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EDITORIAL

The hope for lower cost of living expenses has little in sight to base expectations upon. "No one can imagine prices are going down much in the next year or two." Premier Lloyd George declared before the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons last week. The shortage of raw materials and foodstuffs is too world-wide to permit a reduction, he said.

The United States Government sometimes sets a good example. This week it unloaded a lot of army bacon at Newark, N. J., which immediately brought the price down to 36 cents per pound. If one-half of the bacon, now in cold storage in Canada, were put on the market as fast as it could be absorbed, or if army foodstuffs were offered to the public, the poor man could get his bacon at 36 cents too—Guelph Mercury.

During July war taxes collected by the Department of Inland Revenue totalled \$1,378,025. The total revenue of the department from all sources for the month was \$4,580,888, a large increase over the month of June, 1918, when the revenue amounted to \$2,903,630. Canada is surely bearing up well under the extraordinary financial demands of the past five years, and has the power of restoration well developed.

The Reeve of Arthur is taking a laudable interest in getting the people of the community of a wide area in his county together to enjoy a social time and to confer upon matters of community interest. He has asked the Guelph Chamber of Commerce to hold a picnic there some time in August suggesting that the representatives from the surrounding municipalities be invited, and that matters pertaining to the interests of all parties concerned be discussed. The invitation has been accepted, and the Forum Committee will be instructed to make all arrangements. Much good will accrue from such social gatherings.

The trend of events at Ottawa looks as if the big Liberal Convention there is already having its influence. Some of the members of the Union Government are evidently taking action to square themselves with the Liberal party. Hon. Frank Carvel, Minister of Public Works, has taken the lead along this line. He claims to have fulfilled his pledge, made when entering the Union Cabinet, to support it during the war and "until demobilization was accomplished." The probabilities are that a number of changes in the Union Cabinet will take place within a few days.

The rural leaders of the province, who were in session for several weeks at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, showed their strong appreciation of the great benefits of the Ontario Temperance Act, and a firm belief that an honest attempt is being made to enforce it, despite opposition, in a resolution passed by the convention, at its concluding session last Thursday. The resolution also expressed the opinion that the coming referendum should not be taken at the same time as the Provincial general election, owing to the possibility of the introduction of policies. Coming from widely separated sections of the province, and representing all parts of the community this expression of opinion comes with unusual force and influence.

Hartley Dewar might find something more profitable to do than to be peddling such a tale as the one he got off to an audience the other day; to the effect that N. W. Rowell entered into a "conspiracy" with Sir William Hearst to organize the "Unionist" party and transfer to it, as permanent chattels, the Liberals of the province. The Unionist party was born of the pressure of war. No politician, or set of politicians, were in any like degree as responsible for it as was a score of newspaper publishers. And when the country was asked to pronounce judgment, it voted for Union Government, against its initial prejudice to the contrary, very largely because of the attitude of the Liberal press of Canada, which, outside of Quebec, was, with a few insignificant exceptions, strenuously for the coalition. The Reformer declines to take any stock in the proposition that Rowell and Hearst dictated the policy of the Liberal editors of Canada. And seriously, does Mr. Dewar?—Simcoe Reformer.

It is presumptuous, impertinent, unfair and disrespectful to the most heroic and home-loving body of men in Canada to include all our returned soldiers as a class as opposed to prohibition, as a certain organization allied with the liquor interests is doing. There are, it is true, differences of opinion among them on this great question, as there is amongst the rest of us. They are citizens now and interested in the well-being of our country at home, as they were when overseas. Being a soldier for three or four or five years does not make those brave men opposed to the efforts to keep homes sober, wives happy, kids comfortable, and the community peaceful. It is a libel on our brave men to classify them as a body with the supporters of the barroom and license to sell intoxicating liquors again. Dr. Grant, the head of the referendum vote in Ontario, says, "I am not in the least afraid of the soldier as I am of the spathy and indifference of the people at home, who believe in the Ontario Temperance Act, but who would not think it worth their while to come out and vote." Tens of thousands of the soldiers of Ontario will vote to keep liquor out of this province forever.

The Collingwood Bulletin very kindly remarks: "The Acton Free Press has entered upon its forty-fifth year and is going strong. For forty-one years the editorial chair has been occupied by the present scribe, H. P. Moore, and he, too, is good for many more years of usefulness to Canadian journalism and particularly the community of which he has done so much to make Acton the known centre."

The Farmers' Sun holds out the expectation that butter will reach a dollar a pound the coming winter. Before it reaches anything approximating that figure the Government should take steps to liberate the millions of pounds of butter alleged to be lying in the cold storage plants. In any event butter substitutes are likely to be in greater demand than ever before.

A Toronto doctor, while acting as chairman of a so-called Citizens' Liberty League meeting, told the audience that he would issue as many liquor prescriptions as he pleased. That looks very much as if the liberty this class want is license. Pity the country if such men are let loose to do as they please. That brand of liberty is the most prolific progenitor of slaves that could be imagined.

Times may not be very favorable and the cost of everything the average citizen desires to purchase is abnormally high, yet the fact is officially reported that during the month of June Canadians increased their savings bank deposits by \$32,000,000 and now have stowed in these safe repositories the tidy sum of \$1,139,569,750. This looks as if the spirit of thrift taught during the war is likely to stick now that peace has come.

Canada now has three lady members of Provincial Parliaments. British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan constituencies have each elected a woman to the Legislature. If the fashion continues eastward Ontario may elect one or more at the coming general election. And why not? This province has scores of experienced, public-spirited women possessed of ability far above the average of the present male members of parliament who would grace any of our legislative halls, and ably transact public business.

The long-continued persecution of Rev. Ben Spence turns out now to have been unavailing after all. His conviction for publishing "The Parasite," a social reform booklet, contrary to the provisions of the order in Council relating to censorship during time of war, has been quashed on the ground that Mr. Spence did not publish the booklet in the sense in which that word is used legally. It will be interesting to see what the next move of the persecutors of Mr. Spence will be. "The Parasite" was published in Great Britain, and the censor there had not a word to say against it. The banning of the book in Canada was never explained to the satisfaction of the people of this country generally.

The Dominion Parliament will be called next month, probably on the first Thursday. It is stated that this early date has been fixed upon owing to the lapse of the War Measures Act on the proclamation of peace. It is further regarded as of great importance that there should be no delay in ratification of the Peace Treaty by the Dominion Parliament. It had not been intended to summon Parliament until October, but the Imperial authorities are anxious to have the Peace Treaty ratified as soon as possible by the self-governing Dominions, so as to facilitate the royal proclamation officially ending the great war. In view of the fact also that H. R. H. the Prince of Wales will be in Ottawa on September 1, it has been suggested that arrangement might be made to have His Royal Highness formally open the session and receive a joint address of welcome from the two Houses of Parliament.

The Hon. Mr. Cody is proving that he intends to be no figure-head while he occupies the important position of Minister of Education of Ontario. In a strong article in the New York Sun last week he declares that education means more than the imparting of knowledge and the training of the mind. Its broad scope covers bodily health and fitness, mental culture, devotion of spirit and general efficiency. This is a sound, practical and very sane view. Instead of going along in the beaten track of his predecessors Hon. Mr. Cody is taking the initiative in numerous reforms of features of our school system. If the children and young people can be made to think for themselves rather than to confine their education to the dry tones of text books and the literal absorption of hard and fast rules laid down by educational writers of years past, who had no view nor experience of present day outlook and reconstruction, much will be accomplished in helping them to an all round practical education suited to a successful career.

While the Leaders of the old parties in Ontario hedge on prohibition, and few politicians in the Federal or Provincial arenas have the courage to express their personal views, the United Farmers of Ontario squarely face the issue. They have put out-and-out plank into their platform and they stand on it. Their adherence to it is reaffirmed in the latest issue of their organ, The Farmer's Sun, which says: "There may be lack of clearness and precision as to the attitude of the Leaders of the two old parties in this Province on the question of prohibition. There is no doubt whatever as to where the United Farmers of Ontario stand on this important matter. Their stand was unequivocally stated at the last convention of the U. F. O. held in Toronto, when a resolution was unanimously adopted calling for prohibition of the manufacture, importation, and sale of intoxicating liquors as beverages in Canada. "Organized farmers have not waited for public opinion to express itself in a referendum. They are helping to so mold opinion that right expression will be given thereto. They are for prohibition not merely as a war-time measure, but for the same measure as a means of increasing efficiency and the happiness of the people in peace time as well."

The Farmers' Sun goes to the root of the matter when it says the United Farmers are helping to mold public opinion. Public men who merely sit on the fence, and dandle an important issue on the plea that it has been referred to the people, are playing a pusillanimous part and abdication their duties as leaders of opinion. A statesman has convictions and tries to persuade others to think as he does. Great policies and reforms were not carried to triumph until men were ready to fight for them.—Globe.

WAR WASTE IN BRITAIN

The details of the British Government's expenditure for the year ended March 31, 1918, indicate a great waste of the country's money.

The total expenditure on the army was \$1,214,000,000, included in this sum were the following items: Regimental pay, extra pay and monetary allowances, \$745,500,000; cost of provisions, \$225,500,000; separation allowances, \$248,000,000, and clothing \$260,000,000.

According to accounts stores to the value of \$44,100 were lost through a fire at an ammunition dump in France. This is an astonishingly large sum. The cause of the fire was investigated and the report showed that it originated in a hangar adjoining the dump used as a toilet, and was apparently caused by matches or cigarette ends thrown on a rubbish heap in the hangar. The rubbish heap contained waste, explosive and other inflammable material. No restrictions on the use of fire or lights in the hangar appeared to have been in force, and ordinary precautions do not appear to have been observed. The report severely criticizes the question by the four-word statement: "Disciplinary action was taken."

The waste of food supplies for the Chinese laborers in France is also referred to. Considerable quantities of food were condemned shortly after arrival in France, the cause of deterioration being generally attributed to the fact that at the time the goods had been in transit. Special measures taken to secure the consumption of the supplies were unsuccessful, owing apparently to their having been purchased in South China, whereas the labor had been recruited in North China, and on the direction of labor reporting that a ration containing these commodities was almost available for the north Chinese people its issue ceased. The total loss in connection with the whole transaction is considerable, but the approximate figure of the amount involved has not yet been ascertained.

SURELY HAS "DONE HIS BIT"

"I think this man is doing his bit," sends the following dispatch to the Army and Navy Journal: "George Jordan, a negro, of Goldboro, N. C., has furnished sons to the war in the sum of nearly two squads. He is the father of 36 children, 27 of whom are living and 14 of them in the United States army either in that country or in France. He has been married three times and on four occasions has been the father of quadruplets."

A REMARKABLE FLIGHT

Information regarding a remarkable night of a German Zeppelin has recently been reported by a British correspondent who learned the facts since the coming of peace. A German air-ship, it is said, left Bulgaria carrying a crew of twenty-two men, tons of munitions, and medical supplies, bound for German West Africa, which is approximately 3,000 miles from Bulgaria. According to the account, the ship was flying over Khartoum. It received a wireless message ordering it to return, the Germans having learned that the majority of their troops in their African territory had surrendered.—Popular Mechanics.

CAESAR WAS STINGY

A negro minister once described a well-known but chaste brother as being as stingy as Caesar, and he was asked: "Why do you think Caesar was stingy?" He replied: "Well, you see, when the Pharisees gave our Lord a penny, Jesus asked them, 'Whose supplication is this?' and they said, 'Caesar's'—exchange."

PERFUMES FOR RELIGIOUS RITES

Pearls saw the earliest development of the perfume industry. The priests in Egypt, who were the sole depositories of science, knew the secret of aromatic substances and prepared them. Egyptian perfumes acquired great celebrity, especially those made in Alexandria. Reserved originally for religious rites, perfumes subsequently became of current use among the wealthy classes. During the centuries they were diffused through the East and were burned to perfume. The largest supply of them during their reign was in Egypt, and the use of aromatic substances primarily for religious purposes and afterwards for personal usage. The Jews were fond of cosmetics and even used them to paint their faces. All these perfumes were extracted from essence of trees and various plants. The Greeks, who loved elegance, were especially addicted to the use of perfumes, and they taught their secrets and usage to the Romans. The latter, in the days of their decadence went so far as to scent the chests of their dogs. In the Middle Ages, the Arabs, Venetians, Genoese and Portuguese became the great purveyors of sweet-smelling essences.—Family Herald.

HIS FATE

The young man brought some verses to his father: "What? I have written poems." "What? Let me see them instantly." The father read them over carefully, the tears slowly welling to his eyes, he did so. Finishing the last one, he threw down the manuscript, folded the leaf to his breast, and sobbed: "Oh, my poor, poor son!" "Are they so bad as that, father?" "No, my boy, they are excellent. They are real poetry. My boy, my boy, you will starve to death!"

BETTER QUALIFIED

"Listen, how is it you have given up going to church?" asked Pastor Brown. "Well, my friend," replied Hattus, "it's this way. I liked to take an active part and I used to pass de collection basket, but my boys given de job to Hrothab Green, who just returned from Gwath Thairah." "In recognition of his heroic services?" "No, my boy, I reckon he got dat job in recognition o' his havin' lost one of his hands."

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