



By H. DRENT HODGSON

**OTTAWA (CP)**—The economic situation of Canada's friendly neighbor to the south is beginning to affect the Dominion adversely in several ways.

Most obvious threat from the south last week was the fact that price controls, under the office of price administration in the U.S., had been lifted to such an extent that prices there were generally rising.

While not all of Canada's economy depends on the U.S., that country's financial situation today strongly influences not only Canada, but most other countries in the world, and the Dominion's price ceiling was threatened by the sharp American price rise.

Many commodities, such as meat, for example, are not interchanged across the border, and therefore Canadian prices on such products have not risen. But there are several vital commodities which Canada must import from the U.S., and these including cotton, coal and many manufactured articles and spare parts must be subsidized by the Dominion if the prices are to remain at relatively the same level here.

This threat, coupled with post-war lack of interest in price ceilings and a general tendency on the part of Canadians to urge relaxation of controls, brought Donald Gordon, Prices Board chairman, into the public relations scene. In a series of broadcasts he warned that the commodities Canadians were most interested in—food, clothing and rentals would skyrocket unless Canada continued to tie down its ceilings.

Prices would rise to some extent anyway, Mr. Gordon said, but Canadians must choose between "controlled" re-adjustment and "uncontrolled" re-adjustment. If the process was controlled, the basic factors in the cost of living—food, clothing and rentals would not rise unduly.

The fact that it was the first time since the institution of the price ceiling that Mr. Gordon himself stepped into the control selling picture sharpened the edge of his comments.

Another influence from the south was in the labor field. Canadian industry, just emerging from the most crippling period of strikes it has ever experienced, was looking ahead to a peaceful period. But there was a danger that strikes in the U.S. might have their repercussions in the Dominion.

Highlights of the new American wage drive were in coal mining, steel and automobiles—industries which were the centre of disputes early this year. Canada's strikes and the pattern of wage increases ranging about 12 cents an hour that followed them, came about six months after a similar wave in the United States which ended in an 18 1/2 cent pattern.

The question was whether, pre-empting another American labor drive was about to begin, the Canadian labor situation might enter a complementary second chapter.

Prices again appeared the main factor. The U.S. strike threat was based on increased costs of living. Should Canadian prices get far out of their present line, it appeared likely Canadian strikes would again follow.

The butter situation, a natural matter of concern to all Canadians, is starting to rise again as the off-production season comes on. Last winter the butter ration fell to its lowest point—four ounces a week—despite the fact that the war was over.

This year, the Prices Board decided to start on a new tack.

In 1945, they had allowed the summer ration to rise to eight ounces. This summer, they held the line at six ounces, with the hope that this ration could be maintained throughout the winter.

Complicating factors have been the withdrawal of consumer and producer milk subsidies, last June and September. This has sent the price of milk up, and it has not yet been determined much effect this has had on general consumption.

Milk difficulties already have forced Canada below its contractual obligations to the United Kingdom in the matter of cheese, and whether or not the domestic butter ration can be held at a reasonably high level this winter is still in question. Officials are closely watching butter returns and also the weather in the west, where the bulk of Canada's butter surplus is produced.

One vacancy remains in the House of Commons, and with an eye to filling it before parliament resumes for its next session, the government has called an election for the constituency of Richelieu-Verchères, where the sitting member, Hon. P. J. A. Carlin, died October 20th. The by-election will be held December 23rd.

While the Liberals lost the last three by-elections—one in Pontiac, a Social Credit faction—and the other two to Progressive Conservatives in Toronto Parkdale and Portage in Prairie Provinces, it appeared they would stand a good chance of gaining their 126th seat in Richelieu-Verchères. The seat has been Liberal since 1896.

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All over the country the Canadian Legion summons members to participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies, Monday, November 11th. As Legionnaires, we have the high and sacred responsibility on this day of all days, to provide public leadership in the commemoration of courage, debts and sacrifices sometimes too glibly dismissed when hostilities have ceased.

Public Remembrance Day observances begin in Acton 10.30 Monday morning with local veterans marching at the Legion Hall to move in column of route to the Cenotaph here, commencing at 10.45, a brief ceremony will be climaxed by a two minutes' silence in honor of fallen comrades. At the Community Memorial Service, which is to follow in the United Church, local clergy will be assisted by Rev. Crawford Smith, D.D., M.C., guest preacher from Guelph.

At 1.45 p.m. cars will be ready to leave the Legion Hall for the unveiling of the Nassagaweya war memorial scheduled to take place at 2.15 in the afternoon with memorial services following at 2.30 p.m. Later, the Nassagaweya honor roll will be unveiled in the Township Hall. Dr. Young and Comrade A. Padbury have volunteered to provide lunch for visiting Legionnaires.

As loyal Canadians, perhaps we have no need to be reminded that the little crimson poppy has a poignant, national significance. The artificial flowers which we shall buy in the next few days were made by gravely disabled servicemen and women. And from their sale, the fund upon which so many demands are made, is used to help alleviate the needs of veterans and their next of kin. Immortalized by our countrymen, Lieut. Col. John McCrae, the poppy has become a symbol of remembrance. Surely "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."

A final note about regular meetings. They are scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Letters are sent to members only in the event of special meetings.

Branch Editor



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**CORETAL LENSES**

### Service Department of Canadian Legion Widens Its Scope

Since the inception of the Canadian Legion B.E.S.I. in Ontario in the year 1926, and in accordance with the Canadian Legion Constitution, it has been a definitely established policy to maintain Service Bureau to provide extra service to our disabled comrades, widows, orphans and dependants, with a view to obtaining for them pensions and other benefits to which they may be entitled in accordance with the Laws of the Dominion of Canada.

Quick to realize the needs of the young soldier when the time came for him to return to civilian life, the Legion saw it must play a tremendously important part pending the period of general demobilization and in the years to follow. Thus, in presenting a Brief to the Parliamentary Committee in 1943 on Rehabilitation and Post-war problems, the Legion emphasized certain principles with a view to preventing many of the mistakes made in the years immediately following World War I. It was convinced that the immediate Post-War Period of Reconstruction must be regarded as part of the war effort, and plans and policies adapted to the unemployment and economic chaos would not be the lot of the veteran during the transition period.

The most important phase of the Legion work is in connection with its Service Bureau. It reflects twenty years of the hopes, struggles, victories and the disappointments of the Canadian Ex-servicemen and women. During the period under the Legion, just as was true before, the services of the Ontario Service Bureau have been available without any charge whatever to all ex-servicemen and women and their dependants whether members of the organization or not. Although this work was so important to ex-servicemen generally up until recently it was not known that in almost every instance this work for the individual is carried out by direct negotiation with the officers of the government concerned. Careful and skillful presentation in the hall, mark of Legion Adjustment work. In special instances only does the Bureau undertake formal presentation of pension cases before pension tribunal or Appeal Court. However, such cases as do reach these bodies have received careful preparation which is of invaluable assistance to whoever acts as Advocate. The Bureau is called upon to deal with pension claims or complaints of every nature. It should also be pointed out that the Legion's Bureau has been able to effect satisfactory settlement of many cases which do not involve pension adjustment.

The Legion Service Bureau takes its place at the side of other Social Agencies operating in the District. Of particular interest to the municipality is the fact that each pension claim established or allowance obtained for ex-servicemen and their dependants, removes a financial responsibility which otherwise would rest upon it.

The work of this Department is increasing daily and it is expected that it will continue to do so for many years to come. From year to year questions of principle are adjusted on behalf of groups of cases, and the individual difficulties demanding special attention increase as the years go by and ex-service personnel reach a greater age, so the work must go steadily on.

Mr. T. F. Forestell, K. C., of Fort Erie is the present Chairman of the Ontario Service Bureau and he and his Committee have in their wisdom and out of necessity inaugurated a huge expansion program of service and have recently opened offices at Hamilton, Kingston, North Bay and Owen Sound. The offices functioning previously are situated at Toronto, Windsor and London. Altogether the expenditure in this connection will amount in excess of \$50,000 per year and on a recent referendum throughout Ontario Branches the membership agreed to pay \$1.00 per member per year for the upkeep of this great work.

The Hamilton and Niagara District Bureau Office located at 2 King St. W., in the city of Hamilton, was opened on July 2, 1946, with Mr. J. H. Penn, Adjustment Officer in charge. In this office during the month of August, 62 interviews were carried on with veterans or their dependants, and assistance given in approaching the proper Government Departments in the settlement of claims. In addition, a number of cases have been received from outside centres so that there are now over 80 files in the office concerning not only Canadian veterans of Wars I and II but ex-imperialists who are now residing in Canada as well.

This is the story of the Legion Service Bureau in brief form. Statistics of their accomplishments will be published in another issue. The Legion's desire at the moment is to acquaint all ex-servicemen and women with the inauguration of the Legion's Service Bureau expansion program and welcome their inquiries regarding their particular problems. Ex-servicemen and women throughout Ontario may communicate with the Adjustment Officer nearest their particular area and they can be assured of immediate action.

RIMOUSKI, Que. (CP)—Plans are under way for the planting of 135,000 strawberry bushes at nearby La Re-demption next spring.

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**BANK OF MONTREAL**

Fraser Elliott, deputy minister of national revenue for taxation got a new job last week. He will be Canada's new ambassador to Chile. The Chilean post was left vacant by Warwick Chipman, who for the last year has been ambassador to Argentina.

Mr. Elliott has been a popular civil servant for upwards of 25 years. While his appointment does not follow the recent pattern of career diplomatic nominations, it was no surprise in Ottawa circles.

As the spy trials continued, James Scotland Benning, wartime employee of the munitions and supply department, was sentenced to five years for conspiracy in connection with espionage charges laid by the royal commission investigating the Soviet spy ring in Canada. He appealed his sentence to the Ontario Supreme Court and was released on \$5,000 bail.

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**Helpful New Drugs From Milk Sugar**

In the 12 months ended March 31, 1946, about 1,500 farmers in Ontario and Quebec provided 88 million pounds of whey from which 800 tons of milk sugar were obtained, practically all used in the manufacture of penicillin and 7,100 tons of whey powder used in the preparation of poultry and livestock feeds. It is estimated that the farmers received \$225,000 from the sale of the whey. Because of the strict hygienic requirements of whey buyers, cheese factories paid much more attention to the washing and sterilizing of the milk cans with the result that the output of high score cheese increased in the areas in which the whey was bought.

The latest report of the Agricultural Supplies Board states that milk sugar has now become one of the basic ingredients in the production of penicillin. It increases the yield of the drug, enhances its keeping qualities and advances the stimulating effect upon the patient.

The outlet for milk sugar is expanding and present requirements of Canadian penicillin plants are about 100 tons per month. Some penicillin manufacturers are also making the newer drug streptomycin, in which somewhat similar culture is used as that for making penicillin. Streptomycin, however, requires a greater quantity of milk sugar per unit than penicillin.

A development of interest to agriculture is the experimental work now being undertaken with penicillin by animal pathologists of Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture, in treating animal and poultry disease. As a result of mass production of the drug, the price of it has been reduced to an extent that enables it to be used economically by veterinarians.

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