

**STOUFFVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
FRIDAY, DEC. 1st**

at 8.15 p.m.

VETERANS' HALL, STOUFFVILLE

PARENTS, FORMER STUDENTS and FRIENDS MOST
CORDIALLY INVITED

NOTE: There will be no Play, Folk Dancing or Tumbling
at Commencement this year — This will be held in the
Spring in the form of a School Concert.

North York Progressive Conservative
Association

Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 1950

at 2.30 p.m.

THE GRAYSTONES RESTAURANT

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General Business — Election of Officers

Speakers:

HON. DR. PHILLIPS, M.L.A., Minister of Health
MAJOR LEX MacKENZIE, M.L.A.

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THE REAL PROBLEM

(By R. J. Deachman)

We are all interested in the cost of living. The husband is usually the bread winner. The little woman comes to him on Saturday morning, or is it Friday, and tells him that the cost of living is up and according to a carefully calculated estimate of the Bureau of Statistics it now take \$4.00 more than it did a few weeks ago to meet the family budget. He gives her the extra with pain in his eyes and goes out cursing the Bureau of Statistics.

The Bureau of Statistics, of course, isn't to blame for rising prices, neither is the Weather Bureau responsible for the pranks of the thermometer. Both these institutions are interested only in recording what has happened. We do not blame the clock when we find that it is later than we think, we must treat the others with equal courtesy.

Your ready answer may well be: What on earth can I do about it? There are many things we can do. If for instance you are a farmer and you have a mortgage on the farm and the price of wheat today happens to be double what it was two years ago, isn't it a good time to pay off the mortgage? If you live in a city and the mortgage is on the house then it's up to you "to do ditto," in other words reduce the mortgage.

When this is done you have increased your security. You are then in a position to make needed improvements when prices decline. Of course this is a difficult task. It is safe to say that if the war had suddenly collapsed in 1941 or '42 the cost of living would not now have been as high as it is. This would be even more likely if, with the close of the war, there was wide evidence of a world-wide desire for peace. Neither of these things happened, so the future of prices is in-doubt. No one can hope to guess where the price level will stand ten years from today, or even in five years or two or one.

What makes prices rise? There are many causes. There is, of course, our old friend, supply and demand. If for any reason, and the reasons are numerous, we have increased production due to any cause the tendency will be for prices to decline. On the other hand a poor crop, or other limitation to production, brings about higher prices. An increase in the supply of money will cause prices to rise, a decrease in supply of money will lead to a decline in prices.

Then, of course, higher wage levels mean higher prices. There is an illustration of this condition in recent events. The railway workers demand and have been granted increased wage rates. This will be followed by demands for higher freight rates. The railway estimate is that this will cost \$80,000,000 and will call for an increase in freight rates of 20%.

This, however, is only the direct cost to the railways. The railways cannot take this sum out of their own pockets. It must be passed on to the public in higher price levels. It is a basic cost. It will add to the cost of your breakfast, your new house, if you can afford one. It means higher costs for the manufacturer and higher costs for the distributor. It means less purchasing power for the farmer. In the end it will come back on the railway workers and all other workers from one end of the country to the other. When anybody mentions this fact they will deny with great emphasis its application to them—their leaders tell them it isn't true.

Here is a case which illustrates this point. In 1926 the average railway worker in Canada received

To Vote on Liquor Issue at Haliburton

The "wet" and "dry" forces of Haliburton are going to let the village residents decide which faction they support early in December. On the 13th of next month the residents will go to the polls to vote for or against the opening of a government liquor store in Haliburton.

The "dry" forces of the village are being rallied by the ministers of the community. These temperance advocates include Rev. T. Rutherford, United Church, Rev. Mr. Dean, Pentecostal, Rev. Mr. Cathcart, Anglican, Lieut. Miller, Salvation Army, and Mr. Schnit, gospel lay preacher. Mr. W. C. Bailey is chairman of the temperance committee. Supporters of the "dry" police for the village are said to be extremely active in their campaign to keep liquor outlets out. They contend that a liquor store in the village will not increase business or in any way contribute to the general prosperity of the community.

The "wet" forces are reported to have the support of several local business people who are said to be of the opinion that a liquor store in the village would mean increased business for them. The so-called "wet" forces are claimed to have been promoting the vote for considerable time by forming committees, getting up a petition and so forth.

What the outcome of the vote will be only the ballots can tell and they won't talk until after they have been cast and counted.

ed \$1, 448 per annum. This is a flat average of all the wages and salaries on Canadian railways. In 1933 at the bottom of the depression the earnings of the average worker fell to \$1,299, meanwhile the cost of living had fallen to 77.5 as against 100 in 1926. Through that fact, and that fact alone, real wages rose to \$1,676 per annum. There was a substantial increase in real earnings due to a decline in the cost of living.

Here is the real test. The industrial revolution meant a change over from hand work to machine production, which resulted in a tremendous increase in production and a higher standard of living. To whom did this increase belong? It could be given to the inventors or others who developed machine production. It could have been given to those who provided the necessary capital for increased production. Labor might have taken it all—that, in a large part, is what really happened. Then there was the consumer, the forgotten man. The gains from technological improvements should have been passed on to the consumer in a lower price for the products produced. If this had been done there would have been an increased demand for goods and full employment would be the normal condition in every nation. Bastiat, the great French economist was right, when over a hundred years ago he wrote these words:

Treat all problems from the standpoint of the consumer for the interests of the consumer are the interests of the human race.

Note:—Bastiat's Economic Sophisms was for many years out of print. In 1934 I published a new edition under the name of "Economic Fallacies." It sold readily. Perhaps the world is now ready for another edition. I am convinced of this: "The world will do right when it has exhausted all the possibilities of doing wrong. Surely we must soon reach that point." R.J.O., Ottawa, Sept. 9th, 1950.

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