

The Week at OTTAWA

Specialty Written for The Acton Free Press by DOUGLAS GREEN Canadian Press Staff Writer

Over what range the Dominion government is prepared to lower prices of commodities to consumers is a topic upon which speculation has arisen here following the announcement by Finance Minister Halsey that milk, tea, coffee and oranges will be cheaper in Canada from now on.

Price reduction in the four goods mentioned will be effected through the payment of subsidies and the remission of duties and taxes. Already, the Dominion treasury has paid out \$30,000,000 in subsidies since a general ceiling was established over food and other prices Dec. 1941.

In a broadcast address, Mr. Halsey made it clear that while it will cost up to \$40,000,000 annually to effect price reductions in an effort to check growth of inflationary tendencies in the Canadian economy.

This is taken to mean that the government will, if necessary, extend price reductions over other goods if it appears that without the payment of subsidies or the remission of taxes their ceiling levels would break through the ceilings already imposed.

Great Britain now is paying out about \$600,000,000 a year in subsidies. Plans for increased agricultural output next year were mapped at Dominion-provincial conference this week.

More foods are required for next year than in any previous year. Agriculture Minister Gardiner told the gathering. Despite the manpower shortage and curtailment of farm implements manufacturing, efforts will be made to step up production of hogs, beef, eggs, butter and cheese.

Mr. Gardiner also said it was felt some inducement to reduce wheat acreage in Western Canada next year would have to be continued. He said

a statement on the government's policy would be made later.

Housing Problem

The question whether private enterprise or governmental action can best solve the problem of providing suitable homes for those earning low wages has come prominently into public notice through the controversy in which Mayor Stanley Lewis of Ottawa and Premier Gordon Goddard of Ontario are engaged.

Mayor Lewis is anxious that the Dominion government establish a ministry of housing to meet demands for accommodation. A crown corporation, Wartime Housing Limited, has already erected homes for workers in many of Canada's industrial centres.

But Premier Goddard, who looks with disfavor upon the spectacle of Ontario municipalities entering into agreements with Wartime Housing, has issued a warning that his government may repeal its enabling legislation passed in 1941 and invalidate any future agreements.

The Ontario Municipal Board has refused to sanction a plan whereby the city of Ottawa would conclude negotiations with Wartime Housing for the immediate erection of 300 houses in the war crowded capital.

In 1941, Ottawa's building department issued permits for \$4,850,615 worth of building construction. For the 11 months ended Nov. 30 last the total reached \$6,911,150, and of this figure \$3,000,000 represented the value of permits issued for government construction.

More government buildings mean larger staffs, and Mayor Lewis, who in peacetime would note with satisfaction a steady rise in the value of building construction, now is wondering how the additional workers will be housed and who will assume the responsibility for housing them.

Agreements under Wartime Housing has erected homes for industrial workers provided that the dwellings shall be either razed within a reasonable period after the war or that the materials shall be sold for scrap so as not to create slum areas.

BALK NAZI JAMS

LONDON (CP) Many farm attics in Holland are turned into radio listening posts and apparatus set up in workshops to cut out German "jamming," according to a Netherlands woman who has escaped to Britain.

Infantry, Tanks, and Guns Give Great Demonstration

Canada's Senior Infantry Brigade Go Into Mock Action Against Heavily Defended Positions

This is the 7th in a series of articles written by W. E. Legg and C. V. Charters, who represented The Canadian Weekly Newspapers' Association in a recent tour overseas.

Bacon Trail Epic Of Canadian Farms

Among several special developments in Canada's wartime agriculture the wartime story of bacon takes first place, said Dr. G. S. H. Barton, Dominion Deputy Minister of Agriculture in a recent address.

The Bacon Story is in many respects the story of Canada's greatest single contribution in the form of food supplies. The trail goes back to the years before the war, for it was during that period that an export bacon structure was built in Canada that could be relied upon as a source of supplies for Great Britain's major requirements.

In fact, the quantity of bacon of the type desired by Britain, available in Canada in the second year of the war, had much to do with Britain's decision to provide bacon in the official rations of that country. Since that decision, which was made in the fall of 1940, Canada's bacon export commitments have expanded each year to meet British requirements.

Thirty-four export packing plants in Canada are killing nearly twice the number of hogs they did in 1939. With the completion of the 1941-42 agreement with the British Ministry of Food, 1,350,000,000 pounds of bacon have been shipped to the United Kingdom.

Many Arms Take Part The infantry were supported in their task by the entire Divisional Artillery, a tank battalion, a section of engineers, two companies of machine gunners, an anti-tank regiment, and in theory, a squadron of the R. C. A. F.

Three, strongly held positions of great tactical value gave the enemy the advantage. In this magnificent show of endurance and skill by the Canadian troops. Despite very heavy going, due to the recent rains and the condition of the ground, and the fact that several large hills had to be surmounted, the infantry (the P.B.I.) as they were called in the last war) successfully gained their objectives and moved forward at the appointed times. One has to take a small part even as a spectator moving over the ground in these manoeuvres, to appreciate just what amount of stamina and spirit is required to overcome natural and man-made hazards.

Co-ordinated Effort The efficiency and co-ordination of all arms was remarkably good. Inter-communication with the various units was of a high calibre. Companies of the infantry being in constant communication with their battalion headquarters and the battalion headquarters in turn being in communication with the brigade headquarters who controlled the whole effort. From brigade headquarters via various means, the supporting arms were directed by the Brigadier.

Directly on the stroke of the zero hour, the Artillery opened up a terrific barrage on the initial objective, to allow a troop of tanks to shepherd the mine clearance party of engineers, in two sections of pyramids to carry out their task of clearing the mine fields for the follow-up of tanks and infantry.

Churchills In Action It was a grand sight to witness from our vantage point. The huge rumbling Churchills sprayed everything in front of them to give cover to the engineer party. The job completed, the engineers placed tapes to make a safety line for the following tanks and infantry. Then they turned to a rear position under the protective care of the tanks. By now the next wave of tanks (which in the distance looked like ants crawling about) were proceeding at tank speed on to their objectives, to clear out machine gun nests and any infantry obstacle that might be in the way. They manoeuvred about, racing thither and yon, until they reached the crest of the first objective.

Right on their heels was the first wave of infantry, with bayonets fixed, running towards the enemy and taking cover as the necessity arose, then rising and advancing several hundred more yards.

Infantry Plays Its Part During this advance of the infantry, the mortars came into play, setting down the smoke screens to give the infantry and tanks protective cover from the left flank and to the front, while the R.C.A.F. were doing likewise on the right flank. While the forward battalion of infantry were consolidating their first objective, the two battalions following through pivoted right and left to reach their respective objectives and to widen the gap created by the forward unit. During this time, the various arms of the infantry were brought into use: Bren carriers and mortar platoons doing a very effective job with the odd pill-box or machine gun nest that had been overlooked by the tanks, the mortars effectively using H. E. and smoke and the carriers doing a nice job of work with their Bren guns.

The entire co-ordination was particularly good, but the enthusiasm and knowledge of their task, shown by the Infantry, was a revelation to this writer, and to all those privileged to witness this attack of Canada's Infantry Brigade.

KEEP POULTRY HOUSES CLEAN When poultry living houses are poorly ventilated, the floors and litter become heavy and damp, the birds unthrifty, disease develops, and production vanishes. Proper ventilation becomes increasingly difficult where overcrowding exists, because of the necessity of ridding the poultry house of excess moisture without causing draughts.

Bootblack Millionaires

The roaring twenties may be remembered as the era, wherein the stockmarket promised to make every bootblack a millionaire. The sombre thirties taught that the promise could not be kept. The succeeding war era will tend to make every millionaire his own bootblack.

One fear that may remain in the minds of thoughtful people is that bootblacks and other voters will insist that, in future, governments guarantee them freedom from want. They will not stop to realize that the only means by which a government can implement such a promise is either by handing out money free or by giving employment by means of public works.

In either method, taxes must increase. And the more that taxes increase, the greater the burden that must be borne by the producers of the nation. Governmental policies of this description would make the outlook bleak for farmers and other primary producers. Goods they sell likely would again be depressed in price and goods they buy will so little with taxes that the calloused hand of the farmer will not be able to touch them.

There are many Canadian institutions, as well as farmers, who should be telling their story of how they create wealth by producing useful goods and services. The Printed Word.

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Baking for Christmas

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B. D. RACHLIN
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WAR-TIME TRAVEL TIP NO. 1

He hasn't learned to TRAVEL LIGHT!

In wartime help conserve available railway space and add to your own ease---by travelling with a minimum of baggage.

CANADIAN NATIONAL

This is Private War Outsiders Keep Out

That a private war is being waged throughout Canada's Island Province is news carried by Canadian National Railways' advices from local agents, who add that it will be advisable for outsiders to stay and keep out. The enemy is resorting to gas. Known to encyclopedists as "Mephitis mephitis," when the disguise is torn off, such a stink is worth one dollar dead. Skunks are not native to the Island but were introduced in fur farms. The market for skins slumped and the animals were turned loose and became a pest by raiding hen houses. The dollar bounty was then set up to encourage hunters. In a recent week 482 skunks were casualties in this private war.

LONDON (CP)---In the United Nations there are 50 ways of saying "Merry Christmas" for instance the South African Dutch say "Geeseende Kersefees" and get away with it.

"World Traveller at 21"

He could tell you how Italian tanks scattered in Libya; how Sicily looked by the light of flare bombs; how the Hunns ducked for cover in a half-dozen European countries. He's a member of an R.C.A.F. air crew---those much travelled "fighting comrades of the skies."

Trained in Canada---R.C.A.F. air crews take the world in their stride. Smooth-working attack teams---Bomber and Fighter Pilot, Navigators, Bombers, Gunners, Wireless Operators---ready for action on any front. They seek out and destroy the foe wherever he can be found. After victory these keen young Canadians will lead the way to a bright new world. Our future is in their hands. Their future is in the skies.

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