

THE RUSSELL LEADER

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VOLTAIRE: "I wholly disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death, your right to say it."

WHY JAPAN UNDERSELLS HER WHITE COMPETITORS.

From a business standpoint the world has grown very small. Railways, fast steamship lines, mammoth freighters and airships have so revolutionized transportation that conditions of labor and wages in one country are bound to affect employment conditions in all countries with which it does business. Japan furnishes a striking example. Most of our readers know something of Japanese competition and the extraordinarily low prices at which Japanese goods are offered in the markets of Europe and America.

Why is Japan able to undersell Canadian and United States competitors right in Canada and the United States? Largely because of the difference in wages and the standards of living. Japan issues a Year Book and in 1934 this publication showed that the average hourly rate of wages for all factory workers ranged from 2 to 3 1-2 cents for a ten hour day. Fancy asking a Canadian factory hand to work for ten hours for 20 to 35 cents!

The daily wages for a brickmaker are said to be 32c; for shoemakers, papermakers and flour millers between 46 and 49c a day; for compositors, bricklayers and foundrymen between 60 and 63c. In the textile trade, a male hosiery knitter is paid 41c a day and the female worker 20c a day. Clerical workers receive from \$8 to \$11 a month, less than the usual weekly wage in Canada. When workers are paid these low wages, it is easy to understand that factory production will be much cheaper than in Anglo-Saxon countries, and therefore it becomes a simple matter for the Japanese to undersell their white competitors. It is said that the cost of living is low in Japan. Considered alone this is correct, but when considered in connection with the prevailing low wages it is not correct, for practically all the workers earn is required for their livelihood. In Anglo-Saxon countries, the worker usually has something left for other necessities and some of the comforts of life after he makes provision for his daily living. Not so in Japan where he absorbs practically all that he produces at the factory workers.

CANADA IS WEAKER FOR LACK OF SUNDAY OBSERVANCE.

Sunday is different from other days. Apart from the fact that to a large section of the community it offers release from work, it has a special quality of its own.

The quality we wish to emphasize is a peculiar kind of peace, a hush in the air, which we do not get on other mornings, even when they seem as quiet and lovely. While the quality of Sunday so far as nature is concerned, remains untouched, man's handling and attitude towards the first day of the week has certainly changed.

A few generations ago Sunday meant twice to church, a day of rest and the reading of good literature. Today it appears to mean holiday trips, motoring, boating and the pursuit of a "good time."

In the older days in and around the church life centered most of the social life we knew. We met our friends there, and even if our thoughts wandered a good deal during the longish sermons, there was always the music and the friendly atmosphere.

We do not hesitate to say that Canada is suffering from too little Sunday observance. It is almost wholly observed as a holiday and there is very little Sunday peace anywhere. This is, we are told, a material machine-made age, and the people have less time or inclination to observe old traditions. Apparently peace is the last thing they want. Faster and faster is the slogan. All this must have its powerful influence, not only in family life, but in the fibre of the nation.

The early pioneers of this Dominion built up any greatness we may claim on the foundations of sound family life which most certainly included reverent Sunday observance. Our greatness will not continue unless we get back part of it at least.

While freely admitting that certain changes were inevitable, and perhaps in some degree beneficial, we think we have as a nation lost more than we have gained. Meanwhile it would be well if parents, especially the younger set, would spare a few moments from their pursuit of a good time to recover a little of the Sunday peace which once nourished the country that we love.

WHAT ARE WE GETTING FOR OUR DEATH AND TAXES.

It's an old saying — that two things are sure — death and taxes. And both are inevitable. One can only die once, but one can be taxed many times, and finance ministers and provincial treasurers are most ingenious gentlemen.

And so are the manufacturers and others who have evolved a very simple system of handing the tax on to the customer. Are we treading on dangerous ground there? Not being a Sir George Paish or any other kind of economic mystic, we shall plead ignorance, ignorance of the tactful and hidden way of putting it.

In a general way, we know that the Dominion budget tells us that there will be a shortage this year, a deficit. We also know that there are some

changes in tariff, the effect of which may not be noticed for some time. Some duties have been increased against other countries in order to favor countries with whom we have trade agreements, and so on.

But what you and everyone else of the ordinary folk are inclined to ask — "What are we getting for all this money?" If we ourselves earn \$1,800 a year and spend, or rather make ourselves liable for \$2,800, we are stopped, in short order. Enter the bailiff, exeamus ourselves.

But in national and provincial financing the business becomes so complicated that all the average person knows is that his food, clothing and everything else costs him more than it used to, that a large portion of this goes to taxes, and that to some extent he contributes directly to taxes himself.

When we spend money ourselves, or incur debts, we know for what. Even when the municipality spends money we have a pretty good idea. But when it comes to provinces and the Dominion, the picture is so vast that few can grasp its details.

In other words, what are we getting for our money? Are we asking too much, or for the wrong things? Is there too much free service by the governments, have they too many employees? Our own debts are restricted by common sense and the gentleman we have mentioned, the bailiff. In Ontario, at last, a municipal board sets a very strict limit on municipal expenditure. But what brake is there on the provincial or the Dominion roller-coaster? And what are we getting? True, a great advance in health and other humane services, but what else? And whose fault is it?

PUBLIC APATHY

At the recent convention of the Canadian Federation of Mayors, held in Ottawa, one resolution passed dealt with community leadership and the need for moral rearmament. The resolution pointed out that the mayors of Canada were constantly faced with public apathy and the sort of criticism which carries with it little sense of personal responsibility and that such attitudes in the individual greatly increased the difficulties of the task of being Mayor. Multiplied by thousands of people across the Dominion this creates a state of affairs in Canada which is far from healthy.

"Our urgent need in Canada," the resolution said, "is to cultivate the will to work together. For this, we must find again those fundamental qualities of honesty and unselfishness which are the foundations of a healthy democracy." As Lord Bakwin said, "The need of the day is moral rearmament, a program which builds on what unites peoples instead of what divides them."

CASHING IN ON ROYAL VISIT

Profits on souvenir silver dollars to be issued by the Government are expected to pay a large proportion of the cost of entertaining the King and Queen while here. The margin of profit on this silver currency is between 65 and 70 per cent., as the dollars cost but 27c each, in addition to minting and engraving costs which are small. A large demand is expected not only from visitors but from those who will desire the commemorative silver dollars on the historic occasion. A special issue of stamps to mark the occasion will go on sale throughout Canada, May 15. The issue will be limited and will be double size. The one-cent stamp will be green, bearing the portraits of the Princess Elizabeth and Margaret Rose, while the two-cent stamp will be brown and carry the picture of the national war memorial at Ottawa. The three-cent stamp will be red with portraits of the King and Queen.

FARM PROBLEMS NEED EXPERTS

Times change. Once, when the farm car got balky, the farmer could take a piece of fence wire and fix it in a minute. Nowadays in many cases he knows less about the complex mechanism of his modern car than he does about the price of eggs in China. He has to take it to a specialist. Similarly, at one time when his income fell he simply added another cow to the herd or seeded an extra ten acres in wheat. These methods still work sometimes, but in these times it is handy to have a specialist available, who, like the car mechanic, can isolate the most troublesome points and proceed to find a solution. This has been the method of approach of the Economics Division of the Department of Agriculture in the ten years since it was established.

At the present time, this Division is carrying on research on more than twenty separate agricultural problems. The projects at present under way may be listed under the following main headings: Agricultural finance; marketing; price analysis; land economics; rural organization and rural sociology; farm organization and management, and agricultural co-operation.

PERHAPS HE'S RIGHT

A crepe-hanging psychiatrist has been surveying the future of hapless humanity after careful measurement of present social drift, and he scents trouble ahead. His forecast is that the next generation will be made up of spineless men and strong-jawed women. "The mother's desire to dominate the home," he says, "is having a bad influence on adolescent children; it makes the young boys too docile and tends to make the girls fight back, which, in turn, produces a new group of docile men and domineering women to carry on in the next generation." Having regard for the generally ascending scale of civilization, it will still be a great life, if we don't weaken.

When we hear any pulpit tirade against modern feminine fashions, we always recall the gals of the gay '90's who not only wore bustles but bags of sawdust wherever needed to make more shapely impressions.

An old man, children, is one who can remember when the girls used to ask anxiously: "Is my hat on straight?" Today, if you want to annoy a girl, you tell her that her hat is on straight.

The Ottawa Spotlight

The Budget

Ottawa, May 2nd.—As was expected the budget brought down in the House of Commons by Mr. Dunning, Minister of Finance, did not offer much relief for the taxpayers of Canada. Taxes remain for the next year pretty much as they have been in the past fiscal year. The main reasons for this were explained in the speech. The troubled international situation, with all its potentialities for a possible world catastrophe, has retarded the wheels of industry in Canada as elsewhere; has hindered the normal growth of international trade and has forced Canada to spend more money on national defence. There has of course been the relief in indirect taxation through lower tariff rates on goods imported from the United States. The treaty providing for these decreases in import duties has been in force since the beginning of this calendar year. The budget further puts into effect the promised cancellation of three per cent excise duty on goods from the United States. Actually the budget arranges for the cancellation of the three per cent on all goods entering Canada except those coming in under the general tariff. That is all goods entering Canada under the intermediate tariff as well as the Imperial preferences will not have to pay this excise tax. This means, as pointed out, by Mr. Dunning a decrease in revenues of about 14 million dollars for the year, quite a substantial amount.

Not Many Tariff Changes

Changes are made in import duties on 77 commodities in the budget. Nearly all the revisions are downward. As stated by the minister "Tariff changes now announced are neither numerous nor of striking importance. Many of them arise out of the new agreement with the United States and have already been approved." The tariff board has been investigating the tariff on a number of commodities and the reports were presented to parliament. Articles affected were furniture, cigars, cocoa matting,

starches and dextrines, worsted weaving yarns, coke, radios and tubes and automobiles. Radio tubes were put on the free list by the budget. At the same time the government's interest in seeing that radio manufacturers didn't abuse the exclusive rights given under the patent act, was emphasized by the minister. Prices shouldn't be higher than the laid down price of similar radio parts from the United States, the tariff board recommended. Another important report of the board dealt with duties on vegetable oils imported into Canada. Changes were recommended in the tariff rates and an imposition of excise taxes were recommended on domestic oils and vegetable oil content of shortenings, lard compounds and soap. This question is of great interest to the dairy industry as vegetable shortenings complete with butter as well as lard in baking. The recommendations have been forwarded to the British government as tariff rates on vegetable oils were settled by the Ottawa agreements with British empire countries.

Stimulation to Industry

The distinguishing feature of the budget was the effort to give new life and zest to the industrial life of the country. The minister called for a new life and a new leadership in industry in Canada. As an incentive to all industries "to go forward immediately with any justified expansion of plant and with such modernization of machinery and equipment as the progress of recent years has made essential," the government promises a credit against income tax equal to ten per cent of the costs of such capital projects prior to April 30, 1940. The tax credit will be spread over the next three years. There will also be an extension of three years on the income tax exemption granted to metal mines coming into operation. Any new mine coming into production prior to January 1st, 1943, will be exempt from corporate income tax for its first three years of operation. It will undoubtedly be on its success of this attempt to instill new life into industry that the value of this budget will to a great extent be judged.

Budget Deficit

The budget deficit for the past year was \$55,666,000, and the forecast for the year now begun is estimated at about 60 million. Of the 1938-39 deficit, \$25,000,000 is an arbitrary figure included for loss on the wheat guarantee of 80 cents a bushel. What the exact amount of the loss will be cannot be known until the wheat is sold. The C.N.R. deficit and the unavoidable cost of defence have been a heavy drain on the public treasury. At the same time revenues during the past year held up very well and amounted to almost the identical figure which had been estimated in last season's budget. Total expenses for the year were \$532,343,000 and revenues were \$501,677,000. To the figure for expenses must be added the 25 million dollar loss on grain to show the net deficit of about 55 1/2 million. For the year 1939-40 revenues are calculated at 490 million while expenditures made up of main and supplementary estimates amount to 550 million. The cut in excise taxes account largely for the estimated decline in revenues but as the minister stated: "I am fully conscious that this estimate of revenues may be unduly pessimistic." He expressed his regret that the budget was not yet balanced, but he was trying to "take the common sense middle course."

National Defence

Mr. Ian Mackenzie, Minister of National Defence has given an account of his department's work in providing for the defence of this country. The importance of air defence was explained to the house with a description of what has been done and is being done to supply defences on our coasts and to build up the three branches of the service, air, navy and militia, for which the government has appropriated 63 million dollars this year. An agreement has been made with the British government to train a number of British air force men at our training depots as well as members of the Royal Air Force.

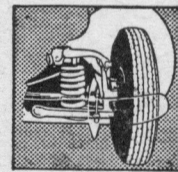
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Illustrated—Chevrolet Master De Luxe Sedan with trunk.

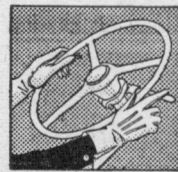
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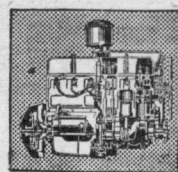


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