

will be the referee between these great monopolies and those with whom they come into competition.

The other day, Mr. Speaker, I called the attention of the house to this fact, which I shall take the liberty to repeat now. Times have so changed, and I heard this only to-day in a convention of business men in this city, that no longer can one business man conducting a small business approach another business man representing a corporation and discuss their affairs man to man because the official representing the large corporation invariably answers, "Well, I see your point. I would like to do what you wish but orders from head office prevent me doing it. This is all I can do." Those were his orders, as I said the other day, from New York, Montreal, Chicago, or some other distant point where the head office was located.

The whole method of doing business has changed, and what opportunity, as I remarked the other day, has a small business man, and there are hundreds of thousands of them in this country, to compete with these great corporations unless there is some power in between which can hold the scales in equity between them? And that is all that I have asked. I quote further from the Prime Minister's radio address:

Would you proclaim the urgent need of government regulation of business?

I have scarcely gone that far. I call, sir, upon parliament to set up machinery, not so much to regulate business, as to referee business. The Prime Minister's words were:

Would you proclaim the urgent need of government regulation of business?

I am willing to go that far. These measures do not go that far. These measures will not successfully discharge that promise. I quote again:

I think you would, if you had a proper regard for your own welfare. And of course you have, and so assuredly have I.

Now I quote from the Prime Minister's third radio address delivered on January 7 last. This has to do with the subject of concentration to which I have referred. I am not a lone voice in the wilderness on this question of concentration, Mr. Speaker. From the standpoint of the eminence of the one who uttered these words I am indeed in good company. The Prime Minister said:

Many years ago disequilibrium in the original interrelationship of wages, costs, prices and profits began to manifest itself. This disequilibrium has been increasing.

That is precisely my view.

As that machine grew mightier and more dominant, so competition became proportionately less effective to achieve its original purpose.

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Those words find an echo in my heart.

What we are concerned with, as practical men and humanitarians, is to devise some corrective of the disabilities which it takes no economist to discern. Whatever caused them, there is a fair and sensible cure which can be effectively applied. It is our business to apply it.

All that I am asking is that these effective, fair and sensible cures shall be applied willingly to these evils or to this distress.

There is one other quotation which I wish particularly to submit to the attention of hon. members on this side of the house. This is headed Price Spreads Commission and reads:

At the last session of parliament, the House of Commons, upon the invitation of the government, appointed a committee to go into the whole question of these concentrations of business and price spreads and exploitations of the defenceless primary producer and the equally defenceless ultimate consumer.

I pause to repeat that this commission was appointed to go into the question of the exploitation of the defenceless primary producer. Will any one say that by the wildest stretch of imagination the bill to amend the live stock act is in any remote degree a correction of what were found to be exploitations of the defenceless producer? Is anyone bold enough to suggest that? In so far as the difficulties which face the primary producer are concerned a more anaemic piece of legislation could not have been introduced. It is because of that and because of one or two other things to which I shall refer that I find myself forced to make this declaration to-day. The next quotation I wish to make reads:

When the report of the commission is received by the government, parliament will be invited to take action in accordance with the commission's recommendation.

I will say this for the right hon. gentleman, when he uttered those words he had no idea of what was to be in the report. Here is a definite pledge that the government will invite parliament to take action in accordance with the commission's report. I continue to quote:

I think that to-night I need only say this to you: Should the commission find that the primary producer has been denied his rightful profits or that the consumer has had to bear the excessive profits of a dominant industry; if as a consequence of this, the primary producer or the ultimate consumer, has had his standard of living adversely affected, action will be taken to put a stop to these iniquities.

I ask: Has the primary producer been denied his rightful privileges? Is there anyone in this house this afternoon who will say that during the last four years the primary producer of Canada has not been denied his