

MORE DELAY.

But there had to be more delay before the Committee could get to work, and it was not until March 17, that the first sitting was held, the House on the same day ordering that the proceedings of the Committee should be printed from day to day.

TIME WAS SHORT. THEREFORE INVESTIGATION HAD TO BE CURTAILED.

From the foregoing it will be seen that Parliament was in actual working session five weeks before the Public Accounts Committee got to work. The length of the session was uncertain—in fact on March 17, there was already talk of early prorogation.

This being the case, members of the Committee realized that the investigation must necessarily be short. Knowing the large number of matters that should be investigated, they decided to confine themselves only to those cases in which evidence was easily and readily obtainable. They therefore investigated only the following:—**drugs, bicycles, binoculars, field dressings, motor trucks and automobiles, horses, "shield" shovels, housewives, jams, submarines, Valcartier lands and the burning of clothing.**

TORY COMMITTEEMEN WORKED HARD TO SHIELD MIDDLEMEN AND GOVERNMENT.

The Government afraid of what might be brought out sent a Minister to be in daily attendance.

Hon. J. D. Reid, Minister of Customs, officially represented the Government on the Committee. It is plain to be seen that this unusual custom in a Committee of the House was followed because of the fear of the Government as to what damaging facts might be brought out. That was why Mr. Reid was always in attendance at the meetings of the Committee. In spite of his reiterated statement that the Government wanted the fullest investigation possible, it is only fair and absolutely within the facts to state that every question asked by Conservative members of the Committee was asked for the express purpose and with the plain intention of covering up evidence that was damaging to their Tory middlemen.

LESS THAN THREE MILLIONS INVESTIGATED.

One outstanding fact in connection with the investigation should be kept in mind. **The total amount of money involved in the purchases investigated was no more than \$3,000,000.** This included the price of the Submarines. In other words, the Public Accounts Committee's investigation touched **less than one-sixteenth** of the \$50,000,000 voted by Parliament in August for war purposes.