

middleman's profit, the Government has done a commendable thing; which will have a good effect.

But, Sir, it is a matter of regret that the Food Board, which has been established by the Government at a cost of millions of dollars, has ordered that farmers' boards and organizations throughout the country which have purchased carloads of sugar, flour, potatoes and other foodstuffs, must return them to the place whence they came, permitting the middleman still to retain the profit which he obtained through the sale of the goods so disposed of. The farmers' clubs which have been formed for the purpose of obtaining goods at first cost and thus avoiding the middleman will resent this action on the part of the Food Board. In my city last winter the labour organization brought their goods in by the carload and distributed them among the labouring men of Chatham with great credit to themselves and with large saving to consumers. Under the present order of the Food Board, however, this organization will be unable to carry on their work in that regard.

Is it not a fact that the arguments in favour of free farm tractors apply also to the free admission of agricultural implements? If it is a benefit to the farmers to enable them to obtain tractors at first cost, then I take exception to the assertion of the member for Brantford (Mr. Cockshutt) the other night that this Government was put in office not to interfere with the tariff, but to pass legislation connected with the prosecution of the war. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Crothers) represents the city of St. Thomas in this House. If the member for Brantford will look up his price list for 1918 and obtain quotations from the concern manufacturing similar implements in St. Thomas, he will find that the Cockshutt Plow Company is charging twenty-five per cent more for plows, harrows and land rollers than the concern in St. Thomas. Is it surprising, then, that the member for Brantford hesitates to say that the tariff on agricultural implements should be interfered with at this particular time? I have in my possession the wholesale price list of the Cockshutt Plow Company, and I have invoices of similar goods—harrows, ploughs, rollers—of the same size and of equal quality, sold by the company in St. Thomas at twenty-five per cent less than the price of the product of the Cockshutt Plow Company. I challenge contradiction of my assertion with regard to these prices. Other

large concerns—the International Harvester Company, the Massey Harris Company—are charging the same prices as those charged by the Cockshutt Plow Company. Is it not reasonable to suggest that at a time when we need greater production, at a time when we particularly require such agricultural implements as I have referred to, an investigation should be made by a committee of this House or by the Minister of Labour with regard to this matter? The people and the Government should know exactly what is going on; steps should be taken to see that unfair prices are not extracted from agricultural producers. The Government should ascertain whether these exorbitant prices are being distributed among the men who are engaged in the workshops of those factories; whether the labouring men are getting their share of the huge profits that are being made to-day on the sale of other agricultural implements, the prices of which are practically double what they were when war broke out in 1914. I suggest that the Minister of Trade and Commerce give this matter attention. He has been energetic in doing everything that is detrimental to production, and this applies to every Bill that he has introduced during this session—daylight saving, the marketing of hay, the weighing of eggs, and so on. In order to put himself right with the producers regarding these measures which he has introduced, I suggest that he assist in the investigation of the matter which I have put before the House.

Last night the member for St. Antoine (Sir Herbert Ames) told the House in mournful tones that we all have to make great sacrifices. I was reminded of the statement made by a gentleman who was so widely advertised during the last campaign, and who said on one occasion, "We have to make sacrifices; to hell with profits." Only a few months ago the Minister of Labour heard that in my city three or four cobblers had agreed to raise the price of patches five cents and half soles ten cents, whereupon the minister notified them that they would be liable to prosecution under the Combines Act if they proceeded with their intention. His letter reads as follows:

Ottawa, December 13, 1916.

Dear Sir:

I am advised that a few days ago yourself and several others entered into an agreement to raise the price of shoe repairing in the city of Chatham from the 8th instant.

I am enclosing you a copy of an Order in Council recently passed, whereby you will see