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### The Busting Boom?

The "Roaring Twenties" it was called. An era of jazz, and good fun; of the Black Bottom and the Charleston; of prohibition and bathtub gin. Mirrored in the writings of Fitzgerald and Smith, this happy decade is only history to the youngsters of today. When we do think about it, which is not often, it is because of an old re-release LP we chance to hear on the radio (historical jazz — isn't it quaint!) or perhaps its through the realization that our parents were "children of the twenties" and presumably would have lived it. The poor dears. They try so hard to tell us that they were wild then. But we know . . . A quick snatch of rickety-tick music, names like Al Smith and Lindbergh, the Ziegfield Follies and George White — that's all that left of the twenties today. Furthermore even that is not too interesting. You see, the younger people today are different. We're not so irresponsible, we don't get excited over ideas or books. We don't share all that silly enthusiasm for discovery (we have discovered everything) and as for politics — well who ever heard of discussing things like communism or fascism. It isn't done, you know.

Yes. We are different.

But in one way we are very similar. You see, the youngsters of the twenties believed in fairy-tale prosperity just as we do. They thought that all their troubles were behind them and nothing was ahead but a good time, progress and wealth a-plenty. It was a nice dream.

We are children of prosperity. All our lives the standard of living has been flying up by leaps and bounds. And most of us see no reason why it should not continue to do so. But wait. Lets look at a couple of things first. Afterwards, we can all crawl into our shells of self-complacency, put on our rose-tinted glasses and go back to sleep.

War fathered our prosperity, science aided it and we intend to reap its rewards. Well and good. Lets look at them.

This year, several companies have served notice that they are cancelling recruiting trips to UNB. At McGill, at Toronto and in Vancouver colleges are receiving similar communications. A small thing, perhaps, but consider what would happen if a majority of Canadian companies served notice that they had no more jobs. College students would be out of jobs. Doesn't it sound preposterous!

The Aluminum Company of Canada, one of the largest companies in the world and one of Canada's chief exporters, has announced stoppage of construction at Kitimat, because the demand for their product is falling off. Gaspé Copper Mines, closed last summer by a strike, was relieved to cease operations because the price of copper had fallen so low that it was hardly economical to produce it. Stock piles at Arvida have grown to a new high.

Right here in New Brunswick, which could hardly be expected to evidence any more depression, we have another example. Inventories of the pulp and paper industry have grown so large that serious cut-offs in men followed last fall.

The Steel industry in the United States, whose fluctuations are generally considered to be a reflection of the country's stability, is running at only 70% production.

Seemingly isolated incidents across two countries which enjoy the highest standard of living in the world. Yet it is precisely because we enjoy such a high standard that we should be carefully critical of the growth of our country. Economics is not sufficiently perfect nor technically advanced to offer us any guide. We are dealing in unknown quantities and a careless turning now could spell disaster later.

We believe our brand of enterprise and commercialism to be the best. It therefore becomes the duty of the younger generation to appraise our system, discarding what should be discarded and strengthening what is valuable. Believing without acting, trusting

## Be Careful - take care

### The Big Brother is Watching YOU



in a rosy future, without ensuring it, could lead the Western World down a road from which there would be no return.

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