

hesitation in saying that for forty years we in this country have been living under class legislation. That is not Mr. Crerar's statement, but it is what I believe, and there ought not to be class legislation on either side or the other. It is clear to me that the time has come when there should be in Canada a greater unity for national work. It is high time that the class legislation which the big industries are imposing upon this country should cease, and I can assure you that the three western provinces are going to see, in so far as they can, that it does cease and that they receive fair treatment. On the other hand I believe that they are introducing class legislation and I tell them so. I believe in moderate protection. Some of the profits that have been made are amazing, and in this respect, later, I shall offer a little criticism of Union Government, if I do not forget to do so. As I have said a dozen times, I believe in the importance of manufacturing and other industries, but it does seem to me that there has not been the effort made that ought to have been made to bring the industrial and agricultural classes of the people together. The privileged class which has been developed by the large industries has had its way for so long that it has apparently failed to consider the other side of the question. Therefore it will do no harm to have some farmers in Parliament. In my opinion there will be many from the West. And I am glad of another thing, honourable gentlemen. There is to be in Ontario a combination Farmer and Labour government, and the tendency of the old-time Liberals and the old-time Conservatives is to give Mr. Drury a chance to show what his government can do. I believe that there is justification for the farmers' movement, particularly in the three Prairie Provinces, and I lay the blame largely upon the big interests, which do not like this agrarian movement. I do not like to use the word, but it seems to me that there has been a good deal of hoggish work going on among the big interests of Canada. For some reason or other—I do not know why—our Government does not seem to be able to control to any great extent these big interests, such as exist in the United States.

I read last night the remarkable statement—and I give it for what it is worth, without knowing whether it is true or not—that the five great packing institutions of the United States have been found by the courts to have made in the years 1915 to 1917, inclusive, a profit of \$192,000,000, whereas during an equal period prior to

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER.

1915 they made \$59,000,000. The point I desire to make it that this increase was due mainly to the war.

Our Government has been unable, so far as I can see, to get hold of the men who have been making tremendous profits. It makes no difference who they are. I say it is the duty of the Government to do what is being done in England, that is, to get after the individuals or firms who have been making excessive profits at home while our soldiers were fighting to defend our lives and property.

Hon. Mr. NICHOLLS: May I interrupt the honourable gentleman? He says he wants to be fair in his statements. He has compared the profits made during a certain period of the war with those of a pre-war period, but he does not tell us the percentage of profit. For instance, the larger amount of profit might be a lower percentage than that of the pre-war period, there has been so much larger investment. Not only Great Britain, but every European country that was fighting on the side of the Allies, had to draw nearly all their meat supplies from those packing houses in the United States. It is altogether likely that if the figures were inquired into, there would not be shown a very much larger percentage of profit, although the gross profit has been increased because of the enormous increase in the volume of business. I think it is the percentage of profit, not the gross profit, that should be dealt with.

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: The honourable gentleman is in exactly the same position that I was in. He says that a larger investment has been made. It has not been made. And he has no authority for saying that it is a matter of percentages. I am simply stating the profits made. I say that they increased their profits to such an extent that they had no right to them. That is the sort of thing that has given rise to a good deal of the unrest in the country to-day.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR: Can the honourable gentleman tell me whether owing to the increased price of wheat, the grain growers of the West have not made very large profits?

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: That may have happened in individual cases.

Hon. Mr. GIRROIR: Why not get after them?

Hon. Mr. SCHAFFNER: If the honourable gentleman had been listening to my remarks he would have heard me say that