

Mr. MAYBANK: What figure did you quote? Rib roast, I think you said,

The WITNESS: Oh, I am sorry; that was the index as at December of 1945, it was 174·8; and beef, rib roast in January of 1940 was 208·3.

Mr. MAYBANK: Yes.

*By Mr. Mayhew:*

Q. That seems to be about the highest one with the exception of — —A. There is lard down below—245·6.

Q. Yes, and beans, dry 292—. A. Yes, and butter, 268·1. The increases are shown for each of these individual commodities in the food group on this page.

Mr. MAYHEW: I have asked that question in order to try to focus our attention on where the high points are, and those are the ones we want to make inquiry about.

The CHAIRMAN: That really is what we want to do. As Mr. MacInnis reminded me, the steering committee at its meeting last night had in mind just what is now being brought forward by this witness.

*By Mr. Mayhew:*

Q. Then where do you find the big increase in clothing?—A. The increase in clothing was 38·7.

Q. Where would you find the high spots in that?—A. We have not got a break-down of all the items of any other groups than the food group. We have sub-groups on page 29. It seems to me that if you refer to page 30 you see there an indication of the sub-groups in which there has been the greatest rise. The total rise is 28·2 for the whole index and food accounted for fifteen points of that rise.

Q. Yes?—A. And then under foods you have the influence of the rise of the various sub-groups; 7·4 for dairy products; and meats and fish 3·6—if you take the meat alone the amount was 3·9. Then coming to clothing account of 4·6 of the content of the 28·2. Now that is broken down into four items.

Mr. MACINNIS: Under fuel—light, coal, coke, gas, electricity—is oil included?

Mr. MAYBANK: What page is that, please?

Mr. MACINNIS: That is on page 30. Oil is an important fuel and it has gone up in price very drastically.

The WITNESS: We have not got it in the cost-of-living index.

Mr. LESAGE: And in the group of foods I do not see bread.

The WITNESS: That is under cereals; and bread is the main item in that, the others do not exert an influence of any account.

Mr. LESAGE: I see.

*By Mr. Mayhew:*

Q. Dairy-products, 7·4; that works out about the highest increase?—A. That is correct.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Bread, you say, would be one of the main items under cereals?—A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. And that is 1·6.

Mr. MAYBANK: Where are cereals?

The CHAIRMAN: The first one of the foods. That would be relatively high. That would be one of the highest items?