

Treasury between 1896 and 1913 no less than \$16,785,827. For this they gave not one cent of return—it was a straight donation made, the government explained, to put them on their feet when they were struggling. It seems a fair proposition now that they are making pots of money they that should pay some of this back. If the people are to be gouged to support pauper industries, why should not these paupers make some return when they become multi-millionaires. It might just be mentioned that in addition to this straight donation from the Public Treasury the steel interests received high tariff protection which gave them still more financial advantage. Further than this, however, they received very valuable free sites and were permitted by law to pay dividends upon their stock even before they had any factory in operation. Sir Thomas, direct your attention to the steel industries and get back some of the people's money that these interests have taken.

WAR PROFITEERING IN BRITAIN

That war profiteering is not confined to any one country, but is showing up wherever there is a chance to make a killing at the expense of the common people or national welfare is all too evident. A case of importance was recently aired very freely in the British House of Commons. Since the outbreak of war Britain has seized certain German properties in Nigeria on the West coast of Africa. These properties were to be sold by auction and a long discussion ensued as to whether only British citizens should be allowed to bid. Sir Edward Carson was the chief debater desiring the exclusion of other than British buyers. Finally the proposal was overwhelmingly defeated.

One of the principal exports of Nigeria and Gold Coast nearby is palm kernels. This trade in Nigeria has been controlled by a combine of capitalists. Before the war palm

kernels sold in England for \$95 per ton. Since the capture of the territory and the elimination of German competition the price has increased to the British consumer to \$115 per ton. The increase in shipping rates does not account for more than four dollars of this. One would naturally suppose these kernels might then be costing the combine more than before the war in Nigeria. Previously the natives received \$70 a ton for them. Now they only receive \$45 to \$50 per ton. The absence of German competition enabled the combine to effect this hold-up on producers. Both producer and consumer are being fleeced to the tune of increased profits of about 80 per cent. Where did the difference go? It went into profits. One firm had an annual profit averaging \$451,000 before the war (\$400,000 in 1914). In 1915 its profits were \$745,000. Another company that had \$285,000 profits before the war netted \$475,000 last year. And these profits left huge undisclosed reserves to cover war profits taxes.

On the Gold Coast, not far away, the great Wholesale Societies of Great Britain are handling these palm kernels and there the native producers are getting \$15 a ton more for their products than the combine pays in Nigeria. In Sierra Leone, further west, the natives receive \$15 to \$25 more per ton than the combine pays producers, who are forced to sell in Nigeria to it. One acquainted with the methods of trusts and combines can readily understand the desire of the interests to exclude outside competition in its endeavor to purchase these properties. But what was the method of doing it? The contention was that the property should not be in danger of passing into the hands of neutrals and perhaps from them to the Germans, in other words, the patriotic appeal. What guarantee could any combine give of retaining property from an enemy when it robs both producer and consumer in the life and death struggle of the nation with that enemy. The strength of the

Wholesale Societies in the nearby states may also have had an influence in the strong desire of the combine to make solid its dealings on palm kernels. Personal profit first, last and all the time is the motto of the trusts in any country whatsoever. But the British government sternly put its foot down on all attempts at exclusive sale, leaving all purchasers free to bid. It is regrettable the Canadian government does not as readily realize its duty, instead of creating a piece of machinery for trust control which to call ridiculous would be to praise.

We are receiving many inquiries from farmers who want to borrow six per cent. money from their Provincial government. There is no six per cent. money yet available thru the governments. Legislation is now being prepared in all the three provinces, but it must pass the legislature before it will become effective and it is not at all likely that the Government Mortgage schemes will be operating before April or May or possibly mid-summer at the very earliest. Just as soon as there is any cheap government money available The Guide will announce the fact prominently so that every reader will see it.

The Toronto News has a regular habit now of comparing Premier Borden to Abraham Lincoln and insists that Borden is the modern Lincoln. It may be so, but it seems to us that Lincoln would hardly have countenanced the goings on that Borden has winked at.

Almost any ordinary man can become a lawyer; it does not take a man with gigantic intellect to become a preacher; it requires greater brains than either to make a really successful farmer.

Pure bred poultry finds a readier market and usually has a greater selling value.



THE GOVERNMENT'S IDEA OF ECONOMY

The Finance Minister, with all his talk of economy takes care that the Big Interests are not disturbed in their profiteering