

that will be able, as I have said, to obtain such information as will form the basis for the scientific tariff that will secure stability in business. For, after all, the greatest thing you can have in a country is stability in business; and the thing that we call business has the right to know what treatment it has to expect from governments and from people. I can conceive of no method that can be devised that will enable this parliament to deal more justly and more fairly with the complex problems associated with the tariff and all that goes with it than a tariff commission. I venture to say that no Act of the late administration has met with greater support than the creation of the Railway Commission, a commission that is the buffer between the rights of the people and the aggressions of the railway. And in the same way it will be possible to create a tariff commission, not one with legislative functions but one whose duty it will be to gather the information that will enable us as legislators to devise a tariff on scientific principles, a tariff that will do violence to no industry, while protecting every legitimate interest that may exist within our broad Dominion.

One might ask what is meant by such a platitude as 'scientific tariff.' That is an old question, one that I have seen frequently asked and as frequently differently answered. I suppose it is only fair for each man to give his own interpretation of a scientific tariff. For my own part, I believe that is a scientific tariff which will insure to the Canadian people the ordered use regulated employment of our great resources of river and lake, sea and land that will insure the manufacture within Canada of all those articles that can be economically produced in Canada, giving employment to Canadian workmen at wages at least equal to those paid to workmen in competing countries, to the end that Canadian farmers may produce those things that will feed may produce the food products necessary to feed the Canadian workmen. That is my explanation of a scientific tariff at this time. And I say that there are no people in this great Dominion who have a more earnest desire to see a scientific business tariff for this country than the agriculturists of the west. For they are prepared to bear their part of the burden and responsibility of government; and they realize that so long as we are in need of great public works for national development, so long as such demands are made upon us as are now made, we shall require large and buoyant resources, and that this can only be done in the manner now followed. If that be true, and I think that even hon. members opposite will agree that it is true, we reach the further conclusion that we should give to the motherland and to the overseas dominions a preference in our

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markets with respect to those articles that cannot be economically manufactured or produced in Canada. That constitutes my idea of a scientific Canadian tariff. The effect will be to remove prejudices too often created by public men between the east and the west. I remember when a senator belonging to the party of hon. gentlemen opposite told the people of the west of the vast fortunes being accumulated by manufacturers at their expense and pointed out in glowing terms that the one desire of those manufacturers was that they might use the dollars they had so acquired as a means of securing their entry into the effete aristocracy of Europe. The prejudices thus cultivated in the minds of the people of the west can only be removed, it seems to me, by removing the tariff, as far as possible, out of the realm of politics. And, as I have said, the way to do this is to furnish parliament with such accurate, such absolutely correct information will enable it to pass a tariff law based upon a proper conception of the obligations and requirements of every section of the country.

For, after all, Mr. Speaker, we in the west and those who live in the east are all imbued with a common patriotism, we are all striving for the common prosperity of our country; and I feel quite sure that as the years go by it will be found that those who create prejudices on fiscal questions and on tariffs in the minds of the agriculturists of the west at the expense of the manufacturers of the east, or seek to create antagonism between those who live in the west and those who live in the east, will receive a reprimand at the polls on the very first opportunity at which the people can express themselves.

Now, Sir, closely associated and allied with the question of a tariff commission is another question which I think must engage at no distant date the attention of this House and of this parliament, I refer to the control of corporations. I think it was Lord Acton who said that the great struggle of all the ages had been the conflict between custom and reason. In my judgment, in this complex civilization of ours, the great struggle of the future will be between human rights and property interests; and it is the duty and the function of government to provide that there shall be no undue regard for the latter that limits or lessens the other. I believe that so far as business, great or small, is concerned, it is elementary to say that if men meet together and conclude to enter into partnership, the limit of their responsibility is the limit of their joint and several fortunes. But when they constitute themselves into a joint stock company, or a corporation, the limit of their liability is the amount of their subscriptions. Every corporation is the creature of a statute, and