

have been—when the honourable senator from Provencher (Hon. Mr. Molloy) completely explained the situation.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: I was here.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: He explained that there was shortly to be a provincial election in Manitoba.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. LITTLE: Just as there was when the original Act was introduced in 1935.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: We have to keep that in mind when we are thinking of the Manitoba Free Press.

As to the other newspaper article, I feel no resentment; and perhaps that is only natural; but there is one thing I should say in fairness to the leader of the House. It is stated by the Gazette that the examination given to the Unemployment Insurance Bill in committee was perfunctory. That is untrue. I was afraid at first, from a statement made by the leader of the House in the same committee before that Bill came to it, that there was going to be an attempt to curtail the presentation of evidence. But indications proved incorrect. There was no attempt on the part of the leader of the House to curtail the evidence in the slightest degree. Everyone who intimated an intention to be present was heard at whatever length he desired.

Speaking for myself, I have never, either as leader of the Government in the House or as leader of this side, taken any other course than that of encouraging the interests of this Dominion, of every class, to come to our committees, and of giving them the fullest and most impartial hearing. I have never failed at any time. In this case, particularly, I got into touch with all I could reach, and urged them to come, and promised a fair hearing without any curtailment of any kind.

If there was anything perfunctory, it was the failure of those opposed to this measure to present their views.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Hear, hear.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: One man who appeared, and who had not quite finished his case, although we sat on towards midnight, would not remain until the following morning. I think the only company represented as such was the Bell Telephone Company. The representatives of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association were heard. There were only about two witnesses from each. Not one of the financial interests even appeared. No representative of the insurance companies

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or of the bankers was present, although both interests were strongly represented five years ago and both were urged to come this time. The same remark would apply to a considerable range of interests in this Dominion which are vitally affected by the Bill. I do not think the strength of the opposition to it throughout the country was even approximately represented by the witnesses who appeared before the committee. That is where the perfunctoriness was; and perhaps there is some consequence therefrom.

Hon. Mr. MURDOCK: I wonder if I may ask the honourable senator from Winnipeg South-Centre (Hon. Mr. Haig) about this caucus business. I have been a member of the Senate for ten years and nobody has ever advised me of any caucus to be held.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: The honourable gentleman is on the wrong side of the House.

Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh.

Hon. Mr. HAIG: You do not need a caucus. We do, because if we did not consult one another we might vote in various ways.

Hon. A. L. BEAUBIEN: Honourable senators, I should not like any injustice to be done any honourable member of this House. The right honourable senator opposite (Right Hon. Mr. Meighen) said this afternoon that the member from Provencher had stated the reason why the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Bill was requested by the Legislature of the province of Manitoba. In the list of senators in the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Senate I find the following: "Beaubien (Provencher)." I hope that Hansard will not attribute to me the statement of Honourable Senator Molloy as to the reason why the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Bill was being asked for.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: It was Dr. Molloy who gave the reason. I remember that.

Hon. Mr. BEAUBIEN: While I am on my feet, I may say to my right honourable friend that those who made representations to this House in favour of that Act were not confined to any political party in the province of Manitoba, but included the leaders of both parties in that province.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Correct, and with similar political motives in the case of both. I sincerely hope that time and the gentle influences of maturity will have their effect on the honourable senator (Hon. Mr. Beaubien) and that he will become as frank as Dr. Molloy.