

tween us and any of the sister nations. I therefore fully concur in what is said in the Address, and the views that have been expressed by the mover in that connection, and the happy conditions that exist to-day in this respect I regard with great satisfaction.

The Address makes reference to the proud position which Canada occupies in its relation to the war. This is a matter that has been so often touched upon in felicitous and eloquent terms not only in this House but elsewhere, that it is not necessary now for me to say anything further upon it. No matter how interesting a subject may be it is possible to spoil it by too much reiteration. However, one fact that can bear repetition is the magnificent way in which our soldiers upheld the best traditions of the British Empire. We recall with pride the achievements of our men, and the splendid work of our women also compels our admiration. The masterful courage shown by the Canadian people in backing up every step that was necessary to maintain our share in the fight and the bold and unflinching efforts which we put forth to suppress the oppressor in his attempt to rob us and other civilized nations of our autonomy, are matters which have been ably dwelt on on previous occasions.

The speech from the Throne informs us that not only shall we deal with the cause which immediately brings us here, but that we shall consider other questions having a bearing on the subjects directly concerned in the closing of the war. Those questions are many, and I have no doubt they have particular reference to the social and industrial conditions that prevail to-day in this country. While it is true that this session is called especially for the purpose of dealing with the Treaty, it is necessary to bear in mind that this Parliament is the great clearing house of Canada, the great forum in which all questions affecting the people's welfare generally are discussed. And no matter what may be the real purpose of calling us together at this unusual time of the year, it is quite proper that we as members, and the Government as the executive of Parliament and of the Canadian people, should take into consideration and effectively deal with any subject which requires special attention.

I would bring to your notice, Mr. Speaker, the fact that at the last session of Parliament which closed on the seventh of July, we hurriedly passed an Act to create what is now known as the Board of Commerce for the purpose of dealing specifically with the high cost of living, which is one of the great

and serious questions affecting the Canadian people to-day and has been for the last three and a half years. I have reason to complain—and to bring particularly to the notice of the Government—that they have not moved as rapidly or as effectively under that Act as the Canadian people, and I venture to say this Parliament, expected. There was such a rush, if I may use the term, to put that Act through Parliament that when a certain report from a certain committee, which I choose to call the Nicholson Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry, was sent up to this House in a manner which seemed to us technically irregular, and when I suggested that a couple of hours might be spent in sending that report back to the committee so that they would send it to us in a regular way, I was chastised, criticised and denounced most violently by ministers of the Crown and told that I, and the Opposition, were blocking this Act which was so very urgent and necessary and that no delay of that kind could for one moment be brooked. July has passed, August has passed and this is a fair commencement of the month of September, but as far as I know nothing whatever of importance has been done by virtue of that Act.

It is only a few days ago that the court was constituted. After a long time we had two men appointed—two capable men no doubt—but upon consultation it appears that they discovered that the court was not properly constituted without a third man. After a delay of a couple of weeks we find that temporarily a third man is put upon that court, but so far nothing effective has been done. One would think, Mr. Speaker, that after the various inquiries which have taken place during the last three and a half years, after the various commissions that have been appointed, after the various investigations which have been conducted at the expense of the people of this country in connection with this very important subject, even this Government, which appears to be somewhat impervious to information, would be seized of some of the salient facts in connection with the matter. What inquiries have we had? About three and a half years ago we began with reports from Mr. O'Connor, who was then an officer of the Minister of Labour. We had several reports from him. Then, about the same time a gentleman by the name of Henderson, I understand a K.C. of this city, came into the field and he gave us some reports. After that there was a learned commissioner appointed who found his way into the West, to the city of Winnipeg, and