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The determination of the Dominion Government to proceed with the acquisition of the Grand Trunk Railway system at this session of the House, we think will meet with the approval of the great bulk of the people of Canada notwithstanding all their inherent objections which the people generally have to a Government-owned and operated institution. The passing of this bill and the turning over of the property to the Canadian National Railway Board will be the end of a chapter of railway building in Canada financed out of Dominion and Provincial credit. We cannot help but think, and, we believe that we are in agreement with the bulk of the people, that where the Dominion Government holds the bag we think it is entitled to whatever it finds in the bag, and for that reason the Government is justified in taking it over along the same lines as it took over the Canadian Northern system.

The plea against Government ownership and operation has not been in the least affected by the Government Bill, which is one of expediency rather than one of principle. Notwithstanding a few exceptions Government operation is both uneconomical and inefficient and this must continue to be the case so long as Governments do business on the present basis. There are always two factors against Government operation. One is the taxpayer who is always striving to reduce the amount of his contribution to the support of the state, especially when the amount of the contribution is increased by extravagance and inefficiency. Then we have the other factor, the shippers and those affected by transportation of commodities which involve a very large percentage of those engaged in business. The complaint of delayed freight, lost packages, damaged goods, etc., with increasing freight rates in the effort to make income balance expenditure, will rise in a steadily growing clamor for private operation if not private ownership of our Government railway system. The great force apart from the logic or events which forced the Government to acquire these two systems is the socialistic trend among certain sections of the people who acclaim the acquisition of any industry or system as a milestone in the programme of socialism which contemplates the acquisition of all industry by the state. One of the signs of the times as recorded in political movements is a very strong reaction from the Marxian system of socialism from socialization of

all industry to that of the socialization of a particular industry by arrangement between employer and employee acting, in one phase, through the principle of collective bargaining. If this change in the minds of the people, particularly if that of the employee is true, the movement for encroachment of the Government in private industry will have a tendency to decrease as the great industrial forces now in such a period of flux, take more definite form and direction.

There is a tendency in business circles to regard the sweeping overturn in the Ontario election as tending to increase business uncertainty by the doubt as to what the victors, the United Farmers, are going to do when they get in power. We think on the contrary that even if the movement spreads so as to sweep into a minority the leading political parties of Canada, that little real danger need be anticipated except in so far as a change in our fiscal system may be made on the lines of a reduced tariff. If there is going to be an overturn of Government, and we fully anticipate that no Government, either Dominion or Provincial, will remain in power after they have submitted themselves to an election, then there is no element in the community we could more safely trust with the affairs of the state than the farmer.

The farmer in general is a property owner. He is a conservative of conservatives. He may not fully understand the effect of his proposed policies, but at the same time he would be the most loathe to make any serious change in the organic law. He is a staunch upholder of the principle of private ownership and the right of the individual free from Government interference, and, wherever any policy is brought up which may tend to vitiate or weaken these principles he will be found voting on the right side. On the other hand our industrial leaders who participate in our public life and have a very strong influence in directing the course of Government, have shown themselves to be Bourbons, stand-patists and refuse to see or learn. While the employers as a class are composed of a large number of exceptions to this characterization they are nevertheless still in a serious minority. This Bourbon element in our industry is largely the cause of the violent reactions which exhibit themselves in the revolutionary movements seeking to dominate labor. In the struggle that is now going on in industry not only in Canada but throughout the world we may safely depend upon the farmer class to resist all tendencies which have for their purposes the uprooting of the present order and the substitution of another, wrong in principle and doubtful in its application to the problems of our modern life.

The log scale for August, which is printed in another column of this paper, indicates another record for the logging industry of British Columbia, when the total reached over 206,000,000 board feet.

While it is anticipated that the remaining months of the year will show declines from this record figure, nevertheless it is expected that the log scale will show an increase over the corresponding months of the previous year and that the industry will show a logging output of between 1,850,000,000 and 1,900,000,000 board feet. This will be in contrast to 1,761,000,000 feet in 1918 and 1,647,000,000 feet in 1917. When it is taken into consideration that logs are now bringing from 25 per cent. to 40 per cent. more than last year, values involved in the industry this year will be appreciated. Notwithstanding the comparatively poor results of the crops on the prairies and the slackening seasonal demand the lumber industry is yet in a remarkable state of activity, and in the general consensus of opinion, will remain so as long as physical conditions will permit.