of Corporations or the workings of the Sherman Act deficient, and where, after all, monopoly has had full sway, this law would take its place giving to commission sufficient power to prescribe the penalties which are given for the evils dealt with. The United States have felt perhaps more than in Canada, the effect of a great many conspiracies in the past and to avoid these things in the future, it is to be hoped that this Act will meet the case for all parties and give a more cheerful aspect than it ever has before seen in days gone by.

In the *World's Work*, February number, referring to this Act, it practically assumes that all business is public for it gives the commission power to investigate and regulate, whether it be public or private. The aim of the regulation and investigation is to see that competition is fairly carried on. Therefore all activities of the commission can unquestionably facilitate both and get a more speedy decision in cases than could be obtained otherwise in any other way.

While we have many Labour Acts on our statute books designed to settle industrial disputes, as for instance, the Lemieux Act and others, none of them strike at the root of the trouble as would be done by a Dominion commission for very obvious reasons.

I hope therefore that the time is near when such a commission will be constituted and appointed, and I am sure it will not only meet the expectations of the people, but redound to the credit of the Government, by whom such appointment is made.

Hon. Mr. LOUGHEED—The legislation which has been referred to by my hon. friend is quite new, and has been only recently passed in the United States. I might say that such a commission will be largely experimental, and I have no doubt that we in Canada will watch with very considerable interest the operation of this experiment in the United States. Up to the present time the scope of the work which has been outlined for this commission has largely, if not altogether, been vested in the Department of Trade and Commerce. That department has very largely covered the duties which apparently will be assigned to the Federal Trade Commission in the United States. I might say to my hon. friend that we are very much indebted to him for directing our attention to this very important subject, and I shall be very glad