

the finished products emanating from their factories are really worth less than the raw material and the workmanship that enters into their makeup. Nay, more, they admit that the protection they have received during the last forty-seven years is not now adequate to meet that loss. They have during all this time preyed upon agriculture, the one industry that can stand on its own feet, and they have brought that basic industry to bankruptcy, and, of course, as a consequence destroyed the purchasing power of those who should be their best customers. During all this time they have lost no opportunity to consolidate their position of professed penury. They have practically under control now nearly every newspaper in the land, and these wells of information have been poisoned by the dope of class privilege until our people to-day to a large degree are made insensible to their state of captivity. Organized labour they have found hard to control as to wages, but even that class has been in many industrial centres made subject to the dictates of class privilege, until at election time the workers by intimidation and other means have been prevented or practically debarred from using the franchise as free men and free women should.

There is another feature beside the economic that accompanies class privilege. Many national features to-day contribute to doping and stultifying the minds of our citizens so that they may not realize the state of captivity they are in. Those who have this country's welfare at heart cannot fail to take note of the moral as well as the economic side of class privilege. Capitalism has been enthroned by class legislation until its baneful influence is felt in every walk of life. Our colleges, universities, schools, even our churches and places of sport and amusement come under its icy control. Perhaps there is no better evidence of the depraved condition our past policy of privilege has landed us in than that the advocates of manufacturing industry to-day are advocating legalized robbery as their right. Industry leans, and has leaned for nearly fifty years, on the politician. The one has been made necessary to the other. Both seem to be depending on the loot, perhaps one for profit, and the other for strength at election time. Anyway it has proved for this country a bad combination.

Whatever the tariff may be, whatever meaning you may attach to protection, it is after all, simply a license to rob the people to that extent. It is predatory, that is, characterized by plundering. It is ravenous; it is never

satisfied. The word definite cannot be applied in a logical sense to class privilege. The amazing thing, Sir, is why the people have so long tolerated it as a national policy. Well, the people may be fooled, but the amazing thing is the depths of political depravity to which a succession of Canadian governments could descend in their prostitution to money and influence. When I use the word robbery in connection with the national policy I mean it in its fullest sense. To lay with one hand the power of the government on the property of the private citizen, and with the other bestow on favoured individuals, to aid private enterprise and build up private fortunes, is none the less robbery because it is done under the forms of law and is called taxation.

The resolution states that our present industrial stagnation is due to a strengthening in late years of the protective system the world over, particularly in the United States. This is not so. The situation we are up against at present is of our own making. Because of a strengthening of class privilege in this country the cost of living, and consequently the cost of production, has been raised to a point where it is no longer profitable to compete in the world's markets, either in natural or manufactured products. The right hon. leader of the opposition now seeks a price-fixing power for the manufacturer that will enable him to export his goods at a loss and charge the home consumer a price that will give him a profit on both his home and export trade. There is no industry in this Dominion to-day that can stand that. Agriculture cannot longer make up that loss. After nearly fifty years of class privilege, the manufacturing industry of this country has created a condition where it must now stand on its own feet. This policy has gone on for forty-seven years, and industry seems as badly off to-day as they said it was when this legal privilege was first given to it. The right hon. gentleman who moved the resolution would now make this legal privilege definite; that is, I suppose, exact, precise. Well, it cannot be done. We have a tariff already too high, and the higher it is the more it puts the cost of producing in all lines of activity out of line with world's prices on a competitive basis. If the United States is mentioned as being our chief competitor, the only thing for Canada to do is to keep the cost of living and the cost of production below that of that country. There is no other salvation for Canada but to make the cost of production here cheaper than it is in the United States. All the price fixing power that we give to