

machinery in motion to compel the companies to disclose the information.

I do not think this discussion is particularly pertinent to the item under consideration, and as this subject, the Flavelle report, is to be brought before the House in another form, I do not see any necessity for continuing this debate to-night, especially as the matter is now under judicial investigation. Whenever the Government take any step that is in the interest of the public, hon. gentlemen opposite always get up and criticise it, or else their papers give them the credit. That is one of the beauties of a strong opposition. But as I have pointed out, this subject is really not pertinent to the item, and as it will come before the House later on in another form, I do not see why we should continue this debate.

Mr. CARVELL: We are all very much obliged to my hon. friend from North Simcoe (Mr. Currie) for the lecture which he has just delivered to us on what we ought and ought not to do on this side of the House. As a member of this House, I suppose he has the right to lecture us if he wants to, but so far as a few of us here are concerned at all events, notwithstanding his lecture, we are going to carry out what we consider to be our duty to the public, and we are not very much interested whether we should discuss this subject upon this item or not. I made no attack on the Government or on the William Davies company. I tried to state the case as fairly as it could be stated. I stated that Mr. O'Connor had made one report, and that the William Davies company were spending an enormous sum of money in placing another report before the public. If the statements contained in the advertisements of the Davies company are correct, they are making a profit of a little less than one cent a pound. As a business man, I say that that is not at all an unreasonable profit. It may amount to a large sum of money in the case of that firm, because they are doing a very big business. But if they are making five cents a pound on a food necessity of the people, I say that that is an unreasonable profit, and I would like to see the matter settled once for all, so that the public will know the truth. I object to the chairman of the commission, because I do not think the people will get justice. I hope my position is so plain that even the hon. member for North Simcoe will understand it.

Mr. CURRIE: My hon. friend changes his position so often that it is hard to follow him.

Mr. McKENZIE: Whether it is proper to discuss this subject on this item or not, we have been discussing it, and notwithstanding the injunction of my hon. friend from North Simcoe I think we might as well go on with it. We very often depart from the proper rules of procedure in this House until the hon. member for Simcoe corrects us, and then our sins, of course, are on our own hands because he points out the exact line of procedure, the evidence and the whole business. He is at once the judge, the jury, the evidence and the court of appeal. I am very glad that, although the Prime Minister (Sir Robert Borden) is not here, and not many members of the Government, we still have the Minister of Finance (Sir Thomas White) with us. He is a lawyer and has a great deal of knowledge as to how matters of this kind should be conducted. I wish to keep closely to this O'Connor report, because it is important to the people I represent. I represent thousands of people who are non-producers—able, capable workmen, who must feed their families, and feed them well if they can, and it is important to them to know whether the O'Connor report is correct or not. If the report is correct, then some steps should be taken to implement it in such a way as to benefit the people who have to buy the goods which these companies are selling at such exorbitant prices. I come from the same province as Mr. O'Connor. He has been a lawyer of standing in the province of Nova Scotia for the last twenty-five years. He is well known to the Premier, and by reason of the knowledge the right hon. gentleman had of him, Mr. O'Connor has been brought here and given a position of prominence and responsibility under the Government. He was appointed to make a certain investigation. I did not see the terms of reference, but I take it for granted that if the business of the Government is done in a businesslike way the matters which Mr. O'Connor had to investigate were properly tabulated and submitted to him. The Government would say to him: "Here are certain matters to be investigated; get the evidence and report upon it." I should be surprised indeed if Mr. O'Connor were given carte blanche to investigate anything that happened to occur to his mind, for if that is the way the Government does business, surely there will never be an end to the reports they receive. I take it for granted, however, that certain questions were submitted to Mr. O'Connor, and that upon