



The Acton Free Press

Published Every Thursday at Acton, Ontario
Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department,
Ottawa

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—\$2.00 per year in advance.
United States and additional. Single copies 5c. Both old
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G. ARLOP DILLS, Editor

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EDITORIAL

A Pleasing Budget

Reaction to the budget presented last week seems to give pretty solid approval and it was received as a pleasurable surprise. There were many guesses but none were optimistic enough to predict the lowering of the income tax to the extent that has been put into effect by the new rates. There is satisfaction too in the scale of reductions that have eased the tax burden more on the smaller incomes and have also lightened to some extent that of larger incomes.

There have already been many comparative tables made up showing what the income tax reduction means in take-home pay and the figures are indeed a practical answer to the rising cost of living. Added to this wage improvement the man with a family must take into account the family allowance cheque received each month when making a comparison of wage levels of other years and high living costs.

It is estimated that 925,300 wage earners will receive an income tax reduction of 54 per cent. and that 1,252,000 in the \$1000 to \$2000 income brackets will make savings of from 30 to 47 per cent. In the groups above \$10,000 the savings are not nearly so large. True, many looked for tax relief on certain items such as luxuries, jewelry, tobaccos, candy, etc. Perhaps the experience of wiping out the federal gasoline tax only to have it put on by the provincial government, showed that this was not the best method for getting more of the taxpayers' money left in his pocket. The approach to the problem of lower taxes is definitely a step in the right direction and certainly is popular with the average man who will have more pay with which to meet rising costs without adding it on to production costs.

These Figures do not Seem to Indicate Much Oil Shortage

Not long since, some of the users of fuel oil were quite disturbed with the thought that fuel oil might peter out. Reading the annual report of one of the big American oil companies makes one think they have not much to worry about.

"Notwithstanding forecasts of approaching exhaustion of the Nation's crude oil reserves after withdrawal of 1,726,000,000 barrels," says the letter to the shareholders, "the estimated crude oil reserves increased, according to recently revised estimates, 2,600,000,000 above the estimated reserves at the beginning of the year, which total was about 20,000,000,000 barrels."

"The Bureau of Mines estimates that the increase in demand for petroleum products in 1947 will be such as to require refinery runs in excess of 4,800,000 barrels daily."—Barrie Examiner.

To Each His Own

We felt that after the decision at Milton last week when four of the municipalities decided to proceed with the new High School District and one of the five decided to stay out of the plan, that each would be allowed to pursue the course each group desired. We were rather surprised therefore to read in the Georgetown Herald: "We are most certainly not in agreement and shall continue to do everything in our power to fight the plan!" We should explain that "agreement" in the quotation refers to our editorial opinion which the Georgetown editor quotes in full further in his editorial comment.

We have no fault to find with anyone not being in agreement with our opinion. That is a privilege of a democracy, but we do think it is bad taste to do "everything in our power to fight the plan" which has been approved by a four to one majority.

Georgetown has every right to "stand alone" and choose its own course in educational plans if it so desires. The editor has every right to use his argument and persuasion as he sees fit. The same right should be accorded to the towns of Milton and Acton and the Townships of Esquesing and Nassagaweya to decide and pursue the educational course they desire to follow.

The decision has been made. The men who heard the ballyhoo regarding Georgetown were not impressed. A difference of less than one mill in the costs will not deter any of the four municipalities from proceeding with the plan—a very small cost when all the advantages are considered. The term, "leading municipality" is a self-adopted term of the Georgetown mayor and the local editor. We don't resent it but they're not kidding anyone but themselves. If we cannot agree to go along peaceably together, let us pursue our separate courses and as Mayor Gibbons so eloquently puts it "do nothing to put obstacles in plans for educational growth of other municipalities."

Keep Down Crises

It is often easier to fight and die for your country than to work and live for it. In war man's spirit rises to meet obvious danger. But in peace danger hides beneath the surface. The spirit is not self-rousing. Unless, in fact, you happen to feel "victimized" your spirit does not rise in peace even during economic crisis.

Totalitarians, therefore, keep their home folk stirred to spirited pitch by constantly painting the danger of attack by "capitalist powers", while, to hasten the fall of capitalism in other countries, they feel safe in engineering a series of recurring crises in a constant "war of nerves."

There are economic crises, racial crises, strikes and labor conflict, civil war (as in Greece), food, fuel and housing shortages, obstructions to long term planning and investment and uncertainty about the future. Even when these crises are not deliberately engineered they play their part in ideological war.

We need to see the game of conquest that is going on, and to see that we can deal with it only as we rouse the human spirit to halt crises.

This can be done if we each begin to care so much for the other fellow—for employer or employees, for representatives in government, for our competitors, customers and families—that our relations with them cannot be strained or broken. In this way we can build a crisis-proof society. Secure from attack from within. Friendly, yet invulnerable, without.

Too Much Purchasing Power

"At the root of the whole trouble lies the huge surplus of purchasing power," says Sir Hubert Henderson, Professor of Political Economy, Oxford, in an article in the Sunday Times (London). That statement will come as a shock to those who have been clamoring for more and more purchasing power in the form of higher wages as the secret of full employment, greater production, a higher standard of living and social security. The very opposite has been the effect of high wages in Britain, where unemployment is growing, production is decreasing, the standard of living is at the lowest point ever, and the social security schemes are in danger of becoming bankrupt.

Even the Labor Government, the leaders of which were responsible for pushing up wage rates, now realize the fallacy of the purchasing power theory. They have discovered that the workers have too much money and too much social security, so that they have no need for full employment or thrift for the future. The labor leaders were also responsible for cutting down the hours of work and doubling the wage rates for overtime. Such restrictions and extra charges were, of course, directed against the hated capitalists, but they have now boomeranged against socialist planners who originated them. The tables are turned—and upset.

The cry used to be "soak the rich" but there are now very few rich to soak. The money has been more widely distributed and it has been rendered sterile in the process. The problem of the Government now is to get this surplus money back out of the pockets of the worker and put it and them to full-time work. This, of course, is being done surreptitiously, by "siphoning-off" the surpluses with indirect taxation. Meanwhile Sir Hubert Henderson says the excess of purchasing power is bringing about a condition of "creeping inflation."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sunday is Mother's Day—an opportunity to give her the honor she deserves.

Get out the unused clothing and have your donation ready to send aid to British Flood Relief. England certainly needs this help of clothing and food-stuffs now.

A 1939 house that required \$1,000 worth of lumber would show a lumber cost of \$2,828 at the present time, which gives the reason why the woodman is not sparing that tree these days, says the Chesley Enterprise.

We can't have both, says the Vancouver Province, about tax reductions and subsidies. "Taxpayers who have been simultaneously crying out against high taxation and in favor of continued government participation in the country's economic life by means of controls and subsidies, should focus their ideas into a logical pattern. Substantial tax reductions will be possible only when the government reduces its scope and the size of its gifts to the people. We can not have small taxes and bigger government. Growing government paternalism and lower taxation are incompatible."

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