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GETTING BACK TO NORMAL.

The United States Bureau of Labor has recently issued some statistics as to world prices and conditions which are extremely interesting as showing that these are again getting back to normal. The peak of wholesale prices in the United States and the United Kingdom occurred in May, 1920. The index figures were 247, 263 and 326, respectively. France ran highest in April, with 688. Germany (until the exchange altered conditions drastically in 1921) reached her peak with 1,769 in March of the same year, as did Japan, with a figure of 322. Sweden never went beyond 366, in June, 1920. Australia registered 236 in July, and New Zealand 218 in September of the same year—both the highest points reached in wholesale prices in those countries. The rise and decline in each case showed a similar relationship. The most recent figures are for December, 1922, and read: the United States, 156; Canada, 165; The United Kingdom, 156; France, 362; Germany, 147,300; Italy, 530 (her "peak" was in November, 1920, at 670, though the index showed 664 for April); Japan 183; Sweden, 155; Australia, 181; and New Zealand (for October, 1922), 171. The general movement also shows a tendency for prices to swing back toward their pre-war relationships. The United States, Great Britain and her overseas dominions and colonies, and Japan and Sweden are now proportionately very much as they were in 1913.

THE END OF HICKS.

There is one result which, it is generally conceded, will come from the attacks made upon Premier Drury by Andrew Hicks, member of the legislature for South Huron and former whip of the U. F. O. government, and that is the end of the political career of Andrew Hicks. No man can adopt the tactics which were used by Hicks and get out of the matter with a whole skin politically. It must be remembered that he was returned as member for South Huron by the very people of whom Premier Drury is the acknowledged and respected leader, and they are not likely to show any appreciation of his treachery and desertion at a crucial moment. In his own riding, the feeling is very strong in Drury's favor, Hicks will be lucky if he is successful in obtaining the party nomination as candidate for the election. Even if he is nominated, his actions of the past three weeks have branded as an untrustworthy man, and he has not one chance in a thousand of being elected. There is a strong feeling, however, that Hicks was simply firing the ammunition for someone else in making his attacks on Premier Drury. A former Conservative, it is not illogical to believe that he was inspired in some way by Conservative friends who wished to make political capital and precipitate a crisis in the government ranks by using some member of the government who was weak enough to be employed as a tool. In Hicks an apt worker was found, for on previous occasions he has shown himself as a man who was changeable. Now that the matter has brought about an early election, Hicks has lost the respect even of his erstwhile friends, the Conservatives, who are not likely to desire further dealings with the man who betrayed his leader at a time of need. It is certain that Premier Drury has lost little through the charges of Andrew Hicks. It was no secret that Premier Drury had ambition to go into the King cabinet. The newspapers at that time published reports of the trip which Premier King made to Toronto to interview Premier Drury on the subject, and referred to the statement made by the latter, at that time, that he had refused the honor of a position in the federal cabinet because the U. F. O. members of the legislature did not wish him to desert the ship. All of that was told quite openly and frankly in the press at the time it happened, so that Hicks did not really tell anything that was new. He simply twisted old news into a different form, a form in which he

felt it might be used to discredit the premier of Ontario. Such methods may be popular with politicians of his type, but they do not appeal to the people of the province, and Andrew Hicks will find, to his sorrow, that he has committed political suicide.

APRIL CUSTOMS AND EXCISE RETURNS

The port of Kingston is reflecting the swing of the pendulum back to business prosperity. During the past year there has been a favorable trade reaction throughout Canada, and it is gratifying to note that the movement is steadily growing. The report of the customs and excise returns for the month of April just closed shows receipts totalling \$36,703.81. For the same month last year the figures were \$24,074.96, so that for this month there is an increase of \$12,628.85, or an improvement of fifty per cent, which is exceedingly gratifying to the most optimistic observers of the commercial and industrial activities. But while we rejoice to see that we are getting our share as conditions improve, it is most reassuring to know that these figures are not isolated but constitute a fair index to the general trade movement now taking place all over the dominion. The close of the fiscal year on March 31st showed an increase in customs and excise receipts over the previous year of approximately \$5,000,000, while the expenditures provided for by Hon. W. S. Fielding, minister of finance, were kept within the estimates.

When we consider the conditions prevailing at the time the Mackenzie government took office, the financial depression, industrial stagnation, famine prices, and the depreciated value of our currency, we realize the phenomenal change that has taken place within a period of sixteen months. We have seen a rapid transformation take place since the inauguration of the Liberal fiscal policy, which promises an era of prosperity surpassing even that of the Laurier administration that was marked by industrial development, trade expansion, the opening up and settlement of the great west where towns grow into cities and the virgin prairie was transformed by agricultural development. It was essentially a period of construction and great national achievements. Today after a short term of office we find the same spirit dominating the leaders of the government who are applying themselves to the problems of the country in a manner that inspires confidence everywhere. Already the adverse trade balance has been wiped out, and with the balance on the right side the Canadian dollar has returned to its rightful place. The problem presented by the railway systems, when the late government went out of office, was vigorously taken up and has been solved in a business-like manner, and a substantial reduction of the deficit on the consolidated national system evolved by the government during the past year has already been made.

Measures to promote efficiency and economy have been inaugurated in all of the administrative departments and the postal service has been placed on a strictly business basis with a view to reducing its costs and the possible restoration of cheaper rates to the people. Hon. Charles Murphy is declared to be the best postmaster general Canada ever had.

PRESS COMMENT

It Helps a Bit.
John D. Jr., gets a million a month from oil, which helps considerably with the first of the month bills.—Boston Transcript.

Housing Money.
We see the government urged to spend vast sums on housing schemes; if they do the money will be divided between the builder and the bricklayer, and houses will be neither cheaper nor more plentiful.—London Morning Post.

Not for Women.
The instinctive feeling of both sexes is, that the public life of the marketplace, of the council chamber, or of the forum is not for women. To get it quite plainly, their place is either the domestic circle of the home or the social circle of the community. The only two exceptions to this one instinctive feeling are education and nursing. In everything else women are treated as subordinates, and are not allowed to take a place of leadership or command. Women themselves do not trust a woman in a position of great public responsibility. We must admit that fact and wonder whether there is any solution of the difficulty.—The Australasian.

George Foster was elected president of the Ottawa Social Hygiene Council at its semi-annual meeting. Hon. Edmund Bristol, Toronto, will direct the Conservative campaign in the provincial elections.

Along Life's Detour

BY SAM HILL

Nary a One.
I will admit
I'd never shed a tear,
If they would hang
The sugar-proffiter.

Observations of Oldest Inhabitant.
As an oldtimer I'm beginning to wonder if things are gonna get so reversed that a young man of the future will refuse to marry a girl if she doesn't give up smoking.

The Amnias Club.
"No," admitted the medium, "we don't actually raise any spirits, but we do raise a lot of money, and that of course raises our spirits."

Believed in Being Thorough.
"Why did you shoot your husband?" demanded the Judge sternly.
"Well," your Honor, he was always coming home half shot and I never could stand it the way he had of doing things by halves," replied the self-made widow.

Will Get An Error If You Don't.
(Jack Warwick in Toledo (Ohio) Blade)
"We guess it is almost impossible to train up a child in the way he should go unless you are headed that way yourself."—Sam Hill, Cincinnati Enquirer.

A good guess. You've got to lead off in the betting.

You've Met Her.
Because she uses lots
O' paint,
She thinks she's pretty, but
She ain't.

Fool Questions.
R. M. G. asks: "The Drys don't think it is wrong for them to be drunk with power, do they?" Maybe there's a sobering thought in this, we don't know.

Fair Sample.
"Pa," said Clarence, "what is the irony of fate?"
"Well, there's the case of old man Fogey, he said he would rather walk than ride in automobiles because they were so dangerous, and while he was seeking safety by walking an automobile knocked him into kingdom come," replied his dad.

Stranger Is Right.
He may not be crazy,
But he's a strange, strange fella;
For he says he believes
In buying an umbrella.

He may not be crazy.
Though strange it does look,
But what do you think? He's
Returned a borrowed book.

Clean Bill for the Seas.
Honey Bee cor. McCreary County Record.
There were several cases tried at the magistrate's court Saturday but none found guilty.

Merely Hangs a Tale.
"He used to dream of painting a picture that would be hung in the Louvre."
"Never realized his dream, eh?"
"No, but he had his picture hung in the rogues' gallery and he himself was hung in the jail yard."

This Suspense Is Awful.
Here all talk of old King Tut is dying out and they forget to tell us whether or not they had found a letter in his pocket his wife had given him to mail and which he had forgotten. This was an oversight the joke writers never can forgive.

BARE KNEES.

It is the burning question of these cool spring days: Should the children's knees be exposed, and if so, when?

In many cases the said knees take the matter into their own hands. They come peeping through like early crocuses, following some fence-climbing escapade. But frequently the exposure is the act of a Spartan parent, who expects thereby to make his child hardy.

Few would be hardy enough to deny that hardness can be developed by exposure, if the patient survives long enough. You recollect the story of the old Indian who used to sit outside on the coldest days in a costume even scantier than those you see at the dances. A white man once inquired of him: "Say, lo, how do you stand the cold, all bare like that?" "Your face bare," said the Indian, "face not cold?" "No," replied the white man, "my face is used to the cold." "Good," said the Indian: "Me all face."

Perhaps the current of evolution is carrying us whither also toward this far-off ideal condition of being "all face." We are wisely beginning by degrees, with the knees, chest, and back, and will do well to make haste slowly. We must remember that even the Highlanders found our climate a little too much for them at times. When did Wolfe take Quebec?—Quil's right, Sarah. And what historical event took place the following winter? Billy may answer. Correct: the French nuns knit long stockings to cover the knees of the Highlanders.

The bare knee is not indigenous to Canada, and we understand that our early Boy Scouts had some qualms about adopting it. In at least one Canadian city two factions of Scouts developed, the bare-kneed and the breeched; and these two parties proclaimed their principles in stirring verse through the medium of the public press. The one side chanted something to this effect:

"We don't need coep,
Nor have we any hitches.
We're done with shorts,
And we're wearing breeches."
The other side chanted:
"Now they don't
tease!" and gave as the reason for their change of attitude the fact

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That Body of Yours. By James W. Barton, M.D.

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