

"BUY AS USUAL" SHOULD BE SLOGAN OF THOSE WHO CAN

When advice is given to the public to "buy as usual," there is no intention to include those who find themselves in difficult financial condition. This section of the public is inclined to resent the "buy as usual" advice this Christmas time. "How can people buy as usual if they haven't the money to spend?" they ask, with natural irritation. Sometimes, their irritation is so extreme that there is a temptation to retort: "Oh, speak when you're spoken to!" The advice to "buy as usual" is naturally not directed to those who are unemployed or otherwise "up against it." It is directed to those who are in as good position or better than in former years—and it should not be forgotten that there are thousands upon thousands of such people in Canada. At a time like the present there are people who are inclined to curtail buying, just because others are forced to do so. If the people who have the money do curtail their spending the situation will be even worse than it is. The matter is very clearly presented in a small paragraph in The Powassan News last week, this paragraph saying: "Because of the business depression and unemployment there is a tendency on the part of everybody to economise and not to buy anything except bare necessities. This is as it should be with those who are out of work most of the time and cannot afford it, but it certainly should not be the attitude of those who are more fortunate, unless it is the intention to make a direct contribution of the money thus saved to charity. If people stop buying the factories cannot place their products, business will be still more curtailed, and more factory hands will be thrown out of work, thus making the unemployment situation still worse. "Buying as Usual" should be the slogan of those who can afford it. Nor should they neglect contributing to the relief of the needy."

North Bay Nugget:—Stories from Rouyn about the police clean-up of the vice dens of the town remind one of the Western novel in its luriddest form.

No Town in Claybelt Can Afford to "Compromise"

(From The Northern Tribune)

This week-end is the date originally set for the "conference" at North Bay on the burning question of the route of the trans-Canada highway through Northern Ontario. As a prelude, trade individuals and boards of trade have given expression to opinions that practically resolve into aspirations for their own towns or cities only. If this is carried much further, the task of the federal government in deciding upon a route will be made harder, rather than simplified, just as the divergences of opinion are being multiplied rather than unified. It has not been made clear what basis of representation at the proposed North Bay conference has been fixed; and if it had been, it could not be adhered to, doing justice to all the cities and towns concerned. For example, it would be an easy thing for places like Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie to organize a "hurrah" delegation in force to attend the conference and by sheer weight of numbers attempt to dominate the meeting and force a decision in favour; while on the other hand, far-removed places like Kapuskasing and Hearst would not be represented in proportion, if at all. It is even doubtful if Hearst could be represented at all; yet that point is the storm centre of the whole controversy, the pons asinorum of the politicians involved. The arguments adduced in favour of the clay-belt route are not based on the amount of bally-hoo per capita that can be evoked in this section, nor in the number of selfish interests that can be lined up to "put something over" that would repay their investment for propaganda. It is only the people in this district who have to be considered, and not any private interest whatsoever.

Signs are not wanting that if the conference is held at all, there will be a certain amount of thimble-rigging in a preliminary way behind the scenes, followed by a concerted effort to jam through an expressive of opinion that will affect to voice the sentiments of most of the North as to the best route

to be laid down for the trans-Canada highway. Not one town in the clay-belt can afford to sit at that conference. In some cases it will cost their taxpayers money that the towns cannot afford and should not use for such purpose, and their delegates would naturally involve them in the conclusions announced, even if they were utterly disappointing.

TO ERECT TWENTY-FIVE NEW AERIAL TOWERS THIS WINTER

Announcement last week at Toronto was made by the Provincial Forestry Department that 25 new steel towers for observation work will be erected in strategic positions in Northern Ontario this winter. The department is also considering installing additional short wave radio stations to provide swift communication with outlying points.

Three of the new towers will be erected in the North Bay district, four in the Sudbury district, five in Kenora district, three in Oba district and one each in Algonquin Park, Sault Ste. Marie, Georgian Bay and Cochrane districts. There are 140 towers at present in use. Telephone communication will be installed in each structure.

The three towers to be erected in the North Bay district will be located in Delhi township, north of Temagami; on Mount Collins in Raymond Township, Elk Lake district and in South Lorrain Township.

The department is considering the use of wireless in planes, a practice which has already been tried with success. Communications between aeroplanes in flight and on land would be invaluable in emergencies it was stated.

Shop early—and show you believe in Christmas for clerks and storekeepers.

REGARDING HOURS, WAGES, AND UNEMPLOYMENT PLANS

Times Have Greatly Changed Since the Early Days of the North Land. Modern Methods Must be Followed in These Modern Days.

In discussing the present problems arising from unemployment, it should always be borne in mind that old and out-of-date methods and alibis will not suffice. Times have changed in the past ten or twenty years, not only in regard to actual costs and living standards, but also in the attitude of the public in regard to the responsibility of executives and of governments. Today it is realized that the heads of governments and of private enterprises owe particular duty and responsibility to the interests of the people. The old-time outlook on life is gone, for good or ill. To-day the people are not easy to reconcile when they are denied a share of their own money. That may be unreasonably, but The Advance does not think it so. In any event, it would be best for all concerned to recognize it as a fact. This is preliminary to giving an article from The New Liskeard Speaker last week. The Speaker appears to suggest that a man who can not secure more than \$2.40 per day in this North Land should thankfully accept that amount. To use a sharp expression. The Speaker has another guess coming. The wage offered on relief work by the Ontario Government in this North Land is not a living wage and is a disgrace to those responsible. It is doing a good turn to the government to turn them from this evil course. It is absurd to hold that reducing the pay will make the money go further. On such logic, why not reduce the pay to 10 cents per day, and the unemployed would owe the government money? In earlier days in Temiskaming the costs of living were so much lower that no fair comparison can be made with to-day. In a word the whole matter resolves itself into this question:—"Does the country desire its present standards of living or does it intend to turn back the clock fifty years? The Advance believes that if governments and corporations attempt to follow the out-of-date methods of evading responsibility the results will be serious indeed, especially for the governments and corporations.

The Advance is very heartily in agreement with The Speaker that on government work or any other kind of work there must be discipline. The work must be done. People who will not work fairly and honestly, are not deserving of much sympathy or likely to get any, unless the executives show poor judgment in their attitude to the public. The game should be played fairly from both ends, but the government or the corporation that takes advantage of the need of men to-day to cut pay below the cost of living is not playing fair. This is what the Ontario Government has done by cutting the pay of men on the relief work from \$3.00 to \$2.40 per day. It is not a good thing for the men or the country to have men working at such wages these days. It is a bad example to set to other short-sighted employers who seem to think there is only one way to make money out of business and that is to cut the wages of the men.

The article in The Speaker is as follows:—"In our last issue we mentioned the case of a man who refused to work at ordinary work at 35 cents per hour, and we said he had a right to refuse the offer if he had a better job, but not otherwise. Since then we have heard the case of a man who refused to work with his team at 60 cents per hour. He said he would rather let the horses stand in the stable than work them at that price, and we say of him as we said of the other man. But we are not going to blame the Government because the working hours for the day have been reduced. Indeed, we believe that this was the proper course for the Government to adopt under the circumstances, because it will give more work, or in other words, divide the work amongst a larger number of unemployed. This idea was first suggested by the railway men in the offices; and we believe the plan was a good one. It also gives the farmer time to do his winter chores. We very much doubt if any of those who object to the wages being paid by the Government this winter were in Temiskaming between twenty-five and thirty years ago. Why, at that time the idea of asking the Government to expend money on public works or on the roads during the winter to help out the farmers was never dreamed of. This system started first in Temiskaming on account of crop failure, and it has been continued, and should be appreciated. The Speaker was the first newspaper to make an appeal to the Government for winter work. Do not let us spoil what is being done for us by being selfish and unreasonable. Now, let us go back to those early days of settlement in Temiskaming. Farmers were then glad to work at getting out logs for Ottawa lumber firms if all they got for their work was sufficient to feed their horses. We spoke to a farmer whom we knew was getting very little for his work, and he said: "Well, I shall get the feed for my horses out of it." We know another farmer who cut and drew to New Liskeard 100 cords of four-foot steamboat wood for the sum of \$100. Yes. All he got was one dollar per cord, and some of his neighbours thought he was in luck, and said "he must have a big pull with Lorraine." People of late years have been living faster than in the early days, and now that the sombre days have come they find fault instead of appreciating what is being done to help them. The Governments, and in some cases, the Municipalities, are finding the money, and finding the overseers to

STORY OF THE CHRISTMAS BASKET OF GREAT VALUE

A Christmas Hamper That Delighted a Child and Bettered the Whole Life of a Man. Told by a Toronto Newspaperman.

(By J. A. in The Mail and Empire)

A few days ago a speaker at a social workers' meeting here deplored the giving of Christmas baskets to the poor, saying they ought to get the money instead to spend as they liked, even if they wasted it. Let me tell one story about Christmas baskets.

One evening just before Christmas not many years ago the writer was threading his way through the crowds on Yonge Street to catch a street car for home.

A working man, perhaps 30 or 40 years of age, touched me on the elbow and asked for a word or two. He explained himself thus:—

"Last Christmas eve I sat in my shack in the Ward with my only little girl. I had buried my wife six weeks before and had been drowning my thoughts in booze. We were waiting for supper, and the pot on the stove contained practically all we had in the house. There was hardly enough fuel to do us over Christmas.

"What are we going to have for Christmas, Daddy?" asked the little girl in a tone of perplexity. I replied bravely that we were going to have turkey, plum pudding and everything nice, although I knew perfectly well we had only enough for our supper and breakfast.

"I had hardly finished my optimistic reply when we heard a knock on the door. A snow-flecked delivery man thrust a well-filled basket in the door, with my name on it.

"The youngster exclaimed that it came straight from heaven, as she took one article after another out of the basket, danced around the room and laid them on the table. By this time I was crying like a baby.

"Although there was nothing on the basket to indicate its source I knew where it came from, and as you know I quit the booze and have since been making a happy home for the two of us."

And then he handed me a bill, and said:—

"I want you to pass that basket on this year to someone who needs it as badly as I did a year ago."

I did not look at the money at the time, presuming it to be a dollar, but on telling the story when I got home and pulling it out found it was a \$10 bill. It was no use to argue with the man the next day that he could not afford it. He was only getting eight or ten dollars a week. His answer was that it did not begin to represent what he received in that Christmas basket.

So now, when I am inclined to be cynical and talk like the gentleman who spoke to the Canadian Association of Social Workers the other evening in Toronto about Christmas baskets, I just remember that Christmas basket and many others that have brought blessing to both giver and receiver.—J.A.

Toronto Mail and Empire:—About 80,000,000 swine are killed in the United States every year, which number, unfortunately, includes few road hogs. Wynn, chairman of the board.

Toronto Globe:—Thirty-five farm boys brought to Ontario some years ago by the Salvation Army are going home to the Old Country on a visit. These boys have "made good" saved enough money for the trip, and will provide the best kind of an advertisement for this province. They stuck to the farm, and consequently do not know anything about city bread lines.

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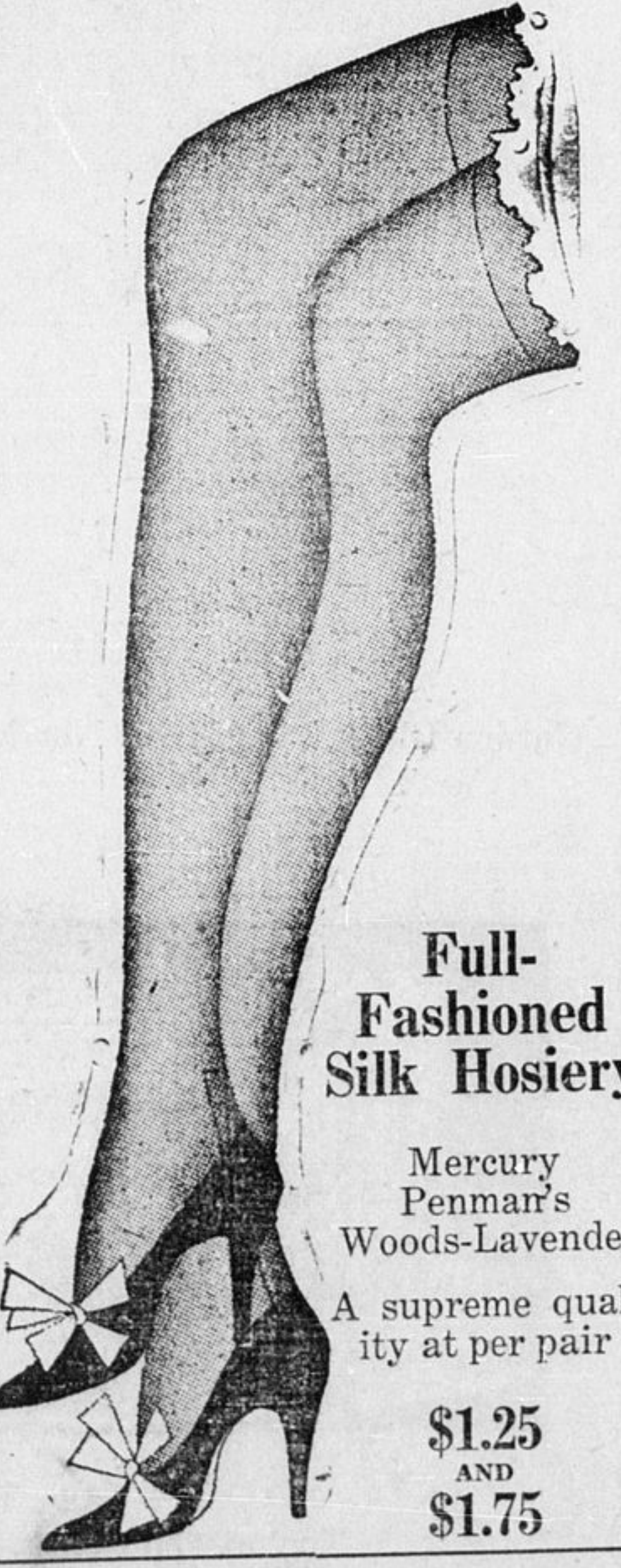
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