

this country without realizing that something is radically wrong. Only about two per cent of the people of this country are sufficiently well to do to pay federal income tax. We in this house, because of receiving our indemnity, if nothing else, are placed in the category of the wealthy two per cent. Is there anything whatever in this legislation that will alter the faulty and inequitable distribution of the wealth of this country? Nothing that I can see.

Low prices to the primary producer. This opens up the whole question of the farmers. It is all very well to have the grain board bill, I intend to vote for that measure, I think it is a move in the right direction; at the same time I do not believe it will solve the problem of the primary producer. Another session has gone and this government is about to pass out of power without having made any real attempt to solve the problem of the primary producer and of high prices to the consumer. In spite of the protestations of the government retail prices have been going up. How can the Prime Minister sit here complacently while his own charges stand unanswered? I quote again from him:

Men whose mounting bank rolls loom larger than your happiness, corporations without soul and without virtue.

But according to the Prime Minister, although that is so the federal government of this country is unable to do anything about it because of the constitutional difficulty. Objection has been raised—even by the Prime Minister himself yesterday—to calling any infringement of “personal liberty” and “personal rights” a crime. I submit again, as I did the other day, that there is no clear subdivision between what is crime and what is not. It depends upon the conscience of the people and upon the degree of advancement in civilization that we have attained. Surely if we can make it a crime for a man to steal a loaf of bread we ought to make it a crime to defraud the public of millions of dollars. But we are not doing that, we are making no effort to do it; we shield him, we protect him by the law. He is further protected because he has money and is therefore able to appeal from court to court. If we had a government with the will to do it, it would be a simple thing to make this kind of fraud a crime and enforce the law in respect to it.

The Prime Minister waxed eloquent about the necessity of maintaining the independence of our judiciary, yet there are cases where our judges have said that it is not possible under existing circumstances for employers to pay the minimum wage. Thus the judges

themselves are deliberately setting at naught the laws of this country. I say that when a judge does that I have no respect for the judge, he is a disgrace to the judiciary and ought not to be protected, although he may have an honoured position that has come down from earlier times when judges were perhaps a little more impartial than some of them are proving to be to-day. I quote the Prime Minister again:

Behold the sad and idle multitudes throughout the world. If the system is functioning as it should why are there so many unemployed?

And the Prime Minister gave his own answer:

The real answer is that there is something wrong with the system....

I am not going to quote further. I submit that it is obvious that the Prime Minister himself has recognized some of the fundamental evils that exist under our system. He has clearly outlined them. A few months ago he promised that we would have regulation, presumably regulation that would deal effectively with these problems, but so far in this whole program, and particularly in the bill we have before us, we have no machinery through which we may hope to overcome these evils.

Mr. ROBERT McKENZIE (Assiniboia): Before this bill passes I desire to make a few observations. For I think it is too important a matter to let pass without something more than is provided in the bill. The bill is intended to implement one of the recommendations of the price spreads and mass buying commission. It is one of many bills intended to fulfil that purpose. We had Bill No. 70, an amendment to the Weights and Measures Act, then we had the Live Stock and Live Stock Products Amendment Act, and the Criminal Code amendment, and following that the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act, and then amendments to the Combines Investigation Act followed by amendments to the Companies Act, and now we have this bill.

I listened yesterday with a great deal of interest to the Prime Minister, and with some of the things he said I agree, but on the whole I was at a loss to understand why, with the knowledge he had of the conditions, he appointed this commission at all. He told us of a committee appointed in 1919 of which the hon. member for East Kootenay (Mr. Stevens) was vice-chairman, and how they made certain recommendations that were implemented by legislation, and later on that legislation was declared by the privy council to be ultra