

he reported elaborately on the cost of living and upon what was being done by the profiteers to unduly enhance the cost of articles, principally those constituting the food of the people. Then we had a very competent parliamentary committee under the chairmanship of the capable member for East Algoma (Mr. Nicholson). We had the report of that committee. Then we had the Industrial Relations Commission, which proceeded from one end of the country to the other, and which made a most thorough inquiry. In addition, we had an officer of the Department of Labour, Dr. McFall, who made many reports, went very fully into the conditions in the country in respect to the cost of living, and made certain representations to the Government as to what should be done in order to bring about some relief to the poor people of this country, and not only to what we usually understand by the poor people, but to many people who do not count themselves poor. With all this information, one would suppose that when the court was appointed it would immediately put its hand upon the weak spot and proceed to give relief to the people. Instead of that we find one of the members of that court hieing himself down to Washington. It was an unpardonable—a forbidden—sin a few years ago to have any truck or trade with the Yankee. But now not only must we have trade and truck with the Yankee, but our court procedure must be regulated from Washington. Thus we have the leading member and one of the legal lights of the commission going down to Washington to ascertain how they do things there and what is to be done here to bring about some relief.

If we are to believe the public press, what do we find to-day? We find that notwithstanding these numerous commissions of inquiry, the new court is going back to the A B C of sending out what our good friend the former Minister of Labour (Mr. Crothers) used to call questionnaires. They are back to questionnaires to-day. That is where we commenced. If we are going to begin over again with questionnaires, and repeat the processes which have already been gone through, what is going to happen? Any man, woman or child in this country who is suffering for want of food will surely be called to his or her account and die the slow death of starvation before any remedy can be expected from this Government or this court. I take advantage of this opportunity to bring as forcibly as possible to the notice of the Government the fact that this court is not appointed for

[Mr. McKenzie.]

the purpose of sending out questionnaires or of running down to Washington or elsewhere for what may be regarded as superfluous information or forms of procedure. What is expected of it is that it shall take immediate action and see to it that the people of this country shall get the stuff that goes on their tables at proper prices and as reasonably as they can possibly hope to have it.

I am getting too old a member of this House to have any desire to make speeches; I have no particular appetite for making speeches. I have been at it too long, and perhaps I am getting tired, but there are duties which the members of this House should try to discharge to the best of their ability, and amongst these duties is that of placing the facts before the powers that be. When we have put our case, if they refuse to act we can only, like Paul of old, appeal to Cæsar, and we shall.

There is a practical point which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government. I have here an article which came from some American paper; it is dated Detroit, August 29. It shows what is being done in the United States by reason of the action of the committee or court that is in charge of the high cost of living question there. The following figures, showing the prices at which certain articles of food sold on May 29 and August 29 of the present year, indicate the results of the action that has been taken in that country:

Article.	May 29.	Aug. 29.
Round steak.....	39 cents	30 cents
Lamb chops.....	43 "	32 "
Veal shoulder.....	40 "	25 "
Pork chops.....	55 "	42 "
Sliced ham.....	52 "	40 "
Sliced bacon.....	48 "	40 "
Lard.....	42 "	38 "
Hamburger steak.....	28 "	22 "
Short rib (beef).....	27 "	12½ "
Canned corn.....	18 "	13 "
Canned peas.....	20 "	14 "
Navy beans.....	15 "	09 "
Butter.....	60 "	59 "
Rice.....	11 "	8 "
Condensed milk (large can)	13 "	11 "
Cream cheese.....	42 "	36 "
Bread, large loaf.....	14 "	13 "
Potatoes, per peck.....	71 "	55 "
Tea.....	40 "	33 "
Coffee.....	36 "	43 "
Sugar.....	9½ "	10 "
Eggs.....	50 "	50 "

The Prime Minister, and the other members of the Government will notice that in a number of cases a very material reduction has taken place in the price of commodities, but I have failed to notice