



The Acton Free Press

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Things are Tough In Doll Hospitals

But Expert Surgery Keeps Small Customers Happy

ACTON (C.P.) Things are tough in hospitals everywhere. Not enough space for help and for too many patients. And that goes for Boston's 13-year-old Doll Hospital, the one proprietor, Mrs. Fred Hockaday says.

"We have 400 cases right now four times as many as before the war. We're closing two days a week so we can catch up."

Even the hospital receptionist, a 32-inch blonde, is currently on the ailing list.

"A little boy poked her eye out while we were fitting his sister a doll wig," sighed Mrs. Hockaday, a slight, fair-haired matron who took up doll healing before the First Great War.

She now has a five-man staff, including a "surgeon" whose fracture treatments are renowned through doll-dom. The current crop of patients range from a 135-year-old wooden doll with a shattered leg to scores of the so-called "unbreakable" babies.

"Left arms torn from their sockets," Mrs. Hockaday diagnosed crisply, "because little girls tend to grab them that way."

If an "unbreakable" comes in with the right arm off, the hospital head deduces that the owner is a southerner.

Age No Handicap. Mrs. Hockaday's hospital is one of the few that does not consider old age an incurable malady. Many of the patients "seem more to repair than they cost in the beginning," she said, "but we do our best because the children love them so."

She reported leaving one frantic little mother ask her dad who suggested the purchase of a "new" doll. "Would you throw me in the ash barrel just because my arms and legs were smashed?"

As the cluttered workshop a never known to doll owners, most of them cherish the idea that it is a glorified ward presided over by white linen nurses. One little girl recently showed up with her governess and a small bunch of flowers, requesting, "Please put this by my doll's bed."

An avid collector of antique dolls, Mrs. Hockaday's skills to restore old-time fashion was conspicuous, round out dental paper mache skulls, and restyle limbs of last century bisque beauties. She also makes modern miniature lavettes and wardrobes to order.

"We used to have a lot of girls buying for their children or little sisters," she disclosed.

Some 75 of her unaccounted collection are displayed at the doll hospital. "But not my swimming doll," she goes right across the tank with a beautiful breast stroke. If I kept her around my little visitors would never go home," chuckled Mrs. Hockaday.

Refine Seal Oil For Cooking Use

To Utilize South Africa Seals For Fur, Food and Fertilizer

CAPE TOWN (C.P.) South African housewives who have always admired seals for their skins may soon be doubly grateful to these graceful aquatic creatures for what they can produce to supplement the reduced supplies of edible cooking oils.

As a result of investigations carried out here, a pilot plant is being installed in the new sealing vessel Gantook to extract a refined oil from the blubber of seals.

Up to the present seal's blubber has been valuable chiefly for their pelts, and many have been caught by the men who visit the government Gantoo Islands annually to collect fertilizer. Besides skinning the seals they have produced a low-grade oil after boiling the seals' blubber on the islands.

It is intended to evolve equipment that will enable a high grade seal oil to be refined on board the Gantook. This oil would be suitable for the manufacture of margarine as well as for cooking purposes.

It is also hoped that a process will be found for reducing the seals' carcasses to cattle feed or fertilizer. At present all the carcasses are returned to the sea.



BY H. DENT HEDGECOCK

OTTAWA (C.P.) Notable feature of the capital picture last week was that strikes started to ease.

With the ending of the steel strike, most of the other labor disturbances seemed to be settling, as though the bulk of the labor movement had based its demands on what the steel strikers could get.

Amid this background, labor ministers of all provinces met with the federal government in an attempt to draft a new labor regulation.

The meeting brought forth a number of rumors on the subject of wage control, which apparently is the crux of the Canadian system program.

Labor Minister Mitchell, who has said repeatedly in the last six months that he would welcome an end to wage control, has tempered this remark with the statement that wage control is a basis of price control, and that if the one is lifted, the other will suffer.

Canada looking southward to the United States where controls have been relinquished is imposed and relinquished again, is still feeling personally proud of her wartime efforts to hold down a ceiling on prices.

Admittedly, prices have gone up in the Dominion. But Canada can still boast a price ceiling second to none in the inflation-ridden world.

The question which has occupied the conference of labor ministers here is how labor legislation in the post-war period is going to be handled.

This inevitably had taken in the question of wage controls, which, in turn, has brought up the question of price controls.

Labor Minister Mitchell is thoroughly on record as wishing that wage controls could end. Theoretically, they will end on March 15. However, parliament could extend them beyond that time.

While it is not known what parliament will do in this regard, it is generally expected that wage control may end sometime between Jan. 1 and March 15. This project is viewed with alarm in Prices Board circles, where it is felt that a relaxation of wage control would mean a definite blow to price ceilings.

However, the government has generally taken the attitude that, while wartime restrictions should be lifted as soon as possible, a gradual reconversion should take place. The crux of the situation seems to be that the government is under pressure to remove controls, but is willing to remove them only at a time when it feels the price ceiling can stand it.

Various forces are pushing the government's hand, and the main force at the moment appears to be wage control.

Former RCAF aircrew will be recruited by the Royal Air Force for service in any part of the world by a London-Ottawa agreement announced by Air Minister Gibson.

Eligible for service are former officers and airmen in aircrew trades who have been trained up to at least Operational Training Unit standards. They will receive the new-scale R.A.F. pay and allowances which are higher than wartime R.A.F. pay and compare favorably with peacetime R.C.A.F. rates.

R.A.F. representatives at Air Force Headquarters are accepting applications from all aircrew trades, including signallers, flight engineers and gunners as well as pilots and navigators.

William McLean Pappin, an official of the passport office of the external affairs department, has been acquitted of charges of conspiring to get a false passport for a Russian agent operating in the United States. He is the first of Canada's 18 espionage suspects to be cleared by the courts.

Earlier, Dr. David Shugar, former naval anti-submarine expert, won temporary freedom when Magistrate Glenn Strike dismissed charges against him for lack of evidence. However, the same magistrate committed him for trial when additional Crown evidence was brought before him.

Five of the defendants in the espionage trials have already been convicted. One case, that of Eric Adams, wartime employe of the Foreign Exchange Control Board, is before the Ontario Supreme Court. The other 11 defendants, including Dr. Shugar, await trial.

MODERN TRAVEL SPEEDS REUNION

REGINA (C.P.) Members and friends of the Huot family converged on Regina by aircraft, automobile, motorcycle and train to attend a family reunion.

Norvel Huot came by train from Seattle, Wash., to see his brother Joseph for the first time in 31 years. Joseph's son Henry flew in from Whitehorse, Y. T. with his five-year-old daughter, Barbara.

A friend, Jack Phillips, swished across mountains and prairies from Vancouver on a motorcycle. And, from Denver, Colo., by car came cousins Mr. and Mrs. A. Maguire.

Finding A Better Way

By R. J. Dzwachman

A few days ago a friend asked me if I had read a book called Lincoln's Incentive System. I replied that I hadn't and didn't intend to do so. Then the first thing I did when I returned to my office was to call a bookstore and order a copy. No man has a right to ignore anything which offers a ray of hope through present industrial strife.

The author of the book is James F. Lincoln. He is the head of the Lincoln Electric Company of Cleveland Ohio. The company makes arc-welding machines and arc-welding electricals. The total volume of business in the United States in this particular line totals \$100,000,000. The Lincoln company has a third of this total.

It has adopted a piece work system that should bring down upon the corporation the condemnation of labor leaders who do not like the piece work system. The claims of the company are that its workers enjoy higher earnings than the workers in any other industrial plant in the world.

That the work is not arduous, that there has never been a strike in the plant and that all it has succeeded in bringing down the price of the product and that expanding demand.

In March 1939, Mr. Lincoln visited Germany for the purpose of making inquiries into German industrial efforts along the same line. It took the German manufacturer 24 times as many man hours to produce a ton of electricals. The German wage rate was 2 cents (American) per hour, the Lincoln rate, at that time was the equivalent of \$2.00 per hour. The German wage cost per ton was three times the American and the German wage rate less than 15 percent of the American rate, while in Germany the selling price was twice as high.

Then here is the extraordinary point of interest. I quote now directly from the book.

"If these savings brought about by this method are used only as such, the plan is at an end. These savings are not profits, they are the result of the incentive which created more efficient manufacturing. This incentive was rooted in the idea of giving the customer more and more for less and less. The plan must carry this out continuously."

That means that prices must be lowered as fast as costs go down. Only so can the process of more and more for less and less be continued. There must also be a reward for the men who produced the results in accordance with their contribution to the success of the activity.

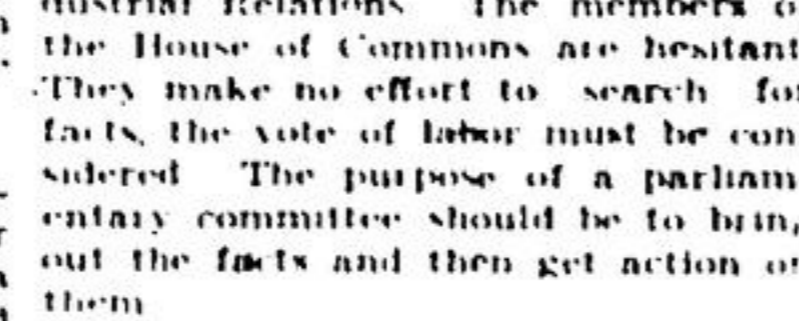
I know nothing about the Lincoln Incentive System except what I learned from reading the book. Only the open mind can be of value in the search for better ways and where can one find an open mind in the discussion of this issue? Little has so far been gained by the Committee on Industrial Relations. The members of the House of Commons are hesitant. They make no effort to search for facts, the vote of labor must be considered. The purpose of a parliamentary committee should be to bring out the facts and then get action on them.

FRANCOIS LAKE, R. C. (C.P.) Visitors to George Smith's mink ranch are wondering if a mink can count. One of the animal's runs around its pen five times, then sits up and wishes its face. It always encircles the pen exactly five times.

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