

have an opportunity of reading the reports in detail.

Mr. KYTE: How very consoling it will be to the consumers to know that the Minister of Labour is preparing a report as to the inquiries he had made. It will satisfy them, no doubt, for the increased cost of leaving. The Minister of Labour stated that the cost of food products is less in Canada than in any other belligerent country with the exception of New Zealand.

Mr. CROTHERS: No, I said the price had gone up less rapidly in Canada than in any other country.

Mr. KYTE: I take issue with the minister. I cite the case of Australia, while in January flour was selling at \$5.80 in Australia, it was \$9.50 in Montreal; butter was selling on the 15th of January in Australia at 28 cents a pound and in the city of Montreal at 40 cents and the same applies to eggs, bacon and all other commodities that enter into the daily consumption of the home. I would suggest to the Minister of Labour to inform himself a little more on these particular subjects before he undertakes to discuss them here.

Mr. CROTHERS: I would like to say to the hon. gentleman that his giving to us the prices of these things in Australia does not prove or disprove what I said. That is not the question; the question is the advance since the war. If the hon. gentleman takes prices at the commencement of the war and compares them with what they are now he will see how rapidly they have gone up. I did not say that prices here were as low as in any other country. What I said was that prices had not gone up as rapidly in Canada as in any other belligerent country with the exception of New Zealand.

Mr. KYTE: Which shows that the minister does not face the question but is quibbling in order to get around it. We are discussing the question of the cost of these commodities. Compare the cost of commodities in this country with prices in England. I suppose the Minister of Labour gets some consolation from the circumstance that the cost of these commodities is greater in England than in Canada. But we overlook the fact that England is an importing country whereas Canada is an exporting country and the cost of these commodities imported into England depends entirely on

[Mr. Crothers.]

the uncertainty of transportation conditions.

Mr. CROTHERS: What about prices in the United States? My hon. friend and others are claiming the right to send stuff over there because prices there are higher than here, and they have not had any war there.

Mr. KYTE: The United States up to a few weeks ago was not a belligerent country. The United States was making more money out of the war than any other country. They did not know what to do with the money they were making, therefore they were not as much concerned about the cost of living as about the money they were making. The Government of that country were under no patriotic duty at that particular time to see that the cost of living was not unduly enhanced. But the moment war was declared by the United States they took the matter up and they have done more after three weeks to prevent the rise of the price of food products in the United States than this Government has done in three years.

Mr. CROTHERS: What has been the result?

Mr. PUGSLEY: I wish to say a word on this subject of ships. The Minister of Labour is rather disposed to ridicule any suggestion with regard to this Government improving the means of transportation. Some gentlemen rather intimate that the reason for the farmers of the West desiring to secure a market for wheat in the United States is that they wish to be able to get increased prices. I do not think that that at all follows as the reason. If a farmer has a larger and wider market, a market to which he can continually send all that he produces, he may well be content to receive the same price which he has been receiving for the smaller product at home. If the farmer can find a market for ten thousand bushels of grain he may make more money at the same price than he would make if he was selling only some five thousand bushels. This larger market will induce the farmers of the West, and indeed of the East as well, to increase their production, because they know that they will always have a steady market for what they produce. I know that if we in New Brunswick had free access to the American market for our potatoes, which this Government can secure at once by placing on the statute-book a law admitting potatoes