reversal of $962,446. It would, for instance be interesting to know how the prices charged for the goods in 1916, together with the prices given the farmers for the raw product compared with those of 1915. **But when it is stated that on the directorate of the company appear the names of F. R. Lalor, M.P., D. Marshall, M.P., and S. Nesbitt, M.P.P.** (all of whom are Conservative members) **can there be any hope of drastic action resulting from the enquiry into the canners?**

Kemp and the Tin Trust.

Again, the statement has been made openly in the press and never contradicted that **the Enamel and Tin Trust provides a fine of $300 and boycott for any retailer found selling a teapot five cents below the fixed price. If that is true it is an offence under the regulations. But when it is stated that Sir Edward Kemp, Minister of Militia, is head of one of the firms which form the trust can the public have any hope that the offence will be brought home, and the penalty imposed?**

What hope again would there be of action in the controlling of the price of boots and shoes with Sir Herbert Ames, Conservative member for the St. Antoine Division of Montreal, at the head of one of the biggest boot firms in the Dominion? What hope of any serious investigation into woolens with John Stanfield, Chief Whip of the Conservative party as owner of one of the largest wollen plants in Canada?

In fact what hope can there be of control of prices, and regulation of profits from a government of millionaires?

British and Australian Contrast.

In marked contrast with the passive inertia of the Canadian administration in the matter of commodity prices, and middlemen's profits is the drastic action of the Imperial authorities in that regard. **In England excess profits are taken for the treasury, and the prices at which the necessaries of life must be sold are fixed on a basis of reasonable profit to the producer, and retailer. Those who profit by the war are forced to pay toward the prosecution of the war.**

Direct Methods and Concrete Results.

In marked contrast also to the attitude of the Canadian government, are the concrete results obtained by the authorities of the sister Commonwealth, Australia. That country has a simpler and more direct method of dealing with the situation than that embodied in the Canadian order-in-council. **In the first place there is no shelving the responsibility for investigation.** Under the War Prosecution Prices Regulations passed in July of 1916 a commissioner is appointed for each state of the Commonwealth, and a federal commissioner coordinates the work. **It is provided that the commissioner in any state may recommend that a certain article of food or any other commodity may be declared a necessary commodity under the regulations. Evidence is then taken under oath as to the cost of the raw material, the average cost of distribution, existing wage awards, freight charges and all the factors which govern the actual cost of production, and distribution. On this evidence the commissioner then recommends a price, wholesale and retail, at which the commodity is to be sold, this price varying in metropolitan areas according to transportation etc.** With regard to goods imported the importer is required to produce the original invoices.

Prices Fixed on Many Commodities.

By New Year last the Commonwealth had already succeeded in fixing the price of a large range of commodities, **"without subjecting the trading community to any material hardship."** Flour sells in Queensland at $3.45 a bag, and in South Australia at $2.96 a bag. Butter all over the Commonwealth sells at 36 cents a pound. **Other items on which prices have been fixed include arrowroot, bran, bread, bacon, biscuits, cheese, cocoa, flour, groats, hams, infants foods, jam, milk, meats, oatmeal, flaked oats, rolled oats, quaker oats, pollard, rice, tinplates, and soups, while the number is being added to every week. Investigation is being made into boots and shoes.**

It will be noted that in the above the price of the producer of the raw material which as a rule is fixed by the law of supply and demand, and in some cases by world prices, is not materially interfered with, **care being taken** particularly to eliminate undue spread between the producer and the consumer.

Have Encouraged Profits.

The Candian government's action throughout has been on lines exactly the opposite of those adopted in Great Britain, Australia and other countries.

First.—They have encountered from the outset the amassing of profits ranging as high as 800 percent in some cases, even permitting such profits as these to be made from war orders placed by the United Kingdom.

Second.—They have discouraged the producer by forcing him to pay toll on everything he uses, to the heavily protected interests.

Thirdly.—They have enabled these interests through the very fact of this protection to charge what prices they please through the killing of competition.

The consumer has little to hope, and the middleman, and profiteer little to fear from the government's elaborate bluff at dealing with the High Cost of Living.