

provides that any decision or order made by the Board under the Act may be made a rule, order or decree of the Exchequer Court, or of any Supreme Court in any Province of Canada and shall be enforced in like manner as any rule, order, or decree of such Court. And such rule, order or decree may be enforced at the will of the Board thus giving the Commissioners all necessary power without the necessity of any procedure of its own Court. The Board has full powers to call and examine witnesses and deal in a summary manner in respect to all matters within the large jurisdiction given to the Commissioners.

The need of such powers as thus given by the Act are admittedly most urgent at the present time, when the public is suffering from the high cost of living resulting not only from the conditions which have come into existence by reason of the great war but also by the greed of profiteers and the innumerable schemes and dodges of manufacturers, traders, agents, middlemen, etc., seeking to make money out of a heavily taxed and helpless community trying to make both ends meet, at a time when all necessities of life have soared to a height beyond all reason and fairness. Needless to say that this Court and its activities are in the lime light to a degree unknown to any Court in the world's history. If results are produced the Board and its officers will deserve well of the country. The personnel of the Board is now complete, and consists of Hon. H. A. Robson, K.C., formerly a Superior Court Judge, as Chief Commissioner, and W. F. O'Connor, K.C., and James Murdock, Commissioners.

As to whether the advantages hoped for from this measure will fulfil expectations remains to be seen. That there is a necessity for it, and that it is a step in the right direction must be admitted. The frauds and deception connected with the high cost of living which abound at present are now being revealed in the evidence before the Board and may thereby be checked to some extent.

The war was of course the initial cause of the high prices, but farmers, manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers have taken advantage of the situation to embark on a voyage of misrepresentation as to the cost to them of the articles that they have for sale which is without excuse and without parallel in history.