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Notes and Comments

Real Significance of Price Cuts

Last week two far-sighted manufacturing companies, Ford of Canada and International Harvester, announced price reductions to consumers. The cuts were not particularly large but that is not important. Real significance of the move lies in the fact that—

1—This was the first reversal in the trend of steadily rising prices since well before the war.

2—These cuts were made at a time when both companies could have sold their full capacity for months ahead at the former or even a higher price level.

One Inconvenience Less

Citizens generally, and meat vendors particularly, will applaud Ottawa's move in ending meat rationing at consumer level.

Although it is still necessary to limit the amount of domestic meat consumption so as to provide enough for export to fulfill contracts with the United Kingdom, that will be controlled through present regulations governing slaughter permits and quotas.

Moreover, the continuation of meatless Tuesdays and Fridays in all public eating places will help to achieve the export goal. Most householders never really felt the pinch of meat rationing, so that its discontinuance is welcomed mostly because it means one inconvenience less, and thus facilitates shopping.

The real sign of relief will come when butter and sugar rationing are dropped. Those are the red-letter days on the ration calendar.

Bringing in the Sheaves Costs More Today

Canadian farmers are directly affected by the dropping of subsidies on importation of sisal fibre, reports Hardware & Metal and Electrical Dealer. It means a hoist in the price of binder twine right across the country.

Sisal costs and higher cotton prices together have resulted in an increase in prices allowed for used cotton bags, bagging and baling material.

Jam Rationing Should End

There is no overall shortage of jam in Canada, according to Canadian Grocer, but still the WTPB refuses to consider ending rationing regulations on jams, jellies and marmalade until sugar rationing generally is dropped.

"No consumer in a food store, with or without coupons, would be denied a jam of some kind," comments the grocery trade paper. "It might not be strawberry or raspberry, but it could be plum or peach. It begins to look as if the heavy 1946 pack will not be disposed of in time for the 1947 pack if coupons must continue to be turned in for it."

Government Statistics

Once again we have received a demand from the Dominion Government Statistical Branch at Ottawa, wanting to know how much coal was consumed by The Tribune in 1946, how much lubricating oil, how much hydro power, the number and size of motors in use, voltage, how much news print, bond paper, ticket board, cardboard, any other paper or cardboard, and what it was used for, whether tickets, sale bills, and whatnot.

In addition we are asked something like one hundred other questions we are unable to answer. Visualize these questions going out and guesses returning by the thousands, one can realize the army of clerks it must require to tabulate the results.

Surely there is a simpler method of gathering this information. It would be easy to find out the amount of newsprint from both the mills and the few wholesalers who distribute it to the newspapers. The same source could quickly acquaint the Statistical Dept. as to the amount of other papers and envelopes sold to the consumers.

From the town office the amount of power consumed by each customer could readily be ascertained, one report instead of scores.

When the Finance Minister is seeking to cut the budget we hope he forces the Statistical Dept. to modernize the methods it employs, save thousands of dollars and thousands of hours of unnecessary work all over Canada.

Joy Will Be Restrained

Canadian taxpayers, burdened for so long by the fabulous expenditures required by war, will find some encouragement in the announcement that Finance Minister Abbott has been able to effect what appear to be substantial reductions in Federal expenditures for the coming fiscal year. The estimates he tabled in the Commons indicate that Canada will spend \$906 millions less in 1947-48 than during the previous year.

As heartening as this may be, it will readily turn to disheartening if the Minister does not indicate further reductions, substantial ones this time, in personal income tax. Checking the taxes in the smaller brackets is providing employment for thousands of office hands, and there is a strong feeling in the country that this is one reason tax authorities, from a political angle, hesitate to increase the exemptions in taxes. What would the government do with all these clerks? Well, what will the tax payer do with a government who continues to tax wages as low as \$750 per annum? We understand that most private members of parliament are all out for greater exemptions, and it is hoped they will insist on their opinions being recognized.

You are Invited to Attend the

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 7th
 at 8 p.m. in the

Stouffville Baptist Church

Toronto Christian Police Group

ARE GIVING THE ENTIRE PROGRAM

COME—and Enjoy a Profitable Evening

YOU WILL BE WELCOME — BRING YOUR FRIENDS

OUR CAPITAL CORRESPONDENT

"While the Government has been moving as promptly as conditions warranted in removing controls, there can be little doubt that an immediate removal of all remaining controls would have very serious and undesirable consequences," said Rt. Hon. J. L. Hilsley, Justice Minister, in urging the House of Commons to support a measure for the continuation for a limited time certain orders and regulations deemed necessary in regard to emergency powers pertaining to controls. He emphasized that current conditions inside and outside Canada warranted such powers, with shortages on a world-wide scale and urgent demands for supplies of basic materials and foodstuffs on a widespread scale, together with high and fluctuating prices.

"Prices would not only rise sharply but distribution would be uneven and disorderly, and the needs of many citizens could not be met," he declared. "In face of the international conditions in the economic sphere and of the gaps which, though narrowing, still persist between domestic supplies and demands, there can be no doubt that prices of foods, textiles, fuels, and of course, rentals would rise suddenly and substantially. The same thing would be profiteering and speculation in the necessities of life," with the Canadian Government favouring in no uncertain way a policy now of orderly readjustment as opposed to boom-and-collapse readjustment.

A large mass meeting of civil servants was held in this capital and the employees of the largest employer in this country, the Canadian Government, almost like one voice a request for general increase in salaries in all branches of the service, with this request, if granted, would mean that they would receive an estimated \$65,000,000 more for all workers across this country now employed in the governmental services and approximately \$15,000,000 more for workers in Ottawa alone.

There has been considerable talk lately whether or not postmasters in Canada are allowed to divulge certain information about mail which they handle or about the persons to whom mail is addressed or sent by, though there is definitely no doubt in Ottawa regarding such limitations.

As a matter of fact, it is learned here that no information can be given about a letter which passes through the mails except to the person to whom it is addressed or to the sender when inquiring about delivery. In addition, it is understood here that postmasters are distinctly prohibited from supplying information respecting names or addresses, financial standing or reputation, or other information outside the provisions of the Canadian official postal regulations.

In short, the information which postmaster can supply is limited by law and no doubt exists about it, according to authorities in Canada.

Testifying before the Banking and Commerce Committee of the House of Commons, Donald Gordon, who is leaving now the post as chairman of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, effective April 15, to assume his peace-time job with the Bank of Canada was asked pointblank by a member of this Committee the following question: "I wonder if Mr. Gordon could indicate to us the cost of living trend for the balance of this year?" "Hum-um," replied quickly Mr. Gordon who headed Canada's control machinery during and since the war, "I am not a prophet."

"We feel that we are doing it at less cost to the people concerned than they are being supplied from any other part of the world," said Agriculture Minister Gardiner in denying the charge that the British Government was being called upon to pay the "most" or "that Canadian farmers speculated about what was the 'most' they could 'get out of' Britain....." "We must not let ourselves forget that communism is undemocratic and totalitarian," Hon. John Bracken, Progressive-Conservative leader, emphasized in a statement here..... "If the Irish who came to this country lacked wealth they were endowed with a native imagination, an intelligence and a faith," said in an address in the capital, J.J. Connolly, OBE. "The ranks of Canadian professional and business men are replete with Irish nerges....." "The chief menaces to the lives of our children are, in order of their destructiveness, accidents, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, influenza and pneumonia, appendicitis and diphtheria," said Dr. Fred Jeffrey, child specialist, in a talk in Ottawa..... "We have no need to apologize for Britain's connection with India over the past 250 years, though people here and elsewhere expect us to apologize," commented Rev. Thomas J. Buchanan, speaking here of his 27 years of missionary work in India..... "I happen to be one of those known as a 'war baby', the boys and girls who grew up to be the 'forgotten generation' until war raised its ugly head and we became the 'fighting generation.'"

The now famous dispute between the CBC and Premier Drew over statements made on the airwaves in regard to policies of Ontario and Dominion-Provincial relations is not expected to bring about any changes in policy of the CBC governing commentators. Solon Low Social Credit leader, has taken up residence in Ottawa as a base of operations, though, of course, he

GORMLEY

Mrs. W. Henderson, accompanied by Freda and Blanche, visited her daughter Mrs. Harvey Cassel at Preston one day last week. Mrs. Peter Steckley visited her sister Mrs. Joseph Steckley a few days recently.

Quite a number of the young people from Heise Hill church attended the youth Rally and Bible conference at Ontario Bible School, Fort Erie North.

Rev. A.D.M. Dick, superintendent of the Brethren in Christ Missions in India, was a recent visitor among friends and relatives in Gormley. He was accompanied by his wife and Premi, a little Indian boy, now nearly four years old, who was brought to their mission when but a small infant. During their stay here they attended the Sewing Circle where the ladies of the church have been sewing for relief work in the orphanages in connection with the India Missions. A recent letter from Miss Anna Steckley who has charge of a girls' orphanage states that the problem of clothing the children is becoming more difficult as cloth is rationed, only eight yards per person per year, hence the clothing now being prepared for shipment in the near future will be much appreciated.

On Monday evening a farewell gathering was held at the home of Mr. Anthony Nigh for Mr. and Mrs. Landon Steckley and family who expect to move in the near future to their new farm home at Fordwich, Ont. About fifty friends and relatives extended their good wishes for the future happiness and prosperity of this esteemed family. Mrs. Albert Reigle of Ridgeway is visiting at the home of her brother Bishop Alvin Winger.

will still spend considerable time in his own constituency and elsewhere when Parliament is not in session. Premier King, Official Opposition Leader Bracken, and CCF Leader Coldwell also reside in the capital..... Dr. Liu Shih Shun, Chinese Ambassador to Canada, his wife and eldest daughter, have left the capital to pay a visit to China for the first time in five years..... A Bill has been introduced in the Senate to incorporate the Canadian Nurses Association in order to "dignify the profession of nursing by maintaining and improving the ethical and professional standards of nursing education and service," with among proposed member organizations being registered nurses associations of eight provinces and the Association of Nurses of Quebec..... A report in Ottawa claims that, in face of complaint, the production of nails in Canada was now "very high" and that there was no reason for complaint about shortages of this kind for essential building. (Reproduction Prohibited, 1947 Federal Features Syndicate)

New Playing! Friday & Saturday, April 4-5
"COURAGE OF LASSIE"
 Elizabeth Taylor—Frank Morgan

Monday & Tuesday, April 7-8
'Angel on my Shoulder'
 Paul Muni—Anne Baxter
 Adult Entertainment

"FOTO-NITE" Thursday!
"UNDERCURRENT"
 Katherine Hepburn and Robert Taylor
 Adult Entertainment
\$235.00 OFFER!
 Wednesday and Thurs., April 9-10

Friday & Saturday, April 11-12
"ABILENE TOWN"
 Randolph Scott—A. Dvorak
"LITTLE IODINE"
 Jo Ann Marlowe and Marc Cramer

STOUFFVILLE STANLEY Theatre of the Stars!
Coming! Monday & Tuesday, April 14-15
"GALANT BESS"
 Marshall Thompson—George Tobias

Thank you HYDRO USERS

• The wintertime power shortage in Southern Ontario has been relieved with the coming of spring and the longer hours of daylight. In the winter months the shorter and darker days create a maximum demand on your Hydro system. Conditions in this winter season are such that Hydro plants are loaded to the point where it becomes necessary to ask for the co-operation of all Hydro users in saving electricity by every possible voluntary means. In the spring and summer season the urgency for conservation is not so great as in the fall and winter.

The voluntary saving of electricity in homes, offices, theatres, stores, and in industry, greatly relieves this condition. Your response was very helpful. To those who so willingly co-operated during this emergency period; Hydro says, "Thank You."

In many localities Hydro stations and lines are overloaded because of the delay in obtaining necessary new equipment. Therefore, do not waste electricity—use Hydro wisely at all times.

THE HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER COMMISSION OF ONTARIO