

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Let me also bring this up. Can you let us know the price of flour over that period?—A. Yes, we can give you that.

Q. Am I right in suggesting that the price of flour has gone down while the price of bread has gone up?—A. We have something on that right here.

Mr. HARKNESS: Flour has gone up?

The WITNESS: Flour has gone up more than bread. There is an index of January, 1948; on the basis of December, 1945; for flour it shows an increase of 174.4, while bread was 131.6. These are wholesale prices.

*By Mr. Maybank:*

Q. Who is going to say as to the importance of the flour rise in the price of bread? That is not in your department, is it, Mr. Marshall?—A. No, that would not be in our department.

Mr. HARKNESS: What we need is the price the millers have paid for wheat during that period related to the price of flour and also mill feeds.

The CHAIRMAN: I think we should bear in mind that Mr. Marshall is here as head of the Bureau of Statistics and he will give us the statistics of these things, the details of which I think will have to be supplied by someone like Mr. Taylor or his officials. What we want to get now is the points indicating the highest rises and the lowest depressions.

Mr. HARKNESS: There is another group of statistics I would like to get if you could supply them; that is the number of farm trucks by provinces. I think that could be readily secured from the provincial people. I understand they will be able to give us that because they issue special licences for farm trucks.

The WITNESS: Yes, I will make a note of that.

Mr. HARKNESS: It will be referred to you, of course.

Mr. JOHNSTON: Would it not be worthwhile while Mr. Marshall is getting the information which has been requested on flour, and in view of the fact that he is conversant with all these price changes, that he make a list of those things which enter into the cost of living where the rise has been outstanding, as it has been in bread? That would avoid overlooking any pertinent facts.

The CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Marshall can do that.

Mr. JOHNSTON: That would show us exactly where they have taken place.

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. Mr. Chairman, perhaps this follows logically after the question which has just been asked. In the scant opportunity I have had of looking over this bulletin of statistics which was given out this morning I do not find here any statistics of production in Canada, or the importation into Canada, of the items which are included in the cost of living index. I am thinking particularly of the commodities which enter into the cost of living. I presume those figures are available?—A. We have import statistics on a pretty current basis, and we have the production of certain individual commodities on a monthly basis; and on other individual commodities we could produce a lot of information.

Q. I would like to start with food stuffs right from their production on the farm; start right in with the wheat and the coarse grains and the live stock and bring it up. I should think that the figures on the production of grains and so on should go back to say 1939; and on imports as well as we can get them down to 1946, and 1947. Perhaps so far as the production figures can be set