

concerning the prices of food and we have not had any here yet.

Mr. VERVILLE: Certainly, but here, the increased cost of living goes on and I believe that in September we will have two labour days; on the first of September they will parade the streets and next day they will supply themselves in the cold storages, and I would be the very first man to tell them to do so if things keep on as they are. I am supposed to keep the peace, but there is a limit to everything and my hon. friend knows that the people of the country will not stand for much more and that they are calling upon him to take this matter up with the best elements to be found in the country, to settle this question and to endeavour to prevent what will be a great calamity. He may not be able to prevent it. My hon. friend said a moment ago that the Order in Council was put on the same basis as the Lord's Day Act. But, the Lord's Day Act was a matter of conscience; this is a matter of hunger and there is a great difference between your stomach and your conscience. The people make this appeal to the minister and he can himself see what the condition is in any part of the country that he may care to go to. You must regulate the food of the people. Seven-eighths of the people of Canada are just on the verge of revolution because they are short of food supplies and they will not stand it all the time. My hon. friend knows the conditions under which the people are living and he has been told it by a great many of his friends. My hon. friend's own officers must have kept him informed as to the conditions and he cannot ignore the facts that are existing in different parts of the country. The fact that he stated that there was an increase of \$1.75 per week in the cost of living in connection with mining in the West shows that he realizes that the cost of living has gone up. If the cost of living has increased in the West it has also increased in the East and that is the danger. If you cannot lower the cost of living at the present you can regulate it. You can regulate the profits that some of those large interests are making. I am willing to give them a living profit but to take a profit over and above that is wrong. If my hon. friend does not know what is going on in this country amongst the rank and file of the people, then he has not received reports from his officers, but I believe that he does know. That is why I am appealing to the minister to immediately get the best ele-

ments from among the labour movement and the business men, if you like, and try to find a solution of the cost of living problem because it is getting very dangerous.

Mr. CROTHERS: The hon. member for Maisonneuve is a leader amongst the working people of this country, and he has told us a good deal, but he has not told us what he has done towards paying the advance in the cost of foodstuffs. Under this order he could take action against any man in the city of Montreal whom he thought was overcharging, and prosecute him with the assent of the Attorney General. I do not apprehend that it would be a very easy matter. What is it that controls the price of most of these things? Take cheese; there is a very great demand for cheese to be sent across the ocean to the army. What would my hon. friend do there—fix the price at which the maker of cheese should sell the cheese for at the factory and bring it down below what he could get for it for export? Would he adopt the same method with regard to butter, flour or anything of that kind? When you get down to the actual work you will find it very difficult to fix the price of any of these things. I would suggest to my hon. friend that he would probably learn something of a very practical nature if he would take this order, and finding some one on the corner in Montreal whom he thought was charging too much for his butter or bacon, he would ask the Attorney General to authorise a prosecution, lay an information, bring the dealer before the police magistrate and have him convicted and fined \$5,000. If he did that it would be a lesson to him and an example to every other man who was overcharging. It is an easy matter for him to get up and say that you should do so and so, and the Government should do so and so, but what is he doing for the working man?

Mr. VERVILLE: If I were Minister of Labour I would do more than he has done. I would have a change in the whole situation or I would not stay in the Cabinet. I would be man enough to get out of it.

Mr. CROTHERS: You are representing the people in this House. Why do you not get out because you cannot do anything?

Mr. VERVILLE: I have not the responsibility nor the power to do that; the minister has that in his hands.

Mr. CROTHERS: I have just the power you have under this order.

Mr. VERVILLE: Yes, but I have only the power of an individual while the Gov-