

WILL PROSECUTE FOOD PROFITEERS

Hon. I. B. Lucas Asks for Information Regarding Illegal Combines.

PROBE FOR ITSELF

Says Municipality Has Authority to Conduct Investigation.

Attorney-General Lucas has written the Toronto City Council in connection with the recently passed resolutions calling on the government for action in connection with the high cost of living. "It is the desire of the board," he writes, "that a special investigation be held in the City of Toronto to call your attention to the press reports that the Dominion Government proposes to authorize any municipality on its own initiative to conduct such local investigation. Your council would seem to have all the necessary authority."

Concerning the council's second resolution asking for provincial action he offers the services of the crown attorney. He writes: "Your second resolution, setting out that joint action by the municipality and the provincial authorities is necessary to conduct a proper enquiry as to whether any restraint of trade or combine exists, is in such general language that I am uncertain as to the exact meaning of the resolution. If it is a request for the prosecution for a conspiracy or combination to unduly restrict facilities or to restrain or injure trade or commerce, or to unduly prevent or limit manufacture or production or to unduly prevent or lessen competition in production, as prohibited by the criminal code, I should like to know if the board has its legal department, the city police, or otherwise, any knowledge of the existence of specific illegal combines and desires their prosecution. If so I suggest that such evidence or material as is available or can be secured by your police or detective department, should be submitted to the acting crown attorney, W. G. Thurston, K.C."

"I shall then specially instruct Mr. Thurston to give every assistance possible and take such action and conduct such prosecution as the available evidence or special circumstances may justify."

Crown Attorney Thurston has also written to City Clerk Littlejohn offering his best services in prosecuting an investigation. "If the civil heads will give him any such action and conduct every effort in a criminal prosecution."

TOOK ORDERS AND PAYS FINE.

Fifty dollars and costs was the fine imposed upon Hugh McEvoy, 300 Royce Ave., when he appeared in the police court yesterday on a charge of breaking Section 42 of the Ontario Temperance Act, which refers to the taking of orders for liquor.

THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

Send in your letters giving your opinions on the high cost of living and any suggestions you have to make about reducing the cost. The World and The Sunday World want to hear from every reader on this momentous question. Have your letters written on one side of the paper only, not more than 200 words in length, and address them to the High Cost of Living Editor, Toronto World.

HIGH COST OF LIVING A SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Cost of Modern Marketing Methods a Factor in Price Advances.

LABOR UNIONS HELP

Wholesaler Lists Factors Making In His Opinion for Increased Cost of Food.

That the high standard of living indicated in the apparent aim of the people to live in luxury is responsible to a large degree for the present high cost of living is the belief of Hugh Blain, president of the Eby, Blain & Co., Ltd., wholesale grocery concern, 41-43 East Front street.

In connection, however, with his belief that extravagance is the fundamental cause of the high cost of living, the following twelve factors in advancing costs are also suggested by Mr. Blain: Transportation charges, package goods, advertising, delivery service, customs duties, the cost of war, labor organizations, combines, trusts, mergers and monopolies, unwarrantable wastes, expensive dwellings, high rent, high taxes and luxurious surroundings, a short supply and increased demand and an excess of money in circulation. He says the removal of any one of these would not make a radical reduction in the cost of living.

As remedial measures he suggests restricting consumption largely to goods produced by ourselves, stop putting up goods in costly packages, abolish expensive advertising, do away with inefficient systems of deliveries, throw open the market, establish universal peace, live economically, eliminate waste, improve transportation facilities, supervise and regulate trusts and monopolies and the manufacture and distribution of goods and increase the food supply.

That his firm had made less than 7 per cent. profit on the capital invested and that this was indicative of the fact that the middlemen were not getting their share of the profit, was declared by Mr. Blain in making a strong defence of the middleman's position. He said that the established channels of trade from the producer to the wholesaler and from the wholesaler to the retailer, and from the retailer to the consumer, was the most economical, most efficient and safest medium of distribution in the interests of the people.

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To prevent exorbitant charges by a middleman, Mr. Blain favors a con-

mission appointed by the government and organized on a basis similar to that of the railway commission, to supervise and regulate business. He said the intricacies of commercial business are not more difficult to regulate than those of the railway business.

"Where the middleman can be eliminated under favorable conditions," says Mr. Blain, "there is no doubt that it can afford considerable profit or economy to one or the other of the parties concerned. It is, however, doubtful whether these favorable conditions can exist to such an extent as to make them a substantial factor in the cost of living in our advanced state of civilization. We are apparently still drifting away from such conditions thru the insatiable desire for further indulgence, and if there is a remedy, in my opinion some other solution must be found than dispensing with the middleman."

"We must have a high standard of living, we must pay for it," continued Mr. Blain. "If the consumer must have the products of all the world brought to him he must pay for bringing them—the cost of the transportation charges both by land and by water. I have it on good authority that the cost of our farmers over the average country road to the railway stations would carry the goods many times the distance by rail."

"Again, if the consumer must have goods put up in attractive form he must pay for its costs for doing it. If he must have well-known articles he must pay what it costs the producer or manufacturer to make them known. If the consumer must have goods delivered at his home he must pay for it. It is not an unusual thing for a retail merchant to send a delivery wagon one, two and three miles with a 10c or 15c article."

"It must also be admitted, I think, that the tariff may increase the cost of living sometimes to the full extent of the duty, sometimes less and occasionally not at all. The consumer must under free trade be prepared to pay the cost of carrying on the affairs of the nation to a large extent in some other way. He must also be prepared to contribute to the country having few industries and a restricted variety of employment, fewer artisans and lower wages and consequently a lower standard of living."

Editorial World: The cost of living will remain high until the people of Canada control the food supply of the country. My business experience has convinced me of this.

The various firms who sell foodstuffs are sufficiently closely interrelated to secure uniformity of high prices. The prices charged by one wholesale grocer or butcher are the prices of all. Competition among provision dealers is almost extinct.

Open a restaurant and you find that there is practically only one price for flour, sugar, tea, bread, coffee, raisins, bacon, ham, vegetables and fresh meats. It is a thinly-disguised "foodstuff combine."

The remedy is to educate public opinion until there is a popular demand for the public control of the food supply, and the consequent selling of food at cost prices in municipal markets. We can provide ourselves with libraries, parks, theatres, water and experimental farms, and we can provide ourselves with food.

The high cost of living is a judgment upon us for permitting private ownership to flourish and unduly prosper.

Oliver Dawney.

MORE BARN FIRES.

Large Number of Conflagrations Not Placed to the Charge of Germans.

Barn fires in October in this province numbered 58 and occurred in 31 counties, according to a report on the matter made by Fire Marshal E. P. Heaton yesterday. The loss amounts to \$120,000. Of this \$70,000 is covered by insurance, none of it being placed in unlicensed companies.

Mr. Heaton pointed out that as the fires occurring were 38 in 20 counties north and west of Toronto and 20 in 11 counties east of this city, the theory at first advanced of a scientific campaign of enemy incendiaries was rendered untenable.

"Money and how it is used has no doubt an important bearing on the cost of living. It seems to me that money put into unproductive investments would increase the cost of living, while money put into productive investments would decrease the cost of living."

"All these things in the final analysis must be paid by the consumer, and are beyond question the causes which are responsible for inflated prices, and a careful consideration of these various features will prove conclusively that the high cost of living is a social and business development, or in other words, the evolution of economic conditions."

The same opinions were expressed by Mr. Blain in an address he delivered some time ago at the annual meeting of the Dominion Wholesale Grocers' Guild in Montreal.

A despatch from London, England, states that the price of the four-

pound loaf of bread in that city will be increased by a halfpenny to tenpence halfpenny, which compares with fivepence halfpenny before the war.

"By Christmas the price will be a shilling," predicted a high authority in Mark Lane in commenting upon the increase.

"By Christmas the price will be a shilling twopenny," according to another authority. The rise is the result of the world shortage of wheat, it is declared.

SOFT COAL FIFTEEN

DOLLARS PER TON

Increase Assigned to Labor Shortage and Decreased Production.

Advancing from a price of \$5.55 to \$10.00, soft coal sold yesterday began selling at prices ranging from \$10 to \$15 a ton, the highest figure ever known here. Hard coal is selling at \$8 a ton.

The reasons for the increase were assigned to labor shortage, decreased production and lack of transportation facilities, according to local coal dealers. They are urging that the people buy in small quantities, as the sparing use of coal is demanded in order to avert a local famine.

Alfred Rogers of the Elias Rogers & Co., said yesterday that a rush by the people now to stock up for winter use would cause no end of trouble and inconvenience. He said the consumers would be given all winter if no rush was made now.

F. Burns & Co. furnish the following comparative figures, showing the increase in soft coal from mines to the Toronto retail dealer:

In April last: At the mine, \$1.50 a ton; freight from mine to Buffalo, \$1.25; freight from Buffalo to Toronto, 55c; duty 58c; 7 1/2 per cent. war tax, 12c. Total, \$4.08.

Today: At the mine, \$7.50; freight from mine to Buffalo, and Toronto, \$1.91 duty, 55c; war tax, 56c. Total, \$10.50.

LET PEOPLE CONTROL SUPPLY.

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To Investors

THOSE WHO, FROM TIME TO TIME, HAVE FUNDS REQUIRING INVESTMENT, MAY PURCHASE AT PAR

DOMINION OF CANADA DEBENTURE STOCK

IN SUMS OF \$500 OR ANY MULTIPLE THEREOF.

Principal repayable 1st October, 1919.

Interest payable half-yearly, 1st April and 1st October by cheque (free of exchange at any chartered bank in Canada) at the rate of five per cent per annum from the date of purchase.

Holders of this stock will have the privilege of surrendering at par and accrued interest, as the equivalent of cash, in payment of any allotment made under any future war loan issue in Canada other than an issue of Treasury Bills or other like short date security.

Proceeds of this stock are for war purposes only. A commission of one-quarter of one per cent will be allowed to recognized bond and stock brokers on allotments made in respect of applications for this stock which bear their stamp.

For application forms apply to the Deputy Minister of Finance, Ottawa.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OTTAWA, OCTOBER 7th, 1916.

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME IS ENDORSED AT WELLAND

Local Branch of Resources Committee is Active Organization.

"That we heartily endorse the Dominion Government's scheme of national service, provided the proposed compulsory registration is taken immediately, and we urge that this registration be followed by a system of calling men to the colors after the Lord Derby plan, exemption being granted by the national service commission thru boards set up by it."

The above is a resolution which was passed at its regular meeting last evening of the Welland branch of the Organization of Resources Committee, the chairman of which is his honor Judge Livingstone.

The Welland committee, which was formed only a short while ago, is a clearinghouse for all the patriotic activities of the town. It has sub-committees on recruiting, production, economy and thrift, returned soldiers and patriotic contributions, and in this way all patriotic endeavor is brought under one control.

Already the committee has secured contributions of \$2,500 for the British Red Cross, nearly \$2,000 for the Y. M. C. A. local and military work, and \$500 for the British sailors' relief fund.

Fourteen Returned Soldiers Reach Toronto Tomorrow

Fourteen returned soldiers will arrive at the Union depot tomorrow (Friday) morning at 7.30 and from there will be taken to the Spadina Military Hospital. They are: Pte. Benjamin Ainsworth, 33 Yorkville avenue.

Pte. G. M. Clark, 603 Clinton street. Pte. D. Fleming, 544 Parliament street. Pte. F. W. Keogh, 193 River street. Pte. T. G. Henthorn, 23 McRae.

Pte. Alfred Linnell, general delivery. Pte. F. J. Nolan, 48 Brookmount. Lance-Corp. James Roe, 43 Manchester avenue.

Pte. Henry Tooth, 270 Blackthorn street. Pte. E. Westall, 9 Pine terrace. Sergt. R. Wiseman, 65 Bird avenue.

Hamilton-Pte. F. Hastings, Sergt. Samuel Mayne. Steelton-Pte. James R. Nisbett.

PREMIER DELIGHTED.

Michigan's Vote in Favor of Prohibition is Very Pleasing to Mr. Hearst.

Premier Hearst expressed himself yesterday as delighted with the fact that Michigan had gone dry. It obviated the objection to the Ontario Temperance Act that this province's long border line with Michigan, a wet state, as it then was, would render the act ineffective, and that the act would simply drive residents along the border to buy their liquor across the line.

PRINCESS HONORS I.O.D.E.

Mrs. Auden, national secretary of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, has received the following cable: "Princess Patricia, honored the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire Annex on Tuesday by helping to serve at the evening meal to the men."

BAKER HEIR CASE GOES FOR TRIAL

President and Secretary of Association Will Face a Jury Next Week.

LEGAL ACTION STARTED

Writ Issued to Recover Possession of Papers Taken by the Police.

Pleas of not guilty to two counts in a charge of conspiracy were entered thru their counsel in police court yesterday morning by Wallace F. Baker, president, and John W. Morehead, secretary of the "Jacob Baker's Heirs Association." Having elected to be tried by jury the case was set for November 15 by Magistrate Denison.

Practically all of the members of the association were present when the men were arraigned, and many expressed indignation and protested against the proceedings. Legal action has been instituted by A. E. Henderson of Toronto to recover possession of certain papers said to bear on the Baker subject. He also claimed that he is seeking to recover other papers.

The writ issued at the county court in behalf of Samuel D. Abell, local representative of the association, and endorsed, read as follows: "To recover possession of goods wrongfully detained by the defendant, and of which the plaintiff is lawfully entitled to the possession, said goods being of the value of \$200 and damages."

That the heirs in Toronto are still confident of sharing in the distribution of the estate of Jacob Baker, Philadelphia pioneer, the estimated value of which is approximately \$150,000, was indicated in the warm greeting extended to Chase and Morehead.

Doctor Tells How to Strengthen Eyesight 50 per cent. In One Week's Time In Many Instances

A Free Prescription You Can Have Filled and Use at Home.

Philadelphia, Pa. Do you wear glasses? Are you a victim of eye strain or other eye weakness? If so, you will be glad to know that according to Dr. Lewis there is real hope for you. Many whose eyes were failing say they are now better than ever, and that they are almost blind, could not see to read at all. Now I can read everything without any glasses and my eyes do not water any more. At night they would pain dreadfully; now they feel fine all the time. It was like a miracle to me. A lady who used it says: "The atmosphere seemed heavy with or without glasses, but after using this prescription for fifteen days everything seems clear. I can even read the print without glasses. It is believed that thousands who wear glasses can now discard them in a reasonable time and multitudes more will be able to strengthen their eyes so as to be spared the trouble and expense of ever getting glasses. Eye troubles of many descriptions may be wonderfully benefited by following the simple rules given in the prescription: Go to any active drug store and get a bottle of Bon-Opto tablets. Drop one Bon-Opto tablet in a fourth of a glass of water and allow to dissolve. With this liquid bath your eyes two or three times daily. You should notice your eyes clear rapidly right from the start and inflammation will quickly disappear. If your eyes are bothering you, even a little, take steps to save them now before it is too late. Many hopelessly blind might have been saved if they had cared for their eyes in time."

Another prominent physician to whom the above article was submitted, said: "Bon-Opto is a very remarkable remedy. Its constituent ingredients are well known to eminent eye specialists and widely prescribed by them. The manufacturers guarantee it to strengthen eyesight 50 per cent. in one week's time in many instances or refund the money. It can be obtained from any good drugstore and none of the very few preparations I test should be kept on hand for regular use in almost every family." G. Tamblin writes it.—(Advertisement.)

head when they left police court by thirty or forty members of the association. Mr. Chase declared the charge against him was "trumped up."

The charges against the two men read as follows: "Information of A. R. Mitchell that Wallace F. Baker and John W. Morehead, in the month of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixteen, at the City of Toronto, in the County of York, did, contrary to law, conspire, confederate and agree to commit an illegal act, to wit, to move a plea or suit, or pleas or suits, either by their own procurement or by others, and sue them at their proper costs to have part of the land in variance, or part of the gains, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided."

"Information of George Guthrie that John W. Morehead and Wallace F. Baker, in the month of November, in the year of our Lord, 1916, did, contrary to law, conspire, confederate and agree together by deceit and falsehood, or other fraudulent means, to defraud the public out of certain sums of money, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided."

Buffalo, \$270 Return; Niagara Falls, Ont., \$225 Return; Niagara Falls, Nov. 11, via Canadian Pacific.

This is an excellent opportunity for a week-end outing. Tickets are good going via fast express, leaving Toronto 12.30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 11, and valid for return all trains up to and including Monday, Nov. 13. Full particulars from Canadian Pacific ticket agents, or W. B. Howard, district passenger agent, Toronto.

BAIL IS RENEWED.

When William Ballewell reappeared in the police court yesterday, on a charge of having obtained by fraud \$270 from Fred G. McNaughton, and \$142.42 from Walter Sheridan, bail for one week was renewed. Ballewell reserves plea of self defence.

FREED OF PERJURY CHARGE.

Percy Wilder was found not guilty of perjury by Judge Winchester yesterday. It was alleged that in February, 1915, Wilder had sworn that he had seen Mrs. B. Cominsky affix her mark to the assignment of a mortgage. Mrs. Cominsky denied assigning the mortgage, but it was shown that she could not read and had put her mark to several documents.

Instant Relief for Biliousness

and other Liver Troubles

The astonishing efficacy of Dr. Cassell's Instant Relief is due to its tonic effect upon the liver and bowels. It gives strength to the organs and helps them back to health and natural action. In other words it enables the system to cure itself. Don't weaken your liver with purgative pills or morning salts, don't get the salt-taking habit; let Dr. Cassell's Instant Relief bring you natural and therefore lasting cure.

Dr. CHAS. F. FORSHAW, D.Sc., F.R.M.S., a well-known British Scientist, writes: "Never take Salines or Purgatives for Constipation to force Bowel action is to aggravate the trouble and create the Constipation habit. I recommend as a superior and convenient treatment Dr. Cassell's Instant Relief."

Price 50 cents. from all Druggists and Storekeepers, or direct from the Sole Agents for Canada, Harold F. Blakie and Co., Ltd., 10, McCambridge Street, Toronto. No far tax 2 cents extra.

Dr. Cassell's Instant Relief is the companion preparation to Dr. Cassell's Tablets.

Sole Proprietors: Dr. Cassell & Co., Ltd., Manchester, England.

Dr. Cassell's Instant Relief

Polly and Her Pals

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Ma's a Genius at Foiling Pa

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