

stock watering finance, for there is a very widespread belief in the West that the interests at the back of stock watering finance are those who influence the maintenance of the tariff. I must admit that this western idea is largely shared by myself. If I support the Budget on this occasion I wish it to be distinctly understood that if I am here when another Budget is presented it shall have to be one in which the minister shall show that he has taxed all profits to their reasonable limit and that he has taken the means and has provided the machinery by which the profits of every concern in Canada shall be accurately and definitely ascertained. While under present conditions I could not demand an elimination of all tariff taxation I must assert the right of the people to know exactly where the proceeds of that taxation go.

I want, before I sit down, to say one word in reply to a statement made by the hon. member for Maisonneuve (Mr. Lemieux) in a speech which he recently delivered. I did not happen to be present on that occasion, but I am told he denounced public ownership in unmeasured terms, and he instanced the experience in the United States, and I understand also in Great Britain, as indicating the failure of public ownership in these two countries. Let me say that I saw an extract the other day from a White Paper recently issued by the British Government in which the statement was made that the United Kingdom had netted \$85,000,000 profit out of the operation of the railways there during the war. That is all I propose to say on that point.

One word with regard to the Civil Service. I spoke briefly on the Civil Service when I addressed the House during the debate in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I believe that one thing the Government should do is to deal radically with the Civil Service. I believe the Civil Service costs this country almost double what it should cost, and that if it were properly handled reduced and co-ordinated all the deadwood cut out, we would have a much more efficient staff of public servants and the cost to the country would not be much more than half of what it is at the present time.

Just a word further with regard to the high cost of living. A week ago I visited Winnipeg and spent ten days there studying strike conditions and looking after my own business which was seriously threatened by that strike. I found almost universal discord and unanimous, if not indignation, at least condemnation of the high cost of living and criticism of the Government in

connection therewith and I have tried since I came East to impress the Ministers with the view that great unrest exists among the people with regard to the high cost of living. Rightly or wrongly they blame the Government for it—to be accurate I found that feeling almost unanimous. Of course there is this point to be remembered—that the people are so uneasy and so filled with unrest that they blame all governments; they seem to be down on municipal, provincial, and federal governments, in fact they seem to be chafing under authority. I do not think that I succeeded in convincing the Government that the dissatisfaction was as general as it really is. I am not sure that the Government can control prices, although I notice that in New Zealand the Government have established meat shops and do control to some extent. The price of meat and the price of butter in New Zealand have been kept lower than the price for export, and the producers for export were made to contribute to an equalization fund to remunerate the purchasers of these commodities for home consumption. I pointed out to the Government that if it were not practicable to control prices they might make an effort to limit the profits. I think by co-operation with boards of trade, and with other bodies in the various cities and towns, that a reasonable profit might be set on the necessaries of life, say on twenty or thirty articles of necessity.

That a reasonable profit might be set on the necessaries of life, say on twenty or thirty articles, and that the Criminal Code might be amended so as to punish all who charged profits beyond the scale set by the board. In that way I believe profits might be controlled. Any way, I have this proposition to make: that the Government is under the necessity of attempting to control prices or of demonstrating to the people that such control cannot be effected. The unrest is so strong and so universal that I believe it is absolutely necessary in the interest of the country that it should be allayed as soon as possible. No wonder the wage earner is uneasy when he sees the prices of bacon at 75 cents a pound and profits in certain lines of manufacture ranging from 10 to 72 per cent. Unrest is bound to continue while this state of affairs continues.

I should very much like to have said a word with regard to the Winnipeg strike. I would not think of discussing the strike issue, because it has been overshadowed in the minds of the people by the idea that an effort has been made to subvert con-