

that has been existing in serious form for at least the last three years.

Hon. Mr. BLAIN: Just for information, may I ask my honourable friend if the legislation to which he has referred, that was passed by the legislature of his province, is still in force?

Hon. Mr. POWER: The legislation had become absolute; but I know that the evil which this legislation was intended to do away with continues in full force, and has been increasing day by day.

Hon. Mr. BLAIR: Without wishing to be controversial at all, may I ask my honourable friend why the legislature of his province did not apply the Act to those extortionate prices?

Hon. Mr. POWER: I suppose it was because the legislators of the province felt that it was a matter for the Dominion Government, who when they appointed a Food Controller, apparently admitted that it was their business. This Bill that we are called upon to pass shows that the Government feel that it is a matter that comes within the jurisdiction of Parliament. Of course, it is pretty late in the day to find that out; but, as the saying is, "Better late than never." Looking at the liberality of the Government towards various interests, I feel that there will be a good deal to be said in favour of the Government recouping the comparatively poor people of this country all the money that they have been done out of by the existence of facilities for charging too much for the necessaries of life. There are some other things I might say, but I presume I have said enough to show where I stand.

The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

On motion of Hon. Sir James Lougheed, the Senate went into committee on the Bill. Hon. Mr. Laird in the Chair.

Section 1 was agreed to.

On section 2—definitions:

Hon. Sir JAMES LOUGHEED: May I ask Mr. O'Connor to come within the Bar?

Hon. Mr. POWER: I just wish to call attention to one particular outrage, as I think one may properly call it, which has been perpetrated upon the people of this country, and I should like to know if it is perfectly clear that paragraph c of this section covers the case.

Every one knows that probably the most essential article of food is milk. I may

Hon. Mr. POWER.

mention one or two circumstances which go to show how a mischief, an iniquity in fact, has been perpetrated in regard to that commodity. When Parliament met this year the price of milk in the city of Ottawa was 13 cents a quart. Fortunately for the people of Ottawa, competition arose, with the result that the price went down at once from 13 cents to 10 cents a quart. That was a very important reduction. At 10 cents a quart, both companies, I understand, are making quite handsome profits. Why was it that the Government could not find out the existing condition of things, and why could they not have taken steps that would have had the same effect as competition had?

In the city from which I come, the price of milk, when I left there, was 14 cents a quart. Out of that, as I understand, the farmer got only 8 cents and the middleman, the distributor, got 6 cents. Any one who stops to think for a moment will see that a charge of 6 cents a quart for distributing milk is utterly indefensible and outrageous. These things have been apparent on the surface; and how it is that the Government has been apparently blind to them, is something I cannot understand. I should like to hear something from the honourable gentleman to the effect that it is perfectly clear that paragraph c will cover the case of milk.

Hon. Mr. ROBERTSON: My honourable friend is apparently quite in the dark as to the facts regarding the milk situation in the city of Ottawa. Some time ago the price of milk in this city was to be increased; but, by reason of the action taken by the Cost of Living Commissioner, who is attached to the Labour Department, in negotiations with the Fair Price Committee established by the city and the milk interests, the increase was absolutely prohibited until an investigation could be held. An investigation was subsequently held, and an agreement was reached by which a fair and reasonable price was fixed. Therefore no reflection can be cast on either the city council or the Government; on the contrary, they are to be given credit for having prevented the price going beyond what it did, and beyond what was fair and reasonable under the circumstances.

Hon. Mr. POWER: The honourable minister apparently takes the ground that beneficent action on the part of the Government should be limited to the city of Ottawa. That is not the way I look at the matter. If the Government acted in the