

PRICES COMMENCE TO TAKE TUMBLE

Grains, Metals, Coal, Building Materials Expected to Be Cheaper.

EXORBITANT CHARGES

Hotel Accommodation Not Sufficient to Meet Travelers' Demands.

There is a decided fall in the price of corn, barley and oats all over this continent, and that ought to mean cheaper meat and dairy products, including eggs. The housewives of the United States are more or less on strike against the high price of butter. They blame the retailers for taking excessive profits. The postmaster-general of the United States is making arrangements for a great development of the parcel post business, so as to let producer and consumer get into direct touch—without any middleman—and effect a twenty per cent. reduction in prices. Canada is at a dead halt in her parcel post, and has been so ever since the war began. But The World hears that our postmaster-general, Colonel Blondin, is getting ready to follow Mr. Bursell of Washington.

Other prices are getting back to normal, too, perhaps a little slower for most people, who believe that until they get business will be held up. Yesterday The World learned from an undoubted authority that hard coal had dropped 85 cents a ton at the mine, and a lower price to the consumer can only therefore be a question of time. In another direction a despatch from New York quoted the sale of a large quantity of copper at 18 1/2 cents a pound. This metal has made a quick descent from the war level of 30 cents a pound or over, and is pretty close to an average of pre-war days.

In the Chicago market it is thought the price of living would readily adjust itself if government intervention were dropped, the idea of stabilizing the price of wheat.

Prices for Steel. With cheap prices for all the basic metals, other necessities for construction are expected to follow, and lead up to a movement in the building and many other trades. The war rumormongers yesterday that now there was an assurance of reasonable prices for steel and other articles largely used in building. The Dome would shortly start up in Porcupine and employ 700 to 800 men. Other mines are also shaping up to increase or commence production.

The candy manufacturers are going in for more advertising of their products as a food as much as a sweet. The medium-priced goods are down ten cents a pound. The price of charcoal has come down several cents a bag in the retail stores. Hotel accommodations in restaurants are still very high. Toronto wants two more hotels—one with a thousand rooms, with bath, at \$150 a night. And a moderate price restaurant alongside.

Druggists' Prices. Editor World: I am subject to sore throat and find it difficult to breathe. I need relief. It is not long ago that I had no difficulty in buying them anywhere in bulk, getting about 75 to 100 tablets for 5c. Now, I am getting only 75 tablets. Now, I want to ask questions. Are potash tablets not manufactured in Canada? Is there some arrangement between the drug and glass manufacturers, whereby the person who wants to purchase medical supplies must also purchase glassware for which they have no use? Next, is there a combine among druggists to co-operate with the American manufacturers in Canada? Is the expense of Canadian concerns, simply because they try to force the public to buy two articles instead of one? The point of this article is, is the same amount of the same article I had to pay five times the price, due to co-operation of manufacturers, and sale of American products in Canada? Is this not only profiteering and high finance, but also robbery.

Charges in Restaurants. Editor World: In connection with restaurants, let me call attention to one or two points. 1st. An order of toast, 5c. Due to the orders of the food controller prohibiting furnishing patrons more than two slices of bread with a meal, an order of toast was reduced generally from three to two slices. The cost was not reduced. But now the food controller's restrictions are removed, that third slice of bread has not been returned to the order. 2nd. Macaroni. Recently I ordered some at a lunch counter and was charged 10c and was served with two slices of bread. On another occasion I had some in a place where the charge was 15c. Why should this variance be? Is it carelessness or profiteering?

3rd. Pie. In pre-war (now pre-historic) days the price was 5c a pie, and that was one-quarter of a pie. Then the size of the pie was altered, and for the same price you only got one-sixth of a pie. Then the price was raised to 10c per pie, and is still at that figure. The eating-house magnates get 60 cents for a pie. The same can be bought in stores for 25 cents. Is this profiteering?

If the city is getting a fair tax return, all O.K. It is simply going out of our own pocket into another. But if it is not going to come back into our pockets at all, then—? H.E.G.

PAUL WELLS' RECITAL

Paul Wells, whose recital has been announced for Wednesday evening at Foresters' Hall, has prepared a most varied and brilliant program, which includes among many beautiful numbers a group of his highly poetic Muskoka pieces. The demand for seats for any affair at which this remarkable pianist appears—and such affairs are all too infrequent—has again been in evidence, and those wishing to avail themselves of this rare opportunity of hearing him this season should do so without loss of time.

VETERANS

Items of Interest to Returned Soldiers Will Be Printed in This Column or Sent In.

OFFERING LOW WAGES.

That certain plants in Ontario are offering returned soldiers 50 cents an hour for work as machinists, molders and lathe workers as against the minimum rates of 68 cents and 65 cents set by the McAdoo schedule for these trades, is evident from a letter received by the Red Triangle Club in Toronto from the Wabli Iron works of New Liskeard, Ont. In this letter the manager of that firm says in part: "It is possible you are having some returned men calling in at your institution who are in need of employment. We could employ a few of the hands, machinists, plate workers and molders. We pay about 50 cents an hour and work nine hours a day. If any returned men are looking for work here we shall be pleased to have applications from them."

Officials of the Machinists' Union and also of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners were strong in their condemnation of this policy of lowering the wage standards, and pointed out that they could produce evidence of a similar nature. New Liskeard, they pointed out, was less in demand among workmen than Toronto because of its lack of those facilities prevailing in the Queen City, and that the minimum of 68 cents an hour for machinists in Toronto would be raised to 75 cents an hour in such towns as New Liskeard. Returned soldiers have so far refused these positions as offered.

Cordoba Mines, near Peterboro, employs a number of returned soldiers. These soldiers are forming a branch of the G.W.V.A., J. V. Conroy officiating.

So successful has the co-operation between the C.M.A. and the G.W.V.A. been that veterans are today in greater demand than at any time within the past two years. Officials at the C.P.R. station, who have engaged thirty returned soldiers, state that these men have given all-round satisfaction.

Largely influenced by the worst phase of Bolshevism aliens in the north country who are being discharged wholesale and many of whom are enemy aliens are giving trouble, and the returned soldier is doing his utmost to maintain order in that section of the country.

As shown by its books, the Grand Army of Canada is taking in 15 new members a day at the present juncture.

Sergeant Major George H. Gustar, secretary of West Toronto G.W.V.A., yesterday corrected the impression that the surviving son of Mrs. Proctor, recently granted a pension of \$20 a month on compassionate grounds, was earning only \$55 a month. "I received word yesterday officially that this son was receiving \$80 a month," said the secretary. "This with the \$20 a month pension will give Mrs. Proctor an annuity of \$1200 a year, sufficient to keep her in fair comfort."

Riverdale G.W.V.A. has doubled its membership during the past three months, from 500 to nearly 1,000, has adjusted claims totaling \$10,000, and has taken steps to open five sub-branches in Riverdale. Comrade Stafford has been elected Riverdale's representative on the proposed Central G.W.V.A. executive for Toronto.

John Dennis, the newly-appointed assistant secretary of the local service bureau at the Red Triangle for returned soldiers, is very busy these days and is a veritable information bureau for the hundreds of returned men coming in from going out of the Red Triangle halls.

A branch of the gratuity bureau at Ottawa is being organized in London, Ont., for the benefit of those returned men remaining in England. It was remarked yesterday by a number of returned men that Ottawa was slow in returning the gratuity checks to the men. One man who had visited that department recently stated that the bureau was very slow and very tardy in returning the gratuity checks to the men. He stated that the application to the many cases of involved commercial transactions, loans and other matters effected thru the agency of various patriotic bodies.

The Dominion executive of the G.W.V.A. will consider the organization of a branch of the association in one of the Pennsylvania towns, where many Canadian veterans live.

The central branch executive will recommend to its branch that there is no particular reason for singling out the Bell Telephone Co. for action against private interests, public ownership of utilities is always desirable.

The Harris Abattoir Co. and Gunn's Limited stated yesterday that they were doing all they possibly could for the returned soldier. It is understood that a hundred aliens are employed at Gunn's at work which no returned soldier would care to do. Swift Canadian Co. had no news to give.

One possible result of the recent strike of the limb makers will be the organization of an amputation section within the G.W.V.A. for the special interest of amputation cases.

CITY ITEMS

Dr. John Noble is advocating a coroner's inquest into the death of the late Morley L. Smith, director of engineering at the Central Technical School, who died suddenly while at work in the engine room.

The city industrial commissioner's office, under the Toronto Harbor Commission, was opened at the city hall yesterday morning, with Captain H. R. McCallum, lately returned from the front, in charge of the office. The new department is on the third floor of the hall.

The case of William Elliott, proprietor of a theatre on Adelaide street, who was charged in police court with overcrowding his playhouse, was remanded. It was alleged that he had permitted people to stand in the aisles. Elliott admitted that he had done so, as the weather had been very cold on the date mentioned.



DAY AND NIGHT SERVICE ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

Whether it is a sudden break in the pipes at any hour of the night, or whether it's a day job, or whether it's the coldest day or night of winter, whether it's a tap leaking, or a noisy closet, whether it's a big job or a small job, we answer every call and render you a day and night service all the year. When you need a plumber, just forget about the old way of doing plumbing. Simply phone Shannon and the car is at your door.

NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR DISTANCE.

JUST PHONE

SHANNON THE PLUMBER
Park, 738-739.
Oakville Branch, Phone 334.

PUBLISHERS ARE AT POINT OF RUIN

Royal Commission Continues Investigation Into Book-Print Prices.

R. A. Pringle, K.C., Ottawa, continued the royal commission investigation into the prices for book print at the parliament buildings yesterday. G. T. Clarkson placed the capitalization of the provincial paper mills at \$2,000,000.

Glyn Osler, K.C., for the publishers, stated that publishers were pressed to the point of ruin by the high cost of paper. George Montgomery, Montreal, ridiculed such statements, declaring that the Clarkson audit showed the prices of the Provincial Paper Mills Company were "not unreasonable," and that one Toronto magazine instead of being ruined published 75,000 copies a month against 55,000 a short time ago.

Glyn Osler proposed the sending of questionnaires to the Riondian or other paper mills.

Pringle said he had no faith in questionnaires, but would authorize an audit by one of Mr. Clarkson's accountants at the Riondian or any other mills named by Mr. Osler.

LABOR NEWS

UNEMPLOYED URGED TO DIRECT ACTION

Frank Watkinson, business agent of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, was the central figure of interest at yesterday's meeting of unemployed at the Labor Temple, held under the auspices of the Building Trades League. He was glad the meeting had voted to allow the press in. He advocated direct action of the right sort. Let the unemployed demonstrate in huge mass at Queen's Park and demand work of a government which had so far done nothing. The trades council, the recognized body of the workers, has of late been warning but consider a 2-3 per cent. beer and trips to Ottawa. The government had \$400,000,000 to \$500,000,000 in the treasury with no great demand upon it. And yet the stress of unemployment had reached a climax. In Orillia alone half of the workers were unemployed. Employees were keeping their plants closed down waiting for the government to take inventories. No longer was there any need for the workers to approach the government hand in hand. Action and immediate action was the slogan passed by a resolution to the meeting.

The meeting passed a resolution to protest to the government and to the representative organizations of the returned soldiers against the policy of manufacturers and other employers of offering positions to returned men at rates below the union scale.

Shortly after the promotion of General Fox to the supreme command of the allied forces, Miss Bolster sent him one of her war pin cushions, for which she yesterday received a graceful letter of acknowledgment.

The approaching special general conference of the Ontario Associated Boards of Trade, to be held March 27 and 28 in the Toronto Board of Trade assembly hall, Royal Bank Building, promises to be the most important in the history of the association, and will be largely represented from all parts of the province.

Miss Laura Gouinlock asked a few of Miss Margaret McKee's friends in to tea yesterday afternoon. Mrs. Marlow and Mrs. Sheppard are leaving today for Hot Springs.

Mrs. H. B. Anderson is in Atlantic City for three weeks.

Mrs. Green, Ottawa, is visiting Mrs. Philip Toller.

Special efforts are being made to raise money to build a residence for women students at Queen's University, Kingston, and the Toronto branch of the Queen's Alumnae is giving a musicale on Thursday evening the 27th inst. at Mr. and Mrs. Segaworth's house in South drive, when the artists taking part in the program will be Miss Jessie McAlpin, Mrs. Thomas Knowlton, Mr. Marley Sherris.

Mrs. Holden, who is in town from the north, is with her mother, Mrs. Edwards Merrill, Prince Arthur avenue.

Mrs. Harold Parson has taken a flat at 70 Isabella street.

Mrs. Stephen Haas is leaving for the south today.

Mrs. Fletcher Snider is at Miami, Florida, and is returning to St. Petersburg after a few days at Palm Beach.

A very large surprise party was given by the headquarters staff of the Royal Air Force last night at Jenkins' Gallery, when nearly 1,000 were present, every floor being occupied. All the artists from the theatre's and music halls were giving turns after the houses closed, dancing com-

WHISKEY SCANDAL CALLS FOR ENQUIRY

Constable Evans Says Honor of Whole Force is Impugned.

COMMISSION OPENS

Sir William Meredith Propounds Vital Questions to All Commissioners.

Chief Justice Sir William Meredith, chairman, S. R. Parsons and J. T. Gunn opened the royal commission enquiry into Ontario police conditions yesterday morning. The commission is sitting at the parliament buildings.

Sir William Meredith read the following questions, which will be sent to the police commissioners in all parts of the province:

1. Have the members of your police force formed an association or union? 2. If so, is it affiliated with any other organization? 3. Do you approve of: (a) the formation of such an association or union? (b) its affiliation with any towns or cities? 4. If you do not approve, please state your reasons.

5. Would it be desirable to form a permanent body to deal with complaints by members of the force by way of appeal from the board, and with authority with the approval of the lieutenant-governor-in-council to prescribe general rules and regulations as to hours of labor, promotions and other matters for the good government and discipline of the force? 6. If not, please state your reasons.

Twenty Grievances. The police union of Toronto was represented by President J. McBurney, Secretary David Gostan and Constable William Evans, of the executive committee.

A detailed list of 20 grievances was filed by the Toronto Police Union. Constable Evans deposed that the men regarded a union as necessary to secure fair treatment, and they complained of the best jobs in the force being awarded to an Irish clique. Chief Grasset and the high officials disciplined men who aired grievances, and they were fired or left the force because of the unfairness.

One officer was said to have taken 60 bottles of confiscated liquor to his home.

Constable Evans was of the opinion that an investigation should be held into the case where 60 confiscated bottles of whiskey could not be accounted for and were said to have been taken home by a police officer. "Surely you do not expect us to investigate that," said Sir William Meredith.

Did Expect So.

But Constable Evans was emphatically did expect so, and was of opinion that the honor of the whole force was involved and that those who suggested that the police should be brought to book, whatever the result, should be brought to book.

"If one officer on several can commit a felony and nothing happens, it is a disgrace to the force," declared Constable Evans. "I should be investigated. An officer is said to have taken that whiskey and to have made a confession. He was never dealt with. A thing like that is not good for the force."

"I am afraid that is not covered by our commission," said the chairman.

Evans contended that the police were being investigated because they formed a union. "If these men were called down here the commission might say why we were affiliated," he said.

Sir William Meredith suggested that the union should meet and send a representative to the commission.

It was also arranged to take up the Ellis dismissal case today.

Premier Borden Accepts Post On the Boundary Commission

Ottawa, Feb. 6.—Official advice have been received here that the British Government has offered to Sir Robert Borden and that Sir Robert has accepted the post of chief representative of the empire on a commission of two representatives of each of the five powers to define the future boundaries of Greece and Rumania. It will not be necessary for Sir Robert to visit either of the countries. It is expected that he will be engaged in the work for two or three weeks' time.

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Miss Lawrence Hubbell was the hostess of a small bridge party yesterday and will give another this afternoon.

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ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS BROKEN

SUMMARY OF 1918 ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW ASSURANCES			
Assurances Issued and Reinstated	-	-	\$ 19,135,750.00
Increase over 1917	-	-	2,650,347.00
BUSINESS IN FORCE			
Business in Force, December 31st, 1918	-	-	108,572,703.00
Increase over 1917	-	-	10,444,072.00
INCOME			
Cash Income—Premiums, Interest, etc.	-	-	5,831,190.74
Increase over 1917	-	-	722,180.11
ASSETS			
Assets at December 31st, 1918	-	-	26,748,392.95
Increase over 1917	-	-	2,162,609.08
PROFITS ALLOTTED TO POLICYHOLDERS			
Profits set aside for Policyholders, Payable in 1919	-	-	487,410.00
Increase over 1918	-	-	129,927.00
SURPLUS			
Total Surplus over all Liabilities and Capital, according to Company's Standard	-	-	2,502,293.50
Surplus on Basis of Insurance Act	-	-	3,868,745.50
Increase over 1917	-	-	198,155.96
GROWTH DURING PERIOD OF THE WAR			
YEAR	BUSINESS IN FORCE	ASSETS	SURPLUS
1913	\$ 80,619,888.00	\$17,540,387.21	\$1,470,857.73
1918	108,572,703.00	26,748,392.95	2,502,293.50

The MANUFACTURERS LIFE Insurance Company

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President: W. G. GOODERHAM
Vice-Presidents: A. J. WILKES, K.C. C. C. DALTON
Directors: M. J. BEATTY E. R. C. CLARKSON MAJOR M. R. GOODERHAM R. JUNKIN JOHN MASSEY J. B. McKECHNIE F. GORDON OSLER DOUGLAS G. ROSS WM. STONE
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Manager of Agencies: A. MACKENZIE
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TORONTO BRANCH - 10 ADELAIDE STREET E.
C. L. HAMILTON, INSPECTOR GEO. H. JUNKIN, GENERAL AGENT

P.S.—Write for Copy of our booklet "FACTS."

SOCIETY

Conducted by Mrs. Edmund Phillips.

The meeting called by his worship the mayor in the city hall yesterday afternoon was so largely responded to that it took place in the large hall on the first floor, the speakers making use of the steps to give the addresses from, where a platform draped with flags was erected. It was quite the most representative meeting, both of men and women, that has taken place since before the war. A list would be superfluous, as everyone is so well known to the community. Mrs. Pack, who has spent the last three years in Canada thru being unable to return to England, left last night on her way home. Yesterday afternoon she was given a little farewell tea at 111 Howland avenue, when her daughter, Mrs. Mulholland, Peterboro, was present and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pack.

At the regular meeting of the Women's Musical Club yesterday afternoon in the Music Hall the artists were: Miss Edith Buckley, piano; Miss Wade, violin; Mr. Kenneth Angus sang four songs and an air. Mrs. Alfred Bruce and Miss Florence McKay were the accompanists. Lady Moss, Mrs. E. J. Clark, Mrs. Bruce Ferguson, Mrs. Howard Ferguson were in charge of the tea table. Some of the members present were: Lady Aylesworth, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Dorothy Leach, Mrs. W. H. Gooderham, Mrs. Robertson, Mrs. Roger, Mrs. Deeks, Mrs. F. C. Lee, Mrs. Irving, Mrs. Casey Wood, Miss Walbridge, Mrs. W. J. Elliott, Mrs. Marshall McGregor, Mrs. Coulthard, Miss Dold, Buffalo; Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Stanley, Mrs. Freyseng, Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Ellsworth, Mrs. F. P. Miller, Mrs. Philip Teller, Mrs. Green, Mrs. L. A. W. Smith, Mrs. Owen Smith, Mrs. Byrnes, Mrs. McMurtry, Mrs. Harold Parsons, Mrs. McLennan, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Blatado.

Mrs. G. Seldon gave a musicale and tea on Feb. 1 at her house in Huron street for the members of her vocal class.

Mrs. Leonard Murray, who frequently visited Toronto before the war, has returned to Halifax after three years of war work in England. Miss Murray accompanied her mother.

Mrs. Robert S. Richardson and her young son, Master Freddie Richardson, are spending the winter with the former's parents at Palm Beach, Florida.

Miss Joan Arnold is leaving next week for England.

Miss Honor Soames leaves for California next week, where she will join Mrs. Candee.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Simpson, who left last month for Los Angeles, California, will not return until the middle of March.

Bonus by Munitions Board For All the Shell Examiners

Brantford, Ont., Feb. 6.—It is stated that the imperial munitions board purposes to give all the shell examiners a bonus for their work for the board during the war, and the bonus will apply to those engaged in work on the day armistice was signed. Enquiry at local munitions plants this morning revealed the fact that examiners were paid direct from the board and definite announcement as to the amount to be received had not been made.

It was regarded as likely that two and a half days' pay for every month of service would be the basis of the bonus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notices of future events, not intended to raise money, to per word, minimum 5c; if held to raise money for patriotic or charitable purposes, 10c per word, minimum \$1.00; if held to raise money for any other than these purposes, 50c per word, minimum \$2.50.

ROYAL CANADIAN INSTITUTE Saturday evening lectures—Dr. E. Jewett, chief engineer, Western Electric Company, on "Some Problems in Industrial Research," with illustrations from the experience of the Western Electric Company, Inc., and the Bell Telephone System, illustrated on Feb. 8, 8.15 in the Physics Building of the University. Public cordially invited.

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