

Hon. Mr. LYNCH-STAUTON: That is the idea.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It is very simple.

The LAW CLERK: I think I can relieve all of Mr. Meighen's doubts with regard to the provisions of the legislation as now proposed. It has been very well done indeed, and I should like to highly compliment Mr. MacNeill on his production, because I understand it is wholly his. I have examined every reference and every section referred to, and there is nothing extraordinary about it. Everything seems to be quite necessary except the one familiar section as to which my opinion is well known.

Hon. Mr. ROGERS: Perhaps I should say at once that the draft before the Committee is an expression of our desire to go as far as possible in meeting the objections raised by the Committee and during the discussion yesterday. Naturally, we wish to preserve all the essential principles of the legislation which received the approval of the House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And of Parliament in 1935.

Hon. Mr. ROGERS: And of Parliament in 1935.

Hon. Mr. COTÉ: Not all.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: If you were preserving all, I would be satisfied.

Hon. Mr. ROGERS: I was thinking particularly of the features referred to by Senator Dandurand in presenting the draft.

I can appreciate the reason advanced by Mr. Meighen in support of having some judicial supervision of the investigations to be conducted under this Act; at the same time I should like to point out to members of the Committee that what is contemplated here is not a judicial proceeding but an investigation which will proceed on judicial—

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: But it has the penalties of a judicial proceeding.

Hon. Mr. ROGERS: The Minister has no power to impose any penalty.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The investigation itself is a penalty.

Hon. Mr. ROGERS: Senator Meighen, very properly, I think, referred to the change in the sentiment of people in this and other countries in recent years. There is no doubt at all that there has been a change of sentiment, and to some extent there has grown up a suspicion of large-scale business operations—a feeling that the very fact that they are conducted on a large scale is a presumption that they will be used to exploit the public. Such rumours surely ought to be confirmed or disproved.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Every investigation, even though necessary, adds to those rumours and confirms that attitude.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Are not those investigations made privately?

Hon. Mr. MORAUD: No, not now.

Hon. Mr. ROGERS: There is the provision for the preliminary inquiry.

Hon. Mr. MORAUD: The report may be made public.

Hon. Mr. ROGERS: Yes, the report may be made public. That I think is a salutary provision. That is my opinion. But surely it is to the advantage of business, if these rumours persist, that there should be machinery through which they may be removed if groundless; and I suggest that in the past there have been not a few inquiries under the Combines Investigation Act which have very definitely removed misgivings upon the part of a certain section of the Canadian people that combines which were to the detriment of the public did exist in a particular field of industry. If you go over the list of inquiries conducted you will find that in many cases they show there was no basis for further proceedings.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: I admit that, but why not have some supervision.