

NEED OF IMMEDIATE ACTION

Since an increase in the supply of food is the one obvious necessity, it is scarcely less obvious that anything artificial at present restricting the supply of the principal articles of food should be immediately removed. This brings us inevitably to a consideration of the tariff. Were I to pursue this theme farther, I should of course get into the realm of political controversy, and this is not the time nor the place to provoke a discussion. At the same time, I would feel I had not fully stated the case were I to omit to express my own conviction that it is possible so to reform the tariff as not only to diminish the high cost of living in a manner which would immediately benefit consumers, but also to reduce the cost of the instruments of production generally, and so help agriculture and all the other industries based upon the natural resources of Canada. As these basic industries thrive, all our other industries will thrive, all our interests, whether of agriculture, manufactures, commerce, or transportation. Any revision of the tariff which failed to keep all these interests steadily in view would not be in the national interests. It is obvious, however, that much can be done through tariff revision by way of reducing the high cost of living, which will prove to the benefit of one and all; and foremost in this connection is any well-considered step which will help to increase the supply of food to dwellers in town and country alike.