

side of the House who approve of my policy and there are others who do not approve of it. But the Bill is of such importance that I consider that, whether we approve or do not approve of the measure, it having now become law with the sanction of His Excellency the Governor General, it behooves us all as British subjects to see that it is carried out as harmoniously as possible. Under such circumstances I deem it my duty to accept the invitation of my right hon. friend. It will be my duty to consult on this side of the House both those who approve and those who do not approve of the Bill, and I shall communicate the result to my right hon. friend as soon as possible.

HIGH COST OF LIVING—ALLEGED PROFIT ON FLOUR.

Hon. CHARLES MURPHY: A few days ago my right hon. friend the Prime Minister mentioned that on account of the increased cost of living, it was the intention of the Government immediately after prorogation to take up the question of granting an increased percentage to soldiers as pensions. In this morning's Citizen I observe on the first page an item to this effect:

Port Arthur, Ont., Aug. 28.—Speaking before the Fort William Board of Trade, N. M. Patterson, prominent grain man and elevator operator, made the statement that the milling companies were getting about five dollars' profit on every barrel of flour.

We hear a good deal these days about the food controller making regulations, delivering speeches, attending public functions—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order.

Mr. MURPHY: I purpose asking a question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. member is pursuing a very devious road to arrive at his question.

Mr. MURPHY: I have finished my travels and I am going to ask my question. I desire to know, in view of this circumstance, whether the Government has made any arrangement with the food controller or whether that gentleman himself is going to take action to reduce prices.

Sir ROBERT BORDEN: The food controller already has taken action along several lines. I have no doubt that his attention will be directed to the item to which my hon. friend refers and that he will take

whatever action may be deemed advisable in regard to it.

Mr. MURPHY: He has not done anything that I have heard of to reduce prices.

PRIVILEGE—Mr. KNOWLES.

On the Orders of the Day:

Mr. W. E. KNOWLES: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. On Saturday last I advocated the principle that members of the Board of Railway Commissioners should not accept personal favours from railway companies. Referring to this, the Toronto Telegram of yesterday has some observations, and I desire to correct the false impression that may be created by them. On page 2 of the editorial column I find the following:

About the only word of size and usefulness in the many utterances of Mr. Knowles was a well-timed protest against the iniquity of permitting Canada's Railway Commissioners to travel in private cars as the guests of the railways. The chairman of the Dominion Railway Commission travels in a private car.

The impression created by that editorial would be to associate the chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners with my remarks. I have never heard that he has accepted any personal favours from railway companies, and I had no reference to him whatever personally. I was referring to the general principle without making any reference to the chairman of the Board of Railway Commissioners. A perusal of my remarks in Hansard will show them to be quite consistent with the explanation I give now.

COAL SUPPLY IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

On the Orders of the Day:

Hon. WM. PUGSLEY (St. John): Has the hon. the Minister of Marine and Fisheries (Mr. Hazen) any further statement to make in regard to arrangements for transportation of anthracite coal from the mines to the ports of St. John and Halifax? The season is rapidly passing, winter will soon be upon us, and I know the matter is one of very great interest to the people of St. John. The prices of coal are very high, indeed, reaching \$15 per ton, and if anything is going to be done it should be done right off.

Hon. J. D. HAZEN: I have no further statement to make at the present moment to the House. The matter was taken up for consideration between the fuel controller, the deputy minister of Marine and Fisheries