

considered necessary to make a complete investigation of the cost of commodities. The Government may on the recommendation of the Board determine the maximum rates which may be charged for foodstuffs, and other commodities, and the maximum rates which may be charged for services in any specified area. The Government may also determine the conditions of the sale, or the performance of the service. Failure to observe prices and rates thus fixed is made an indictable offence.

The first work of the Board is now being undertaken in connection with the fixing of the prices of groceries and household necessities.

Newfoundland.

In Newfoundland the governor-in-council was authorized to take possession, at a reasonable price, of foodstuffs unreasonably withheld, and to issue a statement of maximum prices. Foods held for higher than maximum prices were to be regarded as unreasonably withheld, and liable to acquisition at the Government's price.

New Zealand.

In New Zealand the Regulation of Trade and Commerce Act enabled the Government by order-in-council to fix and determine and vary the maximum price of any class of goods. To sell above this price has been made an indictable offence punishable by a fine of \$2,500.

Other Precedents.

Other precedents which the Government might follow are to be found in Queensland, Australia, where the Meat Supply for Imperial Uses Act, which may be extended to other foodstuffs, not only secured ample supplies for the use of the Government during the war but, in effect, fixed prices; and where the Control of Trade Act provided against the restriction of supply or the undue raising of prices by the appointment of Boards of Control responsible to the Chief Secretary. In Victoria the Price of Goods Act provided for the fixing of maximum prices by the Prices Board acting in conjunction with the Governor. In Western Australia by the Control of Trade in War Time Act a royal commission was authorized to fix prices, and any person possessing the necessities of life, and refusing to sell them at the lawful price was made liable to a fine of \$5,000, while the State Treasurer was empowered to purchase compulsorily at the maximum price.

In addition to the above a commissioner is appointed by the Commonwealth Government for each Australian State to report to the Federal Prices Adjustment Board.

It is needless to refer in supplementing the above cases to the thorough system of price control established by the British Government.

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The only comment we have to make on the utterances of Mr. McNaught of Toronto, which were intended to reflect on the loyalty of Liberals, is that if the "Mc" were left from his name what is left would be indicative of his brain power.

To paraphrase Nelson's famous message to his sailors on the eve of the battle of Trafalgar, our national watchword should be, "CANADA EXPECTS EVERY DOLLAR TO DO ITS DUTY."

Gabriel's horn may blow before Sir Charles Peers Davidson makes his report on the charges of graft in the conduct of the Militia Department.

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