

## The Arton Free Press

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G. ARLOF DILLS, Editor TELEPHONES-Editorial and Business Office



To tempt men to indulge themselves--that's a funny way to fight a war.

But those planning military war know that indulgences make men soft

And those fighting the "alass war" know they cannot win unless they can get men to hate each other. They know they cannot get men to live and hate each other unless they destroy all moral standards.

Be faithful to your wife? "That's old fashioned bunk," they say and urge you to indulge in the "new freedom." They know full well that if they can stir up a good stiff row at home, it is easier to get you good and sore at the boss. And they win one more battle in the "class war."

Take responsibility for producing more-for shipping more food or fuel abroad-or for meeting any other of your country's or the other country's needs? "Don't be a sucker," they say. "Demand your rights." They know full well that "class war" is a clash war and that selfish demands always clash.

. There are none so blind as those who will not see. And those who do not see what these demoralizing forces have in mind, cannot meet them.

Fight to keep our moral standards in the world if you want to keep democracy.

And remember that fighting for moral standards means LIVING BY THEM! \_\_

#### Simpler Income Tax Forms

A new simplified income tax form has now been designed with a view to simplifying tax returns and to relieve the great majority of those who pay income tax from year to year of a major annual headache.

This form is to apply to all those having incomes of less than \$3,000 a year-which means about 90 per cent, of the tax payers of the Dominion-and-it will not be much larger than a post card. That in itself is a valuable reform. Even more valuable is the fact that the computation of the tax, that which has brought the average tax payer the greatest amount of grief, is to be carried out by the income tax department rather than by the tax payer.

The employer also plays a part of the new program for it will be he who will fill the major details on the form. In view of the fact that many an employer has already come to the assistance of those who work for him when it is a matter of computing income tax and explaining the forms that accompany its payment, this ought not to prove a major burden.

#### Only One Cure for High Prices

"Screaming about high prices will not help us," states the Financial Post editorially, "Hard work and prayer are the only effective cures. The world is short of goods and harvests and until-that situation is corrected, general price levels cannot possibly recede.

"Canada and the United States could, if they desired, forget about the rest of the world. They could stop the flow of goods and food to Europe, sit back and revel in their own plenty. They alone of the nations of the world have the capacity and production to do this just now. But such a callous course would soon bring its own reward. There can be no permanent peace. properity and happiness for North America until Europe is rebuilt.

And Europe is very fur from being rebuilt to-day. That continent is short of food, machinery, coal, steel, houses, transport, fertilizer and of almost everything else except trouble. It's going to be a long, hard pull to put Europe on its feet and we might just as well face the fact that until that job is done we are going to be short of food and goods on this continent and prices are going to continue high.

"Our job in Canada and the United States is

good crops. With luck and hard work we can do much this year and next, without them the outlook is bleak."

#### Choosing A Yardstick

To decide whether conditions in a country at any time are satisfactory, it is not enough to say that they are good enough to please the people. Conditions should never be good enough to please everyone. Discontent with conditions as they are is always the true road to progress.

The only practical method of deciding whether conditions in any country are reasonably good at any time is to compare them with con-

ditions at some other period. At the present minute, it is quite common to hear it said that something has to be done, and something quite drastic, because price levels now are considerably higher than they were during the war and wages no higher than they then were or not enough higher to balance the said they didn't have any head letincrease in prices.

During the war, prices were fixed by the government, at the level which was prevailing in 1941. With a few adjustments, this level of, price was maintained until the end of the war, and indeed, until the government discovered that price control is impossible in a free country in time of peace. It might actually keep the public from getting the goods which they want to buy even if the public were willing to pay the price.

It is interesting to remember how the price level of 1941 was arrived at. It was, substantially, the price level of 1939 with a few increases. The price level of 1939 was that of a period during which there was a slow recovery from a great depression.

Now, it must be evident that there is -ao good hoping for the artificial, and subsidized price control of wartime. No one wants another war in order to get price control back. Thus, those who want lower prices now are simply arguing that, in the biggest boom in history, this country should have a price level such as it had during the great depression or, at best, during the recovery from that depression.

These are not good yardsticks to use. What this country needs is a price level which is in keeping with the greatest volume of employment and the best wages in history and this yardstick has to be sought farther back than

It is necessary to go back to 1929 to find the time when there was quite general employment in Canada and reasonable prosperity. At that time the volume of employment and wages were far below their present levels. The cost of living was perhaps 10 to 15 per cent. below its present point.

That is the yardstick. Using that, the picture gained is one of a great boom to-day with. the most general employment and the highest wages in history as a penalty for all of which the country has to pay 10 or 15 per cent. more for necessities than was the case 19 years ago.

Take a look at that picture and then decide hits us just as much as the people whether it would be a good thing for Canada to go back to the conditions of 1929, to pay the prices of that year and to re-establish the wages and the volume of employment which existed at that time.

A reasonable bet is that few Canadians, except those who live on fixed incomes, and are the real sufferers, would like to go back to the conditions of 1929:--

High wages, general employment and prosperity go with high prices. That is a simple

#### EDITORIAL NOTES

Crowds at the hockey games these nights indicate that this sport holds the main attraction for the winter season.

It is well to remember that worry is something like a rocking chair. It will give you something to do but it will not get you any-

This winter started off as if it would maintain a record for heavy snowfall. Banks along the roadways are pretty high now and Febtuary's winds are yet to come.

Always seems that the few weeks of every New Year are restful after the ending of the holiday season and the preparation period of fully a month previous to the festive season.

Jos. L. Rutledge, a well known Toronto writer, emphasizes the fact that every citizen of Canada has a very definite interest in our country's finances. He points out that the average of every man, woman and child in this Dominion is taxed as follows: "For goods that come through customs, \$9.50; for excise duties on your eigars, eigarettes, tobacco, etc., or what not, \$12.54. Your income tax will set you back \$80.68. Your share on profits will be \$28.16 and on sales \$17.28. Gasoline will cost you \$2.45. Succession duties \$4.42. Other to produce more industrial goods and pray for taxes \$17.66. "You can't escape," he declares.

### Chronicles of . . Ginger Farm

Written Specially for The Acton Free Press GWENDOLINE P. CLARKE

So, the Price War is really or and even Cabinet ministers 'are getting worried. This week-end is supposed to see a Buyer's Strike in action. That is good news: It enough women all over the country stay with it, the result may be startling. If they do it. But will they. The other day I was in a grocery store and a woman came In asking for lettuce. The clerk

tuce but there should be some leaf lettuce coming in, only it would be sixty cents a hunch! "Ach – no matter 🐪 . . . save me a bunch -- I don't care if it's a dollar!, replied the customer. The woman in question was the wife of a working man- but methinks he was a working man with a profitable sideline- and a sure-fire contribut

or towards inflation. Yes, the average housewife can do a lot towards bringing prices down but she can't do it all. There must be co-operation in the family too, especially with the non-essent-No wife and mother want to be accused of keeping a "mean" table so naturally she goes to a lot of extra trouble to continue providing nourishing meals at a minimum cost. But if there is no

co-operation-II, for instance, half a bottle of ketchup disappears at one sitting, she may be tempted to think-"Oh well, what's the use . . I can't do it all!"

Why is it, I wonder, that young folk are so partial to tomato ketchup? And what is it that the makers put in that we haven't got Could it be that fifty-seventh ingredient? I have followed so many recipes but my family still insists that what I make isn't as good as what we buy, and as I never use it myself I have to depend on what they tell me. So tomato ketchup is a problem with me all round, and with two hard working fellows in the house you can understand my interest in how long a bottle of ketchup lasts.

Another interesting development arising from the Price War is the possibility of an official inquiry regarding the high cost of living. But if the committee appointed takes as long over the job as the Royal Commission on milk we shall be using fresh vegetables from our gardens by the time the results are made known. However, let's hope they go to it anyway. No one will he better pleased than the farmer. and it may clear up a lot of misunderstanding. Even now the buying public is beginning to realise that farmers have not been profiteering. The high cost of living in town. True, we have our milk and eggs at cost-meat too, very often-but against that you have to remember that farmers, by the very nature of their occupation. are hearty eaters. They can't start the day with half a grapefruit, a piece of toast and a cup of coffee and stay at work. No, the farmer must keep the inner man well supplied so that the outer man is equal to the work required of him.

Well, as a change from food problems let me tell you of a visit to a hospital I made last Sunday, where, my sister is a patient, suffering from a heart condition which may keep her hospitalized for several weeks. I was worrying about so many things until I saw her how she would ever pay the bill; whether she would be comfort. able and if she would get enough of the sort of food she could eat. Now, except for the heart condition itself. I am not worrying at ali-She is in the hospital under a hospitalization insurance plan; she has her own doctor, her accommodation leaves absolutely nothing to be desired, the meals are satisfying. and, what is more important to a sick person, they are appetising, and she is getting all the rest she needs without any financial worry at all. And to think all that is available for a small sick benefit. susurance premium each year. Yes I think of it, and remember that in '34 I was in hospital for three weeks and it set us back at least \$1000. This type of insurance was not available at that time or if it was, we hadn't heard of it. Now, of course, both Partner and I carry sick benefit insurance—and could there be a wiser investment?

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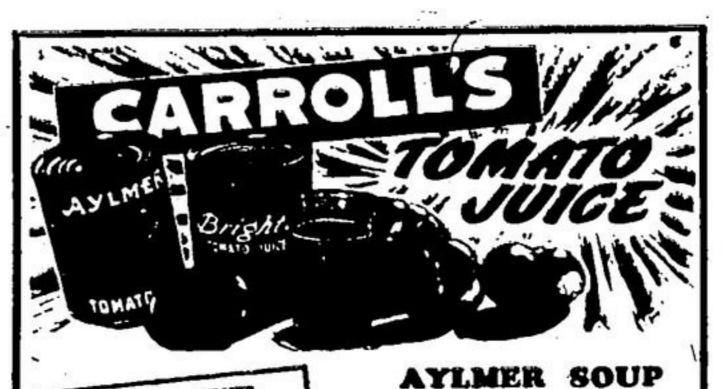
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