

net price to the Canadian manufacturer something less than 20 cents. My correspondents point out that the price in Liverpool and in England is 32 cents, and they want to know why the discrepancy between the price in Canada and the price in England.

Mr. BURRELL: I think my hon. friend must be mistaken as to his figures.

Mr. MURPHY (Russell): That is what is stated in this letter.

Mr. BURRELL: The last quotation of the Brockville Cheese Board, I think, was 20½. I think it will be found that, speaking generally, considering freight, the difference would be about three-quarters of a cent between that and the price f.o.b., Montreal. However, I cannot give my hon. friend any answer on that particular subject, as it is entirely a matter for the British authorities to deal with. They decided what kind of a price they would authorize their representatives to pay. Mr. McGowan has taken the matter up with the most absolute fairness. There is probably no market for any cheese coming from the outside, because the British authorities have commandeered the whole thing. Our only hope—at least representations have been made to that effect—is that the price that is given will not be lessened, and, if possible, it will be bettered. However, it is not a question that we have any control over at all.

Mr. MORPHY (North Perth): Might I ask my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture whether or not he consulted the Western Ontario Cheese Association or kindred associations before he put that legislation in force?

Mr. BURRELL: There is no legislation at all.

Mr. MORPHY (North Perth): There is an Order in Council.

Mr. BURRELL: There is not even an Order in Council.

Mr. MORPHY (North Perth): Well, you have taken action.

Mr. BURRELL: The Government have had the matter under consideration and have appointed, in addition to the British commissioner, Mr. Ruddick, of the Department of Agriculture, and Mr. Alexander, of Montreal, an old member of the cheese trade there, with the idea of seeing that the regu-

[Mr. Murphy.]

lations are carried out, these gentlemen acting in an advisory capacity.

Mr. NESBITT: Are the same regulations in force on the other side of the line as to price as those which are in force on this side and is it absolutely necessary that the cheese men should abide by all the conditions laid down by this Cheese Commission without any remedy? Have they got to comply with them whether they want to or not and are the prices the same on the other side of the line?

Mr. BURRELL: When my hon. friend (Mr. Nesbitt) asks me if they have got to do this and got to do that, I can assure him that under this particular measure there is no compulsion at all. Nobody is obliged to sell cheese to the commission in any shape or form; it is purely voluntary. The British authorities decided that they could offer so much and if people want to sell their cheese they can. If they do not want to sell their cheese they do not have to. Is the price which is being paid on the other side of the line—I presume my hon. friend means the United States—I cannot tell my hon. friend as to that although I should think that, judging from the action lately taken by the British Government, whatever the local prices may be in the two countries, the export price, I should think, would be the same.

Mr. NESBITT: When I asked that—

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope the hon. member will conclude his question because it may lead to a debate on this subject, which would not be in order.

Mr. NESBITT: I quite appreciate that, but I wanted to find out if they would have to sell.

RESOLUTION OF THE MONTREAL TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL.

On the Orders of the Day.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The hon. member for Rouville (Mr. Lemieux) asked me some time ago in regard to a resolution from the Trades and Labour Council of Montreal adopted on or about May 17. My hon. friend the Minister of Labour (Mr. Crothers), on the 6th June stated that it had not been received by the Government. It was received by myself and I acknowledged it on the 22nd May, 1917. My hon. friend the Minister of Labour was not aware, that the resolution had been received, and I overlooked the fact.