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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

Our Neighbor's Prices

During a few days at the week-end spent south of the border, we had an opportunity to make some interesting comparisons in ordinary items purchased by the average shopper and taking it all in all, the cost of living might not be much different. Butter is 82c per lb. but then one has a choice of margarine at a lower price. A broom that cost 69c there is selling for \$1.59 in Canada. Maple syrup brings \$5 and \$6 per gallon. Oranges and grapefruit are a few cents cheaper. In the small restaurants what one would pay a dollar for in Canada would likely run \$1.70 south of the border. Nine American measure gallons of gasoline was \$2.21 with all taxes included. The American 5c cigar is now 9c straight while the Canadian duplicate is selling at two for 15c.

There was a day when Canadians found it quite advantageous to shop for many items in the United States. The advantage is now lost even if customs regulations do permit yearly purchases of \$100. A word of warning might be given too to take no journey over the border without securing American funds. They cost little here if you see your banker but the charge may go as high as 10c on the dollar if offered as currency across the border.

What Subsidies Saved

Last week Canada got a glimpse of how much our wartime economic stabilization program cost and how much it saved. Broken down into elements, the \$1 billion talk of Justice Minister Isley meant that for every \$1 spent on subsidies and other aids, the consumer was saved \$12.50.

The estimate, which Mr. Isley emphasized was very rough, was based on the price rise that occurred during the last war. Here are some of the more eye-opening figures.

Approximate annual cost of price control, 1942-46 inclusive: \$186 millions. This includes: WPTB, \$84 millions; Dept. of Agriculture, \$65 millions; flour \$15 millions; remission of duty \$5 millions; coal \$5 millions. Total \$186 millions a year.

Saving to the consumer in goods and services: \$1.5 billions a year.

Saving to the government as a buyer of munitions and war equipment: \$1 billion a year.

Total annual saving: \$2.5 billions.

Without price control, consumer purchases would have cost \$8 billions annually. This is based on the 1914-19 rise. Actually, they cost \$6.5 billions.

Without price control, government purchases would have been about \$4 billions, actually, they cost \$1 billion.

Wet or Dry — Hot or Cold

Having lived most of our life away from lowlands and not adjacent to any of the rivers big or small, we often wondered why such heavy flood damage resulted in such a short period and why folks did not leave their flooded lands sooner and not become trapped by the rising waters.

Friday we journeyed to south New York State and North Pennsylvania. Water was high in the rivers but there were no highways flooded and little evidence of damage. Sunday we started to return over the same road and had three detours to make on account of inundated highways.

Friday night and Saturday it rained and every hill in those districts sent volumes of water into the valleys and eventually the Susquehanna got it all. Farm lands and buildings were under feet of water as the hilltops shed the rain and winter's accumulation of snow. This year's flood condition was nothing to that experienced in the same district last year when many cities and towns were literally swimming about. Many a farmer was saw-logging on the fences Sunday watching his buildings and land and wondering how much would go under before the water subsided.

Sunday morning we left a section with a sunshiny day and a temperature at 70. That evening when we

reached home the temperature was 40. There was the odd bank of snow and chunk of ice but there was no flood or danger of one. Proving we suppose, only that every place has advantages and disadvantages.

Food in the War of Ideas

During the last year the world has been short some millions of tons of food. The famine areas were mostly in Western Europe and Eastern Asia. In this year ahead it looks as if there will still be a drastic shortage in those areas without a great enough surplus in the Americas to overcome it unless we here on this continent begin to face the problem with a new attitude. There is still time for us to change and to plant a larger food crop than we have so far planned.

We need to see how food shortages disrupt our world and prevent the building of a permanent peace. People who are ill-fed are unable to produce the goods needed to rebuild a shattered world. They are a prey to feelings of bitterness and resentment and consequently become instruments in the hands of those who control what food they do get. This means that they, the hungry, can be used as pawns in the game of men intent on gaining power for themselves or for their ideology.

Equally it is true that if we who have the surplus control its use and see that fair play and justice are part of its distribution we can build into the hungry a respect for our principles and a desire to make them enduring in their society. That should be our objective as democratic people. It may mean, of course, that we have to accept lower returns in dollars but what is that if we get lasting returns in peace? The choice is clearly ours in the next year. We can work and plan to use our resources to re-arm our world morally and spiritually or we may have to accept the burden of physical and military re-arming for a new war.

Keep Away from Monopolies

The fundamental principles upon which Canada's radio broadcasting system is based were originally laid down by the Aird Parliamentary Commission in 1928 and reaffirmed by the Broadcasting Act which Parliament passed in 1936. The Aird report contemplated a national broadcasting network which was finally achieved by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Not all the network stations are state-owned; the more powerful fifty-kilowatt stations all belong to the CBC, but many of the lesser ones are privately owned and merely affiliated with the Corporation for network programs.

Nowhere can we find in either the Aird report or the Broadcasting Act any reference made to two national networks, yet in recent years the CBC has adopted a policy of splitting itself in two—the Trans-Canada network and the Dominion network.

This network duplication is dangerously monopolistic. Two networks will certainly freeze out many of the independent radio stations, and may result eventually in putting complete broadcasting control in government hands. A far superior device to supply this country with better programs might be the granting of permission to the independent broadcasters to form themselves into a mutual network and thus to give the CBC some actual competition. Perhaps some day this permission may be granted.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Easter weather in this section wasn't all that could be expected for an April date.

It's estimated that in the building trades in Toronto it costs ten cents to lay a brick and there are 12,000 bricks in a modest six room house.

Many municipalities are complying with the request of the railways to adopt daylight saving time from April 27th to September 28th. It is well to have uniformity, but it may appear odd that after making the suggestion the railways always stay on standard time.

There is an agitation to have mail delivery in towns of 2,500 population and over. It has always been hard to understand why city and farm people have mail delivered to their doors, while town people have to pay for a box in which to have their mail placed and then go to the post office to get it.

Markham and Grimsby will be the two teams in the Intermediate B hockey finals. It simmers down to a competition between players from Hamilton and Toronto with the little towns providing the money and support. Great encouragement for amateur sport in the small towns.

Canadians are steadily becoming a more insurance-conscious nation. Life insurance in force in the Dominion increased approximately 11 per cent in 1946. Sales were at a new high, while policies previously bought were firmly retained. Indicating the solid-placed life insurance holds as a method of savings.

On a drive during the holiday week-end in New York and Pennsylvania we encountered no highways in as disreputable and neglected condition as the 11 mile stretch between Acton and Milton. And owing to flood conditions we had to travel several back county lines in these states and all gave evidence of attention.

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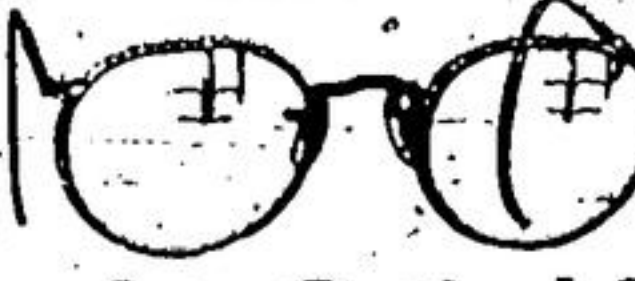
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CELERY HEARTS Bundle 23c

Business Directory

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 Physician and Surgeon
 (Successor to Dr. J. A. McIven)
 Office in Symon Block, Mill Street, Acton.
 Office Phone 78—Residence Church St., Phone 189

DR. D. A. GARRETT
 Physician and Surgeon
 Frederick Street, Acton
 Formerly Dr. Nelson's office
 Office Phone 238 Residence 243

DENTAL

DR. A. J. BUCHANAN
 Dental Surgeon
 Office—Leishman Block, Mill Street
 Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 X-RAY — GAS
 TELEPHONE 148

DR. GEORGE A. SIRRS
 Dental Surgeon
 Mill Street, corner Frederick, Acton
 Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 TELEPHONE 19

REGAL

C. F. LEATHERLAND, B.A.
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 R. MacIntyre Aylsworth, B.A.
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 11:51 a.m.; 2:06 p.m.; 4:46 p.m.; 6:26 p.m.; 9:06 p.m.; 11:11 p.m.

Westbound
 10:08 a.m.; 11:43 a.m.; 2:50 p.m.;
 5:13 p.m.; 7:33 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.;
 8:53 p.m.; 11:28 p.m.

To Stratford.
 To London.
 To Toronto.
 To Hamilton.
 To Kitchener.

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Eastbound
 Daily 6:16 a.m., 9:48 a.m., 6:46 p.m.;
 Sunday only: 8:19 p.m.; Daily Flyer at
 Georgetown: 9:11 p.m.

Westbound
 Daily except Monday: 1:17 a.m.;
 Monday only: 12:09 a.m.; daily except
 Sunday: 9:01 a.m., 6:46 p.m., 7:30 p.m.;
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