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OTTAWA LETTER

by

"Jack" Smith, M.P.
North York

The work of parliament is progressing well these days and present indications are that the session will end about August 24th. The hot weather is tending to speed up business and members are unanimous that sessions should commence earlier in the year and not drag on during the heat of July and August.

Another increase was recorded in the dominion bureau of statistics cost-of-living index at July 2 when it was computed at 125.1 as compared with 123.6 at June 2, an advance of 1.5 points, according to figures released this week. From August 1, 1939, when the index stood at 100.8, to July 2 this year, there has been an increase of 24.1 percent.

The rise of July 2 reflected widely distributed price increases, affecting four of the six budget groups. The foods index advanced from 127.1 at June 1 to 144.2, prices increasing for eggs, beef, lamb, potatoes and carrots. Clothing moved up from 124.3 to 126.4, due mainly to advances in men's wear and footwear. Home furnishings and services showed a substantial gain from 122.4 to 125.1 as the result of increases in furniture, textile furnishings and chinaware. Due to advances in health maintenance and recreation sections, the miscellaneous items index rose from 112.1 to 113.7. Unchanged were the indexes for fuel and light at 107.2 and for rentals at 112.6.

The increase of 1.5 points in the cost-of-living index between June 1 and July 1, while not expected, places the issue squarely before us, Donald Gordon, prices board chairman, said. It shows us that our choice lies between a moderate and carefully controlled readjustment on the one hand and a sharp and accumulating inflation on the other, he declared. While this increase, he continued, was in large part expected and unavoidable, it is nevertheless a matter for most serious concern. It is the clearest sort of evidence that the job of keeping prices in hand during the aftermath of the war is becoming extremely difficult. "It provides a mild foretaste of the sort of conditions for which we are headed, unless all groups in the community make a serious effort to hold the line," he added.

About one-third of this latest increase, which brought the index from 123.6 to 125.1 points, represents the seasonal advance in vegetable prices which almost invariably reach their yearly high point in the early summer, before the new crops are coming to market in volume, he declared. While to this extent, the rise in the index need not cause concern, the larger part of this month's increase represents changes of a more lasting character and, like the increases in the index during the two preceding months, the bulk of increase reflects price adjustments which had to be authorized this year in the face of seriously higher costs, he continued.

Since the end of the war, Mr. Gordon said, the cost of living index has risen by approximately five points and practically all of the advance has occurred since early in the present year. "In the best of circumstances, there will be some further moderate increases in living costs, but not all of the price adjustments already authorized have been entirely reflected in retail prices. Higher costs abroad will also have some further impact on our living costs in Canada. . . . If particular groups exploit their bargaining power to the full in the present condition of shortage to obtain higher wages and higher returns, then we shall inevitably commence a new and severe cycle of price increases." This, in turn, will generate further wage demands and widening industrial disputes and will restrict and postpone that large expansion in production upon which we are relying to overcome shortages and to provide the basis for high peacetime employment, he emphasized.

Due to several large and prolonged work stoppages arising out of industrial disputes, the time lost due to strikes and lock-outs in Canada during June rose to 935,188 man-working days, bringing the total time loss for the first six months of 1946 to 1,626,296 days, it was announced by Labor Minister Humphrey Mitchell.

The number of strikes and lock-outs at one time or another during June totaled 35, one more than in May. A total of 70,688 workers were involved in the June strikes as compared with 47,730 workers in the previous month. Of the 36 strikes in effect during June, 11 of them were strikes which carried over at the end of May. At the end of June, five of the 11 strikes originating in May had been terminated and 17 of the strikes begun in June had been ended either by settlement or by the workers returning to their jobs pending settlement, leaving 14 strikes still in effect at the beginning of July. Preliminary figures for the first six months of 1946 show 117 strikes, involving 92,220 workers. For the same period last year, there were 95 strikes with 25,871 workers involved and a reported loss of 564,925 working days.

Approval was given in the commons this week to the constitutions of two United Nations agencies. These were the world health organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

In summarizing the steps which led up to the formation of the world health organization, the minister of justice, Hon. Louis St. Laurent, said: "The steps leading up to the signature of the constitution of the world health organization in New York on July 22 were initiated at the United Nations conference at San Francisco when the word 'health' was inserted in the charter upon the proposal

of the delegation from Brazil. Following this action the states represented on the appropriate committee unanimously approved the declaration of Brazil and China, on the calling of an international conference for the purpose of establishing an international health organization."

In introducing the UNESCO constitution, Mr. St. Laurent said in part: "Here in Canada we have not yet determined what form of action we will take to bring the bodies interested in educational, scientific and cultural advancement into relationship with this international organization. . . . It is desired to have some Canadian body that will be widely representative of the Canadiana public and that will be entirely divorced from any partisan political influence, to make this a matter in which all those in Canada interested in educational, scientific and cultural development will feel that they have a part."

"The precise financial relationship between the budget of UNESCO and the budget of the United Nations has yet to be defined. A supplementary agreement is to be negotiated for that purpose between the two organizations. The view of the Canadian government is that the United Nations should exercise a general supervision over UNESCO budgetary arrangements. It is also its view that caution should be taken in outlining financial commitments until UNESCO has had some experience in securing the co-operation of existing international organizations and societies in the educational, scientific and cultural fields. UNESCO is authorized with the approval of the executive board to receive gifts, bequests and subventions directly from governments, public and private institutions, associations and private persons."

In the House of Commons this week Labor Minister Mitchell announced that 1,377 voluntary repatriates to Japan left Vancouver on August 2 en route to Japan. This is the third sailing of voluntary repatriate groups, the earlier sailings having taken place at the end of May. The number repatriated to date totals 3,151.

A three-pound increase in the sugar ration for domestic consumers over the balance of the calendar year, with comparable increases for industrial and quota users, was announced in parliament by Acting Finance Minister Douglas Abbott. Mr. Abbott said improved stocks made the increase possible, although world sugar supplies are still not sufficient to meet the demand.

The increase to the householder will be made by declaring valid three additional ration coupons, each good for the purchase of one pound of sugar. Two coupons will be declared valid in September and the third on or about December 6.

Prices board officials said the announcement was made well in advance in the hope that housewives would devote more of the sugar supplies to canning, although no increase is being made in the canning sugar allotment of ten pounds per person. Five sugar coupons will be declared valid on September 19, two in October, three in November and three in December.

BE STILL

Be still! You shall not suffer ill,
Cry not against the pain or loss—
Your Lord and Master bore a cross,
And yet His path of thorns and signs
Led to a throne beyond the skies:
It was His Father's will.

Grieve not; you are of grace begot,
In this assurance sweetly rest;
Your Father well knows what is best.
These things are blessings from above,
And each is measured by His love;
Then glory in your lot.

His own are never left alone
To bear the thorn which must abide;
He lingers ever near your side,
Unseen, perhaps, but always near,
To heal the hurt and dry the tear—
He never leaves His own.
W. C. Martin

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Sutton Horse Show; Fair Fri., Sat'y, Aug. 30 & 31

Friday and Saturday, Aug. 30 and 31 may be just another weekend for many people, but for all the fall fair exhibitors of York and Ontario Counties it is show days for the revived Sutton Horse Show and Fair.

Shut down after the show of August, 1939, when all the owners of horses went into the services, the big annual event for the top of York comes back this year with a prize list and schedule of events that is bigger than ever.

From 1 o'clock Friday the 30th to evening of Saturday the 31st, there is a full program on tap. Friday has parts of Sutton Fair going in four different spots on the grounds: at the horse jumps where saddle horses go in singles, tandems and unicorns; at softball diamonds where 8 Junior Farmer clubs of York and Ontario play; at the Arena, filled with tables of ladies' work, children's work, root and vegetable display, flowers and baking; in front of grandstand, where children's races, open to all climax in relay 440 yd. races.

Friday night sees Street Dance and games in downtown Sutton till the wee hours.

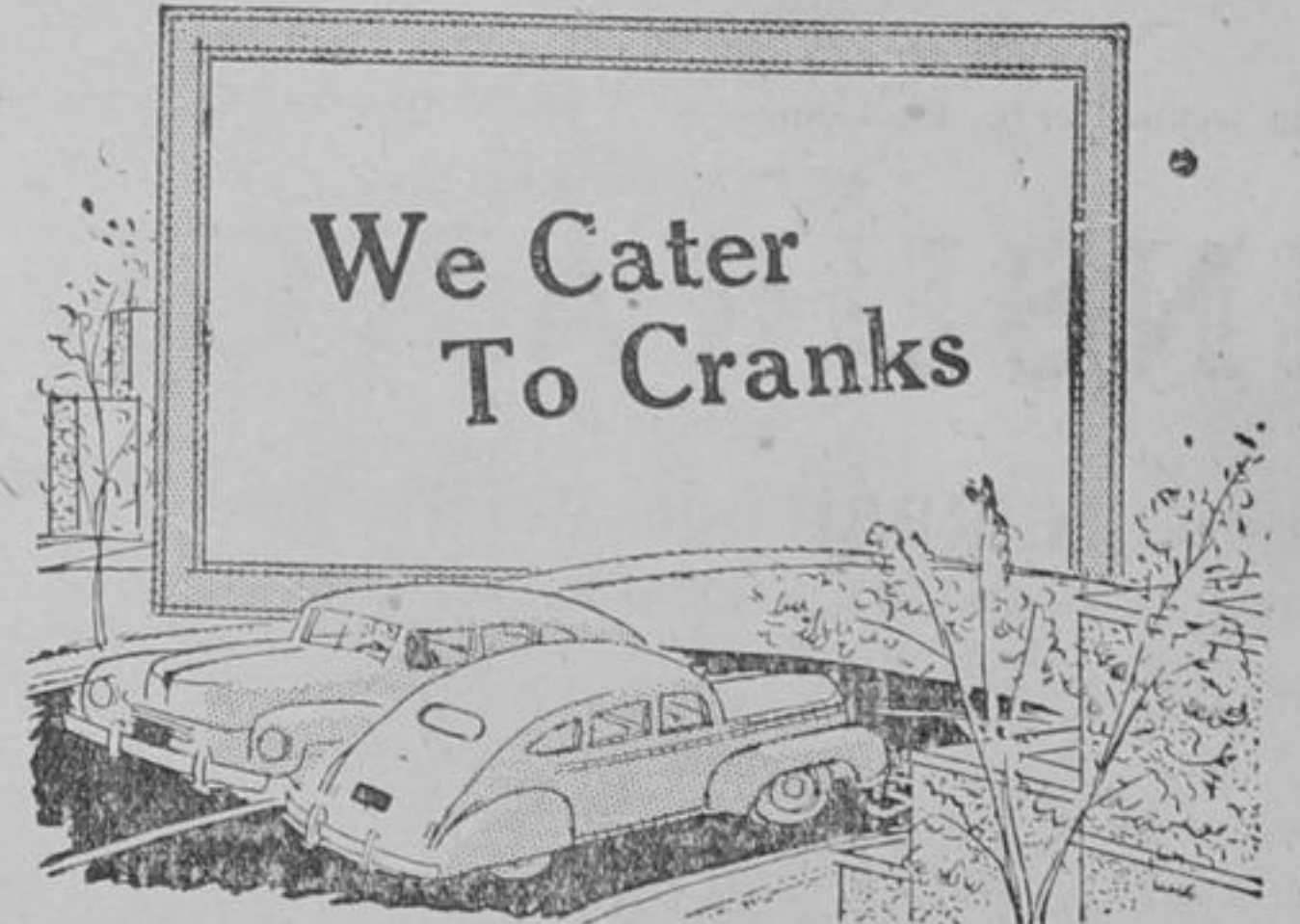
Saturday the 31st features two pacing race events, 2:18 and 2:27; pony races in two classes; judging of beef and dairy cattle, the draft and light horse classes, with specials for 4-horse and 6-horse hitch; judging sheep swine and poultry; in the saddle horse ring heavy hunters get their paces. See all the neighbors at Sutton Friday and Saturday, Aug. 30, 31.

LATE MRS. E. PUTERBAUGH

The death of Mrs. Edgar Puterbaugh Tuesday, August 6th, 1946, saddened the hearts of many. Mrs. Puterbaugh was in her 74th year and had been ailing for some time prior to her death. She was the former Annie Louise Cooper, daughter of the late George and Ann Cooper of Teston. She was a member of Maple United Church.

The funeral service took place at her late residence, lot 13, concession 5, Vaughan Township on Thursday, August 8th with Rev. C. E. Fockler conducting the service. Interment took place in Maple cemetery.

The acting pallbearers were John Kyle, Charlie Kyle, Ed. Kyle, Wesley Stong, Clarence Stong, Arthur Stong. Surviving, besides her husband, are three children, Percy, Flossie and Gertie (Mrs. Morley Kinnee) Maple, two sisters and five brothers, Mrs. J. Manning, Maple; Mrs. Wm. Scrivener, Richmond Hill; William, George, Edward and Chas. Cooper, Maple; Percy Cooper of Unionville.



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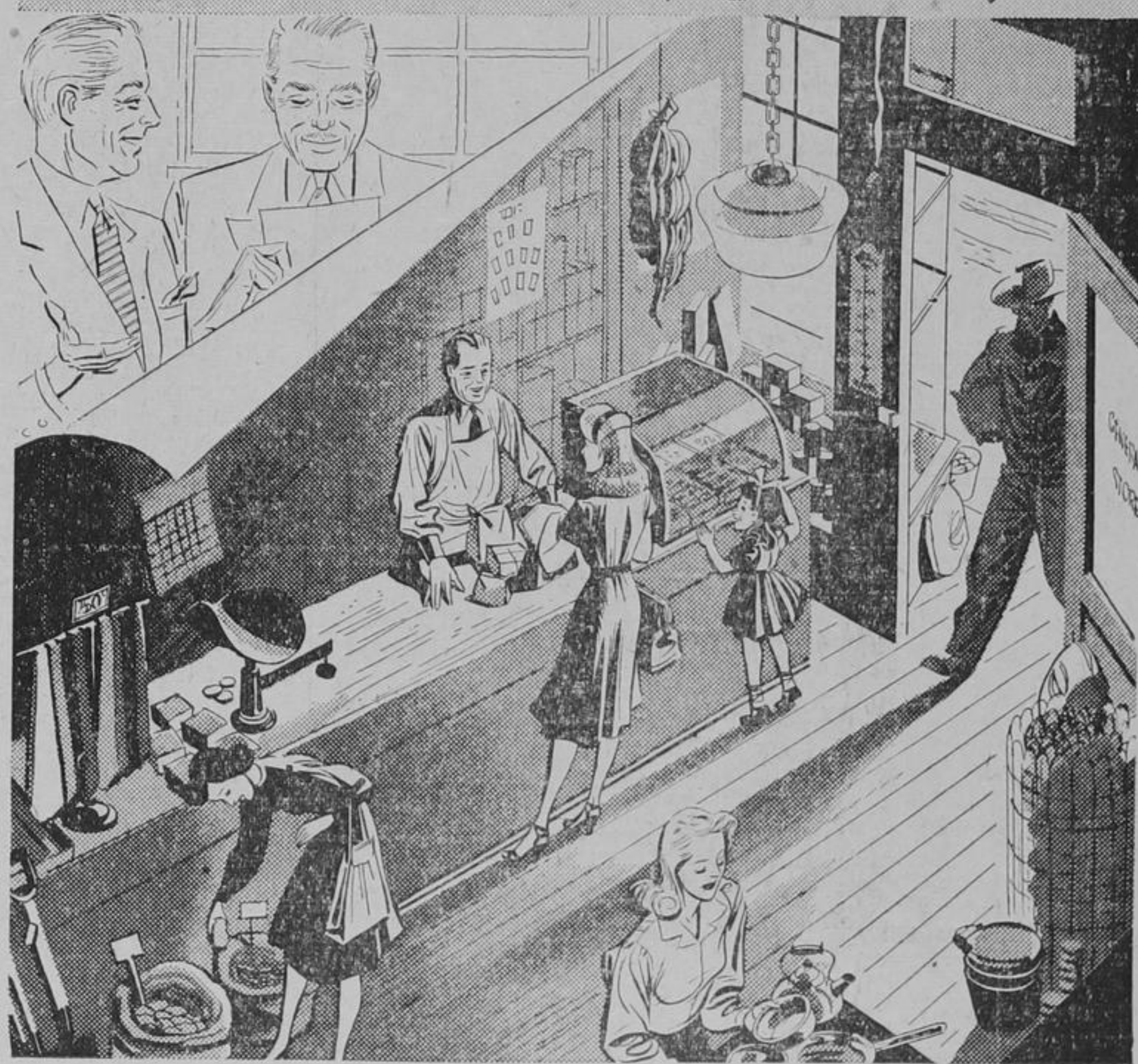
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