

# OTTAWA

WEEK BY WEEK



### LIVING COSTS UP

During the past few days certain exaggerated claims have been made about the rise of living costs in Canada since the start of the war, including the charge before the Nova Scotia commission board that it has risen as high as thirty per cent, but these claims are contrary to the facts. It is stated on Parliament Hill that the rise is about 4 per cent. The index figure of living costs just before the start of the war in September was 130, and at the beginning of this year it reached the figure of 135, with reliable information disclosing that it has been relatively steady in January and February, though the actual figures will not be made official for a few weeks. This estimate is based on statistics gathered in 69 cities all over the country and it relates mainly to the cost of food, clothing, fuel, rent and other miscellaneous items most of which are under the supervision of the War Prices Board.

### ELECTIONS AND UNITY

While political disputes are producing great excitement and interest in all parts of Canada as a prelude to the day when the people of this nation will go to the polls to exercise their most vital, and what ought to be their most valued, of all privileges which are so menaced in democracies today, namely, the right of the people to express a deciding voice in the government of the land, yet an experienced observer who is absolutely and entirely free from any partiality, prejudice or bias can discover an extremely interesting and momentous development on Parliament Hill as a direct result of the heated political debates in this wartime electoral campaign. It is a latent desire by the great masses of all the nine provinces to formulate a plan whereby all the people of Canada, regardless of their race, creed or origin, or their political faiths in normal times, may be enabled by such a scheme to remove all obscure, hidden, or unseen influences and tendencies

of a kind which prevent a union of national forces in the effective prosecution of the war. In other words though they may be hesitant to admit it and it must be uncovered by diplomatic penetration into political corridors, yet to the followers of all parties, Liberals, Conservatives, C.C.F., Social Credit etc., would like to act together in this war effort in the same spirits which compelled the Fathers of Confederation to create this nation. What very grave revision is urgently needed to bring about a strong central government in this country so that Canada may be able to meet this war crisis? In order to answer this serious question, which is the basic issue in the minds of all Canadians, it must be reported in this column that a drastic revision of the British North America Act, Canada's Constitution, is essential, with a remark that a definite trend in this direction was developed on Parliament Hill just before the outbreak of the war in September of 1939. It means that Canada is suffering, basically and principally, from the growing pains of nationhood and the constitutional suit which was made in 1867 according to size, age and conditions of this country at that time does not fit properly today both in peace and in war.

When the Quebec Conference was held in 1864, the Fathers of Confederation drafted their original resolution upon which the British North America Act was based, with three main objects unanimously agreed upon by all present. In the first place, Canada was to be a federal union and not a loose legislative union. In the second place, the central government of Canada was to be charged with matters of common interest for the whole country, and the various local or provincial governments were to be concerned only with local affairs. In the third place, while the Constitution of Canada was to follow the model of the British form of government, yet the United States system or principal was to be the guide. This means that the Fathers of Confederation deliberately and intentionally wanted to strengthen

the central government by following the United States Federal Constitution under which the residue of power was vested in the individual states, it being provided that "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved by it to the States respectively, or to the people." They knew that the Civil War grew out of the exercise of the State right in the matter of slaves, and they sought to avoid such a situation in this nation, providing that "it shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Commons, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Canada in relation to all matters not coming within the classes of subjects assigned exclusively to the Legislature of the Provinces." Thus, the residue of power was vested in the Federal Government by the Fathers of Confederation. However, in practice, the Dominion Government has been encroached steadily since Confederation came into effect in 1867, with provincial governments being unable to finance expensive legislation now regarded as "necessary," causing the Dominion Government to become more and more a tax gathering agency for the nine provincial governments which is had in principle since one collects and the other spends. The Constitution has been modified greatly by at least 140 judgments of the Privy Council, granting the Dominion Government legislation over intra-provincial marketing, trade, production, of commodities, prices houses and wages of labor, the weekly day of rest, security sales, unemployment insurance, workmen's compensation, taxes on sales and consumption, industrial disputes, the right to create companies doing business outside of the provincial boundaries, and others. Furthermore, the exercise of unlimited powers through orders-in-council by politicians of all parties, which ministerial discretion has often ignored the principles of democracy, has contributed to a decentralization of the government.

If the spirits of the Fathers of Confederation are to mark the efforts of united action in peace or war by the leaders of the people of Canada, the Constitution must be changed in order to remove the sections, grievances and jealousies since they originate historically from outmoded laws. There is no lack of a national sentiment, indeed, Canadian patriotism, but at best it is a plant of slow growth in a young country, particularly in times of very poor economic conditions when debt is piled upon debt and taxation upon taxation. All of which impedes the natural growth or progress of this nation. More and more the feeling is growing on Parliament Hill that this is the answer to the most important question facing the people of Canada today, without delay and without any plan of the people of Canada is without any plan and without any control. (Reproduction Prohibited, 1940, Educational Features Syndicate.)

### BARLEY AND BACON IN THE WAR CHEST

Speed the plough! urged the British Minister of Agriculture long ago as last May, announcing a new policy which would give the farmer a bonus of nearly \$10.00 an acre for breaking up old grassland, the purpose being to bring the land into a state of greater fertility, which would enable it to respond more fully to the increased demands which would be made on it in the event of the outbreak of war.

When war actually came, four months later, the government called upon farmers to plough up 1 1/2 million acres more. The response to the appeal — and the bonus — seems to ensure that the two million acres of British farm land, which went to grass during the depression, will be fully reclaimed for cultivated crops. During ten years of distress Scottish farmers continued to grow oats at a loss but are now reaping the reward, says B. Leslie Emslie, chemist-agronomist, for oats are now worth three times as much as they were in October. The maximum price of home-grown products is controlled and set from month to month by the British Ministry of Food, the only complaint of the farmer being that he is not directly represented on the board and would like to see minimum prices set also.

Without benefit of bonus but in anticipation of better prices, the Canadian farmer has brought many more acres under the plough, a typical example being in Nova Scotia where Dr. W. S. Blair, secretary of the N.S. Farmers' Association, Prof. K. Cox, Agricultural College, Truro, and others conducted an aggressive campaign for 50% more land in grain. At the annual convention of the N. S. Farmer's Association held in Truro, the other week, Prof. Cox gave a very instructive talk on "Grain Production on Old Grass and Pasture Lands Depleted in Fertility," emphasizing the need for liberal applications of the proper fertilizer.

Barley will be grown more extensively this year, because of the prominent place accorded it in the feed ration for bacon hogs, and barley with its shallow root system requires a fertile top soil. Unlike matting barley, feed barley is not fastidious, demanding only the liberal feeding which promotes vigorous, healthy growth and fills the kernels. Speaking of kernels: in order that these be not full of smut, a disease that takes a heavy annual toll of our grain, the seed barley should be treated with ethyl mercury phosphate, the dust fungicide for cereals, at the rate of one-half ounce per bushel.

Barley is an ideal nurse crop and may sometimes be sown with grasses and clover. When these are seeded down the fertilizing should be more apt to ensure success of the following hay crop. Numerous tests have proved that far better results are obtained when the fertilizer is drilled in than when it is broadcast on the surface. Further the deeper placement of the fertilizer encourages the downward extension of the barley roots which then have a greater feeding area and readier access to moisture in a dry season.

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### APPLE JUICE, THE CANADIAN BEVERAGE

Many authorities have called attention in the Press to the valuable qualities of Canadian apple juice, saying that it is rich in vitamins and health giving but none, one thinks, has told of its most important function, namely its capacity for supplying the potassium lost by the muscles, after fatiguing and unusual exercise.

Everyone has probably had the experience of soreness and aching of the muscles after the first day's horseback riding, the early game of golf or the felling of trees in the forest. This

soreness is due to loss of potassium sustained by the soft muscles. The only effective remedy is a supply of potassium to fill the gap.

Each pint of apple juice contains nine grains of potassium, an amount greater than that lost in the unusual exercise. The dealers in apple juice should print this information on the containers of this tasty and most valuable beverage and thus increase the market for a valuable home product.

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Makiny a halo round her snow-white hair;  
And when she smiles with gentleness and grace,  
Expectancy is mirrored in her face—  
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While peacefully she sits with folded hands

—Willis Hoey

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