

Merchants Restive Over Price Cutting But are Powerless

CHICAGO, May 20.—The wave of price cutting in wearing apparel continued today to sweep the country, merchants in many cities and towns announcing reductions in men's and women's clothing, shoes, hats and other articles.

Owners of department stores in scores of cities and towns today announced price reductions in men's and women's apparel, ranging from 20 to 50 per cent., while in some places shoes and other articles were cut.

While the movement, which assumed nation-wide proportions yesterday, continued to spread, banking interests in New York today extended their campaign of deflation of credits and high commodity prices, carry out their pledge to the federal reserve board.

Banks were reported to have notified importers and dealers in luxuries, articles of apparel and manufacturers of so-called non-essentials that only moderate financial accommodation could be expected now.

May Spread to Other Lines The price cuts largely were confined to wearing apparel but a spread of the movement to other lines was indicated by the action of Omaha dentists in reducing the price of dental work.

For a newspaper advertisement today, a Newark clothing concern denounced price cutting as "an economic mistake," asserting "It is economically unsound to sell merchandise today for a price which is less than we can buy it from the makers anywhere."

In St. Paul, where marked price reductions were announced, the largest wholesale millinery concern in the northwest stated it would open its doors to retail trade at prices 50 per cent below those now prevailing. One large men's furnishing establishment which operates stores in several cities, announced a general reduction of 15 per cent.

Price reductions ranging from 15 to 50 per cent were advertised by a number of Boston retail stores. While most reductions were in clothing, one department store announced a reduction of 5 per cent in cottons, blankets, linens and similar materials. Some women's stores marked down prices one-half.

At St. Louis three department stores cut clothing prices 15 to 25 per cent, while several men's stores announced 13-13 per cent reductions in men's suits.

A Texarkana, Arkansas, shoe store announced a sale of \$12 shoes for \$4.85. Other stores advertised larger reductions.

Amusement Staff At-Home

Staged Successful Event at the Johnstone Academy. The Johnstone Academy of Dancing was last night the scene of the at-home of the Griffin Amusement staff. Nearly one hundred couples attended the function, which proved to be a most enjoyable affair.

The program, which was a unique affair, was as follows: Feature, "The Night of the Dance" Charles Ray, one step. Tom Mix, fox trot.

Scene No. 1, Mary Pickford, waltz, rainbow. Scene No. 2, Charlie Chaplin, one step. Scene No. 3, Billie Burke, social circle.

Scene No. 4, Harold Lloyd, fox trot. Scene No. 5, Norma Talmadge, waltz, rainbow. Scene No. 6, Ford Sterling, one step. Scene No. 7, Hank Man, fox trot. Scene No. 8, Vivian Martin, waltz, rainbow.

Scene No. 9, Fatty Arbuckle, one step. Scene No. 10, Elsie Ferguson, waltz, rainbow. End of part one; one half-hour while operator changes reels.

Part No. 2. Scene No. 1, Pauline Frederick, waltz, moon. Scene No. 2, Ben Turpin, one step. Scene No. 3, Geo. Welch, social circle.

Scene No. 4, Dorothy Gish, waltz, moon. Scene No. 5, Marguerite Clarke, one step. Scene No. 6, Alice Howell, fox trot. Scene No. 7, Naimova, waltz, moon.

Scene No. 8, Billie Ritchie, one step. Scene No. 9, Mabel Normand, fox trot. Scene No. 10, May Marsh, waltz, moon. Good night. Meet at Griffin's tomorrow night, Tom Mix.

Price Cutting Starts Here

One Firm Lowers Men's Clothing and Pays Excise Tax. Price cutting has already begun in Belleville particularly in those commodities affected by the new Government tax. Clothing is among the first lines to witness decline.

Robert Fraser, Trenton III for One Day, Dies

TRENTON, May 20.—Robert Fraser of Trenton died suddenly at an early hour this morning after an illness of one day. He was born in Paisley, Scotland, 75 years ago, and was manager of the Moisons Bank at Morrisburg, Smith's Falls and Trenton. He was the first General Manager of the Central Ontario Railway and Collector of Customs during the Laurier Government regime. When a young man he was a great athlete and swimmer. He leaves three sons, W. A. Fraser,

50,000 Pickerel Fry for Moira Lake

Manager of the Trenton Co-operative Co., Jas. O. Fraser of the Bank of Montreal, Windsor; Donald Fraser with the Canadian National Railway and one daughter. Mr. Joseph Burns, Reeve of Madoc, handed in the following letter: Department of Game and Fisheries, Friday May 14, 1920.

I have much pleasure in advising you that the Honorable Minister of Public Works has authorized the planting of 50,000 pickerel fry in the waters of Moira Lake. Mr. Henry Watson of this Department will notify the applicant, Mr. Joseph Burns, as to the date of planting.

Deputy Min. of Game & Fisheries. The Department of Game & Fisheries of the Province of Ontario is doing much to preserve the fish in the inland waters of the Province by the stocking from time to time and by setting apart a close season but all their efforts will be of little avail until the Province makes some provision for the observance of the laws regulating the close and the open season for taking the game fish of our inland waters. The appointment of local officials is absolutely worthless. We speak as one who knows after 20 years knowledge of violations of the game laws as affecting Moira Lake and river, and we believe what is true of Moira is true of other places.

Baby at Oakville Drowned in Trough

OAKVILLE, May 19.—Through scarcely able to do more than toddle around, the little fourteen-months old daughter of Wurtzel Biggar, a farmer living a few miles north of here, slipped into the barnyard this morning without her mother's notice, and she had disappeared from the house. In less than fifteen minutes she was missed, and on a search being made her body was discovered in a water trough. Every effort was made to resuscitate her, but without success. There was comparatively little water in the trough. The Biggars are a young couple and this was their only child.

Colours of the 21st Battalion C. E. F.

Five years ago the first of the present month, a goodly number of the citizens of Belleville travelled to Kingston to bid their lads in the 21st Battalion a farewell and God speed on their journey to the battlefields of France and Flanders. A year ago Monday next (Empire Day) the trip to Kingston was again made, this time to join with the Kingstonsians and hundreds of others from the 3rd Military District, in the loyal, rousing welcome home the Battalion received.

In those intervening four years, the original battalion had received reinforcements of over four thousand of all ranks; had lost thousand killed in action or died of wounds, one thousand, all ranks; and had depletions owing to evacuations to England, through wounded in action, two thousand five hundred, all ranks. They had held the craters at St. Eloi, '16, and been with the storm troops at Somme '16, Vimy, Hill 70, Passchendaele, Amiens, Arras, Cambrai and Mons '18 and with the Army of Occupation in the neutral zone. With all the changes, promotions and welding in of reinforcements, this fighting unit of the Canadian forces, was ever known as one of the happiest battalions on active service. The spirit of regimental loyalty is still strong amongst its ex-members and wherever 21st men meet, while the exploits of other units are admitted, even admitted, yet the 21st Battalion ever figures in the conversation as the best battalion that ever went overseas.

With the reorganization of the Canadian militia this unit is perpetuated in the Active Battalion of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment of Kingston, formerly the 14th Regiment, (Princess of Wales Own Rifles).

The colours of the 21st Battalion are amongst the rare few of those of the Canadian regiments that have been paraded into German territory and across the Rhine. At 11 o'clock, on the morning of June 3rd next, at the cricket field, Kingston, where the battalion did its preliminary training in 1914, these colours are to be transferred to the custody of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, with fitting ceremony.

Public Scared Into Paying High Prices

No Real Shortage of Sugar in the United States Now. New York, May 21.—The so-called shortage of sugar does not exist," reads a statement by Marcus Blakemore, president of the National Preserves and Fruit Product Association, who has investigated available supplies with the help of the Department of Justice and representatives of the refining industry. "Present prices represent pure inflation, caused through hoarding by sugar speculators."

He said that with the sugar that has already been received in the United States and the amounts contracted for an available on the Cuban market, an excess of more than 500,000 tons over last year's total consumption is in sight. "Last year, with a Government fixed price of nine cents a pound, we did not use nearly as much sugar as we have available this year," Mr. Blakemore declared. "And this year, owing to the condition of foreign exchange and transportation conditions the demand for export is much smaller. The net result is that there is plenty of sugar, but the public has been scared into paying the exorbitant and outrageous prices by the speculators who have shouted 'shortage,' and held their stocks for still higher prices."

Mr. Blakemore said that he and other members of the association had been surprised by the amounts of sugar they found stored up in the United States. "After our members heard our report of conditions they voted unanimously to refuse to purchase sugar until present high prices are cut in two. We will close down our factories after using up the supply we now have if the speculators refuse to listen to reason."

It is the hope of the association Mr. Blakemore said, to start a country-wide movement among manufacturers using sugar and also among the housewives of the country aimed at the present high prices. "If the housewives want to help, they should begin by using up the small supplies of 25 to 100 pounds which most of them have stored away," he said.

"As soon as the dealers see that buying has ceased, prices will tumble and the enormous stocks now stored in warehouses and freight cars will become available at reasonable figures."

Triple Links Score First Win

Trimmed Belleville by the Score of 6 to 2. Kingston, May 20.—The Odd-fellows started off their season in (using the oft-quoted word) a very suspicious manner by trimming Belleville's crack champion team by the score of 6 to 2 last evening. Porter's ineffectiveness coupled with a banner by Symons in left field paved the way for a Kingston victory. With two men out in the fourth inning, Twigg on second and the scored tied, Symons dropped Nicholson's easy fly and Twigg scored. Hall's single put the little ones.

The game was a little late in starting, with the master-umpire, George Sullivan, behind the pitcher, Belleville was without its crack south-paw, Lefly Goyar, while Whelan and Gerow were also absentees. Porter,

Good to Be Home Says J. J. B. Flint

Editor Ontario.—After an absence of five months, nothing can be more delightful than to grasp the hands of friends, and see in their eyes that they are glad to welcome you home. "Midst pleasures and palaces oft you may roam there is (after all) no place like home." You miss some faces familiar to you from childhood. Alas it is not only the old who have finished life's chequered pilgrimage, whom you miss, but beautiful young lives blossoming into youth and maturity who have been taken into the arms of the loving Saviour, who loved little children and who told the Pharisees and Sadducees, proud of the forms and ceremonies of their religion and aspiring to the first place in heaven, "that of such is the Kingdom of Heaven," referring to the little ones.

Since leaving home, I have travelled over 10,000 miles, fifteen days and nights travelling constantly on one trip, I have been pretty well over a great deal of California, and have now about nine months' ex-

periences of that beautiful country. I ought to have learned something about it. There was a time, when the whole valley of the state was a sandy lifeless desert. The ingenuity of man in utilizing the water from the mountain ranges draining into the valleys, carrying with it the loose, surface soil, and wells dug through the sand, changed the whole face of nature, and made the land a delightful place in which to live and the most productive agricultural land in the world. Two crops each year, eternal summer, no snow. Why do people buy raw land at \$300 per acre? The answer is that they crop the year round; remove the enormous grain crop and plant a vegetable crop, beans, potatoes, beets, Alfalfa is hay. Seven crops each year can be grown, of course, not all equally productive. This year is called wet year, preceded by three dry years. Everything is luxuriant. It is strange to see the orange trees with matured fruit and blossoms on the same tree. All portions of the land are not adapted to fruit. Frost is a danger to oranges and some vegetable crops. This danger is generally overcome by judiciously which warm the air; sometimes by cotton covers over the trees. In large districts, the nights are watched, and a falling temperature is wired to the growers who light their gasoline jars distributed over the orchard, for thirty minutes, when danger is over. Fruits on mountain slopes escape frost and give a sure crop. Grapes are not so injured. I have seen many thousands of acres of raisin grapes. The strange thing is that they do not thresh grain, and have no large barns. Only shelter barns for stock are built, the grain being cut, lies on the ground a few days, placed in wired bundles and marketed as it is. Alfalfa is treated in the same way.

When you pay \$300 per acre you can obtain water rights by paying \$30 additional per 100 acres. Water drilled for is generally found at about 500 feet. \$5. for every 25 feet as you go down. There are tracts of land used for ranching cattle and horses. The crops which pay the best are nuts, coconuts and almonds, apricots, olives, oranges, lemons.

Across the bay are Oakland, Berkeley and Piedmont, three large and magnificent cities, where shipbuilding is a great industry. The greatest attraction to visitors, the Market Star, car which runs along the park to the ocean. Then fill your lungs with the salt air as you look on the great ocean. Think for a moment, then you can step on board one of the floating palaces and reach China, Japan, Hawaii, Africa and India. Also think of the terrible naval combats of which history is full.

At Frisco you stand on the shore and watch forty or fifty large seals sprawling on some rocks a few feet distant. You see the little wooden schooner which went through the north west passage under the captainship of Amesen. There she is on the shore, her masts, hull and rigging perfect. You think of the mountainous seas she climbed, of the terrible dangers she encountered. Five lakes are in this park containing all kinds of aquatic plants, flowers, fish, ducks, swans, etc. I saw in another park 150 ducks which fed from your hand, perfectly tame. Another day they were all gone and I was told they were wild ducks which fly away with their young families. They are free to come and go, and are fed and cared for by attendants and visitors. Splendid grizzlies and black bears, herds of buffaloes, many kinds of deers, among them the beautiful gazelle, Peaches, strawberries, olives, grapes produced immense crops.

Hawaii is now owned by the States and has become Americanized. A world-wide traveller from Chicago told me of the great volcano discharging immense quantities of smoke, fire and vapor, feeding on substances in the interior of the earth and never satisfied. He told of the great lake which has been on fire for years, its billows of flame feeding on the pitch which it contains. The great fiery waves dash on the shores.

A lady company of which Mr. James Neworthy's grandson, Frank Peard, is the general manager, sold 13,000 acres of land near Sacramento in a few weeks at \$300 per acre. They have 11,000 acres at Hamet. If they bought at \$100 per acre, you see their profit. Property in one year has increased about twenty-five per cent. A large number of what we would call splendid buildings are being torn down and enormous garages built. With 87,000 acres in use, the trade demands these immense garages. A mania for large churches exists. Methodists are going to build, having two millions cash on hand, proceeds of sale of church for Growntown, theatre,

Will Continue Cheese Board

Peterboro, Ont., May 21.—At the opening meeting of the Peterboro Board an unanimous resolution was passed to continue the meetings of the board. There were 428 boxes of cheese offered and all sold to T. Thompson at 29 1/2 cents per pound.

About People

Every reader of The Ontario is invited to contribute to this column and assist in making it so bright and interesting. If you are going away on a visit or have guests at your home send or telephone particulars to editorial rooms of The Ontario.

Rev. Dr. E. N. Baker was in Toronto yesterday attending the obligations of the late Rev. Dr. Kilborn, the great missionary to the Far East.

Dr. H. A. Yeomans, M.O.H. for the city of Belleville has left for Toronto to attend the annual meeting of the Provincial Officers of Health.

Ex-Mayor W. J. Diamond is reported slightly improved this morning but owing to his serious condition his friends have practically given up hope that he can recover.

Capt. T. D. Ruston, Supt. of the Children's Shelter, returned from Toronto last night where he had been attending the provincial convention of the Children's Aid Society.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rodbourne leave this afternoon for Buffalo, N. Y. to visit Mrs. Rodbourne's sister, also their niece, Miss Pearl Paine, who has been seriously ill.

The remains of the late Mrs. W. H. Miller, of Detroit, who died in New Bedford, Mass., did not arrive here yesterday as expected and the funeral will not be held until Monday afternoon at 3.15 o'clock from the Belleville Burial Company's parlors.

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Public Work Paving City Letter From ing Bylaw ing of Co

Financial questions ed at a special meeting Council on Monday. a time it looked as if have to cut out all other than those already for. Finally the matter or until next Monday. The following letter city's banker, Mr. Robert Jamieson Bond, Chairman of Finance Belleville, Ont.

Dear Mr. Bone.—Re your application of special loans till debentured of \$280,000 for paving and sewers and for the cost of a new as you are aware there sent time a world-wide of credit and consequent sorbing power of the investment in municipal diminished and it is to ed that during the con prospective borrowing will find difficulty in fr et for these securities.

Under these circumstances city authorities would ed to reconsider the proposed of \$339,000. However, and a show deterring the work involved. I let me know if I can assist that the date of the works contemplated and that satisfactory arrangements have been sponable brokers to dis debentures to be issued possible, and that the prepared to accept the market price for such when issued.

If any debentures are either in connection with improvements or work taken, it would be wise now rather than wait. I trust that the city officials recognize that the work taken should be on a credit basis than indicate applied for.

Would you please let which of the particular means that are contemplated actually been commenced let me have a short report urgency for doing the work this year or thought should not be postponed.

Yours truly, (Sgd.) R. T. Manager Mon Ald. Bone sent the following— May Robert Tannahill, Esq., Manager Bank of Montreal Dear Mr. Tannahill,—of 27th Inst. received your ately was in time for discussion of the council and in accordance with what It was decided that we down wherever possible works that we have undertaken. We therefore decided new pavements except Mt and Catherine street, which the city require immediately and are not expensive may have decided to discontinue posed asphaltic concrete on East Bridge St. John St. and Charles St. which duce our requirements \$160,000. We discussed sewer but we have had pressure from the Gr Railway people that we a to think this trunk sewer laid this year. As you are Grand Trunk people form quarter of the population city.

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