

city of Ottawa, I think it is their duty to act in other places too.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: Under an Order in Council passed in 1918 every municipality has the power to do what the city of Ottawa did; but, unfortunately, for some reason or other, the municipalities in most cases did not take advantage of the opportunity, which is not the fault of the Government.

Hon. Mr. POWER: It seems to me that if the Government were under the impression that municipal councils were likely to do satisfactory work under the circumstances, they were about the only people in the country who thought so. As every one knows, municipal councils are rather slow in dealing with matters which may prejudicially affect their constituents. An alderman, for instance, who has two or three milk-dealers in his constituency, is not likely to take a very active part in trying to put an end to an abuse of this kind. My feeling is that the Government, who are so anxious to assume authority in various matters—as, for instance, the Biological Board—when it comes to a question which may possibly involve a little local unpopularity, are willing and anxious to transfer responsibilities from their own shoulders to the shoulders of others.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: May I add, for the information of the honourable gentlemen, that when any municipality exercises the powers which are given to it and finds a true case, then the Federal Government is willing and anxious to assist in bringing the offenders to justice. In the city of Halifax during the coming week there will be a prosecution, conducted by the Department of Justice, against certain bakers because of their charging an unreasonable price for bread. After the Fair Price Committee in the city of Halifax had done their duty, and had demonstrated their case, we proceeded to prosecute. I say, with all due respect to the honourable gentleman, that unless the municipality is willing to do its part in the interest of its own people, it is not reasonable to expect the Federal Government to hunt throughout every municipality in Canada, to ascertain whether or not the price of milk is too high.

Hon. Mr. POWER: The honourable gentleman tells us that now, after the lapse of three or four years, the Government are doing what they should have done before.

There appears to be no provision here for the punishment of a man who, without

being in combination with any one, charges exorbitant prices for the necessaries of life.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: We come to that by and by.

Section 2 was agreed to.

Sections 3 and 4 were agreed to.

On section 5—Board of its motion may issue complaint, etc.:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: If any person does not choose to appear before the board, what power has the board to compel him to appear?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The procedure is laid down under the Act constituting the Board of Commerce. It is practically the same as that under the Railway Act.

Section 5 was agreed to.

Sections 6 to 16, both inclusive, were agreed to.

On section 17—unreasonable accumulation or withholding forbidden:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Is there sufficient power given under this Bill to enable the board to deal with the question of cold storage?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: Yes, it gives them authority over cold storage.

Hon. Mr. TURRIFF: Does this apply to export as well as to domestic goods?

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: The exportation of goods would not affect the consumer in Canada. Of course, I suppose it would affect the purchaser in a foreign country; but this is intended only for the benefit of the consumer in Canada.

Section 17 was agreed to.

On section 18—orders of board open for inspection:

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: Subsection 3 of this section is all right as far as it goes; but would it not be advisable to provide some means whereby one could see these declarations and orders without going to the offices of the board? I presume this board will be established in Ottawa.

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: They are just the same in that respect as any other public documents. We could not possibly distribute them throughout the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. BOSTOCK: It is a question whether it would not be advisable on certain occasions to publish them in the Gazette.