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june18,mon,wed,fri

Evening Telegram

W. J. HERDER, - - - Proprietor
H. A. WINTER, B.A., - - Editor

FRIDAY, June 22nd, 1917.

Tackling the Food Question.

We have read carefully the arguments which the Herald set forth yesterday against the proposed policy of a Governmental commandeering of all flour stocks in the country, but we find ourselves more interested than convinced by them. We shall endeavour to show briefly why this is so. If our own views are unsound, the exposition of their unsoundness may itself help to discover those that are sound and to solve a solution of the difficulty. That there is need of some action the Herald itself seems to be thoroughly convinced; that no action is being taken everyone knows, and no action in the proper place is likely to be taken as long as those lately demanding it loudly themselves block the way to it, and every other action, by an exhibition of childishness which would be unbelievable if the exhibitors were not known.

If we accept the assumption of the Herald that flour prices are high and ought to be lessened, we cannot see the force of its arguments against the proposed method of lessening them. It details a number of difficulties that at once confront an attempt to do this. Accepting them as practically insuperable, the Herald seems to us to leave the matter exactly where it stood before. It upholds the suggestion of a Food Control Board, but does not attempt to explain how such a Board would not have to face precisely the same difficulties as the Government. Apparently the objection to complete Government control is not the actual commandeering of the flour but the difficulty of fixing the price. But how else would the Board control prices and profits than by fixing them? And if it attempts to fix them, how will it not meet the very problems which the Herald details so fully? The objection to the report of the Food Commission is that, while it set forth these problems very well, its proposal to solve them, through the offices of this Board, was in the vaguest possible terms. We may not have understood the report very well, but the whole public would certainly welcome a detailed statement of the exact duties which the Board would have to perform.

But these difficulties themselves—are they so insuperable after all? They seem to rest merely on the fact that the flour, if taken over, would be of different grades and have to be bought from the owners at different prices. This, the Herald argues, would involve the most difficult and intricate problem of adjusting different sale prices among different buyers. Why? If any flour is commandeered it must all be commandeered. Let there be no mistake about that. Half measures would be worse than none. If it is all bought at a fair profit, the owners could have no complaint. Why need it be sold at different prices? All the flour in the hands of the wholesale dealers at any time is usually sufficient for the needs of the country for a good period ahead, certainly for one long enough to permit future supplies to be provided for. If, then, the flour is bought by the Government, any suitable average can be struck for the selling price. The question of profit or loss to the treasury should not be considered for a moment. There would be little possibility of a loss, but even that should not matter in the least. The Government would be using the money of the whole country to buy a commodity which the whole country consumes. Moreover, these first deals would be merely the preliminary step in a procedure extending over months, and even if they involved a little discrimination it would only be the most trifling drawback. But we repeat that no discrimination need be made. If one person then happens to buy flour cheaper than another, it will be for the same reason that he does so now. We are quite unable to understand the common argument that judgment must be made between two applicants, or two classes of applicants. The rule "first come, first served" can apply, and in fact must apply, as well in war as in peace times.

But there is one qualification of that rule, which shows the chief advantage of Government control of the food supply. We cannot too often repeat that the supply is far more important than prices. Under the present system, hundreds of selfish individuals are buying more flour than they need and far more flour than the serious conditions entitle them to. Government control could stop this at once and most effectually. In a population as small as ours rationing would be a comparatively simple matter. The public could be compelled, as in England, to buy through certain dealers, to whom the flour could be supplied in accordance with the estimated needs of each community. The greatest economy would be effected, speculation stopped (and a shameful amount of this has been going on in the outports) and the people brought sharply to a realisation of the real seriousness of the whole matter. In no other way will this be done, unless some day little or no flour can be had for love or money.

In what we have said we do not necessarily advocate Government management of the flour business: we have endeavoured merely to answer the objections the Herald has raised to it. But though there are other objections to it—and we think the greatest would be found in providing the machinery for the change, not in the change itself—it may soon be the only course to take. It is certainly preferable to the present state of things. In any case, we do not think the Commission or anyone else has properly or fully considered the pro's and con's of this method. It is surprising how mountains can resolve themselves into molehills when a problem like this is attacked earnestly and with courage.

Fresh Smoked Haddies, 12c. per lb., at ELLIS'S.

Beef, Iron & Wine Case.

DEFENDANT CONVICTED.

In the Magistrate's Court—Before Mr. F. J. Morris, K.C., J.P.

Martin Myers, Police Constable vs. Mary Sphire.—This is a proceeding taken against the Defendant, Mary Sphire, a shop-keeper of New Gower Street, who is charged with a violation of Section 4 of the Act 6, Geo. V., Cap. 9 (Intoxicating Liquors Prohibition Act), for selling to one Patrick Grey a preparation known as "Beef, Iron and Wine" containing over 2% of alcohol in volume. The defendant pleaded not guilty. This preparation seems to have established for itself a certain reputation, since the passing of the Prohibition Act.

The principal facts elicited at the trial by Mr. C. E. Hunt, B.L., who appeared on behalf of the Prosecution, were as follows:

On Sunday the 22nd of April last, Patrick Grey, having heard the merits of Beef, Iron and Wine extolled by his friends at the Union Hall, proceeded to the shop of the defendant, Mary Sphire, and purchased three flasks, each containing about a half pint of Beef, Iron and Wine. He drank the contents of two flasks and became stunned and intoxicated, was subsequently arrested by Constable Myers, who found him on New Gower Street, falling about the street and under the influence of liquor. When brought to the Lock-up, the Constable found a flask in Grey's pocket. The contents of the flask were submitted by the Police Authorities to the Government Analyst, who reported to the Court the following:

"One flask Beef, Iron and Wine found on Patrick Grey—bought at Mary Sphire's shop, No. 12 New Gower Street, on the 22nd day of April, 1917, containing **intoxicating drink.**

Alcohol—16.2. % by volume.

(Sgd.) D. J. DAVIES,
B.Sc., F.C.S.

H. W. LeMessurier, C.M.G., Deputy Minister of Customs, deposed to the fact that the imported article known as "Beef, Iron and Wine" is certified under the heading of "Alcoholic preparation for medicinal purposes."

Albert E. Parkins, Chemist, a witness on behalf of the defence who manufactured the compound, which was sold by the defendant to Grey, stated, the preparation contained not less than 15% alcohol, and may run up to 20%. He imported the medical wine, identical in alcoholic strength to 16 per cent. absolute alcohol. It is over ale, stout and beer from the alcoholic standpoint, and contains more alcohol than lighter wines.

Mr. Gibbs, K.C., Counsel for the Defendant, in an exhaustive address, during which he quoted from several authorities, asked for the dismissal of the complaint. He defined the term "Spirituous" as meaning distilled, distinguished from fermented and ardent as applied to a liquor for drinking. "Liquor" is defined as an alcoholic or spirituous liquid either distilled or fermented. Liquor was distilled, and ales, wines and beers fermented. He contended that Beef, Iron and Wine was not an ale, it was not a wine, it was not a malt, it was not brewed, it was not spirituous because it was not distilled. He submitted that it did not come within the provisions of the Act, and the case against the defendant should therefore be dismissed.

Mr. Dunfield, B.L., who appeared with Mr. Hunt, summed up for the Prosecution, and after reviewing the evidence, and certain sections of the Act, contended that a clear violation of the law had been proven against the defendant, and she should be convicted.

Section 4 of the "Intoxicating Liquors Prohibition Act" is as follows:

"If anyone not licensed in accordance with the provisions of the said "Prohibition Plebiscite Act" sells, after the First day of January, 1917, any intoxicatinn liquors, he shall be liable to a penalty of not less than One Hundred Dollars, and not more than Five Hundred Dollars, or, in default of payment, imprisonment not exceeding three months."

The definition of "Intoxicating Liquors" is found in Section 7 of the Act under consideration.

The term "intoxicating Liquors" shall be construed to signify all ales, wines, malt brewed or spirituous liquors containing two per cent. or upwards of alcohol in volume, except such drugs and medicines as may be excepted by the Governor in Council, and wines for Sacramental purposes.

The compound sold by the Defendant as Beef, Iron and Wine has not been excepted by the Governor in Council, and therefore is not exempt as a drug or a medicine. The Defendant is not licensed under the Act to sell intoxicating liquors. The compound sold by her to Patrick Grey contained over 16 per cent. of Alcohol by volume.

I hold that under the evidence, the Defendant must be convicted of a breach of Section 4 of the "Intoxicating Liquors Plebiscite Act" and I therefore convict her accordingly and impose the minimum fine of One hundred Dollars or in default, one month's imprisonment.

Dated at St. John's, this 22nd day of June, 1917.

Messrs. Hunt and Dunfield for the Prosecution.

Mr. Gibbs, K.C., for the Defendant.

(Sgd.) F. J. MORRIS,
J. P.

Ask for JOHNSON'S Plain Pound and Sultana Cake. Your grocer keeps it.—june22,1i

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In large and small quantities.

JOHNSON'S Fancy Bakery, Theatre Hill.

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Purely Herbal—No poisonous coloring
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Pure—Best for baby's rashes.
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We have just received and now ready a large and splendidly assorted stock of

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Consisting of TWEED, SERGE, VICUNA, etc. All sizes and qualities in stock.

Lowest Price. Best Values.

Men's **Tweed Suits,** $6.75, $8.50, $12.00, $15.00, $17.00, up to $22.00.

Men's **Serge Suits,** $9.00, $12.00, $15.00, $18.50, $20.00 each.

Men's Black **Vicuna Suits,** $7.50, $9.00, $12.00, $18.50, $20.00 each.

Men's Tweed Pants Special, All good patterns, strong, wear-resisting material, well made and finished $1.50

MEN'S TWEED PANTS, in plain and cuff bottom, $1.45, $2.00, $2.75

MEN'S KHAKI PANTS, plain and striped, and cuff or plain bottoms . . . $1.50 and $2.00 up to $4.50

MEN'S BLACK VICUNA PANTS, $2.70, $4.60, $6.25

MEN'S FLANNEL TROUSERS, plain or cuff bottoms, $2.00, $2.50, $5.00

Men's Fancy Summer Vests, In plain and fancy stripe, checks, etc. . . . . 95c., $1.10, $1.50 up to $2.70

MEN'S WHITE LINEN COATS, for barbers, stewards, etc. . . . . $2.00 and $2.50

MEN'S TWEED COATS, all sizes . . $3.75 to $6.50

MEN'S SERGE COATS, special value $2.25 to $5.00

Men's Outfitting Dept. **G. KNOWLING** Men's Outfitting Dept.

june1,4i,f

Flower of German Race Being Blotted Out By the War.

Extracts From Letters of German Soldiers in Messines and Wytschaete Trenches Show the Terror and Havoc Caused by the British Guns—Germans Say They Cannot Compete With the British and Believe They Will Be Beaten—Enemy's Losses Appalling.

(By Philip Gibbs.)

War Correspondents' Headquarters, Tuesday, June 12.—The following extracts from letters written by German soldiers in the Messines and Wytschaete trenches before our offensive broke show the terror and havoc caused by our guns:

"We are now in this hell. One might believe that God would not allow it to go on any longer like this. I think we shall be relieved one of these days, as there are not many left."

"The English completely smashed in the whole trench and all the dugouts. I was almost buried in the dugout yesterday. It was of concrete, and the English put a few 38 centimeter shells on it. When it collapsed like a concertina the whole crowd of men were buried and burnt. I cannot describe what it is like here. Soon there will be no hope for us. We have a frightful lot of casualties. Drumfire night and day. Fourteen days of it already, so we can't compete with the English."

Losses Are Enormous.

"We are five days in the trench, five days in support, five days in the trench again, then we go back for ten days. Our divisions losses are over 100 men each day. The enemy bombards the trench with aerial bombs. The observation aviator flies quite low and nobody dares show himself. Our position looks as though 10,000 mad shells had ravaged them. On the other hand, the English side is quite smooth. Our artillery does not fire at all. If ours fire one shot the English return a hundred. Our artillery has no ammunition—just enough to repel an attack. I think if the end does not come soon he will beat us?"

"I am in the trenches. In where it is very hot. Drumfire day and night. It is almost unbearable. I cannot understand at all where the English get their ammunition."

"We have been lying in advanced position for twenty days, and I can tell you it is a regular hell hole here, and one does not know what to do. There will soon be no way of escape for us. The English smash up everything with artillery and we have fearful losses."

"We have artillery fire here such as you cannot imagine. Yesterday twenty-one men were killed, seven wounded with one shot. Our artillery does not speak."

Losing Flower of Race.

"To-day, June 1, is now the thirteenth day on which our trenches and ground behind have been exposed to heavy fire. All trenches are smashed. No more shelter is to be had, as battery emplacements was destroyed, and even six deep metre gallaries are not safe from guns of heavy calibre. Thus we are forced into the open and into a hail of iron each day. We must thank God we are alive."

This is only the beginning of the agony of the German soldiers. Our gunpowder, great as it is now, is increasing in strength. Holding Messines Ridge we have observation over the ground to which he has been forced by the forward observing officers to our batteries. Though we are suffering a daily toll of casualties, and the flower of our race is losing so much of its youth, the enemy's losses mount higher and higher into a frightful arithmetic of death and mutilation enormously beyond our own total. There is hardly a man in our army who does not pity, in spite of all the hate of war, these young Germans who are forced against their will, for they are all sick of strife, to endure this prolonged slaughter which will not spare them unless the scales fall from the eyes of their people, or unless the German army itself revolts from the unnecessary sacrifice and takes vengeance of those who ordered it. That may happen, though it is unlikely, and so those frightful hammer strokes of ours will be repeated and other fields will be strewn with dead, and the stench of death will be rising as it now rises in the great stretch of upheaved earth in which the German hopes and German boys lie buried together.

Blue batiste is a soft pretty material for the small girl's dress.

Voile jumpers are usually striped with solid colored cuffs and collars.

If you want health

you can have it, by heeding Nature's laws. Keep the stomach strong, the liver active, the blood pure, and the bowels regular, and you will seldom be ill. Take good care of these organs, and at the first sign of anything wrong—promptly take Beecham's Pills.

you certainly need

the help and relief of this world-famed remedy, to keep the body in health. They quickly establish normal conditions, so the organs perform their functions as Nature intended. No other remedy will so surely strengthen the system, stimulate the liver, regulate the bowels and quickly improve the general health as

BEECHAM'S PILLS

Worth a Guinea a Box

Prepared only by Thomas Beecham, St. Helens, Lancashire, England. Sold everywhere in Canada and U. S. America. In boxes, 25 cents.

T. J. EDENS.

Purse-Pleasing Prices.

Tomatoes, No. 3 tin . . . . . 20c.
Pork and Beans, No. 3 tin . . 25c.
Maccaroni, best . . . . . 15c. lb.
Fry's Cocoa, ¼ lb. tin . . . 15c.
Shredded Wheat Biscuits, 16c. pkge.
Syrups, asstd., 18c. & 30c. btl.
Parsnips, in tins . . . . . 15c. tin
Succotash, in tins . . . . 20c. tin
Strawberries, in tins . . 25c. tin

BULLDOG TEA.

A ready seller. A steady seller.

5 Roses Flour—Brls. & Sacks.
Verbena Flour—Brls. & Sacks.
Pastry Flour—by stone.
Whole Wheat Flour—by stone.

FRAY BENTOS OX TONGUES.
OX TONGUES in Glass.
WAGSTAFFE'S JAMS.
MARMALADE, 1 lb. Glass, 7 lb. tins.
N. Y. CORNED BEEF.
SMALL JOWLS.
SPARE RIBS.
BOLOGNA SAUSAGES.

SPECIAL:
6 cases Fresh Eggs by rail today.

T. J. EDENS.

Duckworth Street and Rawlins' Cross.

Fads and Fashions.

Lingerie frocks and garden hats are flourishing.

Percale petticoats are the thing for sports wear.

Black-rimmed glasses have about run their course.