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BACON: ITS RISE IN PRICE.

Competition is said to be the life of trade. It is at the bottom of all the energy which, wisely or unwisely, is directed into business channels. The one great argument against monopoly, of any kind, is that it does not develop the power at its command. Usually it is content to profit by what it has, plus the imposition it is possible to exact rather than resort to ventures which may enlarge its usefulness. One thinks of this in connection with a certain steamboat line which cut off important connections during this year without offering any acceptable explanation of the fact.

The Henderson Commission, which is enquiring into the business methods of the cold storage companies, on Friday emphasized two or three remarkable points. Private energy, on the part of the William Davies Co., produces surprising results. The business acumen which the correspondence of the firm revealed was of a sort which would not be expected from a monopoly. The keenest of competition suggested the keenest of wits, and in the battle royal which followed the people had an evidence of what alert and aggressive men can accomplish. Competition in this field of service developed amazing things.

But no firm, no matter how capably equipped financially and otherwise can hope to control trade. The Davies Company could not do it. It co-operated with the Matthews-Blackwell Company when it was necessary to appeal to the American controller of food against an assumed interference with the British trade by the American packers. These men were believed at one time to be responsible for a cancellation of the Canadian contracts, and slowly learned of their error. But when it became a question of who could sell the most bacon, and hogs became a great necessity, the prices of their went higher and higher. Competition in this way became hurtful to the public interests, and the people, outside of the producers of hogs, had to buy sweetly for the wild plunges of the competing firms.

Competition, then, is sometimes an advantage and sometimes a disadvantage. Where the food controller comes in, when the issue is a good one, does not appear from anything that has transpired in connection with the cold storage enquiry.

The Telegram wants the minister of militia to drop his khaki and cut out the buttons. Sam Hughes will protest. How can a real general command, even in his office, out of uniform?

EASTERN LIBERAL CONVENTION

One learns this from the proceedings of the liberal meeting which occurred at Ottawa on Friday—that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will lead all who will follow him in the next election, and afterwards, on general grounds. The chief claimant retains his personal magnetism. He is as popular as ever. He holds the affection and regard of those who accept his advice upon the questions of the day. In his address he emphasized his position upon conscription. It promised to make racial strife—strife which he thought could be averted by the referendum—and rather than be a party to the most serious consequences he preferred to continue his

present political course. If this party succeeded to power he would adopt any action which the British Government advised.

But he was once more the magnanimous leader, who, seeing that others could not take his attitude, politically and conscientiously, counselled them most earnestly to "stand firmly by their convictions." It is apparent that most of those who have gone out as supporters of the Union Government, and all of those who have become members of it, have had a definite understanding with Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and that they do not feel that their personal relations have been broken.

Incidentally it may be assumed that some of the closest allies of the liberal leader, including Mr. Graham, his first lieutenant, and Mr. Pardee, the liberal whig, are supporters of the Union Government, and are in hearty accord with its desires to put more ginger into the war. Sir Wilfrid Laurier says the Borden Government is the same old Government so far as its conservative members are concerned, and that they have to be called to account for their sins of the last six years. But the punishment need not be the less severe although it is deferred. For the present, and until the end of the war, the Union Government must be engaged in dealing with the cause of all the trouble, Kaiser William of Germany.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Hartley Dewar will not mind the Telegram's sneers. They will not curtail his political usefulness or power.

What? No campaign funds of any kind with any party? So report from Ottawa announces. "An old woman's election," shouts a veteran campaigner. "I am out of it."

Grafting in Canada is becoming unpopular. The end of it seems to be in sight. No political patronage during an election and no party funds? The millennium must be at hand.

Mayor Mitchell, of New York, is going to open warehouses and stores and give the people food at cost. There's a law for this kind of thing across the way, and New York, during an election, is the place for costly experiments.

James M. Beck, patriot, is not pessimistic. But he sees the necessity for the Allies to keep on grinding down Prussia until there is nothing left of it. The Kaiser may be like the snake; he may be badly scotched but not beaten.

The brewers are appealing to the controller of food to let the grain in some proportion go into the manufacture of beer because some men, in the west, must drink a lot, and pure water is not good for them! Surely Mr. Hanna can withstand an argument like that.

There were half a dozen fights at a meeting of Ward Four's Conservative Association in Toronto on Friday. The interesting point is that they occurred in a room where Mr. McNaught a year ago said "the conservatives are doing most of the fighting in this war." A prophet, eh? Or a chronicler of passing events?

Sir Robert Borden says labor is to be represented in his government. The Hamilton Spectator notes that Hon. Mr. Crothers says he will remain in the government, and supposes that some labor man will become his deputy. Oh no, not if the labor men can prevent it. They want to be represented by a minister, not by a deputy.

PUBLIC OPINION

They Will Take It.

(Toronto Globe) The Kaiser says that if the French want Alsace-Lorraine they must take it. They seem to have made a pretty fair start.

Wouldn't Have It.

(Toronto News) Living in Holland in these times must be unpleasant. How would you like to have a burglar as your next door neighbor?

He Must Be Thankful.

(Hamilton Times) The Hon. J. D. Hazen is quite comfortable, thank you, with that \$25,000 a year salary at Washington. The Union Government has been a fine thing for him.

Toronto Does Well.

(Toronto Globe) Toronto's contribution of \$523,974 to the British Red Cross Society, which amount will no doubt be somewhat increased when all the returns are complete, is a magnificent victory. The amount beats the record of \$740,000 collected last year.

Carvell All Right.

(Montreal Herald) Word comes from Woodstock, Carleton County, N.B.,—the Hon. F. B. Carvell's constituency—that the Conservatives down there are not all content to be represented by one who was so active in showing up their weakness as Mr. Carvell and that steps have already been taken to

stir up, quietly, feeling against him in the constituency.

Some Confusion.

(Toronto Star) Hon. T. W. Crothers, in a published interview, intimates that he is not dropping out and will continue to be Minister of Labor in the new Government. Mr. Crothers, however, ought to investigate a rumor of that kind before giving it credence. The Prime Minister's announcement this morning pretty definitely states that Labor is to be given the same direct Cabinet representation as Agriculture.

CONTEMPORARY OPINION

Controllers of What?

(Toronto World) The controllers of food and fuel have not considered the people in any common-sense way. They have not considered them as people at all. The suggestions made for economy of food have allowed little or nothing for the common sense or the circumstances of those to whom they are made. There appears to be an impression that everybody is enjoying the easy positions of those who have been making munitions at unprecedented wages, or getting the benefit of the high rates in most lines of labor. But only a portion of the community comes under this head. A large section of the people are on fixed incomes or salaries, some of which have been reduced since the war; and the high cost of living, much higher than a year ago, has wiped out any margin that might have been available earlier in the war. The man who had ten dollars to spare a year ago may have to spend it on a pair of boots this year, and if his coat is not in the cellar he is apt to fall back on the reduction that charity begins at home—right in the cellar.

Great Liberal Platform.

(Toronto News) Labor is to come into its own with a representative cabinet. The franchise is to be extended to women. Wealth is to be adequately taxed. The income tax is to be increased. A vigorous policy for the settlement and development of vacant lands is to be pursued. Agricultural production is to be encouraged by the promotion of co-operative methods. All the railways in the country are to be co-ordinated with a view to national progress. Shipbuilding is to be promoted. Better relations between employers and employees are to be fostered and improved conditions established for the whole population. A special effort is to be made to bring Eastern and Western Canada into more harmonious relations on those issues which now separate them.

The Best of Securities.

(Rochester Post-Express) Considering the war taxes, and the uncertainties of these unsettled times, what better investment can there be than in government bonds which are tax free when held in such amounts as men of moderate means are able to buy. The more alluring investments are not always so dependable, and the man who holds

Rippling Rhymes

CHEER UP

Cheer up, cheer up! If you are sound, no sign of illness giving, you have no right to paw around about the cost of living. No man has any right to snort, or let tears run in rivers, unless we know that he is short some legs and arms and livers. Cheer up! Though it is quite a chore to stock the bin and larder, a bloomy man can bring you more. Just buckle down the harness. Cheer up! The prices make you yell, when you go forth as buyer; but when you've anything to sell, the price keeps going higher. I sell my labor every day for quite a roll of dollars; what matter, then, if I must pay high price for shirts and collars? My father got a lot more flour than I do for a shilling; but I earn more in half an hour than he by all day's drilling. Cheer up! There's work for every lad, success for him who pushes. The hustler finds the shining scud is growing on the bushes. Cut out the worries and alarms, toll like the bees that bumble; the man who has no legs or arms alone has right to grumble.

—WALT MASON.

THINGS THAT NEVER HAPPEN



JUST BECAUSE I SLEPT, THE BOLOGNA MILLIONAIRE FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS YOU OFFER ME A CONTRACT TO WALK ACROSS THE STAKE TWICE A DAY FOR FIFTEEN HUNDRED A WEEK BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ACING

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Bibbys Young Men's Store New Arrivals. Fresh out of the boxes this morning. Trench Style Suits, Trench Style Overcoats. Try Bibbys. For your New Hat, For your New Underwear, For your New Gloves, For your New Shirts. We think we can save you a few dollars.

But any better thought of me Keep it until I am dead. I shall not know, I shall not care— Forgive me now instead. —FRED MEMBERY.

HAD A NARROW ESCAPE

Barn Took Fire and Mr. French Plunged Through Window. Salem, Oct. 20.—What came near a fatality occurred at Melville on Wednesday evening last, when a small barn belonging to Freeman French was destroyed by fire. Mr. French had taken a lighted lantern into the loft, and was pitching down when the lantern exploded setting the contents of the building on fire almost at once. Had it not been for a window from which Mr. French made his escape he would perhaps have been burned to death as the exit was closed by the fire.

Only a few days previous a large barn belonging to Wesley Carley, Melville, was destroyed with the whole season's crop. The cause of the fire is unknown. The people of Salem were very successful exhibitors at Robin's Mills fair, eight exhibitors capturing many of the best prizes. The fair was a decided success in exhibits, but the attendance was not quite up to other years. Charles Kemp had a husking bee on Thursday evening. A meeting of the Red Cross Society was held at Mrs. Charles Kemp's on Wednesday when some boxes were packed for our soldier boys. Miss M. Mitchell, Belleville, is visiting her sister, Mrs. E. Wannan, at Dryden, North Dakota, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kemp were Trenton visitors on Saturday. Halton Spencer took a load of peas to Wellington to-day. Farmers are busy ploughing.

On Oct. 17th at the home of Nicholas Asselstine, Trenton, his daughter, Luella, was united in marriage to George King, of London, England, but now of Trenton. At Dryden, North Dakota, on Sept. 15th, occurred the death of James R. Gibson, in his sixty-fifth year. He was a native of Dalhousie, Perth County, voted \$1,000 to the British Red Cross. The Perth branch of the Canadian Red Cross has also made a donation of \$300. A. C. Welk, Eganville, the teller in the Merchants' Bank, has been appointed manager of the branch at Midway. On Oct. 9th the marriage was solemnized of Rupert Schinsel, Ottawa, to Miss Gladys Paro, Trenton.

BORN. HUOHES—At Waples, Oct. 16th, to Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Hughes, a son. MILSAP—At Niagara, on Oct. 4th, to Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Milsap, a son. STANHOPE—At Picton, Oct. 15th, to Mr. and Mrs. Earle Stanhope, a daughter. TYLER—At Concession, Oct. 12th, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Tyler, a daughter.

THOMPSON—In Ameliasburg, on Oct. 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thompson, a son. VANDERWATER—At Wellington, Oct. 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Vandewater, a daughter. MARRIED. POSTER-FRANKLIN—At Deseronto, on Oct. 17th, Edward Foster, Picton, to Miss Hilda Franklin, Deseronto. JEMMETT-MARTINEAU-STERRIFF—At Montreal on Oct. 15th, Maud Martineau-Sterriff, of Wimbledon, Eng. to Douglas Hill Jemmett, M. A., B.Sc. Canadian Engineer, Niagara.

SIMPSON-HARCOURT—At Liverpool, on Oct. 17th, Beverly R. Simpson, Eng. to Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Niagara. The bride, daughter of the late Dr. Harcourt of the Chinese Medical Service. SWITZER-FULLIGAR—At Niagara, on Oct. 19th, Everton Blake Switzer and Laura Beatrice Fulligar.

Soldiers' Comforts. Air Pillows—Comfortable and Serviceable. Colgates Combined Comforts—Toilet Requisites in compact form. Horlicks Lunch Tablets—Convenient and nutritious. Abdominal Belts—All wool and chambray lined. Chambray vests—Warm and snug fitting. Safety Razors and Razor Straps. Foot powders and talcums. Fountain Pens. DR. CHOWN'S DRUG STORE 185 Princess St. Phone 348.

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CRAWFORD. Begs to Notify His Customers that commencing May 1st. COAL SALES Will Be For CASH. At price current for the month when the order is given. The Coal situation in the United States compels this action. Foot of Queen St. Phone 9.