

try at a time when British trade was staggering under the disadvantages incidental to the war.

"In further mitigation of the disadvantages to agricultural production, I would immediately remove the duties on agricultural implements and other essentials, as demanded by the western farmers.

"In connection with the high cost of living, I would take drastic steps to bring under Government control all food-producing factories so that food may be sold at a fixed price under the control of the Government, as has been done in Great Britain. To this end arrangements should be made with the management of the food-producing factories allowing for a fair interest on investment and fair and reasonable net profits, so that food may be obtainable by the ordinary consumer at the best possible prices. Should such arrangements not be possible, I would not hesitate to commandeer all food factories.

"Nor is this all. The Government is invested with powers which they could and should have used to reduce the price of all commodities. These powers they have already exercised in the case of newsprint paper.

"As far back as the month of February last an order-in-council was passed by which it was enacted that 'with a view to insure publishers of Canadian newspapers newsprint paper at reasonable prices,' the minister of customs was 'authorized and empowered to fix the quantity and price of newsprint in sheets and rolls to be furnished by the manufacturers to the publishers of Canada.'

"By virtue of this 'order' the Government has compelled manufacturers of print paper, against the latter's protest, to supply publishers and newspapers at a price which they themselves fixed as reasonable. If they could thus reduce the price of paper to consumers of paper, why did they stop there? Why should the Government not have reduced to the hundreds of thousands of anxious housewives and breadwinners the prices of all those commodities which made the ever-increasing cost of living one of the most insistent and dangerous of all the problems that now confront us?

Profiteering Encouraged

"One of the most important contributions towards winning the war is to put a stop to profiteering on war supplies. The Government has deliberately encouraged profiteering for the benefit of its partisan followers. A first duty of my administration would be to secure to the country, which pays for war supplies, the excess of exorbitant prices being realized by profiteers. Should it be necessary I would not hesitate, in order to immediately stop profiteering, to take control of the factories which are engaged in the supply of war materials. I believe that one of the best methods of providing war supplies, and saving the country from being exploited by profiteers, would be to turn the Government shops which are suitable for such purposes to the production of war materials, ships, etc., for the benefit of the country, at cost price. It cannot be said too often that this war could not have been avoided by the Allies, and that it is a contest for the very existence of civilization. Of this the entrance of the United States into the conflict is further proof, if, indeed, further proof were needed.

"At the very beginning, penetrated of the immensity of the struggle and of the necessity of bending all our efforts to the winning of the war, we of the Opposition gave to the Government every possible assistance. We assented to all their war measures, except when convinced that their measures would be detrimental rather than helpful.

A Hindrance to War

"This year the Government introduced a bill to make military service compulsory. With this policy, I found it impossible to agree. If it be asked how this view is consistent with my oft-expressed determination to assist in winning the war, I answer without any hesitation that this sudden departure from the voluntary system was bound more to hinder than to help the war. It should be remembered that previous to the war, in all British countries, conscription was unknown. It was the pride of British