

# The Liberal

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 J. E. SMITH, M.P., Publisher  
 Telephone, Richmond Hill 9

## Cost Of Living Index

An announcement appears in the press that the cost of living index has gone up, everyone groans and shouts for the government to do something about it. This cost of living index is one of our modern inventions which has sprung into prominence in the last few years and sometimes we think we would be better off and happier if we had never heard of it.

The index announced monthly has become an important factor in discussions on inflation and increased costs of production, but it is just possible that we pay altogether too much attention to this monthly announcement.

Actually, the index shows changes in retail prices. This is stated definitely by the Canada Year Book. In its latest edition, the Year Book says: "It should be clearly understood that the index is a measurement of price change." In further explanation, the Year Book says: "The index measures the influence of changes in retail prices of goods and services upon the cost of a representative urban wage-earner family budget."

Now, the cost of living index will tell you the change in your own family's costs, from month to month, providing your family fits into the pattern set up to establish the index. For instance, does your family represent the average of all the wage-earner families in Canadian cities and towns? If your family is exactly the average size, with exactly average spend-

ing habits, then the index would fit. But if it is larger, or smaller than average; if it uses more, or less, expensive foods; or lives in a finer, or a poorer, house, changes in the index would not show exactly how your family's expenses will alter.

In order to establish the index, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics had to develop a pattern. In the language of accountants, the index is "weighted" according to this picture. For instance, cost of food for an average family is given a "weight" of 31 percent of the total budget. Changes in food prices, therefore, have the effect of moving the cost of living index up or down to an extent of about one-third of the actual changes in food costs. Rentals are given a weight of 19 percent. Clothing is "weighted" at 12 percent of the total; home furnishings and services 9 percent; fuel and light 6 percent; miscellaneous expenses 23 percent.

But for many people today, rental may take more, or considerably less, than one-fifth of their income. Or they may not choose to spend nearly one-tenth of their annual income each year for home furnishings and services.

The cost of living index is a valuable record of changes in retail prices — but it is only that. In other words, the index may not show, very accurately, what is happening to the costs of your particular family. Those costs depend on the habits and desires of the people in that family — and such habits and desires may change often.

## What Causes Forest Fires

Two-thirds of the responsibility for forest fires is placed on settlers, fishermen, road travellers and berry pickers, in that order. This estimate is the result of the first Canada-wide survey of forest fire causes and cures made by the Forestry Branch of the Department of Resources and Development at Ottawa.

The survey established that in the eastern provinces sport fishermen constitute the greatest problem to forest protective agencies, whereas in western Can-

ada settlers are held responsible for the largest number of fires. Settlers' fires or ignite principally from clearing new land and burning hay meadows.

This is the season when tragic and costly forest fires again "make news." Constant vigil and care in all our outdoor activities, be it on the highway or in the woods or in a stream, is the small price required to keep fires from making news. The ounce of prevention can be applied so easily. Let's do it ourselves and encourage others to do the same.

## Double Duty

The long-sought answer to the question "Are Wives Necessary?" can be given reassuringly by the business men of Richmond Hill. Ask any one of them from Yonge Street north to Yonge Street south, on the east side and on the west side, and we are sure that the majority will answer without hesitation in the affirmative.

A quick mental glance at the business section will show the picture which prevails. To name them all would take too much space, but practically every store bordering Yonge Street has the help of the "home executive," something that is not common to many communities. This husband-and-wife team emphasises the co-op-

erative spirit so prevalent in the village today, and these women are to be commended for their efforts and enthusiasm to make the district a better place in which to shop. They are not only contributing to community life but are helping to make the business section a drawing card for customers by their business finesse, not to mention their feminine charms.

It is generally conceded that there is a good wife behind every successful business man, so the wife who can do "double duty" proves that a woman's place is not always in the home. The saying might well read "a woman's place is wherever she is needed."

## People Are Not Jackrabbits

In a civil suit at London a plaintiff was awarded something over \$4,000, for injuries he sustained when struck by a motor car as he tried to cross the street. As a pedestrian he started to cross with the green light in his favor, then the red light came on and the motorist struck him.

Mr. Justice LaBel the presiding judge made comments which were probably based on good law and good common sense. He declared that it was the responsibility, traffic lights notwithstanding, of the motorist to avoid injuring a pedestrian and that the light in the motorist's favor did

not give him the right to hit the plaintiff. Those who have tried to cross Yonge St. on a busy day will applaud the learned Judge's observation that pedestrians do not have to be jackrabbits.

There will be many people who have been honked at and scared stiff by ill-mannered men and women at the wheel who will heartily agree with this judgment of Mr. LaBel. The preservation of the lives of our people is much more important than a few minutes saved by an impatient motorist, who in a great many cases is in a great hurry to get somewhere but doesn't know what he is going to do when he gets there.

Tomorrow's world isn't going to be what we want it to be. It's going to be what we are.

Character may be manifested in the great moments, but it is made in the small ones. — Phillips Brooks.

Those who expect to reap the blessings of democracy must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it.

"I'm going to Hell and I'd like you to arrange my booking," Oscar Johnson of Vancouver, told the Canadian National Railways' ticket agent there recently. Although amused, the agent wasn't surprised as he was fully aware there is a Hell on earth—in Norway. Mr. Johnson, born in Hell, is making his first trip home in many years.

"Failure to provide proper parking facilities in planning the growth of a municipality is one of the commonest errors made in town planning," said an expert in the field of municipal affairs recently.

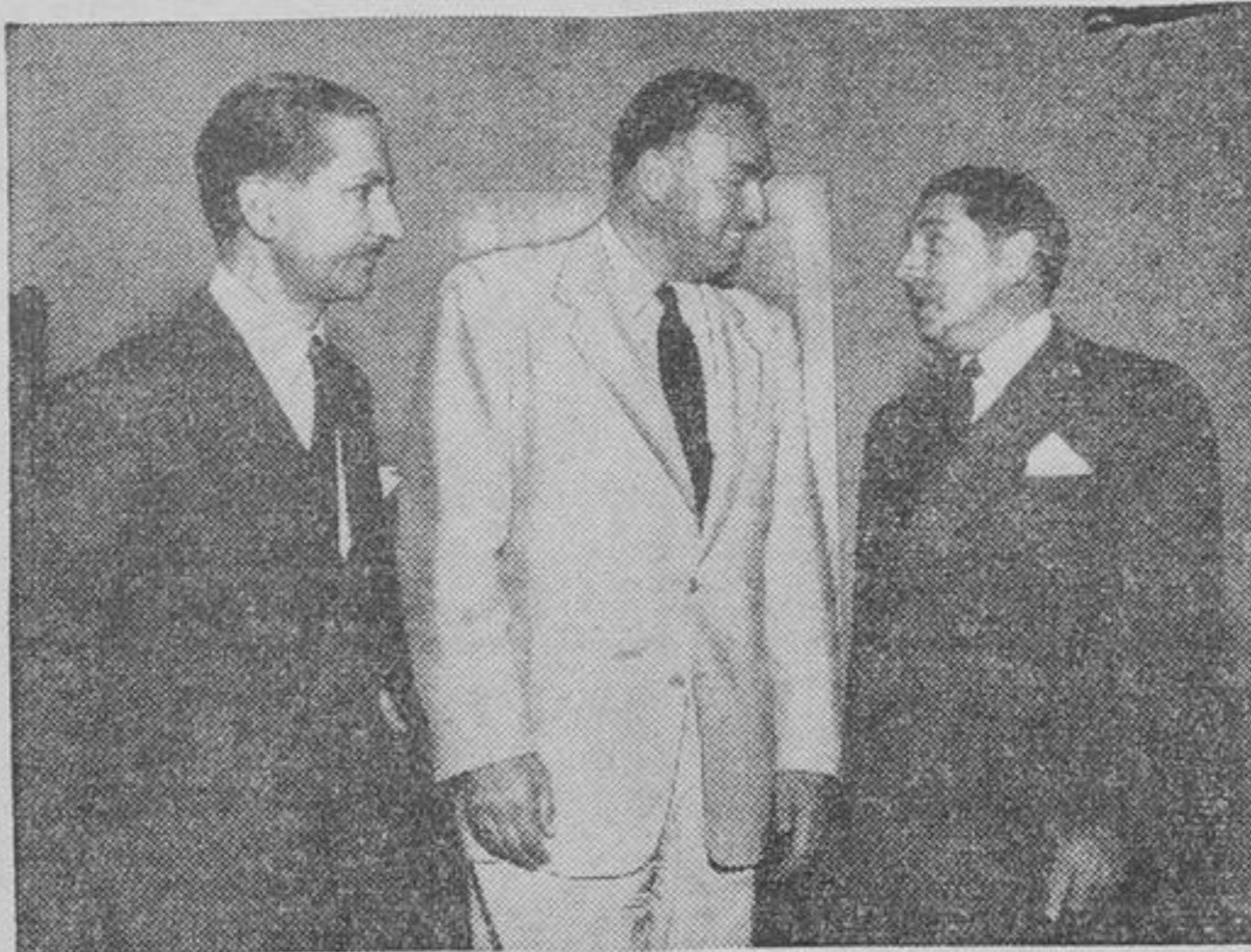
He went on to point out that the provision of adequate parking places was just as necessary to a town as good roads to bring people to it, and said that eventual business stagnation faced many municipalities which failed to perceive this fact.

Canada's largest summer camp for women and children is operating for the 28th season. The camp located on 335 acres of rolling wooded country is at Bolton, and more than 3200 women and children will holiday at the camp this year. It is operated by the Neighbourhood Workers Association of Toronto.

Everything for which democracy stands is based on religious faith. Neither enlightened self-interest nor practical ethics can make an effective substitute. — Elbert D. Thomas.

If we are to accept the word of one of the world's great geographers, Professor Ellsworth Huntington of Yale University, Canada faces a rather promising future. We deduce this from one of Professor Huntington's best sustained theories, that as civilization develops it moves towards colder regions. Early civilization in Egypt and Mesopotamia didn't know how to cope with winter. Greece and Rome, being farther north, were soon reaching out for new conquests. Then man discovered the principle of the chimney and some of his troubles were over. He could move from the temperate zone to the northern and still survive. Anyway that's the theory, the intellect grows as progress moves northward. Rather heartening words, we fancy for North Battleford or Whitehorse.

## Ecuadorian President Visits U.N.



During his visit to the United States, Ecuador's President Galo Plaza Lasso was welcomed at the United Nations where he addressed a special meeting of the U.N. General Assembly called in his honor. Chatting with Sr. Plaza after the Assembly's meeting are Assembly President Nasrollah Entezam (left) of Iran, and Dr. Luis Padilla Nervo, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the U.N.



### GOOD NEIGHBOUR POLICY

We hear a lot about the good neighbour policy on an international scale; it's a grand idea if we can ever get it working. There is enough goodwill and decency in the world to outlaw war, and we must not give up trying.

I thought of this when reading Ernie Pyle's tribute to the country folk around Dana, Indiana, where he was born and brought up. They were real, honest-to-goodness people, friendly, sociable and neighbourly. In "Home Country", Ernie told of the time his mother had a stroke and for a while was paralysed. The news travelled fast, and all the neighbours wanted to help. Strong men came and lifted her into bed and made her comfortable. The women came to help with the washing and the housework. One lady baked some pies, others came with angel cakes and cookies. A roast was sent with all the "fixings" and one relative, over eighty years of age, drove through a sleet storm to see how he could help.

Ernie, who was a shrewd observer of people couldn't get over it. So much food and flowers came that it was hard finding a place for everything; even families that were poor insisted on contributing something, and they did it not only from a sense of duty but they were soon touched by a neighbour's misfortune. Ernie wrote an article about it, and this is part of what he said:

"My Uncle Oat Saxton brought over a freshly butchered side of a hog. Uncle Oat kept batch and he was the laughingest man in Vermillion County. He laughed at everything, and especially himself, and when he laughed it was like the melodious peal of a cathedral bell. It helped ease the strain to have him come and sit in our kitchen, and take off the lid and spit into the stove, and tell stories and laugh at them.

On Sunday there were thirty-eight people at our house. We couldn't get them all in the front room, and at one time the kitchen and dining room were so full that half of them had to stand up. Anna Kerns was one of the thirty-eight,

and when she left she didn't say, "Now, if there's anything at all I can do . . ." She said, "Mary, I'll be here at seven-thirty in the morning to do the washing for you." And she was too, and stayed all day, and got down on her knees and oiled the linoleum, and then sat all afternoon with Mother while we rested.

Bertha and Iva Jordan came twice for half a day each. They brought two pies the first time and a cake the second time, and they did the washing and ironing. Iva Jordan was my first school-teacher. We talked about my first year in school, and we both hated to realize it was more than thirty years ago. She was gray-haired now, but she was still pleasant and soft-spoken."

All this makes good reading because we know it is nothing unusual. In every country district in this vast land there are people like that; kind, wholesome and friendly. They have their little differences, for all they can't see but down in their hearts they are good-natured and kind.

When we talk of good neighbours we have to take in more barriers of prejudice about race, religion, and politics. The things which divide people are generally surface differences as someone has said: "There are too many people who mistake their prejudices for convictions."

Once when crossing the Atlantic, I shared the cabin with a very religious man. When Sunday morning came a service was announced, but this man refused to go because the preacher didn't belong to his church. I didn't think even much of that. The speaker didn't belong to my church either, but I enjoyed the service even though I was "kind of seasick" and had quite a job to hold everything. I've never believed that any one church had a monopoly on truth; that is good everywhere.

Our quotation today is by Henry Ward Beaton: "Joy is more divine than sorrow for joy is bread and sorrow is medicine."

## AUSTIN SALES & SERVICE

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## York Open For Deer Hunting

On December 3, 4 and 5 there will be open deer hunting in the Counties of Brant, Elgin, Essex, Haldimand, Halton, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Lincoln, Middlesex, Norfolk, Oxford, Peel, Perth, Waterloo, Welland, Wellington, Wentworth and York; and Ontario except the Townships of Mara, Rama and Thorah. (Shotguns only permitted in these areas).

## Firemen Answer Three Alarms

Richmond Hill Fire Brigade answered three calls last Wednesday which resulted in false alarms, with no fire resulting in each case.

Neilsen's Woodworking at 10A Yonge Street, Richmond Hill was the first call. Seeing smoke from the building neighbours called the firemen who found the cause to be burning shavings which were being disposed of by the proprietor.

The second call was to the home of F. Rance, Ruggles Avenue, Richmond Hill, Mrs. Rance reporting the chimney of her home to be struck by lightning. The chimney was blown off the roof with no other damage caused.

The last call was to 116 Garden Avenue, Langstaff, the home of Mrs. Ethel Hall. The electric wires near her home had been struck by lightning, blowing out the fuses and causing shorts.

The only mishap resulting from the three calls was the accident of fireman Jas. Grainger, who injured his knee when he slipped off the back of the moving fire truck, slippery due to the rain. He was putting on his rubber boots when he saw the truck start to move, jumped for the back, was unable to keep his grip, and landed on his knees.

## Esso Station Prize Winners

The official opening of Dave Robertson's Esso Service Station in Thornhill took place Friday and Saturday of last week. Numerous souvenirs were handed out and the winners of the free lucky draw are as follows:

- 1. Table radio and clock combination: Mr. H. Spafford, Arnold Ave., Thornhill; car cushion rug: Miss Hazell Riddell, Yonge St., Thornhill; chrome back-up light: Mr. P. H. Willcocks, Arnold Ave., Thornhill; rear vision mirror: Mr. Vic Phinmore, Elgin St., Thornhill; pair of car floor mats: Mr. Russ Warnica, 63 Centre St. E., Richmond Hill; oil change with Marvelube, Mr. E. Miller, 23 Elmbank Road, Thornhill; oil change with Marvelube, Mr. Ken Stephenson, 62 Highland Park Blvd., R. R. No. 1 York Mills; oil change with Marvelube, Mr. Arthur Jones, 43 Boyle Dr., Langstaff; oil change with Marvelube, Mr. Matt Brown, Pro., Thornhill Ladies Golf Club; complete chassis lubrication, Mrs. I. P. Howell, Arnold Ave., Thornhill; complete chassis lubrication, Mr. J. A. Goodchild, John St., Thornhill; complete chassis lubrication, Mr. Frank Offen, 112 Garden Ave., Langstaff; complete chassis lubrication, Rev. F. S. Cirivello, St. Luke's Church, Thornhill; complete chassis lubrication, Mrs. F. Shuttleworth, 14 Johnson Ave., Thornhill.

### JET AIRLINER FLEET TO FLY THIS YEAR

The world's first fleet of jet airliners is scheduled to go into regular service on the London-Rome-Cairo route this coming winter. B. O.A.C. plans to switch from orthodox piston-engined types to 500 m.p.h. De Havilland Comet Jets, of which 14 have already been ordered.

### U.K. ARTIST FOR ALBERTA

Mr. Wm. Townsend, the well-known painter, left Britain recently for Canada. He will lecture for 7 weeks at the Banff School of Fine Arts, and, on his way back, plans to visit cities in Eastern Canada.



HUGH CROMBIE, Vice President and Treasurer of the Dominion Engineering Works Ltd., Montreal, who was today elected president of the Canadian Manufacturer's Association for 1951-52 at the Association's Annual General Meeting in Quebec City.

# The Richmond Theatre

Richmond Hill, Ontario  
 Telephone Richmond Hill 500  
 FREE PARKING AT REAR OF THEATRE  
 Entrance from Church Street. Walkway on north side of Theatre Building

## NEW TIME SCHEDULE

Monday to Friday Shows — 7 and 9 p.m.  
 Saturdays and Holidays, continuous from 6.30.  
 Last complete show approximately 9.45 p.m.  
 Saturday Matinee 2 p.m.  
 Matinee Wednesday 2 p.m. During July, August

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with LOUIS CALHERN  
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Robert Taylor as Lance Pools, full-blooded fighting Indian, in his most amazing role!

News Cartoon Comedy

Monday & Tuesday — July 16 & 17

So warm and human—so alive and real

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 Dorothy MCGUIRE Mister 880  
 Edmund GWENN 20

with MILLARD MITCHELL • Minor Watson • Howard St. John • Hugh Sanders • James Milligan  
 Directed by EDMUND GOULDING • Produced by JULIAN BLAUSTEIN  
 Screen Play by ROBERT ROSEN • Based on an Article in The New Yorker by St. Clair McKelway

News Cartoon Featurette

## MATINEE WEDNESDAY 2 P.M.

Wednesday & Thursday — July 18 & 19

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The stories that thrilled and delighted America for eleven years in the Saturday Evening Post!

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