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Notes and Comments**Timely Rental Reminders**

First of May... Moving Day... is just around the corner, therefore a couple of timely rental reminders should be interesting. If you're looking for an apartment, a house or a flat, the Prices Board warns you that it is illegal for landlords to require the payment of rewards or bonuses, and under the present regulations landlords may not ask for more than one month's rent in advance. Now that so many people are returning from overseas to set up housekeeping and get back into civilian life, they will be well advised to ask the landlord to show them his WPTB certificate indicating the approved rent, this is your protection against inflated rents. If the apartment has never been rented before the rate charged must be set within thirty days by a rentals appraiser of the Board, and if the rental you have agreed to pay is higher than that set by the Prices Board, deduct the overcharge from your next month's rent. Rent control regulations prohibit unfair practices for the benefit of landlords who do not play fair as well as for people in search of scarce accommodation in congested war centres.

A Message For Farmers

Canadian farmers are confronted with a rare opportunity to do some effective planting in their own interest and in that of the nation. W.D. Albright declared recently in Alberta. Canadian farm income, which reached a low of \$383,000,000 in 1932, has risen \$722,000,000 in 1939 and to \$1,748,000,000 (estimated gross income) in 1944. While a good deal of the jump is represented by price increase, volume has held up well. Every important wartime call upon Canadian farm production has been substantially met, or more than met, in spite of labour shortage and the shortage of new machinery. But while this magnificent record was being achieved the farm plant has been running down at heel, and that cannot go on forever. It is a good time for each farmer to sit down and carefully consider a definite plan for the future, looking toward the improvement of his farm enterprise, improvement of his farm home, the future welfare of his family and the possibility of setting aside something for a nest egg and keeping it as a reserve against contingencies. Victory Bonds are the ideal means to these ends but it must be remembered that \$1.00 will not do the work of \$2.00. Each farmer must consider what he needs most. Perhaps it is a well or a dugout, or water on tap in the house, or a new barn, or a new house, or a new tractor, or some good stock. Make a list of the desirables and review it carefully.

And don't be in too much of a hurry to spend it all. There may be a buying spree after the war as there was after the last war, in which case prices will strain the controls. Some of the dollars may buy more if they are held two or three years after the war. By buying bonds now and thinking out a careful plan of using the proceeds later on we may not only help to win the war but help to win the peace as well.

Squawks and Feathers

Apart from its errors of commission and omission, any wartime government is bound to become unpopular. Citizens don't like paying heavy taxes, they don't like rationing and they don't like price control, wage control or National Selective Service. They may admit that some or all of these wartime phenomena have been necessary, even though Canada fought the war of 1914-18 without such weapons; but the

government that imposes the restrictions and collects the taxes must accept its unpopularity as part of the price it pays for power.

Irritation with government arises more from the details of administering its policies than from the policies themselves. For example, no honest patriot will argue that we could wage war without submitting to burdensome taxes. The government implements the people's will when it provides in its budget for the legitimate costs of war. When it works out specific measures for collecting these costs from the taxpayers, it all too frequently follows principles that strike the citizen as mean or dishonest.

Thus the citizen who, through a natural and innocent miscalculation, underpays his income tax, learns two or three years later that he must pay the deficit with interest. The deficit of course, is his own fault, because he has neglected his opportunities of higher education and is unfit to cope with complexities of T-1 General. The interest, on the other hand, accumulates because of delay in the income tax department; but the department pays no interest to the taxpayer on an overpayment of income tax, and in fact is very dilatory in refunding the overpayment. The taxpayer is always on the losing side.

In his personal capacity the taxpayer is above taking pennies from children. If he gives a thought to the matter he must blush when he thinks of his government doing that very thing every day with its taxes on candy and soft drinks.

Again, what happens to the taxes collected at the source from dividends paid to those who are not taxable? A person, whose sole income is \$600 a year in dividends, needs the \$42 that the taxing authorities have grabbed, but he can get it only by entangling himself in red tape. He may not even know his rights in the matter. If there is any branch of the income tax department charged with the duty of seeking out and remedying injustice, it has received so little publicity as to be unknown.

The tax-collector's old motto, "the most feathers with the least squawking," may not be a perfect maxim for governments to follow, but it is preferable to the modern motto, "feathers at any cost."

Better have an Average Mentality

Dr. Clarence Hinks of Toronto is some sort of a brain specialist or mental capacity estimator, and recently made some reference to the genius class in humanity as being of a higher grade of intelligence, yet it is a noticeable fact that many geniuses have been dunces at school, and so often their intelligence is very one-sided. In fact people will on occasion feel sorry for a certain genius who knows, for instance, only mathematics, yet is a perfect freak in normal lines. Take the long-haired musician, so often he is queer, or the artist who is a lonely recluse, with a cracked mind.

Coming to the writer's own field, our acquaintance with a few brilliant writers reveals some queer turns of ability. Writers, many of them are poor spellers, men who hated grammar and fell down badly in arithmetic and geography at school. Men whose brain wouldn't function without a whiskey or two. Bernard Shaw used to be an atrocious speller. Tennyson left Oxford without a degree. Goldsmith was so dum as a conversationalist that someone said of him, "he writes like an angel and talks like a poor individual." Ben Johnson said of Shakespeare that he had "little Latin and less Greek, and certainly did not display an intelligence in his domestic affairs, from all accounts." This reminds us that the editor of this paper once visited the home of Ann Hathaway in England and was shown the big fire place where Ann sat with Wm. Shakespeare to do their courting, and just behind them would sit Ann's parent, so perhaps the poor fellow never had a chance to run his own domestic affairs. Be that as it may, he was a dud in domestic affairs, we read. Likewise, Burns, Byron, Shelley and Coleridge were placed as children so far as the practical affairs of the world are concerned, but they were great men with powerful mentality and personality. What we are emphasizing is that we need not be a specialist or a genius. Better, we think, that one should be generally smart in the normal callings of life.

WHITCHURCH DEBENTURE FREE

The Township of Whitchurch is absolutely free of any debenture liability, the final small payment on a school debenture for the Balantrae section, is payable in Sept. this year, and the money is now ready for it. It is quite a good record to not even have a school debenture owing. The township, however, carried a bank liability from year to year of several thousand dollars.

DAY OF VICTORY

When the day of victory comes,
Lower the fife and mute the drums.
Let the pride be silent, deep.
(Brothers, hark! Our brothers weep!).

Not without bitter sacrifice
Was won at last this glorious prize,
Won by the tears and sweat and blood
Of men's high travail in dust and mud,

On flaming deck and the furious sea,
And roaring skies where hell was free,
Then honor not those who fell and fall
By noise and empty carnival.

Nor seek by thoughtless mood and mind
Thus to salute the maimed and blind.
Though never before, pause now and pray,
Men's broken bodies have brought this day.

Ask the bereaved if the day was cheap!
(Listen, my brother! Your brothers weep!).

Then let the praise and the pride run deep.

MISSIONARY CONVENTION SPEAKER

Great Missionary Convention is now in progress at the Gormley M.B.C. Church at which Rev. S.S. Shantz will tell of his work carried on in Nigeria, West Africa, on Thursday evening, May 10th, at 8 o'clock.

ARE OTTAWA PENSIONS REALLY FAIR?

There has recently been some sharp shooting at Canada's pension scheme, and this led to the Chief Pensions Officer of the Canadian Legion to say that Canada's pensions are the fairest paid anywhere and the highest in the world. Of course, Mr. Richard Hale, the pension man of the Legion, was speaking about pensions for soldiers, we believe. What some people consider is that other pensions are anything but fair. For instance, the late Sir William Mulock, we recall, was paid a pension of \$8,000 per year after retiring at over 80.

It is to be remembered that Sir William was a millionaire and couldn't begin to spend his great wealth. What is fair about an \$8,000 pension for a man of such wealth?

Again, Gen. McNaughton was offered a pension of \$8,000 per year while being in receipt of government or army pay of about \$8,000 per year. It is to his credit that he turned down the pension for the time being at least, but why should the Dominion Government provide a pension for a millionaire or an \$8,000 per salary man?

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