

Britain Has Solved The Rubber Riddle

Rubbers and Overshoes Are Cheap as Ever Today, While Other Necessities, Particularly Shoes, Have Nearly Doubled In Price.

Rubber has been one of the most insistent and intensely interesting problems of the twentieth century—and its solution is proving of vital importance to the Empire in this great war. Until 1910 the world depended for its crude rubber on the forests of South and Central America and Africa. The supply increased slowly, if at all, while consumption, since the advent of the motor car, has grown enormously. From an average of \$1.00 a pound in 1908, the price jumped to \$3.00 in 1910. Manufacturers of rubber kept pace—no doubt you remember what rubbers cost for a year or two—and the situation looked alarming.

The search for synthetic rubber was redoubled in vigor. German chemists had been working on it, and the world seemed to expect them to come through with some ingenious process for manufacturing rubber from its known ingredients, on a commercial scale and at a low cost. But the world still waits—and so does the Kaiser, judging from his indignation over Britain's refusal to let him import rubber by registered mail.

Relief from a rubber famine came instead from the far-sighted development policy of Britain's Empire builders, who for years, in spite of general ridicule, had been encouraging the growth of plantation rubber on a large scale in Ceylon, Sumatra, Java and the Malay States. Money was advanced to planters to carry them through the seven-year period before the trees started to produce, and hundreds of thousands of acres were planted.

By 1910, when the pinch came, British plantations produced 8,200 tons—11% of the world's output. The next year saw 14,000 tons of plantation rubber—nearly 20%. In 1912 it had grown to 29%—in 1913 to 44%—in 1914 to 59%—last year to 68%—or 107,867 tons. This year's production is estimated at 150,000 tons, or 75% of the world's supply.

With three-quarters of the rubber production thus controlled by Great Britain, and the seas in the grip of her mighty fleet, the Allies are assured of an abundant supply for war purposes, while the Teutons' troubles from lack of it are growing daily more serious.

Having a practical monopoly of the supply, and the power to impose such prices as she chose, Great Britain has made it, except for her enemies, a benevolent monopoly, and has set the price of crude rubber lower than it was before the war.

To Canadians this is doubly important, because the climate makes rubbers and overshoes a necessity. Now, when shoe prices are soaring, while rubbers are as cheap as ever, it is clearly economy to protect expensive shoes to the limit by systematically wearing rubbers at every sign of bad weather. Even with heavy soled shoes this pays, for shoes so protected will wear far longer, saving the cost of the rubbers several times over. Besides the big money saving, there is the valuable protection to health. Wet feet and colds go hand in hand, with a ghastly train of ills—easily avoided by wearing rubbers.

Then there is the patriotic side. Vast quantities of leather are absolutely necessary for the army, and the scarcity is growing. Every pair of shoes we save helps to ease the situation, and so serves the Empire to which we owe this welcome cheapness of rubbers.

Save your Shoes and Serve the Empire!

THREE YEARS FOR SELLYCH

For Malone Robbery—Compansions Remanded in Order to Enlist.

There young men, Isaac Sellych, Isaac Wright and Thos. Smith, came before Judge Deroche today and pleaded guilty to breaking and entering and robbing Fitzgerald's store at Malone some weeks ago and with stealing a horse, buggy and harness.

Mr. W. Carnew, represented the crown. Mr. A. A. Abbott, Wright and Sellych and Mr. W. D. M. Shorey, represented Smith.

Messrs. Abbott and Shorey pointed out that two of the boys, Wright and Sellych could enlist. They had had military training. The case was not of boys falling innocently into crime in a moment of weakness said Mr. Carnew. They showed collusion in the manner in which they entered the store. Once having committed the offence, they withdrew to an isolated place and in a sense set themselves up as outlaws or bandits. It was reported they had guns but no guns were found on them. After much trouble to the authorities, there were found two constables, Messrs. Soule and Barnes who were ready to secure the men and who actually made the arrest. The constables did not take up the job because of the report of damage likely to be incurred. If men are ready to enlist and fight for us, we ought to let them go, said Judge Deroche, if they will fight. Smith and Wright were never in court before. It would not be wise to permit men to enlist in a new battalion. They have lived on the country long enough. If there is any method by which they can be joined to any battalion going overseas within a few weeks or months. The battalion taking them must know all the facts of the case and of the desertions. "If I think they are going overseas, I am willing to let them go. As far as Smith and Wright are concerned, I shall reserve judgment until the sixteenth inst."

Regarding Sellych, the judge said he felt he was the man to blame for the robbery. One would have thought nine months in the reformatory would have sufficed to teach him. On the three charges of breaking and entering, stealing, the theft of a horse, buggy and harness, Sellych was accordingly sentenced to three years on each, terms to be concurrent.

The judge in referring to the constables who did not respond to their duties in making arrests, that they should be relieved of their positions if the facts were as stated, that they were afraid.

Appointed Two New Constables

To Belleville Police Department—Increases in Salaries—Good Conduct Rewards.

Two police constables have been appointed to Belleville police department to take the places of Messrs. Donovan and Corrigan who recently left the force. The new men are Edgar S. Smith, formerly of the G.T.R., a young man married man, and Carl Roscoe Jarvis, a single young man of Madoc who is now living on Dunbar street with relatives. They will report at once for duty.

New Scale of Salaries. According to a recent decision of the police commissioners all new men joining are taken on probation for six months, and the salary for this term will be \$55 per month.

All constables on permanent appointment are paid as follows:—For first year—\$60 per month. For second year—\$65 per month. For third year—\$70 per month. All Sergeants are to be paid as follows:—For first year—\$875 per annum. For second year—\$900 per annum. For third year—\$960 per annum. For fourth and subsequent years—\$1,000 per annum.

An innovation has been made in the police department. Good conduct rewards have been made to apply to constables and sergeants:—After 10 years' service—10c per day extra. After 15 years' service—15c per day extra. After 20 years' service—20c per day extra.

The chief of police is to be paid a salary of \$1200 per year and \$120 additional for services as police clerk. Sergt. Harman has been raised from the position of constable to that of sergeant.

Social and Personal

Mr. Clarence Burgess is in Toronto today.

Automobile painting and varnishing at Scantlebury's carriage and auto paint shops, 312 Front St. d&w

Messrs. Wm. and T. C. Thompson were in Napanee yesterday.

At Scantlebury's carriage paint shop we have for sale the following:—one covered phaeton, one covered surrey, one open cutter, all in best of condition and at bargains. d&w

Mr. Wm. Vincent has returned to Toronto after spending the week-end at Mr. John Harris', 29 Herchimer street.

Bring along your Christmas picture framing now, do not wait until the last hour. Economize this year by having photos or pictures framed for Christmas gifts, giving Scantlebury at the new up street store for good framing, choice moulding, artistic work.

Belleville Liberals to Meet

All Liberals and members of the Hastings Liberal Club are invited to attend a meeting of the club on Wednesday next (Nov. 8.) at 8 o'clock. A fine program of music, singing and brief addresses is being prepared.

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MRS. GEORGE G. SPRAGUE. The death of Mrs. George G. Sprague on the 25th ult. removes from our community one of its oldest, best known and much esteemed members. The news of her demise came as a great shock to all. Up to within two weeks of it she was in her usual health, not very robust, but for several years fairly robust. Her malady quickly developed, and pronounced hopeless from the first, ended in her passing from earthly scenes. Her long life has been spent on Big Island. Born in Thurlow, she came with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Badgley, when she was six years old to Big Island. In course of time, she married George Sprague who survives her, and provided to him a most helpful wife and counsellor and to