

their best in their attempts to solve this problem they have not yet solved it. The reason is that the underlying causes are so world-wide and so varied that this sick world must become convalescent before prices can come back to normal.

Among all the causes of the high cost of living, the least canvassed and probably most potent are the inflated credits and currencies of the world. Where there is an overplus of money and a shortage of commodities, the prices of commodities will go up, and vice versa. Russia is the most striking example; Germany is following fast in her footsteps; all the countries of the world are in somewhat the same position. Only the healing of time, the getting back to better conditions of credit and of currencies, greater production and greater thrift will gradually bring the sick man from the bed on which he lies prone to-day and give him successive impacts of health and strength until he becomes his normal self again.

As to production, what has this country done? What has this Government done? I want to say just here that when I talk about governments doing this or that I have not in mind the exclusive and autocratic point of view that the people have nothing to do with these things. It is the accordant action of the Government and of the people that makes these problems soluble; in proportion as the Government and the people work in harmony, these problems become more easily and more perfectly solved.

In its efforts toward increasing production the Government has been untiring; it has been generous, wise and successful. Various tariff changes have been made, all in the line of trying to reduce the cost of production. The Government, through the Department of Agriculture, has generously provided an advance of \$3,000,000 to give assistance to the people in those districts who through seasonal difficulties have been deprived of their seed. The Board of Grain Supervisors in 1917 and 1918, under the able leadership of their chairman, Dr. Magill, bought, sold and managed the wheat crop of Canada, and not a word of criticism has been uttered against their integrity, the success of their work, or the manner in which it was carried out. If you scan the history of other countries you will find that enormous troubles have taken place in these respects. Courts of law, courts-martial, and commissions are investigating in other countries enormous frauds which have taken place with reference to the people's food supply. Last year the Canadian Wheat Board was formed. It does practically the

same work as the Board of Grain Supervisors did during the two preceding years. This year as well there is no intimation that matters have not been efficiently and squarely carried out—so much so that the Council of Agriculture for Canada and various large agricultural associations and organizations have not only approved the policy which was so efficiently carried out in time of war, but have asked that it be continued in the time of peace.

We have had a Food Board which did good service. The Department of Agriculture has made strong, uniformly consistent efforts in these lines. The sum of \$10,000,000 advanced towards agricultural education is being expended in co-operation with the provinces. Twenty million dollars has been allocated to good roads—and good roads aid production; they are of the greatest service and aid to the farmer.

My hon. friend has criticised control. What is the ground of his criticism? Does he mean to say that during wartime no measures except those which are found in the regular statutes of a country should be invoked by a Government; that a Government must depend upon those laws, or others to be from time to time enacted by Parliament to carry out its emergency war measures? He cannot mean that, because no country carries on war under such conditions. In Great Britain, in the United States, in France, Italy, Japan—everywhere—extraordinary measures and extraordinary powers which would have been frowned upon or not permitted in times of peace are carried out and exercised when the war emergency comes and where changes are almost instantaneous. And so food control, control of the packing industries, fuel control, control of imports and exports, have been exercised in all warring countries as they have been in Canada, under war measures and legislation for the defence of the realm.

With reference to the purchase of war supplies and equipment, this Government established a War Purchasing Commission, through whose hands hundreds of millions of dollars have passed for the purchase of food and equipment for war purposes and supplies for the Departments in time of peace. These purchases have been successfully carried out to the satisfaction of the great body of the people. The names Sir Edward Kemp, Sir Hormisdas Laporte, Mr. Galt, and Mr. Gundy, whom unfortunately we lost about a year ago, will always stand in that Commission as guaranties of efficiency, of economy, and of honest and honourable service.