

a dozen for eggs during the next two weeks, and that we ask the co-operation of all women seriously interested in reducing the cost of living."

Committees were named to carry the fight into the various women's organizations that are now playing such a prominent part in the life of Chicago.

"Last year when the price of eggs went up," said Mrs. Bley, "we held an egg sale. This year we cannot do it because the wholesaler is at fault, and not the retailer. The wholesalers offered us eggs at 32 cents a dozen this year if we bought the eggs in carloads. Last year we were able to get the eggs from the wholesalers at 20 cents a dozen."

While the women were taking up the question of the cost of eggs the Chicago Market Commission, appointed recently by Mayor Harrison, met in the City Hall and discussed plans of reduction.

And it remained for Jom O'Leary, whose knowledge of life and the cost of living has always been overshadowed by his old reputation, to hand out the real hot shots of the meeting.

O'Leary has been running a public market out on the South Side lately and has picked up some valuable ideas. Also he has learned that any dealer who tries to reduce the cost of foodstuffs is forced to fight against an organized opposition.

"Thanksgiving turkeys should not cost over 20 cents a pound," said O'Leary. "But they are selling all over the city at 25 cents a pound for gobblers and old turkeys and 28 cents a pound for the tender spring birds. There is no reason in the world why these same turkeys, if bought at a municipal market, direct from the producer, without the everlasting graft of the middleman, should not be purchased at 20 cents a pound and not more than 22 cents for springers!"

"Since my South Side market has been started it has been demon-

strated that green produce and the regular truck farm goods can be bought at from 20 to 50 per cent lower than the regular retail grocery rate. The one market out there has proven a boon to thousands of the poor families from the district back of the stockyards and this one example should be a spur to this commission to start markets all over the city.

"You'll find the greatest opposition from the Retailers' Association, who tried to put me out of business and even threatened to blacklist any one who patronized my market."

The commission is trying to prove that the city council should pass an ordinance establishing three municipal markets. Sol Westerfield, representing the Retail Grocers' Association, announced that his organization would "have something to say" before the ordinance went through. He tried to inferentially warn the commission that business interests would fight the establishment of municipal markets.

Fred A. Curtis said that city consumers paid \$40 a ton for garden truck grown in Cook county and the producers were paid only \$4 a ton. He produced data to prove this.

Mrs. C. Franklin Leavitt pointed to the success of the Los Angeles public market which had 50 per cent reduction in the price of foodstuffs.

A series of Wednesday afternoon meetings will be held by the commission.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 22.—Att'y Gen. McReynolds will start an investigation into the causes of the advanced cost of living. As a start he will try to find if there is conspiracy to restrain trade among cold storage men.

Chicago packers are said to be the worst offenders and the government may again lock horns with the beef barons. It is said that even if a conspiracy is not found the big dealers will be prosecuted on account of the