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LONDON, CANADA—THE HOME OF UNBROKEN PROSPERITY.

THE LONDON ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 3, 1917

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Startling Figures On the High Cost of Living In Forest City

Gibbons Investigators Find Food Has Advanced 80 Per Cent While Wages of London Workers Have Gone Up Only 15 Per Cent.

Refusal of Borden Government to regulate prices of commodities has caused prices of 271 eatables and household articles almost to double since war started---Hoarding of food and manipulating of prices by such men as Flavelle at the root of the evil---Election gives chance to end reign of the food barons.

George S. Gibbons, London's Labor-Liberal candidate, has just completed a survey of living conditions in London, which show beyond all cavil that the Borden Government's policies have forced up the cost of living away beyond the reach of the average household. Official Government figures prove that while the cost of commodities advanced 80 per cent since war started, the wage of the average London worker—the organized worker—was increased only 15 per cent. Mr. Gibbons has a done a real service to the community in providing this information. He represents the parties that mean to cut down the high cost of living by adopting the most strenuous measures against those who hoard and manipulate food supplies.

For whom will the workingman of London cast his ballot in the approaching federal election? With the workingman there is no alternative. His choice must be governed by the problem of bread and butter. Only one candidate is in the field who has a solution for this ever-present and very serious problem. The native qualifications and clear-cut policies of George S. Gibbons mark him out as the man whom labor seeks. He is in a very special sense the win-the-war-without-waste candidate of the city of London.

INVESTIGATED LIVING CONDITIONS.

Mr. Gibbons has been very eager to learn what are the actual conditions existing among the wage-earners of the city at the present moment. At his request a skilled investigator has visited thirty-three of London's leading trades, and conditions have been scientifically noted. In every quarter, the complaint has been the same; among every class of worker one question, and one question only, is being propounded: "How will we, with our slowly-increasing wages, continue to maintain our families and ourselves in the face of rapidly-advancing prices?"

What is the ratio between wage levels and price levels in this community at the present moment? The public is demanding the actual facts. Thanks to the investigation which has taken place, The Advertiser is in a position to present these facts.

Statistics are now available which show the changes, if any, in the wage scales of thirty-three trades during the forty months that have elapsed since the war began. These statistics have been tabulated and put upon a percentage basis. In this form the public will readily apprehend their meaning.

WAGE INCREASES IN LONDON TRADES.

The percentages which follow, therefore, will designate the increase of wages, if any, in thirty-three representative London trades during the interval from August

1, 1914, until November 30, 1917:

Carpenters	13 per cent
Stonecutters	10 per cent
Plumbers	13 per cent
Journymen tailors	0 per cent
Boilermakers	27 per cent
Machinists and Toolmakers	25 per cent
Barbers	18 per cent
Sheet metal workers	8 per cent
Bricklayers	0 per cent
Cigarmakers	8 per cent
Linotypers	10 per cent
Iron molders	15 per cent
Lathers	20 per cent
House painters	5 per cent
Inside electrical workers	16 per cent
Cement workers	18 per cent
Plasterers	0 per cent
Stage workers	12 per cent
Boot and shoe workers	16 per cent
Musicians	5 per cent
Stove mounters	20 per cent
Metal polishers	18 per cent
City policemen	17 per cent
City firemen	24 per cent
Outside electrical workers	12 per cent
Street railway motormen and conductors	13 per cent
Railway engineers (approximately)	20 per cent
Railway firemen	22 per cent
Railway yardmen	19 per cent
Railway conductors	20 per cent
Railway brakemen	22 per cent
Railway telegraphers	23 per cent
Railway baggagemen	26 per cent

15 PER CENT IS THE AVERAGE.

Let all these percentages be summated and the total divided by thirty-three. A straight average of fifteen per cent is the result. In other words, the average wage increase in thirty-three trades since the war began has been approximately fifteen per cent.

The trades which have been dealt with reflect labor conditions generally in the city. Were the salaries of clerks in various employments to be accounted for, were



GEORGE S. GIBBONS, who conducted the investigation into the high cost of living in London.

the wages of drivers, factory workers, teamsters, chauffeurs and of the numerous unorganized workers, male and female, in the various industries of the city to be enumerated, the percentage already arrived at would undoubtedly experience a down trend rather than an up trend. It may safely be assumed then that wages in all trades have not advanced beyond fifteen per cent since 1914.

On the other hand, what of the alterations in price levels during the same period of time?

The department of labor at Ottawa (founded under the fourth Laurier administration, in 1909) keeps what is called an index number of wholesale prices. This index number is changed each month as prices in the interval have gone up or down. The prices of 271 articles of general consumption are considered by the department in ascertaining its monthly number.

LIVING HAS ADVANCED 80 PER CENT.

In July, 1914, the index number of the department of labor stood at 135.5. In September, 1917, it stood at 243.2. Briefly stated, then, the prices of 271 commodities throughout the whole of Canada have advanced 79.5 per cent since Great Britain first went to war with the German Empire. It may confidently be asserted that the Labor department's index number is a fair statement of price conditions in London.

The truth, therefore, is made manifest. Whilst wages have been rising fifteen per cent in this city, the prices of all goods in general use have risen 79 per cent.

Herein are found the grounds for labor's terrible indictment of the Borden Government. The chief blame for the unprecedented level of prices obtaining in this country lies unquestionably at the door of the Borden Government. It will be a just retribution when the workingman smites that Government with his ballot on the day of election.

The Borden Government has systematically fought shy of price regulation throughout the progress of the war. On the other hand, Great Britain, the Commonwealth of Australia and other sections of the world at war have fixed prices with success. Information lately come to hand from Australia would indicate that up to April, 1917, prices had only risen 36 per cent in that great British colony.

PRICE MANIPULATION AT THE ROOT OF IT.

The Borden Government has allowed manipulation of the markets to the lasting disadvantage of the consumer. The food barons, gambling in futures, have dispersed themselves in the food markets while the workingmen have watched the prices soar.

The Borden Government has allowed the cold storages and other repositories of consumable goods to bulge with stocks of those commodities that go into every man's household. An artificial demand has thus been created, and prices have been fixed by profiteers, such as Flavelle, and others of the same hypocritical crew.

The Borden Government has granted lavish monopolistic export privileges. In such cases the burden has not only fallen upon the people of Canada, but upon the fighting peoples across the sea.

The Borden Government has handed out the most luscious war contracts to its friends or has seen that they have been granted by Great Britain or our allies. Excess profits running into hundreds of millions of dollars have gone into the fattening pockets of the privileged few, while the poor man has grown poorer.

UP AND AT THEM, MR. WORKINGMAN! THEY HAVE BEEN AT YOU LONG ENOUGH!

UNIONIST ROWDY GANG RAIDS VANCOUVER LIBERAL MEETING; TRIES TO LASSO SEN. M'INNES

Unionist Disturbers Invited to Platform in Spirit of Fair Play Respond by Refusing Hearing to Liberals.

(Special Correspondence of The Advertiser.)

Vancouver, Dec. 2.—At a mass meeting of 6,000 electors held Saturday night in the Vancouver Horse Show building in behalf of the returned soldiers' Laurier candidate, a rowdy element of returned soldiers was organized by the chairman for the purpose of breaking up the meeting. Three of this number were invited on the platform by the chairman in a spirit of British fair play to speak, and allowed an equal time with the Laurier soldiers' candidates.

While the last of the Unionist speakers was finishing ex-Judge McInnes entered the hall, coming direct from the train, having just returned from a triumphal speaking tour at Calgary, Revelstoke, Kamloops and other points. He received the greatest ovation of the campaign, 90 per cent of the audience cheering, continually for fully ten minutes, after which the disturbers continued booing and making catcalls and other noises for over an hour, preventing McInnes speaking. Two returned soldiers then attempted to lasso McInnes with a rope, whereupon a number of rowdy women got upon the platform and catcalled, hurrahed and made other noises. Nearly all the audience, including a large percentage of returned soldiers, left the building in disgust, refusing to countenance rowdy attacks preventing free speech and British fair play.

Vancouver press denounces this organized rowdism and regret the rabble exhibition of Saturday night.

THE KAISER'S VOTE

It is now being asked
How the kaiser would vote.
The answer is plain as a stepple.
For the kaiser and Borden are one in their aim;
Hold the power and to h— with the people!

HUGHES ADDS TO BULGARIA JOINS EMBARRASSMENT CENTRAL POWERS OF OLD LEADER IN PEACE MOVES

Ex-Vir Lord Tells Borden Que. ec Should Be Made to Even Up Status.

PICK THE MEN AT ONCE

Sir Sam's Remarks at Peterboro Greeted With Loud Cheers, Says Report.

Sir Sam Hughes, one time war lord of Canada, and the man who declared that the "Union" Government was a "union" of White and Flavelle, and should be known as the "National Trust" government, has still further embarrassed his old leader, Sir Robert Borden.

Speaking at a Unionist meeting in Peterboro last week, Sir Sam, referring to the attitude of Quebec, said: "I would suggest to Sir Robert that he should consider questions of whether or not Quebec should be made to come up to an even status with the other provinces in the number of men who have gone to the front, and I would suggest that this be done before the industries of the province are depleted in order to get the men for the front." In reporting this statement the Toronto Star added: "The suggestion was greeted with loud applause, which continued for some time."

Sofia Decides to Open Negotiations With the Russian Government.

Amsterdam, Dec. 3.—Bulgaria has decided to open negotiations with Russia in accordance with her allies, and has sent a reply to this effect to the Russian Government, a Sofia dispatch says. This announcement was made in the Bulgarian Parliament by Premier Radoslavoff.

TWO KILLED, 27 HURT WHEN FAST EXPRESSES MEET WITH ACCIDENTS

Derry, Pa., Dec. 3.—Twenty-seven persons, including a number of passengers, were injured here today when Pennsylvania Railroad train No. 23, Pittsburgh to New York, struck a freight car in the yards. The car, which had been put on a side track for repairs, was so close to the main track that it was sidetracked by the fast passenger train.

TWO TRAINMEN KILLED.
Corry, Pa., Dec. 3.—Two trainmen were killed when the Buffalo Express, from Buffalo to Pittsburgh, was wrecked on the Pennsylvania Railroad near here today. A broken wheel on the locomotive was given by railroad men as the cause.

BYNG HAS BETTER OF NIGHT COMBATS IN BOURLON AREA

London Troops Take Twelve Machine Guns and Number of Prisoners.

London, Dec. 3.—"Hostile attacks delivered yesterday evening against our positions in the neighborhood of Mouevrea (Cambrai sector) were repulsed after sharp fighting," says today's official report. "Successful minor encounters during the night in the neighborhood of Boursin resulted in the capture by London troops of twelve German machine guns and a number of prisoners. "Beyond considerable artillery activity by both sides on the southern battlefield there is nothing further to report."

LONDONERS LANDED AT ST. JOHN FROM THE WAR

St. John, N. B., Dec. 3.—Among the men who returned recently to Canada are the following: Sergt. H. Griffiths, Midland, Ont.; Driver A. T. Monhouse, Brantford; Pte. H. Saunders, London; Sergt.-Major E. Tippler, Bridgeburg; Lance-Corp. F. Wright, Hamilton; Lieut. J. Millan, London.

FINISH ON TUESDAY

Regular business of Board of Education Being Wound Up.
The board of education will finish its regular business on Tuesday afternoon. A special session will be called for the latter part of the month to pass some accounts, but tomorrow's meeting will settle all the usual business.

1917 COUNCIL MEETS TONIGHT FOR LAST TIME

Winds Up Business of Year at Final Regular Meeting—"Specials" Still Likely.

The city council will meet this evening to wind up the business of the year. The 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 33; lowest, 20. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 26; lowest, 22.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF SIR MACKENZIE BOWELL

Vancouver, Dec. 3.—Word of the very serious illness of Sir Mackenzie Bowell at his home was received late yesterday by his son, J. M. Bowell, collector of customs, who left immediately for the east to be at the bedside of his father.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER AT ARNPRIOR TODAY

Arnprior, Ont., Dec. 3.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier, accompanied by Hon. Charles Murphy, arrived here this morning to address a gathering in the town hall here this afternoon. The Opposition leader was met at the station by Mayor Cameron, who extended a welcome on behalf of the municipality.

GERMANS RUSH AGAIN TODAY, BUT BYNG'S MEN HOLD FIRM AND GREAT ATTACK CRUMBLES

British Army Headquarters in France, Dec. 3.—(By The Associated Press).—

British troops last night occupied a section of a trench on the high ground southwest of Bourlon village, on the Cambrai front, which was lost on Friday. The town of Maanieres, which was evacuated by the British, was shelled last night by British artillery. Gen. Byng's troops last night pressed near the village of Villers-Gosselain and along the ridge southwest of that place, and their line now is fairly near the town.

It is estimated that the Germans had about 20 divisions for their assault on Friday, which, except for the first Ypres battle, is regarded as having been their heaviest attack on the British. The Germans attacked the British positions at La Vacquette, southwest of Cambrai, at 8:45 o'clock this morning, and an hour later it was reported that they had been successfully beaten off. Today's attack followed three futile attacks made by the enemy to take this village yesterday afternoon.

THE GERMAN CLAIMS.

Berlin, Dec. 3.—(Via Berlin).—Since Friday the Germans have captured 6,000 British prisoners in the Cambrai region, the German general staff announced today. The guns taken numbered 100.

British dispatches say nearly all the guns were recaptured and that prisoners taken by Germans did not number more than 100.

THE WEATHER

LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
Following were the highest and lowest temperatures recorded in London during the 24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last night: Highest, 33; lowest, 20. The official temperatures for the 12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today were: Highest, 26; lowest, 22.

TOMORROW—SNOW OR SLEET.

Forecast.
Toronto, Dec. 3.
Moderate to fresh variable winds; some light falls of snow or sleet today and on Tuesday.

Temperatures.
The following were the highest and lowest temperatures during the 24 hours previous to 8 a.m. today:

Place	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	40	26	Snow
Calgary	5	—	Clear
Winnipeg	—	0	Clear
Port Arthur	22	26	Cloudy
Parry Sound	20	8	Cloudy
Port Stanley	3	24	Cloudy
Buffalo	—	20	Cloudy
Toronto	20	20	Fair
Kitchener	28	12	Fair
Ottawa	22	8	Fair
Montreal	26	14	Fair
Quebec	30	12	Clear
Minus (—) means below zero.			

BORDEN DOES NOT TRUST CANADA --- CANADA CANNOT TRUST BORDEN