

principles should be established in business, principles that are clearly manifest to the minds of most of us who are engaged in the distributing business.

We can, from this time forward, know where we are at.

As Mr. O'Connor said to me in Ottawa (as most of you will remember): "Combinations which are in the interests of those who make them, without being to the general detriment of the public—when made by business men, are now as lawful as combinations made by workmen for their own mutual protection."

He told you some good, sound, common horse sense when he said: "Combinations which are not injurious to the public are lawful—and that what is **lawful**, or what **some** people might think **unlawful**, would be left to the sole determination of the **Board of Commerce**, and that no proceedings can be had under the criminal law against any combination (or any manufacturer) by reason of its being such without leave of the Board of Commerce which has the first right to prohibit.

The Board of Commerce of Canada is the most advanced legislation Canada ever had. It is superior to that of any other country in the world, and it is a pleasure to see Canada lead in this respect, instead of tagging on to the coat-tail of some other country.

We may venture to say, if it were not for the pull of certain interests before now, other countries would have had a commission just such as we have in Canada. Certain interests in Canada did not want this Board of Commerce; they fought secretly and powerfully to prevent it; but don't you forget it—that what is right and best will prevail in the end.

Certain interests fought tooth and nail to prevent Mr. O'Connor's appointment. They feared his outspoken criticisms. They did not want investigation. **We always courted it.** Even today many of the papers criticize adversely the Board of Commerce and