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G. W. HODGE

96 Regent Street

Liberal Leader Vigorously Assails the Sugar Order Issued by the Board of Commerce-Real Issue Between the Government and the People is Becoming More Clearly Defined -Government Playing Game for the Big Interests.

Vernon, B. C.,-Hon. Mackenzie | his resignation Mr. Murdoch, in a let-King and his party arrived in this city ter to the prime minister, asserted ate on Thursday afternoon. Mr. King that a majority of the cabinet were in making his first speech in the rid- not in sympathy with the law, that it ing of Yale, where a bye-election is had no sooner been passed than proceeding, found the majority of eyes members of the government began to turned in his direction.

The Liberal leader made a sensation with special reference to the order is-

"Day by day," said Mr. King, "the eal issue between the political par- ed methods to prevent fair competitties in Canada as represented on the one hand, by the Government and its fits had been discovered by the board supporters and on the other by the with regard to large numbers of comprogressive forces arrayed against them, is becoming more and more clearly defined. We who are espousing

the cause of Liberalism have been ace or creed and class.

sought to conceal their identity and to doch himself. who have usurped the right of govern- issued by the board which since Mr.

dentity of some at least of the Big In- Murdoch said. erests who are controlling the destines of the country through the governdirecting that transactions as to the their fountain head in the half dozen opoly in this Dominion.

The Sugar Order

cept from the few refiners included in to an instrument for the protection of tariff is \$1.93 per 100 pounds on all re-marriage this privileged monopoly. Wholesalers are restrained from selling sugar to other than manufacturers and retailers, and manufacturers and retailers are denied the right of buying otherwise than from those wholesalers. In other words the sugar combine in Canada, having through government agency succeeded in forcing the price of sugar up to a point unheard of and never hitherto reached in the level of sugar prices in Canada, has now, through the same agency, succeeded in maintaining that price at a monopoly figure, just at the very moment when conditions of international trade would make it possible for relief to be obtained by consumers everywhere throughout Canada in a manner which would effectively serve to reduce some what the high cost of living. There is only one feature about it from which at least some small measure of satisfaction can be derived. It affords irrefutable evidence of the truth of the assertions which we have been making right along as to the contending forces at work in our political and industrial society. It reveals the issue clearly as between the profiteers and the people-the profiteers, on one hand, protected by a government they helped to create, and the people, on the other, who are in need of proteckion against these all powerful antisocial forces. It will require a moment's pause on the part of the public to fully appreciate just the extent to which consumers would be left without protection of any kind under the board's order and profiteers permitted to continue the reaping of their rewards at the public expense. "In 1919 there were enacted what is known as the Combines and Fair Prices Act and the Board of Commerce Act. The two were intended as measures to be operated in connection best bred-to-lay stock in New England. the Howie Building, 352 Queen Street, with each other. The Board of Commerce was to be an instrument to apply the provisions of the Combine and Fair prices Act in a manner which would protect consumers from unjust taxations and the evils of profiteering. The Murdock Charges "The board, however, had not commenced its work before its chairman resigned. A little later the second member of the board, W. F. O'Connor, resigned, and still a few weeks later lames Murdoch, the sole remaining member, also resigned. In tendering

minimize its provisions, that they repeatedly undertook to thwart its acwith his talk on the sugar question tivities and were using their influence to stifle inquiry into instances of prosued on Wednesday, by the Board of fiteering. Mr. Murdoch stated further that combines had fastened themselv es on essential food and had introduc

ion, and that unfair and excessive pro modities. He referred specifically to "When confronted in parliament with Mr. Murdoch's charges the pres aying all along that the issue is be- ent prime minister, Mr. Arthur Meigh ween invisible government by the en, instead of meeting the demand of 'Big Interests" on the one hand and the Opposition for a full investigation overnment by a parliament represen- sought to cast ridicule on the charges ative of the people irrespective of the and other members of the government subsequently sought to minimize the "Thus far the Big Interests have reliability and standing of Mr. Murnave Mr. Meighen and his colleagues "The order which has now bee

ment in this country, serve special pri Murdoch's resignation, has ceased to ilege under the guise of a political be in any sense of the word an inde party calling itself the National Liber- pendent board but has become a mere al and Conservative Party. It it inevit- official organ of the government,

shall be limited to channels which find tion on our statues affording to con- When later the price of sugar began sumers means of redress against the still further to decline in the United refiners who constitute one cast mon- exactions of combines, monopolies, trusts and mergers.

"According to the despatches we machinery at all adequate for his pro- United States and other countries, the read in the press this morning, whole- tection. On the other hand, machinery refiners were not satisfied with the of the thirteen hole salers, manufacturers and retailers purporting to be for the protection of protection which the law affords them, are restrained from buying sugar ex. the consumer was, in reality, made in- and which according to the customs to stay out late dusing could ship and then kick because he keeps it up after

"DID help make it, didn't I? Now there are two cooks in our family, aren't there, Mother? And see how light the cake is! I told Harold I creamed the butter and sugar, and he said I wasn't big enough. He didn't know I used Lantic. Tell him I did help make it, Mother."

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profiteers. Having removed from the fined sugars, but, intent on maintainstatues, the only machinery of investi- ing the advantages of the monopoly gation which consumers on their own they invoked the power of the governinitiative could take advantage of ment, not to prohibit export as they their protection the government has had been asking some time before but now gone a length which it is almost to prohibit imports until their vast acimpossible to believe in protecting not cumulated stocks are disposed of at the people but the profiteers in their the high prices to which sugar has inwarranted exactions. mounted.

The Sugar Barons

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ing, Preserving, and Desserts. Red Ball trade-sack or from th

price to which sugar has risen has sugar but it is also injuricus to sach enabled individuals to acculate vast industries as the fruit industry. The fortunes which have been made at the action of the board is equally injurious expense of the consuming public. to the great transportation and comthe however, that sooner or later the bears out the truth of all that Mr. When the sugar refiners found that mercial industries in the country, contracts into which they had entered which depend on their returns upon "The public have not yet become with firms in the United States were the volume of trade. Not only the aroused to the circumstance's that not going to be as profitable as the carrying trade but the wholesale and nent they have created shall become when the government established the sale of sugar in Canada, at the price retail trade are bound also to be simiapparent. The identity of one at least Board of Commerce it at the same to which sugar had risen in this coun- larly affected by this adverse order, of these interests has been disclosed time abolished the act passed in 1910 try, they went to the government to which, by restricting the sale of an in the order of the Board of Commerce by the Laurie Administration known secure an order which would prohibit important commodity, serves also to as the Combines Investigation Act, the export of sugar in a manner which restrict the sale of every commodity buying and selling of refined sugar which was the only piece of legisla- would secure them in their monopoly. into which that article enters. * *

still further to decline in the United Lima Beane says the worst thing States, and the prospect of relief to the consuming public was in sight house is that it is hard to get off. "The consumer was left without any through possible competition from the

"The action of the board is in-"First let it be remembered that the jurious not only to consumers of

Leader Baxter should be grateful to the overnment forces of Charlotte the for lifting his legislative following out

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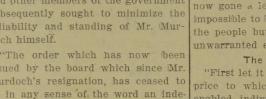
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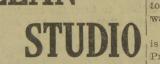
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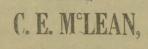
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