

The Porcupine Advance

TWO PHONES—26 and 2020
TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association
Published Every Thursday by
GEO. LAKE, Owner and Publisher
Subscription Rates:
Canada—\$2.00 Per Year. United States—\$3.00 Per Year.

Timmins, Ont., Thursday, Aug. 26th, 1943

ROADS AND FUEL WOOD

There are said to be some local folks who are chuckling because district roads are in bad condition. They see little in this condition other than political considerations. To some of them the facts that the roads to settlers' farms and to some mining and lumbering properties are practically impassable means no more than a reflection on the past government of Ontario. To others the bad condition of the roads in question calls for no other comment than, "Why didn't the people of the riding vote right?" The truth of the matter is that the condition of some of the roads may have vital bearing on the life of Timmins this coming winter. During the past week or two several wood dealers have attempted to bring wood into town by truck and have found this impossible. In at least one case, the wood had to be taken off the truck, the truck rescued from the mud, and then the wood replaced on the truck for conveyance to Timmins. This meant an almost prohibitive cost for the wood. In other cases the condition of some side roads resulted in the abandonment of wood-hauling. One contractor told The Advance this week that the stretch of road that he had planned to use could not be put in shape for summer travel and that he would have to wait for the snow roads to fulfil his contracts in regard to wood hauling to town. He would, however, be greatly handicapped unless a few dollars were spent now, so that he could take in supplies and provisions for the men cutting the wood. The roads at present were in such shape that even the transportation of fuel was very difficult.

The outlook for fuel for Timmins during the coming winter is not too promising. It would be well if all concerned were to keep constantly in mind the fact that a full fuel supply is a matter of very life and death importance for Timmins. The town council recognized this fact months ago and took the necessary steps to assure a full fuel supply for the town. The committee in charge, however, have been handicapped from the very start. In the first place there has been the seriousness of the manpower situation. It has been difficult to overcome this shortage, and now there is the trouble of transportation. The difficulties arising from Crown timber dues and prices obtaining for wood have been more or less overcome through the efforts of the committee. Councillor J. W. Spooner, chairman of the committee, is in Toronto this week, and intends to present the whole case very clearly to the government. It appears that the government can do much to overcome the various handicaps. It may be that little can be done by the Ontario government in regard to the manpower muddle. Even with that handicap, however, it may be possible to protect the people in reference to fuel supply for the coming winter. Repair of country roads in the district will be an important help. A few thousand dollars spent on the roads would make them passable and relieve the situation for the present. For some years past little has been done to keep these country roads in proper condition. The wet season has not helped matters any. The climate in this part of the North makes the question of fuel so important that it cannot be left to chance. The shortage of coal and the restrictions on other types of fuel promise a great increase in the amount of fuel wood that will be necessary for the coming winter. The present outlook is that, instead of more wood than usual, the chances are all for a short supply. This is a condition that cannot be viewed with any complacency. Every possible effort should be made to assure a proper supply of fuel wood for the town. The necessary repair of the roads used for hauling wood is a first requisite. These repairs should be made immediately. The government should investigate the matter at once and act without a moment's delay.

THE QUESTION OF QUALITY

Speaking some days ago to the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association, Mr. David Gordon, head of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, pointed out the danger of inflation, through the breaking of the ceiling on prices and wages. He appealed to the weekly newspapers to help avoid such a calamity and he seemed inclined to blame the people in general for the present undesirable situation. Mr. Gordon said that so long as the war situation was a serious one the people appeared to co-operate in the plans for maintaining the ceiling and avoiding the dangers of inflation, but with the brighter war picture and the growing belief that final victory was not far distant, a different attitude was being assumed by the public in the matter. The Advance is not sure that Mr. Gordon is right. It does appear the fact that the people gave very earnest and honest support to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and accepted restrictions, freezing of wages and prices and other restrictions and regulations with cheerfulness and good grace. In one matter at least Mr. Gordon appears to be

astray. That is in his reference to the leniency shown by the courts in connection with breaches of the regulations. In Timmins and the North, at least, there was no such leniency. The law appears to have been very strictly enforced and penalties were inclined to be severe, even for minor infractions. Similar enforcement seems to have been the rule throughout Ontario. If there were inequalities between the other provinces, the remedy would not appear to be in any general condemnation but in enforcement of the law through the whole Dominion.

If the co-operation of the weekly newspapers is sought, it might be well for Mr. Gordon to survey the situation nearer home. He might discover whether or not some of his officials did not speak out of turn on too many occasions. It was understood at the start that all the regimentation was for the duration of the war only, and so public sympathy was estranged when suggestion was boldly made that merchants and others should prepare themselves for the acceptance of this regimentation after the war was won. It has not popularized the procedure for the opinion to spread that petty officials seemed to be planning to keep their places for life. There have been also many irritating little restrictions that seemed to be perpetuated only through obstinacy. One of these: of cuffless trousers seems to be the matter. The ordinary way-faring man is convinced that there is no real saving in this, and the net effect of it has been no more than annoyance and the thought that the result has been actual waste. There is also the firm belief that the insistence on one pair of pants to a suit has been another case of useless waste in a great number of cases. There is the growing belief that these petty restrictions were solely for the benefit of large concerns whose so-called enterprise had reacted on themselves. So long as competition controlled them they could not escape from what they themselves had undertaken, but the Wartime Prices and Trade Board regulations relieved them at the expense of the public.

Probably, the chief public complaint, however is in the matter of quality. During the last war, whatever may be said about prices, it was always possible to buy quality goods, and so values were kept on even keel. As the days pass now, on the other hand, it is increasingly difficult to get quality at any price. Shoddy goods have come into their own. As The Advance has said on more than one occasion a floor for quality is just as essential in the people's interests, as a ceiling for price. The people can not be expected to be content to pay ceiling prices for cellar goods. If Mr. Gordon will do a little cleaning-up in his own bailiwick he will be surprised at the support and co-operation that will be given by the weekly newspapers and the general public. Both the weekly newspapers and the public are all out for the real winning of the war, but neither the weeklies nor the general public are easily bamboozled for long by empty talk of the dangers of inflation when they see themselves the menace of shoddy goods, blown up to ceiling prices for quality goods.

UNFIT TO RULE

It is an odd thing that those who think they are most fit to rule, those who are most anxious to rule, those who are most determined to rule are the most unfitted for the post. This fact is often evidenced in politics. At the present moment it is being strikingly illustrated by the Germans. For twenty years the Nazis have been planning to take over the operation of the world. They have deceived themselves into believing they are a superior people, born to rule the lesser breeds of man. They have convinced no one else, however. Had the Germans been able to read history aright they would have been deceived long ago as to their lack of genius in this direction. Great Britain, France, Holland, have shown gifts in this direction. Even Italy and Japan have shown more talent in this line than the humourless Germans. The colonization carried out in various parts of the world has been evidence of the ability of different nations to rule. In the present war the Germans themselves have proved the senseless falsehood of their whole belief. In not a single case have they evidenced the slightest ability to rule. All they can do is loot and murder. They have roused the most undying hate in every land they have conquered. They have been unable to hold the regard of even their allies—one of whom dislikes them and the other distrusts. As for the satellites—the little nations attracted to the Nazi ranks partly by fear and partly by greed—they hold still only by the force of fear. Stories from Poland, France, Norway, Belgium, Holland, Greece, Czechoslovakia and other lands tell of a hatred so deep and so bitter that it shocks the world. Even Denmark—used with much greater consideration than any of the other nations over-run—has nothing but the strongest hate to offer the momentary conquerors. During the past two weeks reports from Denmark show sabotage of the most extensive kind and riots on a grand scale. The news bulletin yesterday reported another half dozen Danish cities placed under a state of emergency. From occupied France comes the news that anti-German riots have broken out in Marseilles, Montpellier and Lyons, on the coast of Brittany, and in the Paris region. The truth is that Germany has not really conquered a single state or nation. They all but wait in fiercest hate for the day of deliverance. The attitude of the enslaved nations to-day is in itself the uncontrovertible proof that the very attribute the

Germans thought they had is the very quality they lack completely. It is interesting to conjecture the situation that will arise as opportunity is given the conquered peoples when German attention has to be completely centred on its own defence.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Still stands the motto of the King: "Put into your task whatever it may be, all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshakable. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips and our heads held high and with God's help we shall not fail."

The boasting of some recent converts of the C.C.F. at the winning of the bye-election at The Pas, Manitoba, over three Coalition Government candidates recalls the story of the four thin men, each of whom prided himself on his individual thinness. At last the one thin man settled the argument by the flat statement that he was thinner than the other three put together.

Another bearing was received this week from Ottawa, appearing in bold type the words, "Don't Waste Words—Don't Waste Paper." The envelope

contained a sheet of publicity that could easily have been carried by an envelope a quarter the size and of much cheaper paper. The contents of the envelope went into the waste paper basket, like so much other material has to go these strenuous days. All of which shows a strange lack of co-operation between somebody and somebody else. On a guess, it would appear that the authorities are not even co-operating with themselves or their big envelopes.

In years past The Advance used to urge new roads in the North and repairs to roads for the benefit of settlers, and the mining and lumbering industries. Now, there is urgent need for passable roads to keep the townspeople from danger of freezing to death. Reports are frequent these days in regard to country roads so bad that fuel wood can not be brought into town. This is one matter the Government should take up at once. Indeed, it might be good business and good politics if the newly-elected member for this riding would journey to Toronto and make a deal with the new Government. An exchange of one vote in the House for every 50 miles of country roads repaired might prove a happy bargain for all concerned.

Describing How the Cost of Living Index is Worked

Weekly Newspaperman at Ottawa Puts the Matter in Everyday Language.

Jim Greenblatt represents the weekly newspapers at Ottawa as a sort of liaison officer between the plain everyday folk and the more highly technical people of the administration. It is fitting, accordingly, that he should write something about the cost of living, and cost-of-living bonus, for there seems to be a wide gulf between the two parties (the people and the government) on these matters.

In the House of Commons last month Hon. J. L. Isley, Dominion Minister of Finance, gave some time to the explanation of the cost-of-living index, particularly interesting in the light of present discussion of food prices. Jim Greenblatt gives the gist of Mr. Isley's remarks in non-technical language, as follows:

The cost of living index as related to the cost of living bonus doesn't directly worry the farmer, small proprietor and such like, but indirectly everyone should have the low down in their minds about this important part of our national economy if they don't wish to get too provincial in their thinking.

Let's review the matter informally so you'll remember it without any effort. The cost of living index measures the month-to-month change in the cost of living of the average typical wage-earner's family, by the Bureau of Statistics. It is based on a full year record made in 1937-38 on 1,500 Canadian families, averaging 4.6 persons with an average income of \$1,453. The index was in six main groups, showing food to take 31 p.c. of the income, fuel and light 6 p.c., housing 19 p.c., clothing 12 p.c., home furnishings and services 9 p.c., and miscellaneous 23 p.c.

Keeping Pace

Folks may howl that living conditions have changed a lot since 1937-38. True! The Bureau knows that, and it makes the necessary changes. For example, after sugar rationing came in the amount of sugar in the index was reduced. Then, when cheap lines are off the market making you fork over more for more expensive articles, the price of these is considered in the index.

The index records variations in the cost of a fixed standard of living in urban areas. It does not measure the increased costs of people who improve their standard of living.

Not without logic, some people ask why does the index only show a rise of 17 p.c. during the war, when such items as stewing beef rocketed up 78 p.c., lard 73 p.c. for example. The fact of the matter is, of course, that all foods comprise less than a third of the whole cost of living index, and we have to look at it in that perspective. Many foods, too, and important ones, have risen much less. For instance, bread, sugar and such foods have remained fairly steady and milk is reduced in price.

Food Prices Up

It is interesting to note in passing that cost of food rose 31.8 since the war started, most of it since the ceiling was slapped on. Mrs. Housewife obviously is more aware of this, because it's a kitchen and personal problem. But on items hubby pays for mainly the rise shows in the lower bracket, i.e. fuel and light, 14.1, housing 7.4; clothing 20.3. The total cost of living index rose 17.8 since August, 1939, but only 2.2 of it since application of the price ceiling.

To keep track of changes the Bureau not only relies on price reports from storekeepers, but uses information from their regional setups. And don't think for a minute that representatives fail to visit small centres for that purpose. They do, definitely.

Questions of Quality

Mom complains about changes in quality, deterioration of clothing and home furnishings, noticeable in our wartime economy. Well, the Bureau thinks of that too and treats the reduction in quality as if it was a price increase of the same amount.

You can see for yourself that they can't get direct price quotations on every item in the family budget, but what they do is get the typical, and "weight" those prices sufficiently to cover all items in any group.

To get a slant on the problems, let's look at food. Many foods have a wide seasonal price fluctuation as you know.

Then again, all vegetables aren't sold on a weight basis. Some are sold in bunches, and so the price may vary according to the quantity. If some "average" system wasn't adopted, the index would certainly be "less" than "more" accurate. What they do is pick representative prices month-to-month, which includes some 44 food items amounting to just about 75 p.c. of the total cost of food.

How Much for a Hat?

Well, now we come to such items as clothing. This brings up another difficult problem and no fooling, it's an erratic thing. You know what it's like yourself. You've gone in and bought a ladies' hat for say \$4.95. Sure enough a month later (to save carrying it over into winter) you see it advertised to clear at \$2.98. It does happen with dresses, coats and other items. Therefore, the Bureau, and rightly, has selected a smaller list of some 29 clothing items of fairly standard construction which have no pronounced seasonal movements. These items represent all the more important materials in making clothing, such as cotton, wool, rayon, rubber, leather.

Just one more thing. Income taxes are not included in the reckoning of the cost of living index. These taxes do not affect prices, although they do, of course, reduce the amount available for spending. The whole idea of having an income tax is so that everyone can contribute to the cost of the war according to their ability to pay. If income taxes were included in the cost-of-living index, that would raise the cost-of-living bonus. And those people who get the bonus would therefore get their tax, or most of it, paid back to them. But some people—farmers, small proprietors, domestic servants, etc. don't get the bonus, so they would not get any tax back. You can see how unfair that would be.

King Designates Sept. 3 to be a Day of Prayer

London, England—The King directed that Sept. 3, fourth anniversary of the start of the war, be observed as "a national day of prayer and dedication." An announcement from Buckingham Palace said, "It is the desire of His Majesty the King that Friday, Sept. 3, being the fourth anniversary of the outbreak of war, should be observed as a national day of prayer and dedication."

Sets Limits for Expenses for Trips for Municipality

At various times there have been objections in northern municipalities in regard to the costs of trips by members of council and municipal employees to distant points on municipal business. It may be that the deputization business was a little overdone in some cases, but recently Timmins and other northern towns had very decisive proof that they were worth all they cost in view of the returns obtainable. At the same time, Reeve Shipley of Teek township has been seeking to make definite regulations to prevent even the appearance of undue amount going to members of council or municipal employees under the guise of expenses for trips. At the last meeting of the Teek township council at Kirkland Lake, Reeve Shipley presented a resolution setting the fees and costs for members of council or employees attending conventions or otherwise taking care of township business at outside points—

Under the terms of resolution the following scale of fees has been set: covering attendance at conventions and elsewhere at a distance from Kirkland Lake. (1) Actual transportation costs. (2) Hotel accounts exclusive of meals. (3) Four dollars per diem allowance meal. (4) two dollars per day for taxis, tips, etc., (5) if a car is used for transportation purposes eight cents per mile but no allowance for other passengers. (6) In case of the entertainment of officials detailed statements together with the names of the officials shall be attached. (7) The clerk shall have authority to make a reasonable advance to members on convention. (8) No per diem allowance other than the above shall be allowed the Reeve. In addition a special form covering expenditures, and to which vouchers must be attached, is to be filed out by the councillor or township employe away from the township on corporation business.

NO DICE

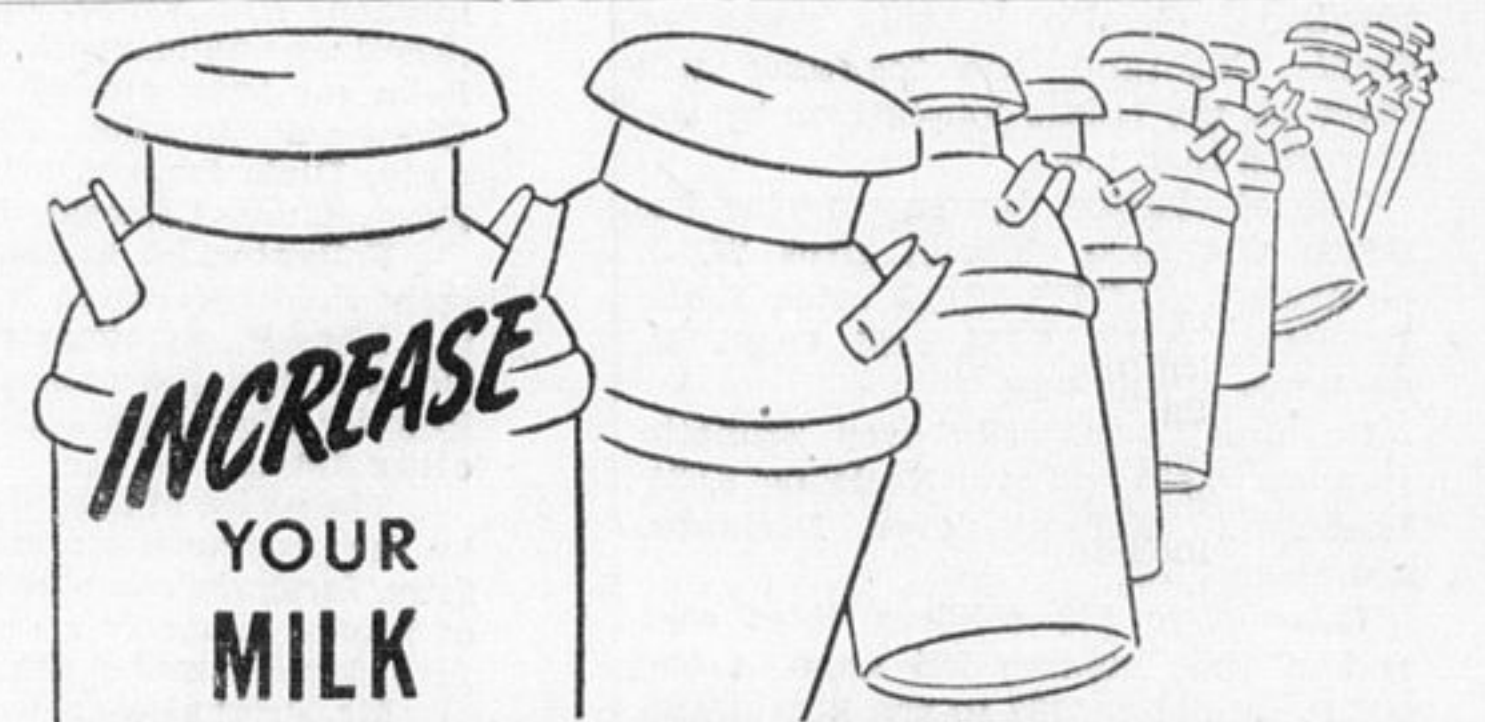
Missionary Worker: "We're having a raffle for a poor widow. Will you buy a ticket?" Henry: "Nope, my wife wouldn't let me keep her if I won."—Smiles.

Soldiers Appreciate the Salvation Army Red Shield

The following extract was taken from a letter received by a parent from a serviceman who is now serving as a censor in Melbourne, Australia:

"I think that I mentioned that we have a Salvation Army representative with us. Hardly a single letter which I have censored has failed to add its words of praise for these people. Indeed, it is they who make most of the letters possible, by supplying the paper and envelopes which would otherwise be unprocureable.

"Whenever you meet any of their representatives, tell them that they will never be forgotten by the men who have served in these campaigns."



PRODUCTION with LOWER feed costs

Tests run on many Canadian farms prove that when cows are fed "Miracle" 18% Dairy Feed or a ration containing "Miracle" 24% or 32% Dairy Supplement, the milk production increases as much as 25%, and feed costs may easily be reduced 20%. Use these better "Miracle" Feeds in the dotted bags, and boost your profits.

If it's Ogilvie it's good!



"MIRACLE"

18% DAIRY FEED
24% DAIRY SUPPLEMENT
32% DAIRY SUPPLEMENT

THE OGILVIE FLOUR MILLS COMPANY LIMITED

Get out of the rut...

Get into the fight!



Aircrew Needed Now for Immediate Training as
PILOTS
NAVIGATORS
BOMBERS
AIR GUNNERS
WIRELESS OPERATORS
(AIR GUNNERS)

MAYBE you're making bombs or tanks or plane parts or ships—but the real job, the big job today is delivering the stuff right into the heart of enemy country. No job is more essential today than sweeping enemy planes from the skies; than blasting half-made U-boats back into scrap metal.

If you're a fit, young Canadian eager to do your bit, there's a place for you in aircrew. There are fast training planes and skilled instructors waiting to help you get wings and get into the fight more quickly than ever before.

And the specialized training you get today as a member of an R.C.A.F. Aircrew will help you take your place in the skyways of tomorrow. Make up your mind to get into the fight now. See your nearest R.C.A.F. Recruiting Centre today.

If you are physically fit, mentally alert, over 17½ and not yet 33, you are eligible for aircrew training. You do not require a High School Education. You can be in uniform at once!

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

Recruiting Centres are located in the principal cities of Canada. Mobile recruiting units visit smaller centres regularly.