

in this house the government did not have support, from the very beginning of this session, from all parties. The Liberal party of this country represents to-day the last stand of economic Liberalism in Canada. It relies on these social measures being declared unconstitutional. It is the party that for nine years had a chance to do something along these lines, but only dilly-dallied. It is the same party which in England opposed the factory acts and free schools, and the liberation of the trade unions. To-day it concentrates its attention in Canada on the tariff and on wider markets when wider markets are not available. The Liberal party in Canada is an advocate of social reform, pensions, doles, social insurance—all these are in its platform for the higher life, but they refuse to give to this house a plan or platform to grapple with the cause and effects of the social revolution and with those economic factors which deprive men of the bread of their own production and the fruits of their own toil. I believe that free trade and the error of the Liberal party's policies have been to the detriment of agriculture and of industry in Canada. Many children are in factories to-day who should be in school, and most of the young offenders who come before our courts are underprivileged children many of them from poverty stricken homes, who from birth have never had a proper chance.

In this bill, the Conservative party, which has always been constructive, is again constructive in its effort to solve the problem. The Conservative party has to its credit reform legislation such as the eight hour day bill and legislation for a minimum wage. This party is equipped by position and temperament to bring better order into Canadian life and industry, and to check the abuses which affect the consumer and the labourer. We should remove some of the unethical business practices, and bring protection up to date, eliminate the abuses to protect consumer and labour, and prevent further burdens and artificial barriers being placed on business. The main problem to be solved in Canada is unemployment. That is the main problem because no scheme of pensions and no scheme of unemployment insurance is a substitute for work and wages and the desire of people to work. Employment is the only real agency by which the nation's wealth can be distributed. Without consumption, production is a mere waste, and work and wages for all is the main agency of distribution. This party was the founder of protection, and it should dedicate itself to solving this problem of distributism and of getting people off

[Mr. Church.]

the dole and back to work. Agriculture has always been traditionally associated with the Conservative party. As a party we stand for the further development and preservation of the home market for agriculture. Our own markets for our own products, and our own work for our own workmen is our policy. Agriculture is the oldest of our industries from the point of view of employment. It has been content to choose order instead of anarchy, and industry can be made amenable to similar treatment.

I believe this government has made a courageous effort to do what it can. We have heard express and implied doubts about this legislation and I regret that those doubts have come from the sources from which we have heard them. Such doubts should be expressed by the law courts and not by the law officers of the crown nor by retained corporation lawyers. It seems to me that in the future the government would be well advised to consult some public ownership lawyers, public rights lawyers and lawyers who have a knowledge of labour problems; they should consult lawyers with those sympathies when drafting legislation for improving the condition of the working classes.

Mr. ANGUS MacINNIS (Vancouver South): The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. McKenzie) referred to a certain resolution he brought in in 1932 or 1933, and which did not, according to him, get the support of members in this corner. I do not remember just what that resolution was, but I presume it was one asking that some investigation be made or ameliorative measures be taken to protect either the farmer or the working classes from exploitation under the present capitalist system. I am sure that the hon. member for Assiniboia did not advocate the abolition of the capitalist system under which such exploitation takes place and must take place; and if we did not support him it was because we had a better solution for the problem, namely, the abolition of the system that gives rise to all these conditions of which complaints are made.

The attitude of many members in this house reminds me of a story of a certain city council in a town where one of the streets crossed a large ravine. Many accidents were taking place in this ravine, vehicles kept running off, but the city fathers would not put up a railing. Instead they insisted on keeping an ambulance at the foot of the ravine to take care of victims. My friend from Assiniboia will not put up a railing nor abolish the danger, he is satisfied to have an ambulance at the foot to take care of the victims of the capitalist