

who would be immediately affected, would re-act unfavorably on countless industries throughout all parts of the Empire, and great numbers, who, under present conditions are earning an honest living would be thrown out of employment. This unusual increase in the number of the unemployed, would force wages down, and further reduce the purchasing power or effective demand of the hundreds of millions fortunate enough to be still employed, thus causing unutterable distress throughout the length and breadth of the Empire.

War itself could do no more ill.

War on a large scale with a maritime power, would immediately increase the cost of food throughout the Empire, and as experience proves, tend to produce the evils described above. In the case of war, however, the evils flowing from the increased cost of food, would in a very large measure be nullified by the demands for the army and navy, in men and supplies.

In short this measure which is proposed with the object of assuring Great Britain's food supply during war, would not only have the effect of making it less secure during such a period, but would produce in times of peace, the very evil we fear most, as the inevitable result of war; without calling into existence the ameliorating conditions which war itself would furnish.