

that whoever was guilty of using dynamite that had been transported from one state to another came within the jurisdiction of the federal law. Those guilty of the outrages were arrested and convicted, and the trouble ceased; but that result could never have been accomplished by state law.

Recently we have been told a great deal about constitutional development in this country, and I have in mind many clear-cut deliverances on the subject during this session. It seems to me that a similar development is possible along other lines that will bring relief from the evils we are now suffering. Therefore, even if my voice reaches only a few hon. members here, I hope it will carry a little further and reach the people who are now suffering from the high cost of living, and that they will realize that the only relief possible to them is by enlarging the personnel of the Board of Commerce and having our Attorney General get busy. I think we ought to call our Minister of Justice our Attorney General much oftener than we do. We have also got a Solicitor General. What is he doing? Has any one seen him lately? Why did not the Solicitor General get busy on this question when the Minister of Justice was over in Europe on important business? Over in England they have a Solicitor General, and he is in the courts all the time enforcing the law for the protection of the people; the same practice, I understand, obtains in Scotland and in Ireland. That is what we want in this country.

I want the people to ask hon. members when they go back to their constituents—hon. members on this side and hon. members on the Opposition side—to ask all of us why we cannot have here the process that they have in the United States for getting after profiteers, and if they have it in England why cannot we have it here? Bear in mind that for fifty years we have never got any kind of results in these matters by trusting to the provinces to take action. We have made a start, but we are ashamed of our start—we are ashamed to recognize the Board of Commerce as clothed with federal responsibility. Even when we organized the board we did not clothe it with sufficient power. We should have given it the power of summarily fining profiteers. I want to tell the public how my friend the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Sifton) made his reputation in the western provinces in dealing with cattle thieves. He stamped them out by a summary administration of the law.

[Mr. W. F. Maclean.]

I would like to see the Attorney General (Mr. Doherty), and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Sifton), notwithstanding his other pressing duties in connection with the Treaty and with the department that he now has in hand, to sit down and deal with this pressing question. The project of the Prime Minister and the President of the Council (Mr. Rowell) going over to England just as soon as they can to establish Canada as an independent nation, or as a member of a League of Nations within the British Empire, is not the pressing question. The pressing question is to apply federal treatment to the high cost of living and the high cost of rent, and the regulation of abnormal profits made by a lot of our industries under war conditions. The question of capitalization of companies is another thing to which this Parliament should direct attention, although we have been told that it is no concern of ours.

These are matters for our consideration; we must have a law regulating them, and there never will be a law to regulate them unless it be a federal law and unless federal jurisdiction is taken over them. These are questions that the people are thinking about and that must be dealt with. In my constituency there are well-to-do people, some of them farmers, some of them living in the cities; but I want people to meet the letter carrier in the service of the country who is getting pretty good pay in comparison with what he used to get, and I want them to meet the man who works on the railway and hear from them what they think about the high cost of living. Every time I travel by train, I take the opportunity of speaking to the brakeman or other railwayman, and I find that the great concern for him is the high cost of living. Some of them are old constituents of mine who, before the adjustment of the constituency, lived in West Toronto, and they tell me that this is what they do as they go up and down on the train; they give somebody a dollar or fifty cents to buy something out of the packing plant at Peterborough as they pass through, because they can get what they want for a little less than they have to pay for it in the stores at Toronto. That is evidence of the strain under which the people are living to-day. While they are receiving higher pay, they are being charged more than they should be, and there is too great a spread between what the packer pays to the farmer for an animal and what he charges the consumer. The game of the packer in the United States is the same as in this country, name-