

COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT—*Con.*

strict competition to the detriment of consumers, to provide for the appointment of Boards of Investigation for the purpose of inquiring into alleged combines causing enhanced prices or restricted competition, for the appointment of counsel to conduct investigations before such boards, and for the payment of the members of such boards and of counsel, and of witnesses appearing before the boards, and of all expenses of boards, including transportation expenses incurred by the members thereof, or by persons under orders of such boards, in making investigations under the Act, and salaries of employees and agents and the payment of clerical and other assistance—Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, 6802.

*Blain, R. (Peel)*—6874.

The first real effort the government has made to introduce legislation to cure these evils, 6874-5. Does not think the people of this country are anxious for more legislation, 6876. They want the enforcement of the existing legislation, 6877.

*Clark, Michael (Red Deer)*—6862.

At the last election the only remaining representative of the Manchester school lost his seat, 6862. The history of true Liberalism in England has been associated with a diminution of state control, 6863. You have practically free trade in England, moderate tariff here, 6864. Doubts both the utility and the feasibility of this class of legislation, 6865. The only way in which we can get at the whole number is by thinking of the consumer, 6866. A government in a protectionist country establishes a national monopoly, 6867. Their efforts to establish trusts in Great Britain which have failed, 6868. No evidence in the history of nations that tyranny ever cures tyranny, 6869.

*Currie, J. A. (North Simcoe)*—6880.

There are combines and mergers and the distinction must not be overlooked, 6880. Let us get down to business and see if we are doing justice to all parties concerned, 6881. Labour should be protected to a certain extent, and capital to the same extent, 6882. Again I say, that this legislation is of a vicious character, 6883. If you close up the larger manufactories the labourers of this country would suffer, 6884. The labourer and the consumer must be considered together, 6885.

*Currie, M. (Prince Edward County)*—6897.

The Bill will have a marked effect in correcting influences we all feel at work to-day, 6897. The last and greatest benefit of the trust formation is the elimination of competition, 6898. It becomes a matter of importance to deal with a measure such as that submitted by the minister, 6899. Canadian trusts show excessive over-capitalization, 6900. Many

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panics and crisis of late years have resulted simply from the collapse of these trusts, 6901. Should have a law limiting capitalization to the actual investment, 6902. Everything in the nature of a pool or combine should be compelled to secure incorporation, 6903. What we want is a consumers gas law made applicable to the trusts in the Dominion, 6904.

*Fielding, Hon. W. S. (Finance Minister)*—6889.

If he will look into the case he will find that action under the Tariff Act would not have given him relief, 6889.

*Haggart, Hon. John G. (South Lanark)*—6869.

Refreshing to hear remarks like Dr. Clark's, 6869. With pleasure he hears statements made and principles advocated which were Liberal principles 40 years ago, 6870. This legislation calls for an investigation—into what? 6871. Under English law, buying of articles on a market to increase prices is a crime, 6872.

*King, Hon. W. L. Mackenzie (Minister of Labour)*—6802.

This resolution necessary in connection with Bill 101, 6802. The cost of living has helped to make important the question of combines, 6803. Prices were at their lowest ebb in 1896-7, steadily risen since, 6804. Table showing increases in wholesale prices of commodities, 6805. The rise from 1897, the low point, as worked out by the department, is 44.4 per cent, 6806. The cost of living increased from 30 to 40 per cent on incomes from \$500 to \$2,000. Combines in the States, 6807. Amalgamations in the United States, 6808. Have had a somewhat similar growth of mergers and trusts on this side, 6809. Whether there has been a rise of prices that has been due in many cases to a large number of causes, 6810. Innumerable instances of mergers alleged to have been formed during the current year, 6811. *Montreal Star* of March 7, on projected combine in the oatmeal and cereal business, and 'ocean rates,' 6812. The largest industrial combinations in this country have escaped notice, 6813. A very interesting letter from a pork packer and provision merchant in Toronto, 6814-5. There are other causes also that have contributed to the rise in price, 6816. That the supply of gold has increased is a matter of statistical record, 6817. The extravagance of the rich and ostentation in display, in some cases criminal extravagance, 6818. The falling into disuse in our larger cities of the one central market, 6819. Statistics might be quoted of the increase of cost of farm labour, 6820. There are causes which in the long run are going to be of great value to the mass of the people, 6821. Artificial causes, the tariff and