

144302

2

of as many interpretations as it has words), left the Commissioners no alternative. But certainly this does not apply to the Government; and if we had in office people with any sense, any statesmanship, they would cease to talk purely in terms of what their own Order says, and consider whether the Order might not be modified to serve more effectively the purpose for which it was designed. What makes me feel pessimistic is that I know our Government!

In England, they have not established any such wage freezing as we have. They have left wages to be settled by the normal processes of collective bargaining, with appropriate machinery for conciliation and arbitration. In the words of the British Government White Paper on Price Stabilization and Industrial Policy, issued July 22, 1941:

"It is the traditional and well tried practice of the principal industries to regulate wages through their joint voluntary machinery for wage negotiation. Since the outbreak of the war, the existing joint voluntary machinery has operated successfully. Increases in wage rates have been reasonable; the authority of the unions in day-to-day adjustment of wages and conditions has been maintained; the freedom of opportunity to make claims and have them discussed has enabled industrial peace to be maintained. The policy of the Government, therefore, is to avoid modification of the machinery for wage negotiations and to continue to leave the various voluntary organizations and wage tribunals free to reach their decisions in accordance with their estimate of the relevant facts."

MEIGHEN PAPERS, Series 6 (M.G. 26, I, Volume 222)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA