

half times as great as the selling price of the Japanese silk. How can anyone meet that kind of competition? The explanation of this situation is easy. In Japan a good worker gets the equivalent of forty-five cents a day in our money, depreciated as it is; women get thirty cents a day, and girls from fifteen years up get twenty cents a day. How they can live and save money, as it is said they do, is a mystery to me. How can we, with our high wages and high standard of living, compete with those people? It cannot be done.

Another point is this. If we have this Central Bank our dollar will be tied to the pound. The tail cannot wag the lion. Our long winter nights give us a chance to think, and some cold morning Canadians will wake up and discover that the selfish trader across the Atlantic has got us by the throat in a stranglehold.

The vast reservoirs of wealth in England are drying up; estates are being sold for an infinitesimal part of their value. Why is this? It is because they have been heavily taxed to pay a dole in order to prevent people who otherwise would be starving from flying at the throats of those who have something. Coal, which for one hundred years was one of Britain's greatest resources, especially in Wales, is to-day out of fashion. Electricity and other kinds of power are being substituted for it. It is a sad story. The poor miners cannot produce coal cheaply enough to compete.

England was mistress of the sea, and proud of it—and we too were proud of it—but to-day there is also a mistress of the air. We remember that before the Great War England maintained the two-power standard. But she had to give that up.

Now I come to the Macmillan report. God forbid that I should say one uncharitable word about Lord Macmillan. I think he is a very fine gentleman, and I will tell you why I think so. Before leaving Canada he made a speech on the Privy Council, in which he said it was the greatest court in the world. It happened that fifteen or sixteen years ago I made two speeches in this House in favour of restricting appeals to the Privy Council, and met with some success. In those days you could go to the Privy Council with an appeal involving \$4,000, whereas to-day it must be \$12,000. I sent Lord Macmillan copies of those speeches. Like the gentleman he is, although he did not agree with me, he answered in a three and a half page letter, not typewritten, but in his own hand, complimenting me on the case I had made out. As for Sir Charles Addis, the other Old Country member of the Commission, I do not know him. Those two men

came here with a purpose. It was written all over their faces at the meeting in Montreal which I attended; and they even secured from the chairman of the board of the stock exchange, a gentleman whom my leader knows very well, the admission that it would be a fine thing to have a money market in Montreal.

On the other side of the Commission was Sir Thomas White, one of the greatest men in Canada. I have followed his career since he was an assessor of the city of Toronto. He was a good Liberal, but when he was needed to do a certain job, in which the right honourable gentleman (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) took part, he came here as a member of the Conservative Government. When he had carried his points he went away. I believe there is not in Canada a man who knows more than he does about our banking situation. For a number of years he was Minister of Finance. He has a very bright intellect and was graduated as a lawyer, though he never practised. He possesses considerable literary attainments, and often has told me of the hours that he spent with the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier in talking about English literature. He was amazed at Sir Wilfrid Laurier's knowledge of the best English works, which probably accounted for Sir Wilfrid's ability to speak English so well.

And then there was Mr. Beaudry Leman. Highly educated, a civil engineer by profession, he became the head of the Shawinigan Company. While he held that position he was also mayor of the town of Shawinigan, and built into the town a railway line which afterwards was made a branch of the Canadian Pacific. He became the manager of our biggest French Canadian bank, which he has developed into the institution now known as La Banque Canadienne Nationale.

I leave it to honourable members to say whether these two men were not better acquainted with Canadian banking matters than were the two strangers who came here for a few weeks. These two well-informed Canadians were opposed to a Central Bank. Who decided in favour of it? A gentleman who is Prime Minister of Alberta, Mr. Brownlee. In my opinion his mind was at that time on something else than a Central Bank. If honourable members read the papers they will know what I mean.

A Central Bank has been established in the Commonwealth of Australia, in the Dominion of New Zealand, in the Union of South Africa and in India. We are the last of the British Dominions to get such an institution. Under the Statute of Westminster we were given absolute political control of all our affairs.