



The Committee of the Privy Council have had before them a report from the Right Honourable the Prime Minister setting forth the advisability of constituting a permanent Committee of the Cabinet during the progress of the war and until after demobilization to be invested with the powers and charged with the duties hereinafter set forth:-

The Prime Minister observes that in his opinion the constitution of such a Committee is advisable for the purpose of co-ordinating the efforts of the several Departments of the Government for the prosecution of the war, for ensuring the maximum of effort with the minimum of expenditure and generally for the purpose of throwing the full power of Canada into the national endeavour.

The Prime Minister recommends that the Committee shall be constituted as follows:-

Chairman	The Prime Minister
Vice-Chairman	The President of the Privy Council
	The Minister of Militia & Defence
	The Minister of Finance
	The Minister of Marine and Fisheries and of the Naval Service,
	The Minister of Justice,
	The Minister of Public Works,
	The Minister of Customs
	The Postmaster General
	The Minister of Overseas Military Forces.

The Prime Minister further recommends that the Committee shall be designated as the War Committee and that it shall be charged with the general consideration of the matters aforesaid and especially that it shall

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enquire into and report to Council upon the status and maintenance of the military forces of Canada, the enforcement of the Military Service Act, 1917, the defence of our coasts and the patrolling of territorial and adjacent waters, the arrangements for garrisons and outposts in Canada, the training and equipment of troops, the internment of aliens, the prohibition and regulation of imports and exports and the granting of licenses therefor, the arrangements with the Government of the United Kingdom and with the Governments of the Allied Nations respecting any of the matters aforesaid, and generally speaking all matters relating to the efficient prosecution of the war so far as Canada is concerned.

While the powers and duties of the Committee included in the foregoing recommendation will be of a very wide character, the Prime Minister recommends that special attention be given to the increased cost of living. Undoubtedly this is chiefly due to causes which are beyond the control of the Government of Canada, or of any other country, inasmuch as the withdrawal of more than thirty million men from productive activities and the vast and almost inconceivable expenditure entailed by the war must inevitably advance the cost of the necessaries of life. Nevertheless it is especially important that every means should be taken to alleviate conditions so far as may be possible. It is essential that the Government should prevent any increase or inflation of prices through <sup>a</sup> hoarding, through excessive profits or through combination. The steps already taken along these lines should be considered with a view to any further action that conditions may demand.

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The Prime Minister further recommends that the Committee be empowered to report to Council from time to time and that it be authorized to appoint sub-committees from time to time to consider any particular subject requiring special investigation; and that it may authorize any such sub-committee to bring into consultation as members of the sub-committee in question any person or persons of special experience or knowledge therein.

The Prime Minister further recommends that the Committee shall hold periodical meetings at such intervals as it may determine; that in the absence of the Chairman, the vice-Chairman shall preside at such meetings; and that three members shall constitute a quorum.

The Prime Minister further recommends that the Committee may appoint a Secretary who shall perform such duties as the Committee may determine.

The Committee concur in the foregoing recommendations and submit the same for approval.

*W. D. Russell*

*Approved*

*Devonshire*

*23. X. 17.*