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SEVENTH YEAR.



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The things we worry about most never happen.

The most reliable financial writer is the bank teller.

Several national problems haven't been solved since last week.

Count your fingers after shaking hands with an insurance man.

Many a bride who wasn't left at the church wishes she had been.

Another thing that baffles agents of the law is a slice of the plunder.

Bathing suits soon will show that winter left some of us in bad shape.

Jumping at conclusions is about the only mental exercise some people take.

He that never changed his opinion never corrected any of his mistakes.

Conservatives are those who build a road where radicals blazed a trail.

We hear of a young dentist who asked a girl for a kiss, saying "It won't hurt a bit."

The really hard thing about making both ends meet is that there are about a million ends.

A straw hat is a round object which you wear on your head until somebody sits on it.

Spring is that season in which you often hear "I don't think he is good enough for her."

Nature is kind and takes away the ability to blush when there is too much to blush about.

Accidents will happen, which is why there are so many different kinds of salads in the world.

Two of the most depressing sights are a car after it happens and the supper dishes next morning.

It is only a question of time until Spain will suspect that the Moors don't want her down there.

Correct this sentence: "Tom is wonderfully handsome," said she, "but he never looks in a mirror."

Another fine thing about the bee is the way he discourages people who bother him when he is busy.

THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY.

The newspapers of Canada send through the mails an average of 155 tons of matter per day. For this service the postage charges last year were \$1,352,800, which made up a substantial part of the total postal revenue of the country. In a fact of that nature we may frankly recognize two other facts: First, that the newspaper industry has attained to very large proportions; and second, that there are a great many subscribers outside of the area of local delivery. The development of journalism has been one of the conspicuous demonstrations of advancing civilization. We have come to be a great newspaper reading people. In this leading public thought the journals of the country bear a very definite responsibility. There would be few so censorious as to say they are not courageously trying to uphold worthy ideals.

PRICES OF FOOD.

Some remarkably instructive statistical statements were presented to Parliament on Monday last by Hon. James Murdock, Minister of Labor. They related to the deflation of food prices in Canada and other countries. Taking the facts for the years 1909 to 1913 as to prices of food staples, and giving the average thus ascertained a value of 100, it was shown that the fluctuations subsequent to 1913 had their maximum in 1920, when the index number ran up to 192. By the end of October last there had been a recession to 157.

It is by comparison with the movement of food prices in other countries that we are able to measure what has happened in Canada. In the United States, for example, the maximum during that period had been 300, with a drop to 171 last year. Australian figures ran between 175 and 167. In Great Britain the peak was 252, and the 1924 figure 175. It will thus be seen that Canada was not called upon to pay as high prices for food as were practically all other countries, while deflation has given us the lowest average reached by any nation.

We have in these facts a plain suggestion of one of the aspects of the political and economic situation. Our western farmers have complained because deflation affected the prices of their products; but we must all see that the decline in food prices brought a direct benefit to all other classes. As those prices come down, "real wages," as expressed in the purchasing power of the dollar, went up. It was obviously impossible to have the common people relieved from high prices and at the same time continue the advantages of inflation to the grain growers of the West. Yet that was the effect of the operation of inexorable laws, answering to demand on one hand and supply on the other.

DANDELIONS.

Herewith is offered a mild suggestion to persons who, while enjoying a country outing, are unable to differentiate between the beauties of a protected field of wildflowers and the desolation of a field which has been stripped and left to weeds and grass by the way-side vandals. If they must pick something which does not belong to them, let them try picking dandelions.

The flower of that ubiquitous weed, we are told, though we haven't tried it, forms the base of a potent, pleasing and palatable beverage. The leaves, we know by experience, can form one of the most wholesome and appetizing vegetable dishes known to modern cookery. It is the spinach with a kick.

And no one will begrudge their passing. Vandals may exercise their most destructive inclinations against the dandelion. Tear them up, root and branch. Bedeck the automobiles with them. Throw them into a boiling caldron. Serve them with oil or vinegar. Eat them alive. Do your worst to the dandelion. But let the wild flowers live.

HITTING THE GRAIN POOLS.

Last year the wheat pool of Alberta was an experiment regarded with considerable doubt by many farmers. But the participation certificates issued at the year's end were each a most convincing argument in favor of the plan. It seemed to have been demonstrated that it is more profitable to restrict the market and allow the grain to flow out slowly than to dump it on the market as soon as threshed. Many more went into the pool this year than last.

But this year's market has been up to strange tricks, as everyone knows. Starting at a satisfactory figure, the price soared suddenly to extraordinary heights and came down as suddenly to a rather low figure. Many are anxious as to the probable effect on the wheat pool.

Nothing can be more certain than that there will be a loss if the wheat that is sold at a lower price than that at which it was bought. The farmers who rushed their wheat on the market in the fall will have done better than the careful ones who hoped to make on the pool. For the pool will have to take a lower price by holding. If that should prove to be the case in only its second year of operation, many will regard the

wheat pool with distrust who were joyfully counting their participation certificates a year ago. Those who argued that the scheme will make money on a rising market and lose money on a falling market will feel pleased with themselves.

But the real value of the pooling scheme will not be arrived at in one or two seasons of operation. Over an extended period the advantages of co-operative marketing should be confirmed. For if there are not profits to be made from the storing and selling of grain why are the grain brokers so indignant over the farmers invading the business?

SWELLING POPULAR BURDENS.

The Citizens' Research Institute of Canada has for some years past been rendering a valuable public service in giving out accurate data with respect to taxation and the cost of government. The latest bulletin gives the sum total of taxes collected in 1922, and the figures are impressive. They are as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Tax Type and Amount. Municipal taxes: \$178,864,391; Provincial taxes: 47,342,405; Dominion taxes: 336,453,341; Total: \$562,660,137

The Institute gives an added significance to this total when it points out that it was 19 per cent. of the year's net production of all Canadian industries, including mining, fishing and agriculture. It was 50 per cent. of the net manufacturing production for 1922. To be brought face to face with such a view of the situation as to taxes is to be sobered, and in some degrees alarmed. It at once suggests thoughts as to the underlying causes, and, at the same time, raises the question as to whether or not this growing burden might be lightened.

So far as the Dominion is concerned, we all know that our participation in a long and costly war, as well as the breakdown of two corporate railway systems, account almost wholly for the present volume of taxes. The peak in that regard has been passed, and we are now fairly started on a broad plan of reduction. Quite the opposite, however, is true of the provinces and the municipalities, especially the cities. In both cases, high taxation grows out of swelling annual expenditures and tremendous additions to funded debt. All things considered, the modern tendency of our cities to borrow on an ascending scale is the salient feature of a situation which justifies anxiety; for the ugly outcome of debt is the fixed charges which are created.

Before making further reference to the municipal situation, a word or two about the provinces will be in place. Apprehension has for some time been aroused by the increasing obligations of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia; but it should be remembered that these provinces have taken over the telephone systems and are engaged in other enterprises which explain in part the facts as to both debt and taxation. It is all a question, in the final reckoning, of value being received by the people for the taxes they pay. Ontario has invested \$200,000,000 in its hydro-electric system, and yet a debt of \$340,000,000 at the present time, as compared with \$4,800,000 in 1901, leaves room for the suspicion that there has been lack of prudence. That suspicion deepens when one looks at the very large additions to revenues which have come in recent years from succession duties and certain special forms of taxation. No other province is carrying as heavy liabilities as is Ontario.

The municipal tax is felt acutely, for the double reason that it is direct and has risen so rapidly. If all the facts could be studied, it would probably be found that the responsibility rests very largely on the people who are bearing the burden. On one hand, they are more disposed to elect popular than really competent men to administer local government, and, on the other, they insist on more and more being done in the nature of public service. In this there is the usual lack of prescience; for easy-going aldermen and multiplying services make a combination very much on the side of rising taxes. Cause and effect go hand in hand in that way.

Quite obviously, there is a distinct safety limit. Reform and retrenchment will become imperatively necessary before our cities have gone much further along this free-spending road. The Institute offers several queries, which might be taken as paving the road toward better administration, as follows:

- "What is your share and the share of your business in the taxation overhead?"
"Is it worth your while to invest a little time and energy in cutting down the governmental overhead?"
"Are you sure there is nothing you can do to promote economy and efficiency in the administration of your city, your province and the Dominion?"
"Which are more needed at the present time, deputations to show governments how and where they can spend more money or deputations to show governments how and where to spend less money or

get more value for the same money?

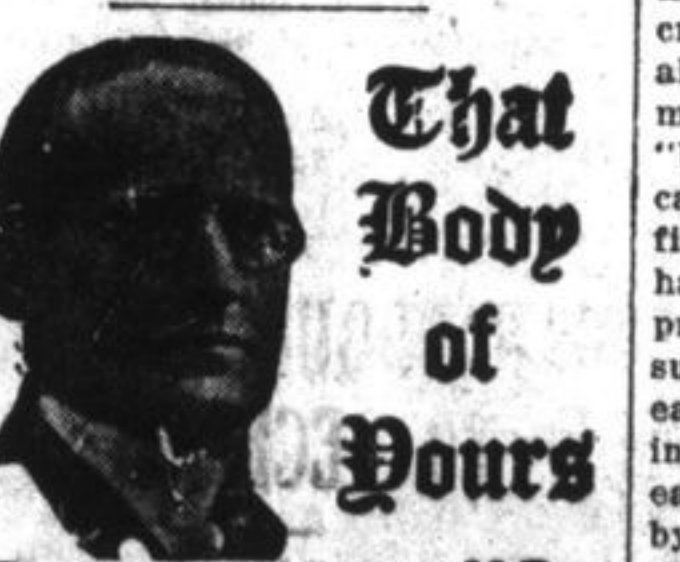
"Are you willing that your ward, your city or your province should submit to reduced governmental expenditures in the interests of your city, your province or the Dominion as a whole?"

These questions are pertinent and opportune. At a certain point taxes are distinctly hurtful, and that point is very clearly reached when they subtract from popular savings what would be invested in productive enterprises. That is why bankers are sounding a note of warning. There will be no relief, however, until taxpayers as a group take a direct and constructive interest in local government. In other words, they have the remedy in their own hands and may use it whenever they feel so disposed.

GOING BLIND?

The human race, a leading expert in optometry warns us, will be blind in 200 years if the present rate of defective vision keeps up. That is bad news, and we hope it is exaggerated, but when we look about us and see the number of folks wearing glasses we are not so sure but that there's truth in it. There are three major causes for this bad sight. They are narcotics, booze and excessive tobacco. For posterity's sake it is up to us to conquer them. Goodness knows, a man likes to stretch out in his arm chair of an evening, and light up the old pipe. He stretches, his feet are comfortable in his slippers, and he likes to watch the clouds of smoke. It is really a soothing sensation, except when his wife scolds him for getting ashes on the carpet.

But try an experiment with yourself. Close your eyes and smoke. Three-fourths of the enjoyment is gone. So it really is largely a mental enjoyment, isn't it? You like the environment with which you habitually associate smoking better than the smoke itself. About moonshine and narcotic drugs there is no great division of opinion among clean people. They want to get rid of both. Smoking is not by any means such an evil. It is excessive smoking that hurts the sight.



Dr. James W. Barton, M.D., Going to the Hospital.

You may sometimes wonder why your doctor wants you to go to the hospital when you are sick.

You think of the various inconveniences, the expense, perhaps separation from loved ones, and so forth. Now your doctor understands all that as well as you do. He knows that everything else being equal, it would be better for you to be amid the home surroundings. However, when he made his first examination he depended to a great extent upon what you told him. If you are a high strung nervous individual, and you do a lot of thinking about yourself, including considerable reading about the various ailments of the body, you may quite unconsciously describe symptoms that are characteristic of a certain serious ailment.

Your doctor makes a physical examination of you, and finds some conditions that would seem to agree with your statements, and others, that are vastly different.

Now is he to get more information? Well, he would like to investigate you still further, by examining the blood, the urine, the spinal fluids. He would like to make hourly tests, give certain special treatments, and watch their effects.

By having you in the hospital, this could all be done by the house physicians and nurses, in the ordinary routine of the day. Thus your doctor will have not only what you tell him, and what he discovers by examining you, but also what he finds out from the laboratory findings in your blood, urine, and so forth.

This is the usual reason why your doctor wants to have you in the hospital. You can be watched closely, and treated promptly. However, often your doctor wants you to get away from the cares of home, as the best means of getting you well again.

On the other hand your doctor may not send you to the hospital, even if you are seriously ill, because the hospital surroundings might have such a depressing effect upon you that it would interfere with your recovery. Your best plan is to trust your doctor in the matter, because his whole idea is to get you well again, and he will do everything with this end in view.

Canada's Story Day by Day. APRIL 18. Niagara was the home of the first newspaper in Upper Canada. When Simcoe came to Canada as Governor of the new province of Upper Canada, which was to be created from

BIBBY'S DRESS WELL AND SUCCEED. Saturday Night Attractions. 50 YOUNG MEN'S SUITS. Tailored in the very latest models and newest fabrics and weaves. Sizes 35 to 40. \$18.50. See Our Big \$4.50 Hat Special. THE DAN DOBBS - THE NEW GREY. SPECIAL! 2 TROUSER SUITS. SPECIAL! 2 TROUSER SUITS. SPECIAL! Men's and Young Men's Top Coats. BIBBY'S Kingston's One Price Clothing House

The English-speaking part of the colony of that day, he saw the need of a paper to spread the government news. Everything had to be created, laws, courts, school systems, all the necessary means of government. The paper was called the "Upper Canada Gazette, or American Oracle," and was a tiny sheet fifteen inches deep by nine and a half inches wide. The subscription price was \$3 a year, and its first issue was on this day in 1793. It is the earliest example of political printing in Ontario. We can imagine how eagerly its little pages were scanned by the men and women who were literally carving a province out of the wilderness, for less than twenty years before that time Ontario had been practically uninhabited. Little more than a century and a quarter after the founding of the Upper Canada Gazette, Ontario alone has more than four hundred newspapers with countless periodical publications of other varieties.

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BIBLE THOUGHT. WE'VE GOD WILL DO: - He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall be taken away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it. - Isaiah 25:8.