

Hon. W.L.M.K. - - - - 4.

speed reform, and large questions of policy where trade tends to combinations and restrictions may be submitted to the board for advisory action."

By referring also to the final and last report of the Committee, paragraph 3 (see p. 539 of Votes and Proceedings) states:-

"3. In their investigations your Committee took the base cost paid to the farmer for such commodities as beef, cattle, hogs, lamb, dairy products, eggs, etc. Upon examining this phase of the subject your Committee had before them representatives of the Department of Labour, the Bureau of Statistics, the Superintendent of the Experimental Farm, the Assistant Live-Stock Commissioner, a professor from the Agricultural College at Guelph, representatives of the United Farmers of Ontario, dairymen, packers, cold-storage men, millers, grain dealers, co-operative organizations, officials of stock yards and commission merchants; and, on the strength of the evidence received your Committee desire to state that the production cost of these articles, namely, the price paid to the farmer, is from 100% to 115% greater than it was five years ago. The prices of hogs have increased by 125% on an average; beef cattle, 110 to 125 per cent; dairy products on the butter fat basis and eggs from 100 to 110 per cent above normal. Your Committee have considered the possibility of effecting some relief at this point, either (a) by fixing a price or (b) by placing an embargo on the export of food stuffs. After most careful consideration your Committee are of opinion that to do either of these things would result in most disastrous effects, because, any effort on the part of the Government or Parliament at price fixing or at attempting reductions in sale prices which the farmers are receiving, would only intensify the present difficult situation for the reason that it would tend to dry up the source of supply by directing the productive energy of those now engaged in this industry into other channels; on the other hand, were the Government to place an embargo upon exports of any class of food-stuffs it would not only have the same effect, but the policy would be unsound on economic lines. It would have the effect of discouraging productive industries by restricting and limiting markets,--and surely there is nothing more obvious than the necessity of encouraging to the greatest possible extent every class of production in order that through Canada's exports we may be enabled to meet our world ob-