

THROUGH THE YEARS

The Great Strike . . .

By Lewis Milligan

THIRTY YEARS AGO
Awarded Military Medal
 Corporal Faught, of North Bay, has been awarded the Military Medal for saving the lives of a gun crew by removing the fuse in a bomb which fell into a gun pit.

Presented With Candlebrass
 Rev. Fr. Arsenault, of Halleybury, was presented with three pair of beautiful candlebrass on the occasion of his birthday, the children of the church making the presentation with an appropriate address.

United In Marriage
 Mr. L.L. Strickland, of Cobalt, and Miss Evelyn Nelson, formerly nurse at

marrage has, week by Rev. H. B. Coumans. After a honeymoon in the south they will take up residence in Cobalt.

Released For Service
 Through the unions of various churches in the North Land, thirty-two ministers between Barrie and Cochrane have been released for service elsewhere.

Lamed At Tennis
 Mr. E. H. Hill, formerly of Timmins, but now Division Court Clerk with headquarters at South Porcupine, was in town last week at the sitting of the Division Court, and gave a "lame excuse" for carrying a cane. He was playing tennis at South End the other day and injured his knee in the game, with a result that he is crippled for the time being. Tennis is considered a mild form of sport usually, but Ernie says that they do everything with great strenuousness over in South Porcupine, and that over there is more dangerous than hockey or rugby football in other places, or words to that effect. However, all wish him a safe, sure and speedy recovery from an injury which he may joke about to hide its painfulness.

Some months ago this lady gave a transient a meal and later let him take away some magazines to read. The lady promptly forgot about the matter. It was only one of many similar cases. But the man did not forget. For two years he failed to land any steady work, but recently he got what he considers a real job. The first thing he did upon receiving his first pay was to go around to people who had befriended him and offer to return the money he had received.

Once upon a time there was a country called Thisland whose people were very industrious. Their farms were prosperous and their city factories were busy day and night producing goods that were in constant demand not only at home but wide-spread markets abroad. In fact they could not produce enough to meet those demands and there was a shortage in some goods; but the standard of living of the people was far higher than that of many of the countries with which they traded.

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Navy Band At Exhibition
 For forty years, British bands, usually representative of famous regiments which have played prominent parts in Britain's glorious history, have influenced Canadian music. These have been presented to the Canadian public and foreign visitors in free afternoon and evening concerts at the Canadian National Exhibition.

An interesting change has been made this year in the engagement of the famous United States Navy Band of eighty-five men. The strength is twenty-five more than the next largest band ever to appear at Exhibition Park.

Four Double Weddings
 Double weddings have attained the standing of a new style in Timmins and district. There were no less than four different weddings in two days at the week-end, two double weddings on Saturday and two to-day. Double, double, double, as it were. Timmins has evidently become a double wedding concubus.

To maintain this standard of living and growing export trade, farming methods had been improved by constant fertilization and the introduction of mechanical equipment. Factories also had to be constantly extended and new inventions for improving and increasing production were adopted from time to time. These mechanical inventions tended to lighten the labor of the people generally as well as to raise their standard of living.

Periodic adjustments of the economic balance between the rising cost of production and the cost of living were not made without considerable confusion. Factory workers would band themselves together and demand higher wages and when these demands were not met in full they would refuse to work, thus stopping production and entirely cutting off their wages. This process of enforcing their demands they called "strikes", which was a very apt term, for they struck at everybody concerned and even at those who had nothing to do with the dispute.

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Twenty Years Ago Medal Of Its Own
 A special medal and one which will doubtless be highly prized by those to whom they are awarded was one of the unique features of the Sudbury Diamond Jubilee celebration. The medal is a handsome affair, of a special design, with the beaver at the top, the maple leaf in the centre and the inscription "Sudbury Diamond Jubilee of Confederation 1867-1927" cast out of pure nickel and surmounted with the Canadian coat of arms in enamel. The nickel was supplied by the International Nickel Co., without charge to the Celebration Committee, and Ellis Bros., the well-known jewellers and silversmiths of Toronto executed the work. The medal is considered an outstanding memento of the big celebration both from the local and national standpoint.

Visits Winnipeg
 Councillor and Mrs. W. H. Pritchard left on Sunday for Winnipeg to visit with Mrs. Pritchard's sister. They will be away for two weeks.

Left For United States
 Mr. D. McLaughlin, who has been a resident of Timmins for the past two years, part of the time in the employ of the Hollinger Mine, left this week for the United States to reside.

Receives Coveted Award
 The many friends of Mrs. J. F. MacDonald, Porcupine will be glad to learn of her good fortune in achieving a high standing among the prize winners of the recent MacLean's Magazine contest as conducted by MacLean's Magazine. Mrs. MacDonald has received a cheque from the Magazine for a substantial amount, and congratulations are in order on her success in this unique series of contests of which MacLean's Magazine announce a new one each issue.

Only One Fire
 The only fire of the week-end occurred at 9:05 this morning. The department was called to extinguish a pipe and chimney fire in the home of James Holland at 4 Borden avenue in the Hollinger Township. Firemen quickly brought the flames under control with chemicals. No damage was done to the house.

Few factories made profits beyond what was required for maintaining their capital investment and providing reserves for future emergencies. But the leaders of the workers considered that high prices were due to high profits, and they made periodic demands for higher wages. They did not seem to realize that wages constituted the major part of the cost of production, and consequently fixed the market price of the product. Thus with every increase in wages the cost of living increased in proportion with every increase in the cost of living a further demand for wage increase followed.

And eventually a shortage of commodities for home consumption. The workers grew restless and began to blame the Government for this situation. They could not now complain about their wages, for these were high; nor could they protest against the prices which were low. Their complaint was that there was so little to buy, and they were willing to pay higher prices if they could recover their former standard of living. They must get rid of the Government and put in power an administration composed entirely of labor leaders. This they did by an overwhelming majority.

But the new Government found itself as powerless as the old one to change things, and they went from bad to worse. Thousands of people were out of employment, although there was plenty of work to be done. Commodity prices had been repeatedly cut down until the farms and factories were carried on at enormous losses. But wage rates fixed at their original level. At this juncture all the housewives rose in a body. They had grown tired of trying to make ends meet, and of seeing their husbands around the house doing nothing because they refused to work for less than the regulation wage rate. The housewives were led by a little woman with a large family. She had a calm and clear mind, but a sharp and commanding tongue. She conceived the idea that the cause of all the trouble was high wages. She ordered her husband and adult sons out to work for whatever they could get, and told them that they must work harder than they had ever done before. Other housewives followed suit, and the movement of back to hard work spread throughout the land. The Government was powerless to stop the movement, and the home-life of the doled idle men was rendered so miserable, and in many cases dangerous, that they were glad to accept jobs at any price.

And so it came to pass that Thisland returned to its former state of industrious prosperity: "For The People Had A Mind To Work."

Time For Decision

By George W. James
 The Canadian Statesman, Bowmanville, Ont.

ARTICLE NO. 10

Article 9 of this series outlined the terms of the 5-year wheat agreement with Britain which was negotiated by Minister of Agriculture, Hon. J. G. Gardiner without consulting parliament and then asked the House to ratify at the present session. He next sought absolute power for himself over all other farm products for sale and export during the current year. Both measures were ratified after debate which brought out the stand taken by other parties.

Absolute Control
 Speaking on Bill 25, which gives the Minister absolute power over products other than wheat, Mr. Gardiner said: P. 1610, Hansard: "The boundary is closed into the U.S.A. and there is only one place where the farmer can sell, that is Britain; we come to him and say, this is the arrangement; we are paying the floor price for all your surplus and we take it and ship it while this agreement lasts! I hope it will last forever". This was his general statement.

Ultimate Position
 There are many factors inherent in these unprecedented peacetime controls that will take some time to tell. In losing so much of their freedom, farmers will wish to be fully informed of most of the facts and implications of these acts so they may weigh for themselves whether the stability envisioned by the government is a practical conclusion or whether these extreme controls will lead to loss of production and hence inability to supply, in the long run, our overseas markets.

Why Farm Control
 What is the background of these restrictions of the freedom of Canadian farmers? Why are farmers held to fixed and floor prices with their products subject to control and seizure after controls have been lifted from wages and salaries and price ceilings raised from a whole range of things that farmers have to buy? These are questions that farmers who do not read Hansard will wish to have explained. The story is an economic partnership with Britain shared by the Canadian public and Canadian farmers.

British Loan
 To support British recovery the Canadian government loaned to Britain out of tax monies, approximately a billion dollars with which to buy Canadian wheat, bacon, beef, cheese, eggs and other food products contracted for at named figures and stated amounts. This is a national loan repayable if and when the British economy permits. There was almost complete unanimity in the Canadian House in support of the loan. It was made simultaneously with a loan of some three billions to Britain by the U.S.A. government.

Farmers Bear Loss
 It will be seen that Canadian farmers, as taxpayers, contribute to this loan. But under the British food agreements at present world prices, they alone contribute out of their own pockets the difference between the prices arranged with Britain and current world prices. As shown in Article 9, farmers lose on wheat this year some 232 million dollars. The public at large does not share this loss.

A Billion Lost
 Besides losing freedom as set out above the Canadian farmer foregoes present cash returns, not only on wheat but on a whole range of exports as the prices quoted below will indicate. The estimated loss even over a limited period will run in excess of a billion dollars and the farmers themselves stand the shot. To bring the matter down to a concrete basis these figures are taken from official records.

Comparative Prices
 In Hansard, P. 1577, these comparative figures as of March 1st, 1947, are given: Grade "A" hogs at Chicago, \$29.08; in Toronto, \$16.50 plus bonus; steers, Chicago, \$25.15; in Toronto, \$15; lambs, Chicago, \$23.60; in Toronto, \$18; potatoes, U.S.A., \$2.70; in Canada, \$1.23 per 75-lb bag; oats, Chicago, 99c; in Winnipeg, 61.5c. Wheat today gives the Canadian producer on the prairies an average of \$1.20 per bus, while the current world price is around \$3.00 per bus.

World Market Closed
 This will give only part of the picture in regard to the control and regimentation of Canadian farmers under the policies developed by the government. Taking the quantities contracted for at prices determined by the government under the British agreements, with United States and world markets generally closed, it will be appreciated that the present cash loss to Canadian farmers is actually a tremendous figure.

Party Opinions
 As mentioned above the stand taken by the various parties in the House on these controls and agreements was made very clear. Opinions touched upon the ultimate economic effect of the arrangements and the moral grounds of limiting the freedom of Canadian farmers. The stand taken by the several leaders on these questions will be dealt with in a succeeding article.

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