

respect to hon. gentlemen sitting in that corner of the house. May I say further, hon. gentlemen there make a great deal of a new social order. I say to them, go home and study the records of your own government that you have had in Alberta for the past thirteen years; if you are proud of that record, if you think they have been economical—they have been anything but that—if you think they have not put a burden upon the taxpayers of Alberta too grievous to be borne, then I will take back everything that I have said. I am alarmed about the situation in Alberta from a financial standpoint, gravely alarmed. I want to say to my hon. friend that his fears, and the fears of the gentlemen who support him, that they may be in any way contaminated by association with the Liberal party, may be set at rest at once.

Before leaving this question, I admit that there has been some improvement in the textile industry, in the silk industry and in boots; there has been some added employment. But when I inquire of people from those localities as to the wage scales being paid I am astonished to learn that the lowest scale of wages in the history of those industries is now in effect. That requires some explanation. My hon. friend the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Stevens) is becoming exercised about it, I see. He says it is necessary to have an investigation into the methods of conducting business in this connection. What does my hon. friend expect, when the government to which he belongs gives this prohibitive protection to these industries? Did not his Prime Minister promise that he would see to it that labour was protected in these manufacturing industries that enjoy such a large measure of protection? But they are a little late in seeing that they are protected. What is happening to-day was foretold in no uncertain manner by hon. gentlemen on this side of the house. The government was told that if they gave this measure of protection it would never reach the employee. It never does, it goes in excessive profits to the manufacturer himself. Indeed, I am credibly informed—I am going to ascertain the exact truth of the matter—that in western Ontario there is one individual engaged in the production of silk stockings and silk underwear who stands to make a profit of well over \$200,000 this year, and he is paying the lowest wages he has ever paid. I will get that verified, I do not want to make that assertion without absolute proof. But there is need for investigation, and I expect my hon. friend will see to it, when the investigation comes on, that labour has ample

[Mr. C. A. Stewart.]

opportunity to bring these matters to light, and that if the government have authority to interfere they will interfere at once and stop this kind of thing in these few industries that are making extravagant profits out of the necessities of the people of Canada.

One reason why there is increased prosperity in those manufactures is,—I can say it with full assurance in respect to the country from Winnipeg to the mountains at least,—that every family in western Canada is down to bare bones as far as boots and shoes and clothing are concerned. There is not an individual who can be excepted. They are in a position where of necessity they must buy. And may I say to my hon. friends that this government are not thinking, and never have thought, about the condition of fifty per cent of the people of Canada who live on the land and make their livelihood out of farming. It is little wonder that I hear from day to day the statement made that the government have gone mad in their national policy of excessive tariffs that give the manufacturers of this country the opportunity to exploit the people. In western Canada we were unable to buy new implements. We would buy millions of dollars worth if we were in a position to do so, but as it is we are getting past with hay wire and similar makeshifts to keep these implements together. So of necessity we have to buy parts, and buy them in quite a large extent at an increase of 30 per cent. Then in order to cover our bodies we are forced to pay tribute to these manufacturers in eastern Canada who have been given such high protection. The government should at least see that decent wages are paid the employees.

These are some of the things that I think need to be said to the government. I appreciate the difficulties with which the government is faced. May I say to my hon. friend the Minister of Finance that there is no individual for whom I have greater respect and greater sympathy, for he has to raise the revenues of this country under the difficulties imposed by the fiscal policy of the government. He is constantly in the unhappy position of failing to balance the budget, and forced to go into the money markets of the world to borrow more money to add to the capitalized debt of Canada. Where are we going anyway? I have heard it said by representatives of this government that the western provinces were extravagant. They have been extravagant. They did not take advantage of the good times between 1922 and 1930, but went on spending money. However, I make this statement, that they are no more