## MEDICINE ND THE SPRING

gallop through



## MAIN CAUSES OF HIGH COST OF LIVING ARE BEYOND CONTROL OF THE MUNICIPALITY

Committee of H. C. of L. Concluded Its reported to the Council, and the could be produced showing that firm possibility of securing for our cities had charged more than \$11.00 per Work Last Evening; Municipal Pro- zens a cheap and adequate supply of ton. In connection with such offer than fish. duction of Domestic Staples Advo- Committee on such subjects is recorded below: cated as Partial Solution of Difficulty; Many Increases Justifiable

The business of the committee on the high cost of living, was and up in peremptory order at a meeting last evening, when the drafted tor submission to the City Council was discussed d revised. The work of the committee from the time of its inion in December last, is sum marized, both a review of the exnations conducted and the conclusions arrived at. In many cases increased prices are deemed justifiable, and were necessitated ncrease in the cost of labor and material, but in other in cases of extortionate charges have been proven. The comreports that the main causes of the increase in the high cost ng are beyond the control of the municipality, but submits aber of recommendations intended to help solve the problem, the appointment of a committee from the City Council to with local dealers, and agree upon reasonable prices, the shment of municipal food supply plants, the fixing of prices Federal Government, a more efficient marketing organizathe farmers of the province; the establishment of governcold storage warehouses for gathering and distribution of produce. Special recommendations are made in two instances; il, require written affirmed information from the firm of F. Walsh and Son, as to the charges against them of selling coal orbitant prices; also that the price of fish taken from the lakes be fixed by the provincial government. he text of the report reads as follows:-

rederal Order in Council, vestigations. to persons and firms op-

he gains in the past eighteen days.

The Report.
rship, the Mayor, and the as members of the Committee might individually desire, or the circum- Committee that the said firm was creased to a substantial extent. stances of each case might suggest. your honorable body, to factory and, with one exception the High Cost of Living hereinafter referred to, the Commitwith few exceptions, in tee has occasion to express its apthree preciation of the willingness of the lts authority for investiga- merchants and producers interested invitation was sent by the City Clerk had increased from 3 cents to 4.45

The Committee has investigated within the limits of the cost and price conditions prevailing ity. Instead of demanding in the following lines of business: and dealers should Coal, bread, milk, cold storage and testimony in writing, in flour. While outside its authority with the requirements of under the Order in Council, the epresentative traders volun- investigations also made as to can-

This map shows the British front from Arias to Vimy Ridge cap tured by the Canadians, which represents the extreme north of the map, directly east and north of Arias. The Vimy Ridge cap tured by the Canadians, which represents the extreme north of the movement, is just beyond the edge of this map. It was on this position acting as on a hinge, that the Germans were pivoting their great retirement to the mouth. The smashing of the hinge may have important results. The map's hows the British line on the front as it stands at various periods and notably

tion on this question took place the retail prices of coal in Brantford, as price at the international boundary was pea \$6.10, nut \$6.50 and egg \$6.35 respectively. Thereto it is ecessary to add, to cover actual outlay, 77c per ton freight from the border, and also delivery and operating expenses. At the retail rices named the merchants of the city were charging 25c per ton in excess of those ruling in Guelph. where the merchants have to pay 22c per ton more in freight from the boundary, owing to the longer haul. Since the completion of the ommittee's coal investigations the above mentioned retail prices have been increased owing to scarcity. It s probable that the average in crease of prices in the wholly, or in part, justified by the necessity of merchants having to pay a premium to get deliveries. Walsh Case

that extortionate prices had been charged by the coal and wood firm every of F. H. Walsh. It was felt by the bread had, in the same period, inentitled to an opportunity to be heard in its own defence before ar riving at any judgment on the matter. Instructions were accordingly given that a courteous invitation be ting of the Committee. The first in the same period delivery and returned ostensibly unopened, cents per gallon. Other items incidand returned ostensibly unopened, cents per gailon. Other items incid-although, upon examination of the ental to the retail distribution of ental to the retail distribution of envelope, it appeared to have been re-sealed. A second invitation sent by the Committee, through its corby the committee. responding secretary, was registered estimony in writing, in flour. While outside its authority but it was returned by the rost of under the Order in Council, the fice authorities marked "refused." two of its representatives, urged uptreous and effective to increase in the cost of living, had entailing traders volun- investigations also made as to can be allowed to treat the City Council, or comparison of the results of the requirements of under the Order in Council, the fice authorities marked "refused." two of its representatives, urged uptreous and effective to increase in the cost of living, had this firm should not, with impunity, practice to hold supplies for enhancements of the requirements of under the Order in Council, the fice authorities marked "refused." two of its representatives, urged uptreous and effective to increase in the cost of living, had this firm should not, with impunity, practice to hold supplies for enhancements of the requirements of the req but it was returned by the Post Of-

contempt, and that the legal powers vested in the City Council by the federal Order in Council should be exercised so far as the firm of F. H. Walsh is concerned. A recommenda-tion thereon is made in this report.

not singled out Mr. Stander, or his firm, for adverse criticism. Mr. On December 15th last, the date Stander was, therefore, invited to attend one of the sittings of the Committee when vouchers were produced to him showing that \$12 given by merchants, were pea \$7.75, per ton had been charged in one egg \$8.50 and nut \$8.75. The cost case, and \$11.50 in another. It was decided by agreement between the Committee and Mr. Stander, and on the initiative of the latter, to submit the question of whether or not under the terms of his offer he was under an obligation to pay-\$100.00 to the Patriotic Fund, for the de cision of three independent persons, one nominated by Mr. Stander, by the Committee, and the third by the other two. Mr. Stander has, on several occasions, been requested to submit the name of his nomine out such requests have been ignored. The Committee places the fact on record, but feels that any commen

They Committee runny examined the bakers invited to give informa tion. The rise in productive costs since the outbreak of war was fully gone into, and, upon the information given, the Committee is of opinion The Committee received from and investigated complaints of citizens was stated that flour had increased that extortionate prices had been 100 per cent. and that practically The Committee received from and requisite in the production of

Information was given to the Committee that the cost to milk rendors had increased from 15 cents o 21 1-2 cents per gallon since the commencement of the war, and that,

arily to meet the Committee, and ned goods and the cultivation of va- through one of its committees, with organized attempt of cold storage

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per bushel and it was at the date of drawn for military purposes from so-enquiry \$1.65. In the same time cially necessary or useful occupa-flour had risen from \$2.50 to \$4.40. tions, and for millions of others to tion amongst millers to maintain people not engaged in military serv-prices was denied. It was stated ices, greater economy of labor by which, so far as the cost of living that the function of the Dominion more systematic organization, more Millers' Association was to purchase sparing use of necessary commodiand, indeed, may become more acute and it was not an organization to relieve the situation. To this end which, so far as the cost of living is concerned, are likely to continue and, indeed, may become more acute for a considerable period after peace fix the selling price. fix the selling price.

Canned Goods
The committee, through one of its members, investigated costs of production in a canning factory and submitted the information to the Minister of Labor. The same showed a wide and unreasonable disparity between the cost and selling prices of canned goods and a recom-mendation was made that the prices charged by the canners to the dis-tributive trade should be fixed by the government.

The committee is of the opinion in view of the high prices and general scarcity of meat products that the cultivation of the habit of eatting fish, as an alternative, would influence the price of meat in favor of the consumer. In addition to making enquiries in the lake fishing district west of St. Thomas, a member of the committee made personal enquiries at Port Dover, the fishing centre most convenint to this city. There are two fishing companies at that port and, including the catch of individual fisherman who dispose of the same to the companies, the total annual yield is about 1000 tons, which is marketed in the United States and Canada. The informants stated that the principal difficulty in the retail distribution of fish was in getting responsible parties to undertake the same. Fish being perishable and the stock, of necessity ,rapidly disposed of and for cash, in the event of default the debtor has no seizable assets, and the risk of losses from bad debts was large in the smaller cities. In the larger cities there were well-es-tablished and reputable firms making considerable regular purchases of fish, and for this reason trade was cultivated there. In the case of responsible parties undertaking distribution a satisfactory supply of fish for this city from Port Dover

can be relied upon.

Conclusions.

As the result of its investigations your committee is of the opinion that the main causes of the increase in the cost of living are beyond the control of the municipality. While by more economical methods of distribution, and the fixing of retail prices of staple necessaries under municipal supervision some savings might be effected, comprehensive treatment of the problem demands federal and provincial action. Muni

firms to keep up prices, and to abcipal supervision and control could
normal exportation was attributed
the principal cause of the increase
in the prices of food produce.

Gravating the problem by taking adgravating the problem by taking ad-Flour vantage of scarcity conditions to sible, while contributing to the fin-Dominion Flour Mills, exact excessive profits, but the fund- ancial resources of the nation, and

through its representative, attribut- amental difficulty of the scarcity ited the increased cost of flour to self would remain. It cannot be
much higher prices for wheat. At otherwise so long as it is necessary
the outbreak of war wheat was 85c for many millions of men to be withious to necessary pursuits.

Formerly manufacturing expenses be exclusively engaged in providing of the unusual economic and induswere 25 cents per barrel and the for their unusual requirements. Ex trial conditions thereby created has been undertaken by the respective

## ICE CREAM TIME!

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