

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. Do I understand what you have done is simply take the index of these other countries as they make it up?—A. Yes.

Q. You can make a percentage adjustment but you cannot make an adjustment in terms of the content of the items that go into the cost of living index?—A. That is right.

*By Mr. Maybank:*

Q. What would you say about the manner of gathering statistics in other countries compared with your own methods?—A. I think the methodology is pretty much the same, but development of statistical practice varies considerably in different countries.

Q. For example?—A. Well, I would not like to say anything that is reprehensible about any particular country, but I would say in so far as the United States and the United Kingdom and other countries that are shown here their indexes are made on a very good basis. They are highly developed statistically, so that I think these indexes here are very reliable, all of them.

*By Mr. Harkness:*

Q. Are they on a list of goods fairly comparable to the list you use?—A. Yes, there is a great deal of similarity in these countries. There are some differences, of course, but there is a great deal of similarity.

*By Mr. Winters:*

Q. The fact remains when they are applied to the same base cost of living the indexes are comparable for different countries?—A. That is right. That is what it is costing to live in these countries so far as the index can measure.

In this section also there is a chart. Page 17 includes table showing recent price changes. We hope that this table will be very useful for you.

*By Mr. Maybank:*

Q. Page 17?—A. Page 17. It starts with December, 1945, and then it shows by months the changes that have taken place in the index number for a considerable number of important commodities. That goes on for several pages.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Have you anything to say about the chart between pages 15 and 16?—A. I might say that one can see from the chart that in so far as wholesale prices are concerned we are still somewhat below the level of the United States. In the cost of living we are also below but our index is moving up pretty rapidly.

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. I do not want to prolong the questioning at this point but just for understanding I take it the United States index is measured in terms of United States dollars and the Canadian index in terms of Canadian dollars?—A. That is correct.

*By Mr. MacInnis:*

Q. On page 17 in the last column on the right there are certain places where the index takes quite a jump from one month to the next. For instance, from March, 1946 to April, 1946 there was a jump of about 10 per cent. Was there anything particular that occurred to cause that increase in prices?—A. I am sorry that I will not be able to answer questions like that. In the Bureau it takes us all our time to measure the changes that actually take place. If we were