

The Porcupine Advance

PHONE 26
 TIMMINS, ONTARIO
 Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec
 Newspaper Association
 Published Every Thursday by
 M. W. LAKE, Publisher
 Subscription Rates:
 Canada \$2.00 Per Year. United States: \$3.00 Per Year

Timmins, Ontario, Thursday June 12th, 1947

SHORTAGES STILL AN EXCUSE

Strikes . . . wage contracts . . . shortages . . . high cost of living . . . women delegates off to Ottawa . . . taxes must be cut if municipalities are to be able to meet their obligations and still encourage people to buy real estate . . . talk, debate, conference and still . . . more talk. What is being done . . . what is going to be done. An iron curtain as heavy as the one in Europe has descended over Ottawa . . . yet the people wait.

You hear the questions everywhere — but do you ever hear the answers? And if you do, do they satisfy, convince, hearten, encourage you; or do they sound like the same old stuff, the 'dusty answers of politicians, the special pleading of one vested interest after another.

There is a crisis upon us as grave as any that ever faced Canada, in peace or war. But the enemy is now invisible, impersonal. It is hard to recognise him, aim at him. The average Canadian is living beyond his means, or he is simply existing, and if it goes on much longer they will be (as Oscar Wilde once wisecracked) dying beyond their means. What can ordinary folk do about it?

Our language today seems to have suffered just as much from inflation as our dollar bills. There are so many new shortages, so many excuses for lack of home-building, so many new laws and rules and regulations that apply to one, and not to the other, that it is quite hard to know what the words mean. Their value has been reduced, like the value of the dollar, because there is so many of them in circulation. They don't buy and they don't stand for what they did.

Let's consider the case of the weary, worn-out Canadian housewife. What's worth while in her life after the last seven years? What does she most desire for herself and her children? The house or home — if she isn't sharing it — needs a thousand things done to it. Can she afford them? Can she get quality clothing that will stand up to the wear and tear of play? Can she take her children away from the towns and cities for a few weeks by a lake. Yes, she can do all these things if her allowances are away above average. But it was the average Canadian we were thinking about. No one on the present average income can afford the things that make life really worth while. They find that it costs too much to live and the small savings of many of them are dwindling fast.

Who has got the goods that are listed under 'Shortages'? Who is keeping them from us? We did a wonderful job during the war, manufactured away above our needs and with nearly a million men less to do the job.

Why can't we make them, buy them, get our hands on them? Why export to foreigners when we need them so much at home? What are we working for if not for Canada, for ourselves? Can we get more of these things without foreign trade, or with it, and in any case for how much? What is stopping us? Clear the way for us. Clear the decks for action . . .

ACTION WITHOUT THOUGHT DANGEROUS

But action without thought is dangerous. The Nazis got into power on one plea, one program, one demand; they said they would give the German people action. They did. Instead of democracy the German people got dictatorship, and one that took them into action all right — and took the rest of us in, too.

The Canadian people do not want dictatorship nor do they want to dictate. What they do want is someone to tell them why it is that the ever increasing wage packets they take home today does not supply the goods and services that Canadians had come to take for granted as part of the Canadian way of life. Why this country should be poor amidst plenty? When is the poverty going to end and the dollar again mean something.

When are homes for all going to be available and the ramp in the real-estate brought to an end? When will we be able to lift our voices and say 'We live in God's country and we enjoy living.'

CHANCE TAKERS ARE ACCIDENT MAKERS

Schooldays are nearly over . . . at least for a time, and holidays take their place, much to the delight of all children, who will be free to wander as they will from morning to night. That is as it should be, but we forget one thing . . . and that is the great danger that confronts every child on his or her wanderings who has not received the full amount of teaching on safety precautions. Every year just about this time, there are a number of accidents reported and not a few fatalities.

Remember the boy who was drowned last year? He did not know how to counteract the drag of the river. Does your son? No! Well then teach him, or make sure that he realizes the danger and will only swim when others are present who could help, should he run into any difficulty.

Do your children spend the long summer months playing on the streets? Why? We know that in Timmins there are not to many places to play, but there is somewhere they can be other than being a menace to the motorist, and in constant danger to themselves. For their own safety, and your own peace of mind, keep your children off the streets. The school and other playgrounds are much better suited.

What about your boy and his bicycle? Does he know the rules of the road? Make sure he does, it is in his own interest. You continuously see in the national press glaring headlines telling of an accident between cyclists and trucks, or automobiles. Make doubly sure they know when to turn, and how to signal their intention.

And now, Mister Motorist, you have seen and read a lot about the careless driver. Are you safe. Do you pass the scene of twisted wreckage and battered bodies, and say "That can't happen to me, it only happens to the careless fellow." Do you know that 'Accident does not care who you are, what position you hold in the community, or how famous you are. 'Accident' has no respect for age, neither is it bluffed by your size or reputation, and loves you to have "just another drink". Yes, he likes you to break your neck . . . or someone else's. Do you want your neck broken? No! Then don't mix drinking with driving. And watch that child who is apt to wander across the street, with thoughts far away, and remember . . .

THE OLD HOME TOWN



The Economic Steeplechase

(By Lewis Milligan)

It is no laughing matter, but I confess I had a good laugh to myself when I read the following extract from the British Labor Government's white paper, "Economic Survey, 1947", issued in February last.

"At the present time there is too much money chasing after too few goods. To increase the amount of money in people's pockets does nothing to increase the amount of goods available. On the contrary, it makes the situation worse, since, if there is still more money chasing the same amount of goods, prices must sooner or later be forced up and no one will be any better off than they were before."

After I had recovered from my sudden fit of cachinon, I examined the statement more closely to discover what it was that tickled me. I found that the humor of it was, so to speak, double-barrelled. In the first place, the idea of too much money chasing after too few goods; and then still more money chasing after the same amount of goods, followed by the chasing of prices up the spiral staircase, was in itself a funny motion picture. But the thing that caused the explosion was the childlike simplicity of the concluding passage — "prices must sooner or later be forced up and no one will be any better off than they were before."

It was these last words that touched my funny-bone, for it seemed to me that the idea that "no one will be any better off" for all this chasing, had struck the writer as an after-thought, as though he had made a unique discovery. It may indeed be a new discovery for some members of the Labor Government who have for years been engaged in promoting this economic steeplechase. They have all along contended that higher and higher wages will give to the workers more and more purchasing power, which would enable them to buy more and more goods, raise their standard of living, and provide full employment for everybody.

Now that they have got into power and have come to close grips with the practical problems of financing, production and marketing, they have discovered the fallacy of their theory of big purchasing power. They have discovered that high wages are not purchasing power at all unless there is an abundance of goods to purchase. The theory might have worked out all right if high wages had been accompanied by higher production, but they put production into reverse with 'slowdowns' and strikes and the reduction of working hours. The logical result was increased production costs, decreased production, shortages, higher prices, and a lowered standard of living. The White Paper understated the situation when it said that "no one will be any better off than they were before", for the British workers are worse off than they ever were before.

It may seem like a callous thing to say, but I believe, from what I saw in Britain, that the workers would be better off with lower wages. This is practically what the White Paper means when it speaks of "too much money chasing after too few goods". This point is doubly emphasized by the further statement that "to increase the amount of money in people's pockets does nothing to increase the amount of goods available. On the contrary, it makes the situation worse."

The average worker in Britain, as in most other countries, does not save his surplus earnings, and if he cannot spend them on the necessities or the little luxuries for the home he will waste the money, as he is now doing on gambling and amusements. The chief incentive to work full time

is thus destroyed, and the Labor Government is trying to restore that incentive by its "WORK OR WANT" campaign. It is an appeal to the fear of want as the spur to hard work. In its poster appeal to the people, the Government declares: "If we don't (work hard), very soon we will have to go without much that our families take for granted. We're up against it! We WORK OR WANT!"

That is a very obvious truth which is as old as the human race. The saying, 'Money isn't everything', is well exemplified in the present lot of the British workers. It comes down to the simple truth belatedly discovered by a Labor Government: "To increase the amount of money in people's pockets does nothing to increase the amount of goods available." Some labor leaders on this continent have yet to make that discovery.

It is a good driver who only needs to use one hand . . . but it is a safe driver that always uses both. How many folks realize that the toll upon our streets and highways, is not only a menace to our safety, but to our very civilization. Why is it that we fear war, and yet treat so lightly the sickle that cuts down our children, our neighbours and our friends. What do we do to train first ourselves, and secondly our young ones, so that accidents will become rarities rather than a menace to be feared. Are we going to wage war on the cause, or just accept it as fate?

We, as good citizens of this vast country and district, must not treat this constant threat lightly, remember it is the lack of proper education regarding the danger of the road that takes life. We are all to blame for its existence, parents, the school teacher and the authorities. Make your child aware of the dangers that lurk on every street, in the water, around the creeks and rivers, and finally be sure to practise "safety first" yourself. Remember. Chance takers are accident makers.

Crime Sentences Redefined By Soviet

(By Lewis Milligan)

The Soviet Union, standardized by a Government decree, punishment for crimes of violence, within less than a week of abolishing the capital penalty — applied for mostly to offenders against State safety — and 25 years in a labour camp was substituted as the maximum sentence for any criminal offense.

Under the latest decree, penalties established are as follows:

THEFT: 5 to 6 years in a labour-camp; 10 to 15 years in a labour-camp; or on a second offense — six to ten years.

ROBBERY — 10 to 15 years, and confiscation of all property.

ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE, OR BY A GANG, OR ON A SECOND OFFENSE: 15 to 20 years, confiscation of property.

FAILURE TO REPORT A ROBBERY: Loss of freedom for 1 or 2 years, or banishment for 4 to 5 years. **THEFT OR EMBEZZLEMENT OF STATE PROPERTY:** 7 to 10 years in a labour-camp.

EMBEZZLEMENT OF STATE PROPERTY A SECOND TIME, OR BY A GANG, OR ON A LARGE SCALE: 10 to 25 years, confiscation of property.

THEFT FROM A COLLECTIVE FARM OR CO-OPERATIVE: 5 to 8 years; second offense, or when committed by a gang or on a large scale, 8 to 10 years and confiscation of property.

FAILURE TO REPORT THEFT OF STATE PROPERTY: Loss of freedom for 2 to 3 years or banishment for 5 to 7 years.

It was learned from Russian sources, that at the last session of the Supreme Soviet, complaints were received that penalties for various crimes were not uniform throughout the country. It is now surmised that the new decree will standardize all punishment.

Said the doctor: "I'm thinking you'd better stop drinking." Said the patient: "But, Doctor I do! I venture to say I stop ten times a day— And at night I start stopping anew. At noon I begin By giving up gin (Although stopping so early is risky). At 2:30 p.m. I quit Chateau Yquem. And by 4 I'm abandoning whisky. After cocktails I dine. But I stop drinking wine. Along about half after seven: And as for champagne, I'm stopping again. Not later than 10 or 11. I stop every night. When I turn out the light, And from then (let me make the case plainer) There isn't a man In the city who can Vie with me as a total abstainer."

is thus destroyed, and the Labor Government is trying to restore that incentive by its "WORK OR WANT" campaign. It is an appeal to the fear of want as the spur to hard work. In its poster appeal to the people, the Government declares: "If we don't (work hard), very soon we will have to go without much that our families take for granted. We're up against it! We WORK OR WANT!"

That is a very obvious truth which is as old as the human race. The saying, 'Money isn't everything', is well exemplified in the present lot of the British workers. It comes down to the simple truth belatedly discovered by a Labor Government: "To increase the amount of money in people's pockets does nothing to increase the amount of goods available." Some labor leaders on this continent have yet to make that discovery.

is thus destroyed, and the Labor Government is trying to restore that incentive by its "WORK OR WANT" campaign. It is an appeal to the fear of want as the spur to hard work. In its poster appeal to the people, the Government declares: "If we don't (work hard), very soon we will have to go without much that our families take for granted. We're up against it! We WORK OR WANT!"

That is a very obvious truth which is as old as the human race. The saying, 'Money isn't everything', is well exemplified in the present lot of the British workers. It comes down to the simple truth belatedly discovered by a Labor Government: "To increase the amount of money in people's pockets does nothing to increase the amount of goods available." Some labor leaders on this continent have yet to make that discovery.

is thus destroyed, and the Labor Government is trying to restore that incentive by its "WORK OR WANT" campaign. It is an appeal to the fear of want as the spur to hard work. In its poster appeal to the people, the Government declares: "If we don't (work hard), very soon we will have to go without much that our families take for granted. We're up against it! We WORK OR WANT!"

That is a very obvious truth which is as old as the human race. The saying, 'Money isn't everything', is well exemplified in the present lot of the British workers. It comes down to the simple truth belatedly discovered by a Labor Government: "To increase the amount of money in people's pockets does nothing to increase the amount of goods available." Some labor leaders on this continent have yet to make that discovery.

is thus destroyed, and the Labor Government is trying to restore that incentive by its "WORK OR WANT" campaign. It is an appeal to the fear of want as the spur to hard work. In its poster appeal to the people, the Government declares: "If we don't (work hard), very soon we will have to go without much that our families take for granted. We're up against it! We WORK OR WANT!"

When The Porcupine Was Young

By G. A. Macdonald

NO. 3. THE FIRST CITY OF THE PORCUPINE

In July of 1909, George Bannerman, rightly known as the Father of the Porcupine, staked the claims now known as the Canusa Mine. When he staked these claims at Halleybury, the nearest recording office, the samples of gold ore he had and his stories of the rich land to the North started a regular rush to the new gold fields. It is true that Jack Wilson and his party, and Sandy McIntyre, Benny Hollinger, Alex. Gillies and others were already in the area, but it was George Bannerman's stakings that started the real rush. George Bannerman had an abiding faith in the Porcupine gold camp — a faith that has held firm, through good and ill, for close to forty years.

In those days there were prospectors enough to open any area, and the numbers that came in to this camp, and the speed with which they came were not unusual. But the speed with which communities were established was certainly out of the ordinary. It was only a matter of weeks before a start was made on the building of a town — or rather, a city, for ambition came early to this district.

"Porcupine City" was the first community — established not far from the Bannerman claims. These claims soon became "The Scottish Ontario Mine." Peter MacLaren coming here as the representative of Scottish financiers. If governments had shown the same faith and enterprise that the pioneers displayed this country would have been opened sooner and broader — to the advantage of all. Governments, however, both at Ottawa and at Toronto, showed a sad lack of interest, let alone any faith. One pioneer of this land tells of being "almost thrown out of the Parliament Buildings at Toronto" on the occasions when voluntary delegations went at their own expense, to beg for roads, maps, better mining laws, and other needs.

Unfortunately, it may be added parenthetically, governments have not yet changed in this matter of short-vision. Though a great gold mining industry has been established in Canada — an industry that has kept the Dominion on an even keel through two world wars and one world depression



Porcupine City in 1909



Porcupine City in 1910

— governments still fail to grasp the full importance and value of gold mining. It is not too much to say that governments would show greater vision and foresight if they actually thought of subsidizing gold mines, rather than crippling them with restrictions and over-burdensome taxation.

But even governments with their doubts and dullness could not stop the old-time prospectors and pioneers. Those gallant men and women proceeded in the building of the homes and communities.

Porcupine City was started in 1909, and soon was a thriving centre with homes and stores and amusement centres. Indeed, old-timers will insist that there were two cities where one had been planned. Porcupine City soon developed into "Porcupine" or "Golden City", and "Pottsville", the latter named in honour of "Ma and Pa" Potts, who conducted a hotel in the new settlement.

It is interesting to note that the first store established in a regular building in Porcupine City was that of Gibson & Stirling, with Dayton Ostrosser as manager. Later, Mr. Ostrosser built and established a store at Aura



Porcupine City In Its Early Days

Lake, as it was then called. Later, Aura Lake was renamed "Schumacher," in honour of F. W. Schumacher of Columbus, Ohio, who staked the Schumacher claims, and did his part in the development of the great Porcupine gold mining area. Mr. Stirling, of the Gibson & Stirling firm, and Mr. Ostrosser, have been valuable citizens of the Town of Timmins from its early days.

In the meantime, other discoveries in the Porcupine area, resulted in new communities being established. Stakings by Noble Flood, with T. A. Lowe of Renfrew, as grub-staker, and the staking of the Dome Mines induced the establishment of the town of South Porcupine, which soon became the chief centre of the new camp. Established in 1909, South Porcupine was a thriving town, and it is pleasing to note that the people of South Porcupine through the years have maintained their faith in the Porcupine Camp — a faith that the years have fully justified.

Another In This Series by G. A. Macdonald — Next Week

The Nations Business

Argument continues to rage in the capital regarding immigration based particularly on the admission to Canada of 100 girls from the displaced persons camps of Europe. So many "emotionally-tinged" words are employed in the discussions that clear thinking has become more difficult than usual. Expressions that are recognized as part of the "communist line" are also heard from many places particularly from A. R. Mosher a trade unionist affiliated with the socialist party. His references to "galleys and auction blocks", and "slave trade" do not add to his stature or influence.

Does Canada want to help Are Canadians sincere in their expressed desire to do their share in solving the great human problem of "displaced persons" in Europe-human beings without a country — without a home? This observer believes that they are.

It has been authoritatively stated that the shipping situation is so bad that it will be at least a year before we can bring any substantial number of people to Canada by boat.

Canadian officials who take part in the United Nations Organization advise that the International Refugee Organization (an agency of the United Nations) will take about three months yet to get started. After that a general plan on "care and maintenance" and "resettlement" acceptable to the U. N. will have to be worked out. Invaluable preliminary work has been done on this plan by a preparatory commission but the most optimistic observer agrees that it will take a great deal of time to find a workable resettlement plan — and at least two or three years to complete it.

The question then is "should Canada do all she can, in the meantime, with respect to projects that are not harmful to Canada and will meet the desperate human need caused by the hardship and hopelessness of displaced persons camps?" The alternative would seem to be the maintenance of a humanitarian outlook in theory while refusing every immediate practical possibility of effective action for human welfare.

The Dionne Contract

Much of the heated discussion on the immigration of one hundred girls from among the displaced persons of Europe centres around the contract under which they were brought to Canada. The Toronto Star had a special correspondent interview Mr. Dionne at his rayon mill in the province of Quebec and to see the conditions under which the girls would live. Most of the emotion-charged statements made in criticism of the immigration seem to be extreme and incorrect. The most important point is that the contract that is criticised so much was drawn up by the "International Committee on Refugees" in London primarily to bind Mr. Dionne to guarantee two years work to the girls. Mr. Dionne stressed that the girls were not required to repay their passage and that they did not contract to remain unmarried. The Toronto Star reported excellent living and housing conditions for the girls.

Time is running out

It is recognized by those most active in projects concerning the welfare of human beings that time is running out in middle Europe. At the end of June U.N.R.R.A. and the intergovernmental committee on refugees will disappear. Only a few nations in Europe are offering jobs and freedom including Great Britain and Belgium. France and Sweden are still studying plans. The chief hope of this lost group of humans is in the America's. Other possibilities are at hand — a project of bringing 2000 domestic workers is being planned, 2000 workers are wanted in the clothing industry and in lumber camps. One of the most difficult problems is to provide accommodation upon arrival and until they fit themselves into jobs. Public support must come if these plans are to be successful.

Still at it?

Prominent newspaper correspondents in the parliamentary press gallery continue to speculate on the underlying cause of the continued criticism of federal government expenditures. One reporter says "Rarely is a specific example given of where savings should be effected". His opinion, and it is confirmed by many observers including this one, is that "the things at which the veiled criticism is largely directed are family allowances". When it is desired to deride them particularly, they are called "baby bonuses".

It is generally agreed that the only affect of this campaign is to shake public confidence in those who carry it on.

IN DETAIL

The district superintendent of a railway company had always made a special point of insisting that station-masters should send in a full report of any accident, however small. One morning he received the following urgent message: "Man fell from platform in front of moving train. Will send further details later."

After waiting for what seemed an age, the superintendent received the second message: "Everything O.K. Nobody injured. Engine was going backwards."

Conditions of life on Mars will be brought to our attention by a powerful new telescope, and we might as well warn the Martians now they must get at the end of the line, for relief.