

Hon. W. L. M. K. - - - - - 2.

diction, accordingly finds it necessary to state that it is unable to control the advancing prices of milk, and milk products, other than by way of supervision of profits of producers and distributors. In the opinion of the Board, the affording of real relief lies in other hands. Indeed, its efforts attempted on behalf of the consumer, have been resented and its jurisdiction to concern itself with the matter of milling products has been denied.

"Under the circumstances, whenever hereafter special application is made to the Board for a review of the various products of producers and distributors, the Board will, to the best of its ability and as early as possible after request, investigate and declare as to profits made, but it can assume no responsibility for the result when, and if, after investigation made, it finds itself unable to declare otherwise than that the profits charged are reasonable and just.

|| "There cannot be cheaper milk until the price of mill feeds, such as bran and shorts, is substantially reduced?"

As you are well aware, this Board of Commerce was appointed this year in consequence of two Acts which were placed on our Statute Books, viz., the Board of Commerce Act of 1919 and the Combines and Fair Prices Act of 1919. These two Acts were introduced on account of reports to the House made by the Chairman of the Special Committee of the House of Commons on the High Cost of Living. The report (which I re-produce herewith) was presented to the House on June 26th, 1919, and on June 28th Mr. Meighen introduced the two bills above referred to. There can be no question that the two bills were introduced in consequence of this report. The report is as follows:-

(Revised Hansard, Thursday, June 26th, p.4069.)

"Your Committee since their appointment on the 30th day of May last have held thirty-six morning, afternoon and evening sessions, heard and considered the evidence given under oath of sixty-six persons representing various producers, manufacturers, wholesale, retail and consumers' organizations from various parts of Canada; also have received numerous petitions, resolutions and other communications, all of which have been considered.

"Your committee have been engaged almost continuously from the 5th day of June last to the present date