

Commission was of immense value in adjusting existing differences and anticipating causes of future trouble.

When the Government had launched its great Transcontinental Railway policy and the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway Company came into existence, there was no attempt to shield this corporation that had been created by the Government, but, on the contrary, a Commission was granted which investigated and reported upon the employment of aliens by the Railway Company and protected the rights of Canadian citizens. Similarly the fraudulent practices that had obtained in the employment agencies of Montreal were investigated and corrected so as to remedy the evils that had come into existence in the bringing of Italian laborers into Canada to compete with Canadian labor. These are practical measures that have an important bearing upon the general policy of the Government to which I am especially referring this evening.

THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

I can to-night only very briefly refer to some other acts of the Government which, though sometimes referred to as if they were part of a Corporation policy, are really in the interest of the people and the development of the resources of the Dominion. Take the case of the bounties to the manufacturers of Iron and Steel created by the Act of 1897. Under this Act payment was authorized of bounties on steel ingots, iron bars and pig iron made in Canada amounting in effect to \$3.00 per ton on what was produced from Canadian ore.

These bounties were granted as temporary expedients to enable important industries to be established, and are entirely in accordance with sound Liberal doctrine. They in no sense resemble the high protective policy of our neighbors to the south. Yet they are spoken of by our opponents as if they afforded evidence of the Corporation policy of the Government. On the contrary, a blow was aimed at an enormous trust that was being formed in the United States and threatened to control the whole iron industry of Canada. We all know how the United States Steel Corporation controls the iron and steel industries across the border. If our iron mines in Canada are developed to-day and Canadian workmen find profitable employment at Sydney, in Nova Scotia, and at Sault Ste. Marie, in Ontario, we owe it to the foresight of a Liberal Government. If both these great industries have passed through troublous times, it was not the fault of the Government. But even unwise capitalization and too great expansion have in good time been rectified. To-day our Canadian railways are buying their rails in Canada, and even from Boston are coming orders for rails that are required because of their better wearing quality, despite high tariff walls and United States corporate combination.