

## FOURTH REPORT

TUESDAY, May 17, 1932.

The Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce begs leave to submit its Fourth Report as follows:—

Your Committee has had under consideration an Order of Reference, dated February 11, 1932,—

That, in the opinion of this House, the price of gasoline to the Canadian consumer has for some time past been too high, and that this matter should be referred to the Select Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce to investigate and report.

Your Committee has held 22 meetings, and has taken viva voce evidence on oath of 20 witnesses. Numerous exhibits were filed by witnesses.

The aforementioned witnesses represented the following companies:—

Imperial Oil, Limited,  
McCull-Fontenac Oil Company, Limited,  
British American Oil Company, Limited,  
Shell Oil of Canada, Limited,  
Eastcrest Oil Company, Limited,

and also included individual importers and distributors, in some cases importing direct from the United States, and in other cases purchasing gasoline from Canadian refiners.

An officer of the White Star Refinery Company, of Detroit, Michigan, also gave evidence concerning the condition of the petroleum industry in the United States.

An official of the Customs Branch of the National Revenue Department gave evidence respecting the appraisal of petroleum imports for duty purposes.

The Clarkson Commission Report of 1926 to the Ontario Government, being a report of an inquiry into the prices of gasoline and oils sold in the province, is incorporated in the evidence taken by your Committee.

A committee of the Legislature of Saskatchewan was concurrently conducting a similar inquiry to that of your Committee, but within the limitations of provincial jurisdiction, and presented a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature.

The said Saskatchewan Committee report is not within the Order of Reference from the House to your Committee and therefore has not been considered by your Committee but in view of the recommendations therein contained has been incorporated in the printed proceedings of evidence in order that the House may be informed of its contents.

Pursuant to authorization given by the House, your Committee engaged the firm of George A. Touche & Company, Chartered Accountants. This firm was instructed as follows, namely:—

1. That the accounts of the Imperial Oil, Limited, be taken for the purpose of establishing the fundamental facts required by the Committee.