

MAINTAIN CANADA ECONOMY ON EVEN KEEL DURING WAR

Make Effort to Avoid Painful Reaction in Future

AVOID GREEDY GAIN

Ottawa, Dec. 11.—(CP)—The war-time prices and trade board is aiming to keep the Canadian economy on an even keel during the war by maintaining fair and reasonable prices, Labour Minister McLarty said here.

Hold Fair Prices

It will also play an important part in any post-war readjustment, "for the experience of the last war clearly demonstrates that high prices, high wages, high costs—produced by the artificial stimulus of war—have a very definite and a very painful reaction when we return to the normal and unstimulated economic level," he stated.

The address, which was delivered last night over the national network of the Canadian Broadcasting corporation, was one of the series in which ministers are giving accounts of the government's war effort.

"One of the main purposes which this board will serve is this: By maintenance of fair and reasonable prices during the war-time period, we will not wear the false face of false prosperity during that period on the one hand; but on the other hand, we will not have to endure the severe pains of economic contraction," Mr. McLarty said.

Has Wide Influence

The board, under the chairmanship of Hector McKinnon, may be regarded as an organization to protect consumers, but its influence is much wider than that. It will be of advantage to wage earners in maintaining a sound basis of the cost of living and will aid producers in stabilizing prices and in eliminating the unfortunate and precipitate fall which inevitably follows an unregulated advance.

"Such interferences with normal life as have been set up are to the end that all of our resources may

be marshalled and ordered and made available where and when they are needed the most," he said.

No Greedy Gain

"Such control is also for this purpose and to this end—that at a time when our enemies who have sworn our destruction stand in arms against us no one within our gates shall be allowed to wax fat on his country's necessity—no one shall be permitted to make greedy gain out of our common need."

Mr. McLarty described the steps already taken to regulate trade in sugar, wool and coal. The new sugar agreement with Britain provides that Canada takes approximately 450,000 tons of sugar a year for the duration of the war. "We can now look forward to a reasonable stabilization of sugar prices during the period of the war," the labour minister said.

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