

vicious, though it was, nevertheless it was the great moving spirit under the party system. The usefulness as a legislator of the average member of Parliament supporting a Government was destroyed by it. As a matter of fact he was nothing short of a messenger boy to his constituents. Most of his time was spent in doing chores for his supporters and in supplicating the Ministers and Departments for favors. The system also bred and nourished the professional politician who lives only for the spoils of office. The loss, financial and otherwise, suffered by the country through the exercise of the system is incalculable.

The action of the Union Government in promptly abolishing the vicious practice is alone ample justification for the formation of that Government, and it merits the approval of all decent, fair-minded citizens. It, moreover, is an excellent omen for good in the future administration of the country.

The expressed intention of the Government to establish a Branch or Commission for the purchase of all supplies required by all the Government Departments is another reform which has been long in coming and is warmly welcomed. The old method under which each Department bought its own supplies without reference to any other Department led to all sorts of extravagance and abuses and was thoroughly unbusinesslike.

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Apart from the war the question of the high cost of living most intimately and vitally affects the whole people. The prices of the necessities of life have, largely through the demands of the war, risen to such an extent as to make the problem of existence to the average citizen one of grave importance. While it may not be possible, consistent with stimulating production, to adopt drastic measures towards lowering of prices to a point satisfactory to everybody, there is no doubt that resolute action by the new Government will do a great deal to ameliorate conditions.

It is gratifying to note that the Government promptly declared their policy in favor of:—

“Effective measures to prevent excessive profits, to prohibit hoarding and to prevent combination for the increase of prices and thus to reduce the cost of living.”

“The encouragement of co-operation among those engaged on agricultural production, with a view to diminishing the cost of production and marketing so that the price paid to the producer may conform more closely to that paid by the consumer.”

Already the hand of the Union administration is seen in the removal of the old ban on oleomargarine, and in the imposition of restrictions on the sale, at ruinous prices, of cereals in small packages.