

Before the enactment of new or further legislation, there is one step obviously which is even more necessary, and that is the enforcement of legislation we already have. If the Price Spreads investigation has disclosed anything, it is that there has been woeful neglect in the enforcement of existing laws with respect to the employment of women and children, minimum wages, maximum hours, sweating, etc., etc.

The Prime Minister will doubtless reply that these enactments coming within the scope of provincial jurisdiction, have lain beyond his own. But does the record as regards those unfair practices which come within the federal field disclose that he and his ministers have been any more vigilant in the enforcement of federal laws? There is a branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce known as the Weights and Measures Branch with federal officers whose duties are essentially those of seeing to the enforcement of the laws intended to ensure honest weights and measures. Just how efficiently have these laws been enforced?

It would seem that before enacting new laws, we had better see what can be done by proper enforcement of laws we already have.