

## HIGH COST OF LIVING

There is no question of greater importance than the High Cost of Living. So far as the Liberal Party is concerned its policy to cope with the situation is outlined in the following resolution:

Moved by Mrs. P. G. Kiely, Toronto, seconded by Miss Catharine Frawley, Toronto.

"That having regard to the present high cost of living and the increasing burden upon the working classes and those in receipt of limited incomes, due to the high cost of the necessities of life, this Convention condemns the Ontario Government for its failure to deal with this matter and its abandonment of the investigation and prosecution of the illegal combines formed to limit competition and to enhance prices.

We declare for the Government control and regulation of cold storage plants, abattoirs and stock yards, the prosecution of the old combines—the thorough investigation of the combines and profiteers which have during the period of the war and are still making unfair and illegal profits at the expense of the consumer."

### Government Protects Combines.

The responsibility for the failure to prosecute the illegal combines in restraint of trade undertaken by J. Walter Curry, when Crown Attorney in Toronto in 1906, lies at the door of the Conservative Government. Profiteering might have been nipped in the bud at that time, but owing to the Government's alliance with the Big Interests Mr. Curry's personal attempts to punish the wrong-doers were called off and they have since become bolder and bolder until prices have reached the present prohibitive level.

In 1905 Mr. Curry secured evidence which justified him in believing that there were combines in nearly all articles that enter into domestic and household use. When this came to his knowledge he had an investigation made to ascertain the facts. He discovered that there were combines in no less than 33 articles of domestic use. Mr. Curry recently made a direct charge against the Conservative Administration that they were responsible for the dropping of the prosecutions against these combines.