

deal of concern. The people of Canada are worried as perhaps they have not been worried for a very long time. I met a good many who were worried about how they are going to make ends meet during the next few months or the next year. I am not dealing specifically with the question of controls; I am dealing with the cost of living. The sharp increases in the cost of living to the people of Canada are causing misgivings in the minds of those who are responsible for the family budgets.

Unfortunately, from the point of view of the government and those who have not given sufficient attention to meeting this increased cost of living, there are the articles which are to be found in the *Financial Post* or on the financial pages of the *Globe and Mail* and other papers showing the profits which have been made during the past year or so by various industries. Various items which enter largely into the cost of living have gone up sharply since the beginning of the year. For example, shortening has gone up ten cents per pound. Soap has gone up one cent per bar. Biscuits have increased by ten per cent. Soap flakes have gone up from one to five cents a package. Shirts and underwear have gone up twenty-five per cent. Leather gloves and mitts, which the workers have to buy and which are so necessary in our climate, have gone up from eleven to sixteen per cent since January 31.

As I said a few moments ago, the people read these articles and see what the industries are making. I have before me an extract from the *Financial Post* which shows that the Monarch Knitting Company, for example, shows an increase of profits for 1946 over 1945 of 309 per cent. The Acme Glove Works shows an increase of 289 per cent. Bruck Silk Mills Limited shows an increase of 255 per cent. York Knitting Mills show an increase of 70 per cent, while Riverside Silk Mills show an increase of 69.2 per cent. Wool Combing Corporation show an increase of 57 per cent. I am just giving round figures, omitting the decimal points. Robinson Cotton Mills shows an increase of 39 per cent. Biltmore Hats Limited show an increase of 23 per cent, and Belding Corticelli 12 per cent. The average increase in profits in 1946 over 1945 was 107 per cent.

Mr. CASTLEDEN: After taxes.

Mr. COLDWELL: That is after taxes, as one of my hon. friends reminds me. When the people see these profits, when they see the policy that has been put into effect, they are not only filled with misgiving and concern; they are filled with a good deal of indignation, and rightly so. The same thing applies to

[Mr. Coldwell.]

other major articles of household necessity for which the people of this country have been waiting for a long time. I refer to things such as washing machines. In this connection we find that Beatty Brothers show an increase of 23 per cent in profits over the previous year, and the same thing applies to the Easy Washing Machine Company. The same with mattresses. One could enumerate a whole list of commodities, some little irritating things. We know how the prices of soft drinks and chocolate bars have increased over the years. The price of soft drinks has not gone up very recently, but we are deluged with letters from various organizations in our constituencies asking, and I think quite properly, that the price of soft drinks should be restored to a nickel so that the youngsters can buy them; and I am all in sympathy with that. But the inference is that price increases are entirely due to the taxation policies of the government. Orange Crush showed an increase in net profits last year of 448.3 per cent over the previous year. You can hardly square that with the requests for tax reduction that are coming to us.

An hon. MEMBER: Don't drink it.

Mr. COLDWELL: It is probably better to take soft drinks than hard ones, which sometimes have disastrous results.

Look at the increase that has taken place in the rentals of hotel rooms. Permission was given to hotels to increase their room rents at the same time that the ten per cent rent increase was announced. The Windsor hotel in Montreal showed an increase in profits last year of 70.3 per cent over 1945.

The hon. member for Peterborough West (Mr. Fraser) a few moments ago spoke of the difficulty of getting materials for the building of veterans' houses. That of course involves the question of controls, but at the moment I am not particularly looking at it from that point of view. I am thinking of several good reasons why houses, veterans' and others, are costing more. Again I go to the *Financial Post* for my data. In its issue of February 22, it shows that the net profits of Building Products, after taxes, jumped from \$335,000 odd in 1945 to \$1,295,000 in 1946. If hon. gentlemen will do a little figuring they will see that this works out at an increase of 286 per cent in profits last year over the previous year.

Mr. ABBOTT: How did their sales compare?

Mr. COLDWELL: I am speaking of their profits at the moment.