

Canada at War

NO. 1—THE MOTOR INDUSTRY PLAYS ITS PART

First of a series of six articles by C. Earl Rice
formerly of The Springfield Times, Lac Du Bonnet, Manitoba

In this series of articles on "Canada at War" I propose to deal with phases of the war effort, little known to the general public. Most people have an idea of the work being done by our Army, Air Force, and Navy, but few people have a real conception of the magnitude of our industrial endeavor.

Had it not been for the production of motorized units in Canada during the last year and a half, on a scale unsurpassed anywhere in the British Empire, General Wavell would not have accomplished the victories of the Army of the Nile in Libya, last year. Universal Carriers, Heavy Four-Wheel-Drive Trucks, Light Trucks, Tractors, Ambulances, Reconnaissance Cars, and many other types of motorized equipment are rolling off the assembly lines of the automotive plants in Canada at the rate of more than 600 a day.

Besides the building of motorized equipment, the automotive industry is operating armament plants, building motors to be used to lower the balloons in the barrage over Britain, and contributing in many other ways to the war effort.

Vast Plant
The first plant I visited stands on a 200-acre site, and over 50 acres are under roof. It generates its own electricity, and 320 tons of coal are burned daily to produce 25,000 horsepower. A total of 13,000 men are working here now, where prior to the war, 7,000 were employed at the peak of production. Today, almost one hundred percent of the output is for war purposes.

In the foundry, 100 tons of steel, and 100 tons of pig iron are produced daily. The articles produced in the foundry are sent to the machine shop, a hundred yards distant, by means of an underground conveyor system.

We now enter the machine shop, where there are 4,300 different machines, running at full blast, to turn out 2,250 complete motors a week. Let us look for a minute at two of these machines. First, a multiple trimming machine, trims twelve engine blocks at both ends, in one operation, to a uniformity of within one, one-thousandth of an inch. The blocks are fastened to a huge revolving drum, and the cutting edges trim each block as it revolves. The second machine is the multiple boring machine, which bores the 84 holes in an engine block, in one operation in six or seven seconds.

When the engines are completed, they are transferred by a conveyor system to the plant housing the vehicle assembly line. The military units pass down the assembly line, each part ready at hand on a moving conveyor line at the time scheduled. As the units move, the bodies are fastened on to the chassis, the fenders, doors, wheels, etc., put in place, until the unit comes to the last operation where a gallon of gasoline is poured into the tank, and the unit drives off the assembly line under its own power. This one factory turns out 450 military vehicles each 24 hours.

I think that the two most interesting types of military mechanized units are the Universal Carriers, and the four-wheel drive artillery Tractors. The Universal Carrier, formerly called the Bren Gun Carrier, is a low slung vehicle, propelled by means of tank-like treads. They are armoured against small arms, and can travel over extremely rough country with great manoeuvrability and speed. The four-wheel drive Artillery Tractor, drives the front wheels as well as the rear. Should the front wheels become bogged down, the back wheels will push them out, and if the back wheels become bogged down, the front wheels will pull the back wheels out. The units can climb a grade as steep as 60 per cent. In other words, for every ten feet they travel forward, they are able to climb six feet.

Motor Men Turn Out Guns
Let's journey now to another automotive plant. Here we find an as-

sembly line similar in principle to the one just described. The same type of units are being produced as described in the previous plant, but with a smaller volume of production.

When the government was faced with the necessity of producing field guns, and naval guns, it turned to the automotive industry for help. This factory undertook to direct operation of a new armament plant that had just been built, and got it into production. Today, field guns are rolling off an assembly line, for the first time in Canadian history, is producing heavy calibre field guns. All the genius and efficiency of this automotive factory has gone into the production of these guns. Another item that this plant is producing, in quantity is motors, to be used in Britain to haul down the balloons in the barrage over land and sea. Over 3,000 motors for this purpose, were delivered in the space of a few months.

We have time for a hurried visit to one more factory. This plant is also producing equipment similar to that in the other two plants. In addition to this however, a large new building is under construction, covering several acres, and will be into production in a few months with 2,700 men-producing small arms, for the fighting forces. This plant has already produced a total of more than 112,000 motors.

Fungus In Woods For Wartime Use

Researchers Make Tests of Its Effects on Sulphite Liquids

OTTAWA, (CP)—Lowly fungi of the sort that live on dead wood and bring about the decomposition of fallen forest trees have been enlisted in a mammoth salvage job. Set to work on the sulphur liquor which goes to waste in tons at Canadian pulp mills they may assist in bringing a part of it to industrial use.

Sequins From Skeletons

Czechoslovak Refugees Operate Unique British Factory

Sequins, the colored spangles used for dress decoration, are being made in Wales from the bones of dead animals by a family of refugees from Czechoslovakia. Their fashion creations in sequins are exported to countries which used to get them from Czechoslovakia in peace time.

In lovely shades of royal blue, emerald, scarlet, mauve, gold and silver, the sequins are got from the gelatine in the bones which is pressed into thinnesses sometimes as fine as one thirty-second of an inch and dyed. The Czechoslovak family who run the factory, the only one of its kind in Britain today, came from Gablonz in the Sudetenland, where they had been making sequins for over thirty years. They brought nothing with them but their experience and their knowledge of what the United States, South Africa, India and Australia required, but in the three short years since they opened at the Treforest Trading Estate in South Wales they have evolved their own intricate machines for cutting and threading the sequins, trained a complete staff, and attained the high standard of workmanship for which their Gablonz factory was famous. They have even developed new lines like collars, boleros and other accessories decorated with sequins.

LONDON, (CP)—George Hall, colonial under-secretary, told the House of Commons more than 9,000 Palestinian Jews were serving in Britain's armed forces, including 1,500 missing or prisoners.

The Week at OTTAWA

Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by
BY ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

OTTAWA, (CP)—The surprise announcement by Munitions Minister Howe that compulsory gasoline rationing will be introduced shortly means definitely sacrifices are in store for motorists if Canada's gasoline supply situation deteriorates.

In wording his announcement to the House of Commons Mr. Howe made clear that the rationing system would be flexible and that rationing would be "just as liberal as our supplies will permit."

"At the beginning of each month the oil controller (C.R. Cattelle) will announce how many gallons a coupon will entitle a person to obtain and we hope it will entitle a driver to as many gallons as he will want to use," he said. "If it does not it will be because the gasoline is not available and we will be in a better position to deal with another shortage should one occur."

Mr. Howe said it was hoped coupon books would be ready for issue by provincial authorities with 1942 automobile licenses.

Winter Prospects
The announcement of the first compulsory rationing for Canadians since the war started followed Mr. Howe's formal statement on the oil situation, including a lengthy statistical summary.

The minister estimated Canada's crude oil requirements for 1942 at 64,500,000 barrels. The pipeline from Portland, Me., to Montreal, bringing vital oil supplies to Canada would be an operation "within a few days."

Unless something unexpected developed, oil supplies for the winter were "reasonably assured."

Economic Minister Ilsley preceded Mr. Howe with the announcement that a ceiling will be placed on all managerial and executive salaries. Previously the wages stabilization program extended the ceiling only to wage earners up to the rank of foreman. Mr. Ilsley said managers and executives would not receive the cost-of-living bonus mandatory for wage earners.

These announcements came at the tail-end of a busy week for Commons members. Prime minister Mackenzie King opened the session with a war review in which he proclaimed the cause of freedom in the present war to be the "highest it has ever been given man to defend," predicted increasing bloodshed and human suffering and stressed the common aims of all free nations in the face of Germany's military might.

Mr. King was followed by Conservative House Leader Hanson who urged immediate steps to utilize every fit man for service, "whatever system of enlistment is employed." He asked the government to review the whole manpower policy and declared the question of compulsory national service is one transcending party lines.

The same day Angus McInnis, acting C.C.F. leader and the acting New Democracy leader, E. G. Hansell, criticized the government's action in bringing its price control and wages stabilization program into effect without submission to parliament.

Mr. Howe, in a review of department activity, told the Commons that Canada is nearing maximum production in war industry, although additional projects would be taken on as additional productive capacity was discovered. Navy Minister Macdonald gave a description of Canada's growing naval strength.

War Services Minister Thorson outlined the important role Canadian women are playing in the war effort and described some of the services under his jurisdiction.

The House heard Defence Minister Talbot say Canada's army needs for 1942 will be decided by the cabinet war committee in the light of manpower survey now completed, that the Canadian Corps is rapidly approaching army status and that no corps in the United Kingdom is more completely provided with corps and auxiliary troops, and that mobilization has been authorized for five additional forestry corps companies.

Air Minister Power conducted the war department reviews with a declaration that the Air Ministry now has a personnel of 100,000 under its control. As far as recruiting for the Royal Canadian Air Force was concerned, he told the House, "the sky is the limit."

EVACUEES IN FIRE
TONTRENT, South Wales, (CP)—Two women and three London children lost their lives when fire broke out in evacuee hostel here. Mrs. Maud Morgan, the matron, jumped 60 feet and fractured both legs in a vain attempt to save one child.

FOUND JUST MOONSHINE
MERTON, England, (CP)—Tests carried out here failed to substantiate a theory that seeds sown when the moon is waxing germinate more quickly than those sown when it is waning.

FIREWORKS



A rack of machine gun cartridges is drawn from the stores at the Jarvis Bombing and Gunnery School, where students of the Commonwealth Air Training Plan are taught how to draw a bead on Hun aircraft and ground targets.

Budget Hazards Of Fall Brides May Fade Away

Lots of Helps to Keep the Newly-Weds on an Even Keel Financially, Economist Points Out

OTTAWA, (CP)—"Budgeting for Canadian Brides" is a subject on which Miss Ruth Ransom, household economist in the Consumers' Section of the Federal Department of Agriculture has something to say.

"The budget hazards of marrying on a small income were never less than to-day in many ways," she told The Canadian Press while preparing her address for brides in a lecture series arranged by the Y.W.C.A. "There's so much free advice to be had!"

Miss Ransom enumerated the pamphlets and question-answering services to be had now from departments of agriculture, educational institutions, social and welfare agencies and banks who today take an interest in trying to solve the bride's problems and keep her afloat on the sea of matrimony.

"This is the day of 'flexible' budgets," said Miss Ransom. "Of course, part of it is still easy to regulate, such as never to pay more than one week's salary per month for rent."

The old system, she said, didn't allow for individuality. Now a more rounded system is advocated. After certain fixed items are paid like rent, telephone and carfare, the rest depends much on the taste of the individual. The main points are that the income be well managed so that one is able to live within it.

Real Check-up
Checks on whether she is a good manager or not can be made by every bride:

- 1—Is she "broke" at the end of the month?
- 2—Must she borrow in order to make ends meet?
- 3—Is the first week of the month abundantly provided for and the next three skimmed on meals and distraction?
- 4—Is she afraid to face the postman in the morning because of the bills?
- 5—Does she know where she is in her management—or is each month just one long financial worry wondering if she's going to "make it" or not?

The first thing to do is for the young couple to make out a fixed list of taxes, rent, insurance, instalments and so on. Then about 15 per cent is allowed for clothes, it doesn't matter whether it is spent on sports things or evening things it depends on the taste of the individual," Miss Ransom said.

In furnishing and equipping a home the wise bride will first make a study of her house or apartment and then use the library and magazines to help her make a place attractive.

"The wrong side of town" doesn't mean much any more especially in Canada since the war began and urban centres are full to overflowing. A bride may save by taking a place in a less expensive quarter," she said. "The difference in rent can go to making the interior particularly attractive."

In clothing tips, Miss Ransom said that a small girl will choose clothing classic in style so they will not "date" too rapidly. A dark dress on a simple line, following the old French custom which made the back of accessories, and thus transformed into as many dresses is a good rule.

SAGUENAY RED GRANITE REPLACES FOREIGN STONE

War conditions have brought a new industry to Northern Quebec and Saguenay red granite is now coming on the market as a satisfactory substitute for stone previously imported from Russia, Finland and Sweden, being shipped across the line to fill orders in the United States for building and monument purposes. This red granite is quarried by National Granite Limited at Alma Island near St. Gedeon, Quebec, situated approximately 275 miles from Montreal on the Chicoutimi line of the Canadian National Railways.

A visit to the quarry shows that the area available for this granite is about one mile long by one-half mile wide. So far, it is impossible to give the depth of the rock formation, but the site where work is in progress has already reached a depth of over twenty-five feet. There is a grain to granite the same as there is to wood and the sides are known as head grain, the bottom and top as lift, and the ends as rift. This granite is shipped on flat cars in blocks weighing from five to fifteen tons, using the

Canadian National Railways and the Central Vermont Railway lines to the finishing plant at Barre, Vermont. Granite usually weighs 180 pounds per cubic foot.

There is another quarry at St. Gedeon which produces black pearl granite and, according to Eugene Robitaille, General Manager of National Granite Limited, is of the best quality to be found anywhere. This quarry has supplied the granite for the fronts of buildings in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor, Port Arthur, Edmonton, New Westminster, Victoria, Halifax, Quebec, Chicoutimi and Arvida.

WITH MAN-MADE HANDS
DARTFORD, England, (CP)—Nelle Lambert, who lost both hands during a raid and was fitted with artificial hands, can dress, wash, eat and write and knit.

LIGHTS ON THE BAR
LONDON, (C. P.)—To beat the match shortage some London publicans keep gas lights burning so customers can light pipes and cigarettes.



LOOK OUT FOR YOUR LIVER

Back it up right now! Your liver is the largest organ in your body and most important to your health. It stores and filters blood, gets rid of waste, supplies necessary vitamins, and prepares nutrients to reach your blood. When your liver gets out of order, bad things happen to your health. You become constipated, stomach and kidneys can't work properly. You feel "tired," headache, backache, and sleepless nights. You'll be simply delighted how easily you'll feel like a new man. For over 35 years thousands have been helped by this medicine—Fruit-A-Tives. So can you. Try Fruit-A-Tives—you'll be simply delighted how easily you'll feel like a new man. Buy a box today. 25¢, 50¢. Canada's Largest Supply of Fruit-A-Tives.



STABILIZATION OF PRICES AND WAGES

Your Country asks your loyal support of this Wartime Measure

TWO NEW CONTROLS have now become essential in Canada's wartime design for living. These are:

(1) Control of Prices
Commencing November 17, 1941, there may be no increase in the prices of goods and services generally unless absolutely necessary and authorized by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

(2) Control of Wages
No employer, with certain limited exceptions, may increase the basic wage rates paid to his employees unless authorized by a Board on which the Government, employers and employees are represented. But after February 15, 1942, every employer with the same exceptions, will be obliged to pay a cost of living bonus and to adjust this bonus every three months.

Action Necessary to Stop Inflation
This Government action has been taken to prevent the inflation we knew in the last war, and its subsequent depression, unemployment and suffering.

Every housewife knows that prices are rising, and rising prices, unless controlled, will make it more costly and difficult to finance the war. Rising prices, unchecked, will spread confusion in industry and trade; will hinder production and proper distribution of supplies; will make the cost of living rise more rapidly than wages and salaries; will lessen the value of savings; will result in hardship for almost everyone, and especially those with small incomes. And the result of uncontrolled inflation, after the war, when prices drop, will again be depression and unemployment. Prices cannot be controlled without control of wages. Excess profits are, and will continue to be, under rigid control.

Coverage of Wages Stabilization Order
The Order is applicable to the following employers:

- 1—Every employer normally subject to the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act.
- 2—Every employer engaged in the manufacture of munitions of war, or war supplies, or the construction of defence projects.

Whole-Hearted Support Required

Your Government knows that this policy, as it affects labour, industry, commerce, and agriculture, demands a degree of restriction to which Canadians are not accustomed, and indirectly a wartime measure. It will demand self-discipline and self-control. It will need the whole-hearted support of everyone who has the well-being of his fellow citizens at heart. But by loyal co-operation, Canadians can have much more assurance that the fears, sense of insecurity, the suffering and profiteering which inflation always brings, will neither interfere now in the winning of this war, nor in the recovery and reconstruction of Canada and the Canadian way of living after the war is over.

Issued under the authority of
Hon. N. A. MCLARTY,
Minister of Labour

BUILT BY CANADIAN WORKMEN



A sturdy little universal carrier, one of the many which have been turned out of Canada's automotive plants, is put through its paces on the testing ground.