

I will quote one other paragraph which I think contains the core of the whole matter:

It is of primary importance that the public should have implicit faith in the absolute impartiality of the police, and that anything which has a tendency to shake that faith should be avoided.

I heartily agree with that position. I believe it to be absolutely sound.

Mr. STANLEY: There is no doubt about that. But why is the hon. gentleman trying to shake public faith in the police?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I am trying to shake faith in a commissioner who will get up and make such partisan statements as that.

Mr. STANLEY: Would the hon. gentleman do away with the police force?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I hope the hon. gentleman does not believe me to be as silly as the police commissioner is reported to have been.

Mr. QUINN: What does the hon. member mean by partisan? Partisan so far as the communists are concerned?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Perhaps instead of saying a partisan statement, I should have said an ex parte statement. Perhaps that would have been more correct and would appeal to my legal friends opposite. I say that undoubtedly it is advisable that in this country we should maintain law and order.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: My hon. friends agree, but I want to suggest that the maintenance of law and order may readily be interpreted to be the maintenance of the status quo, and that is another matter altogether.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: May I ask the hon. member a question? So far as his sympathy with labour is concerned I fully appreciate everything that he has said in that regard.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I have the floor, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Hanson, York-Sunbury): If the hon. gentleman does not permit a question—

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I thought it was a statement that was coming, but if it is a question—

Mr. MACDOUGALL: It is a question. My hon. friend has spoken of law and order. Only a little while ago—

Mr. WOODSWORTH: That is not a question.

Mr. MACDOUGALL: All right. I will reply to you when you are through.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I have no objection to that whatever. As I was saying, Mr. Chairman, the maintenance of law and order is something very different from the maintenance of the status quo, and it does seem to me that there is room and need for a very decided agitation to change the economic conditions that prevail at the present time. After all, a government that cannot arrange matters so that the people can be fed is not going to claim for very long the loyalty of the population. I think we have to recognize that. There is even something to be said with regard to those who are trying to bring in reforms by means of force.

Mr. COWAN (Long Lake): By means of force?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes. There is something to be said on their behalf. They have a certain weight of historical evidence in their favour.

Mr. STANLEY: The communists?

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I said that those who are advocating the bringing in of reforms by means of force have a certain weight of historical evidence in their favour. Someone has expressed it thus:

No nation ever became truly great save by successful sedition and revolution. The lamp and the torch and the tumult have overcome tyranny. The signature of King John was placed to the Magna Charta, wrenched from him by the nobles; revolution led King Charles to the block; the corn law riots—these were crimes against the law and sedition, but no one hangs his head in shame because of them. "Liberty, equality, fraternity," were no mere catchwords as in the French revolution, but the expression of the earnest striving for the substance that lies behind the words.

When I began reading I heard someone says, "communist." No; although this article is very much in harmony with communist teaching the remarks contained therein were reported to be uttered by Mr. R. B. Graham, K.C., police magistrate in my own city of Winnipeg. On that occasion he was proposing a toast to England, and Mr. Jackson Dods of the Bankers' Association was presiding. I respectfully suggest that when men of outstanding ability and position back up the idea that we must bring about reforms by force it is not very much wonder that communists