Tobacco Probe Is Bringing Out Facts

The sensation of the short week was the evidence by tobacco manufacturers before the Stevens Committee. The week was short on account of Ascension Day, May 10th being observed as a holiday by the Commons, although it was on that very day that much of the sensational evidence was laid before the Committee.

The Imperial Tobacco Company Limited with its interlocking interests in British and American companies, was the first on the stand. This company during the depression years made a thousand per cent. profit on its original investment of $25,000. During the black years of 1931-32, $487,674.00 and $487,192.00 constituted their profits. At the same time Mr. Miller the president received a salary of $25,000 a year and a bonus of $40,000 in 1931 and $32,000 in 1932. The Vice-President of the same company, by name D. C. Patterson, received a salary of $40,000 a year and bonuses during the years mentioned of $67,000 and $53,000 respectively.

These salaries and bonuses headed the long list of amounts paid to the officials of the company. In addition the Imperial Tobacco Company had distributed 420.000 shares to its executive of about 25 members. The stock was valued at $5.00 a share. Of this amount the person receiving the shares paid $3 out of the bonus and the public paid the other $2.

And what of the grower of the tobacco? During the years of the big profits for the company, the grower was in abject poverty, getting much less than the cost of production, which runs around 26c a pound, while the price received by the producer in 1932 was 16½c per lb. for top quality, and this in spite of the fact that the 1932 crop was superior to that of 1930 which brought the farmer a top price of 32c.

The story of the marketing of the 1932 tobacco crop was related in a most dramatic manner in the Sutherland report. The crop was excellent both as to quantity and quality. The growers waited eagerly for some one of the large tobacco buyers to open the market. For the two previous years the Imperial Tobacco Company the largest buyer of tobacco in Canada, had opened the market on October 5th, but in 1932 that date passed uneventfully and left the growers waiting. One by one the days slipped by and then the weeks. The growers, totally unorganized and absolutely dependent on the action of the tobacco companies, became panicky. Meanwhile in the town of Tilsonburg, on the edge of the Norfolk, Oxford, Elgin tobacco district were gathered in one hotel representatives and buyers of most of the tobacco companies in Canada. There were about thirty of them and their movements were followed with the keenest attention.

Finally, on October 26th the market was opened by the Imperial Tobacco Company of Canada at a top price of 24c, or 6c below the top for the year previous. No other company exceeded this top price and relatively few crops brought this figure. Within a few days the price steadily and rapidly declined. The result was that by the first week of November the growers had become completely demoralized and were ready to sell their tobacco at any price, with a resultant 16½c a lb.

This, briefly, is the story of the Sutherland report.

And what of the tobacco retailer? Mr. Miller gave evidence to the committee to show in the United Stores of Toronto, chief clerks averaged $25.-45 a week; the maximum being $38.18 and the minimum $15.27, with the assistants averaging $19.79 a week in salary.

Walter M. Stewart, president and practically owner of the Macdonald Tobacco Company of Montreal, gave evidence in which he claimed not to have any salary but later admitted that he draws $5,000 a week from a fund of accumulated profits, which amounts you will see, to $260,000 a year—not a bad salary. Mr. Stewart was out after a few Government scalps, asking permission to question three unnamed ministers of the Crown on campaign funds which he alleged were asked of his company by one Pitfield of Montreal. He also accused the government of having tipped the Tuckett Tobacco Company of Hamilton off regarding reduction in excise tax from $6 to $4 in 1932. Anyone interested in tobacco would be well advised to get into the manufacturing end of it, keeping well away from production and retailing.

AGNES MACPHAIL

House of Commons, Ottawa.

MR. H. W. KERNAHAN

Mr. Kernahan of Maxwell is the LiberalConservative candidate in the coming Provincial election.

Small Bear Killed In Bush Near Ceylon

Bears in most localities are not uncommon, but real live woolly ones are an exception. On Sunday Mr. Paul Schram, who resides west of Ceylon, had a startling experience with a real live one. Attracted by the barking of his dogs in the swamp on the Hugh McPherson farm, near the Six Corners, Mr. Schram proceeded to investigate and found a small bear in the branches of a tree with the dogs in attendance at the foot. He sent his children for a gun from a neighbor, but before they returned, he had felled the tree with an axe. Mr. Bear clung to the branch and when the tree landed he was pinned to the ground by the branch. He was quickly dispatched to put him out of his misery. We would no doubt be writing a different ending to the story if the mother bear had returned just then to claim her cub. While bears have been seen at various points in Artemesia township during the past year or so this is the first instance of one being captured.

GOOD PRICE FOR HORSE

Mr. James Picken of Bentinck, whose flair for good horses is known over a wide area, sold one of his Clyde mares Tuesday to a man near Dundalk for $325. As the price would indicate, the animal was a good one, and shows that despite depression prices, a good article commands a good figure.

Highway Widened And Curves Reduced

The King Paving Co. commenced work on Saturday morning to open the gravel pit with a large shovel on the W. S. Inkster property in the north end of the village. The material extracted is being used to construct shoulders on the road a mile and a half north of Flesherton. Men are also being used in underbrushing this section for the placing of the shoulders. Mr. I. A. Blythe of Toronto has a number of men employed south of Flesherton reducing the curves of which there are ten between Flesherton and Dundalk. Work is being rushed on these sections in an effort to have the road ready for paving, which will likely commence about July 1st. The King Paving Co. also have the contract of finishing the 10-foot strip on Highway 26 east of Stayner, of which there is about six miles yet to be laid between Midhurst and Edenvale. When they finish that section the machinery will be moved to Flesherton and the paving work will commence around July 1st, working north and south out of Flesherton.

All men being employed on the road work in Grey County will be local men, with the exception of those who are experienced in paving work and the operating of machinery and the foremen. The number of men being employed is limited, but preference is given the married men with families.

Special Degree Work By Toronto L. O. Lodge

Aughrim Rose of Derry Lodge of Toronto will be the guests of Maxwell L.O.L. 666 on Saturday evening May 26th, for the purpose of raising two of the Maxwell brethren to the Royal Arch Degree. This is an extra special event for Orangeism in this district and the Worshipful Master and brethren of Maxwell Lodge extend a cordial invitation to all Orangemen to be present on this occasion. Bro. Geo. McCombe Deputy Grand Master, L. H. Saunders, Past Grand Master and Wm Fitzgerald, Grand Secretary have intimated that they will be present, and other prominent members of the Order will attend.

May Lose An Eye

Mr. Chas. F. Lawrence of Agincourt, former principal of Flesherton high school, suffered an injury that may cause him to lose the sight of an eye. It is said that he was storing some sodium while at the school and placed it for safe keeping in a can of what he supposed was coal oil. It was water, however, and exploded hitting him in the face causing severe burns and injuring his eye severely. His many friends here hope that the accident will not cause the loss of the eye.

THANK YOU!

I wish to thank my friends and patrons for their good will and support while I have been in business in Flesherton. I bespeak for my successor, Mr. Howard Milligan, a continuance of your patronage.

—J. R. WILSON.

Specks before the eyes is a sign one needs specs before the eyes.

The amateur gardeners have been off the land so long that there stored-up enthusiasm may keep them going until all the seed is planted at least.

"Seeing a pretty girl is as good as a tonic" says an enthusiast. And sometimes they are made up at the same druggist's.

The average smoker spends close to $200 a year in cigarettes. That would buy about $10,000 worth of life insurance.

Ladies' Wash Dresses

New! Crisp! Colorful!

NEW SNAPPY STYLES IN LIGHT, MEDIUM and DARK SHADES. NEW DESIGNS AND TUB-FAST COLORS. ALL SIZES FOR MISSES AND MATRONS ARE INCLUDED.

Specially Priced 98c, $1.29, $1.79, $1.95

WHITE FOOTWEAR

White will be in great demand again for the summer season. White oxfords, White Straps and White Ties. All new designs this season.

PRICED AT $1.95, $2.29 and $2.95

New Lines in Canvass Footwear for Men, Boys, Women, Misses and Children

Holeproof, Full-Fashioned Silk Hosiery, chiffon and service weights in all the new season's shades. Sizes 8½ to 10½. PRICED 79c and $1.00 per pair.

Specials in Men's Wear

Cloth Caps, Felt Hats, Hosiery, Shirts, Neckwear, Summer Underwear, Pullovers, Sweaters, Ready-to-wear Suits, Flannel Trousers, Belts, Gloves, Overalls, Work Trousers, Work Boots, Fine Shoes. ALL REASONABLY PRICED.

F. H. W. HICKLING

Flesherton, Ont.

ONTARIO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

MOTOR VEHICLES BRANCH

TO THE CAREFUL DRIVERS OF ONTARIO:

Congratulations—and a Request!

There has been a gratifying decrease in the number of automotive accidents in Ontario. There were fewer deaths in 1933, fewer persons injured, less property damage. The decrease in accidents has been substantially greater than the percentage of decrease in registrations.

To those drivers who helped in this improvement the thanks of this department, the thanks of every citizen of Ontario, is due, and you have mine in large measure.

But, we have only made a beginning!

Despite the improvement shown, there were 8,634 serious accidents last year. 403 men, women and children were killed. 7,877 persons were injured!

By whom? Who were responsible for these deaths and injuries?

The drivers involved were, for the most part, honest, decent citizens; men and women who are usually careful, who only take a chance *now and then*. They were of no special class. Some of them live in your street, perhaps next door to you. One of them might have been you! Every one of these drivers is sorry now — truly sorry — but all the regret in the world cannot restore life or limb.

The habitually reckless, callous driver is a known, visible menace. Against him swift action can be taken. But it is to the usually careful motorist, like yourself, that this department must look for help in making Ontario's streets and highways safer for driver and pedestrian alike. Will *you* help? — this season more than ever before! The way is simple, the result can be far-reaching.

Careful driver, respond to this appeal! Remember that it only takes a moment for an accident to happen—one lapse from safe-driving. In that one moment may occur a tragedy which the offending driver may never be able to forget. Every time you sit at the wheel of your car be safety-conscious. Watch! Drive safely always . . . all the way.

MINISTER

Toronto, May 1st, 1934.

THE

Variety Store

WHEN YOU BUY FOR CASH THE PRICE IS LESS. WE BUY AT CASH PRICES AND YOU GET THE BENEFIT. OUR STOCK IS MORE COMPLETE THAN EVER. COME IN AND LOOK AROUND.

SAVE OUR COUPONS ON SILVERWARE. A COUPON WITH EVERY PURCHASE IT IS SURPRISING HOW FAST THEY TOTAL UP. NO CONDITIONS TO THIS OFFER, JUST SAVE THE COUPONS.

S. L. Stauffer, Prop.

Seasonable Suggestions

Buy Seed Corn before the Rush.

* * *

Leave your order for Cooper's Sheep Dip and save the last minute scramble.

* * *

Wire Gates just the kind for Barnyard or Road Gateways, 12 or 13 foot. Your choice $5.50 ea.

* * *

Pure Fresh Lard in 20 lb. pails **$1.98 ea.**

* * *

Princess Soap Flakes **10c**

* * *

Panshine **5c**

* * *

Velvet Hand Cleaner **15c**

Osprey & Artemesia Co-operative Co., Ltd.

FLESHERTON