

subject? In reference to the Board of Commerce Act of 1919 and the Combines and Fair Prices Act of 1922 the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held that both these acts were *ultra vires*. In reference to the bill before the House to-night, I hope the Prime Minister will ask the Deputy Minister of Justice to be sure that the proposed bill is not *ultra vires* of this parliament. It would be in my opinion a very grave injustice to the people of this country if after this bill was passed, and after many attempts to enforce it, the discovery should finally be made that this parliament had no right to pass such an act.

I agree absolutely with the general principles of this bill, but I do not agree altogether with the way that it may be enforced. In the district I represent we have large manufacturers who have built up their plants. I refer, for instance, to the Ford Company which has been mentioned by the hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Manion) and the hon. member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Stevens). I wish to thank them for advertising the constituency from which I come. Both of these hon. members paid a visit to that constituency during the last campaign. I am glad to say we will welcome them at any time. I hope that they will come and definitely settle in my constituency, but of course, I will not guarantee that they can come back here, representing that constituency. I wish to thank them for advertising the great Ford Company of Canada. This company, after twenty years' experience in business building up, that wonderful organization, and building up on a fixed policy of a resale price from the dealer to the public, have produced a manufacturing concern that to-day, using the highest-priced labour in the world, is turning out the lowest priced motor car in the British dominions, and they are further attempting to increase their production to such an extent that these two factors shall be brought closer together, and surely, Mr. Speaker, that is something worth working for, when the money made can be turned to the benefit both of the consumer and of the man who produces the article and supplies the labour.

So I think that concerns such as this,—and I have taken it as an example—are rather worried over the proposed legislation, which contemplates the appointment of so many registrars. The bill does not say that these registrars shall be experienced in law. As this bill stands at present, a registrar may be any amateur who is appointed by the minister. If we were to have the present Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) and the present Min-

ister of Justice (Sir Lomer Gouin) in power forever, I do not think this country would have much to fear from this provision. If the registrars are to do any work under this bill, if this bill is to be of any benefit to the country, they will have a large quantity of work to do, and we shall have to have registrars in all sections of Canada. There may be one in the Yukon, there may be one in Prince Edward Island; there may be one in British Columbia, and any six individuals in any one of these provinces, or, for that matter, in any city, can ask that, for instance, the company about which I am talking shall be investigated. I see in this bill nothing to prevent six individuals in each of a number of towns throughout the country, asking for an investigation of the same company at the same time. From the way in which this measure is drawn, I cannot see that a registrar would be justified in preventing such an investigation from going on in different parts of the country at the same time and of the same corporation. I can see that such registrars might arrive at different conclusions, and I can see that when the question came before the minister for final decision, he might be in a very serious frame of mind how he should decide. Therefore, if at all possible, these registrars and also the commissioners should be men trained in the law. I believe the people of this country and, in particular, of the province of Ontario are sick and tired of having regulatory laws put into force by amateurs. We in our constituency suffered terribly from amateurs attempting to put into force a certain law. The thing was a nightmare. This country is, perhaps, tired of anything that smacks of uplift legislation, anything that has a tendency to appear as muck-raking legislation.

The hon. member for West Toronto (Mr. Hocken) mentioned this afternoon a certain combination in this country, and I hope when this bill is put into force, one of the first combinations to be investigated will be the newspaper combination. I say that not with the idea at all of criticising newspaper men. I noticed that a particular combination was spoken of, and I know it is a combination of about twenty-nine men who absolutely control the telegraphic news of this country. This combination was known as the Canadian Press, but I believe the name was changed. Not all the members of this newspaper association agree with its practice, because in a case that I was interested in a member of the association from Quebec, Mr. Gagnon—I have not the pleasure of knowing this gentleman—another member from Toronto, Mr. Irving