

The Week at OTTAWA

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by JOHN DAUPHINEE Canadian Press Staff Writer

Ottawa, December 24th (CP) — This holiday week finds wartime Ottawa going about its business much as usual. There is no holiday in the matter of waging war against the totalitarian nations.

Supplies must be arranged for in an unending stream. Ministers of government must be close enough to the Capital that they can be summoned hurriedly if an emergency makes quick decision necessary.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King usually spends the holiday season at his Ottawa home, Laurier House, and this year is no exception. But the war has changed the usual year-end practice of a number of other members of the Cabinet.

Two members—Defence Minister Ralston and Munitions Minister Howe—are hard at work in Britain, consulting with British officials on methods for extending the assistance Canada is giving in the war effort.

All the rest are in Canada—many of them in the Capital. In pre-war years, a number of ministers made an annual practice of taking part of their holidays at this time of year and going to the Southern States for a rest.

Wage Scale and Bonuses

Biggest development last week was Labor Minister McLarty's announcement of a basic wage formula for Canada, including "cost-of-living" bonuses to protect workers from any sharp rise in the cost of essentials.

The formula was set out in an Order-in-Council adopted for the direction of Conciliation Boards under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.

The Government recommends that the suggestions be included "in all agreements negotiated during the war." If a Board's findings differ significantly from the order, the Minister of Labor has power to order reconsideration by the Board—or can set up a new Board if he sees fit.

There is nothing compulsory in the Order-in-Council, but it seems clear that Mr. McLarty's department doesn't intend to allow any repetition during this war of the "wildcat spiral" which sent wages and living costs soaring far above normal in the First Great War.

The "cost-of-living" bonuses recommended in the order would be a flat rate, equal to all employees, regardless of wage or salary earned. They would be based on the cost of living index maintained by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

Before the Labor Department's Order-in-Council was passed, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board had been given responsibility for pegging, so far as possible, the cost of living in Canada. It has increased only about six per cent since the war began.

Profits in wartime industry have been held as low as possible by the Supply Ministry and by excess profits taxation. The aim of last week's Order-in-Council apparently is to see that inflationary wage increases should not react unfavorably on those other two factors in the Dominion's wartime economy.

Canada's export trade is showing the effects of the war in more ways than one. Total exports are mounting to record levels—but the type of exports is changing materially. November exports were valued at \$117,457,000, highest value since November, 1928. Exports of some important commodities had double or more than double the value of the previous November.

Automobiles and parts — mostly army vehicles—meats, furs and newsprint shipments showed marked gains, but at the same time drops were recorded in the amount of what, fish and cheese shipments.

Butter and Cheese

Eastern Canada's cheese and butter producers are faced with the problem of sharply increasing milk output if they are to meet the domestic demand for their products and British requirements.

Exporters have contended additional supplies of feed grains must be made available to bring this about. Western farmers have huge grain surpluses on hand while dairy farmers elsewhere are finding feed conditions somewhat acute.

Only a few weeks ago the Wartime Prices and Trade Board said it was keeping an eye on the price of mill-feeds, which had shown a tendency to rise. Now it is learned reliable, at the Department of Agriculture that the Government is giving attention to the matter.

One official says that there is a likelihood some policy will be announced early in the New Year to "increase availability of feed grains in Ontario and Quebec."

HIGH SCHOOL AT HOME A POPULAR EVENT

This annual High School "At Home," last Thursday evening, proved a delightful social gathering for parents, scholars and friends of Acton. Continuation School. Guests were welcomed by Principals and Mrs. Letch, Miss Bell, Miss Jackson, Dorothy Steele and Gordon Beatty.

Music for the dancing was provided by the Doris Hill Orchestra. At intermission a delightful luncheon was served by the pupils. There was a splendid attendance.

George Wallace CLOTHES SHOP

123 Yonge St., Toronto (Opposite Ryrie-Birks)

WAR 25 Years Ago

Although a lull in the fighting marked the observance of Christmas Day on the Western Front in 1915, conditions were in decided contrast to the Yuletide celebrated 12 months earlier. The opposing armies of 1914 celebrated separately and the few German attempts at fraternization were quickly repulsed.

In 1914 British, French and German troops downed their arms and for two days met freely in the No Man's Land

separating the two armies. Christmas songs and carols were sung and in one or two instances football games started, in which the combatants participated.

British troops in Egypt were in action on Christmas Day, 1915, a force of tribesmen on the western Egyptian front being repulsed. It was a day of suffering for General Sir Charles Townshend's gallant force, hemmed in at Kul-el-Anara on the Persian Gulf. Food was scarce in the little Mesopotamian town and the beleaguered troops bent off an attack by strong Turkish forces.

At sea, enemy submarines continued to harass Allied shipping. On December 27th, the loss of five Allied ships, torpedoed by German submarines, was announced in London.

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Acton Free Press GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

Three days before Christmas—and here on the farm

Even the thought of it causes alarm: Thrashings abound in this neighborhood—

And thrashings, at Christmas, we think, are no good.

with chickens to pick, to clean and to pack

We find that of work, we have quite a stack

And letters and cards, arrive without fail

Each day with our papers and other like mail

But not 'til to-day was I really able

Greetings to send to friends and Aunt Mabel

The weather has changed in rather a rush

Leaving us little but soft snow and slush

This morning I went off to town with some money—

Presents to buy? O come, don't be funny!

Taxes to pay—that was my mission

The while I was wishing them all to perdition

But when that receipt was safe in my pocket,

My spirits began to soar like a rocket

Taxes paid! Now wasn't that grand—

Paid by the living we'd wrest from the land

Now we were free to spend every penny—

Of what we had left—and that was scarce any!

But that's just the way with farming to-day,

Whatever you get there's something to pay

Stock must be fed, the family too—

Hens must be fed, or eggs will be few

You go to the store with a five-dollar bill

But it's never much change comes out of the till:

The things that we buy go up with a leap—

The things that we sell, are far, far too cheap

Farmers are puzzled, disheartened and sad—

And many a man must part with his lad

Help win the War? We must and we will

But how and still live—that is our plit

Hogs—what are hogs, but a pain in the neck—

Ditto our grain and fruit by the peck

But there's this, one thing 'bout this farming of ours,

Despite the hard work and long working hours—

We are free! We are British! We come and we go

Without the Gestapo to say "yes" or "no"

We grumble and growl—you'll admit with some right

But we'll do our best to help win the fight

And now that it's Christmas, let's be of good cheer—

Look forward and hope for a better New Year

And so, my dear friends, I bid you adieu—

A bright, happy Christmas is my wish for you

Raise your voices—come let us sing—

"Glory to the 'new-born King!'"

There'll Always be a Christmas!

May This Wartime One Be as Cheery to You as Possible

A. T. Brown ACTON

Merry Christmas!

We take this opportunity to thank all our friends and customers and wish them a very Merry Christmas. We sincerely hope to continue serving you in the New Year.

Acton Home Bakery

FRANCIS WILDS, Prop. Phone 116, Acton

NOEL!

We wish to extend our sincere good wishes for joyful, happy holidays to all

MERRY CHRISTMAS and to all, Noel!

May We Continue Making Warm Friends

L. W. AGAR

READING ANTHRACITE



GREETINGS

Sincere and Hearty Christmas Greetings to You and Yours. Good Health and Prosperity be with You All on these Glad Holidays. And may the coming year bring a store of Glad Tidings.

Marguerite's HAIR DRESSING ACTON

NEW YEAR'S REDUCED FARES!

FARE AND A QUARTER

Good going: Monday, Dec. 30 to Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1941 inclusive. Return Limit: Leaving destination not later than Midnight (E.S.T.) Tuesday, January 2, 1941.

FARE AND A THIRD

Good going: Friday, Dec. 20 to Wednesday, Jan. 1, 1941 inclusive. Return Limit: Leaving destination not later than Midnight (E.S.T.) Tuesday, January 7, 1941.

GO AWAY FOR NEW YEAR'S

New Faces... New Faces... New Celebrations!

Full information from any agent.

CANADIAN NATIONAL

To You

With the snows and crisp December days, come our greetings of the season. To You—all of you—we wish the Merriest Christmas ever. Health, Happiness and Success in full measure—and may all your hopes come true.

MERRIE CHRISTMAS

ROYAL CAFE

MILL STREET ACTON

Yuletide Greetings

MAY A MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS USHER IN A BRIGHT NEW YEAR

For the Holiday Feast

We have a Choice Stock of Fowl — Baby Beef and Pork

The Prices Are Reasonable

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATRONAGE

Massey's Meat Market

Phone 118 Prompt Delivery

GREGORY THEATRE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 27th
"I LOVE YOU AGAIN"
Smart comedy. Myrna Loy, William Powell. Cartoon, "Ugly Dingo." Final chapter, "Zorro's Fighting Legion."

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28th
Gift Night
"LITTLE OLD NEW YORK"
Alice Faye, Fred MacMurray, Richard Greene. Cartoon, "Chewing Bruin." Traveltalk, "Suva-Pride of Fiji." Fox News.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30th
"THE SEA HAWK"
Adventure, thrills. Errol Flynn. Cartoon, "Cattip, Capers." Band, "Have You Met Yvette?"

MIDNIGHT SHOW
New Year's Eve at 10 to 12:00
"PACK UP YOUR TROUBLES"
Jane Withers... Selected Shorts
Fun and Noise Makers for All

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Matinee at 3:00
"MY LOVE CAME BACK"
Olivia DeHavilland, Jeff Lynn, Charles Winninger. Comedy, "Riding Into Society." Cartoon, "Circus To-day."

For Prosperity!

Our wish for You, and You, and You—for all our fellow citizens in this Christmas season—is Prosperity, Happiness and All the Good Things of Life.

ELLIOTT BROS.

ACTON — ONTARIO

Merry Christmas!

All the good things of the season... Health, Happiness and Prosperity heaped up in ample measure... this is our wish for you and yours at this glad season of the year. The very Merriest Christmas ever.

Acton Exclusive Footwear Store

MILL STREET, ACTON

Our Very Best Wishes to You

We are saying it in person to all whom we can see. And to be sure that we have not missed anyone we here and now send our Very Best Wishes to You for a Very Merry Christmas.

W. D. TALBOT

MILL STREET ACTON, ONT.

Season's Greetings!

At this season of the year we pause to thank our patrons and friends for their patronage and good wishes. In turn we wish them every success and happiness. For the future we pledge ourselves to strive ever to serve in more complete and satisfying ways

A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

F. L. WRIGHT

GENERAL INSURANCE

The Season's Greetings

May Christmas fulfill the wishes nearest your heart. May the New Year bring you the fullest measure of success and happiness. And if our Old Company's Anthracite is contributing to your holiday comfort, we feel that we have been rewarded with more than business.

J. B. Mackenzie & Son

PHONE 48 — ACTON, ONTARIO

NOTICE!

re Collection of Garbage

Commencing in January, the Municipality of the Village of Acton will inaugurate a municipal system of Garbage Collection.

All citizens North of Mill Street and also East of C.N.R. tracks are requested to have their garbage and ashes ready for collection at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, January 3rd, 1941, and on Tuesday, January 7th, 1941.

All citizens South of Mill Street and West of C.N.R. are requested to have their Garbage and Ashes ready for collection at 1:00 p.m., Friday, January 3rd, 1941, and on Tuesday, January 7th, 1941.

A definite time schedule will be announced at a later date. The above is for trial purposes.

Regulations

Garbage must be securely wrapped in paper and kept in Separate Containers from Ashes. Container must be properly covered.

No container and contents shall weigh more than 80 lbs.

All Containers must be placed near the road or sidewalk.

Glass, bottles and broken dishes must be placed in Garbage Container.

BY ORDER
THE COUNCIL