

# High Cost of Living Before Town Council

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A special meeting of Newcastle Town Council was held Friday night, all members of the Board present. Minutes of last session were read and confirmed.

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A letter from C. E. Jubien, Hon. Treas. of the British Sailors' Relief Fund, was read asking what action had been taken by Newcastle Council re the fund, as the fund closes on the 15th inst.

The Mayor said that he had answered this letter and told the Hon. Treasurer that Newcastle was waiting to see what the County Council would do, as the town would be assessed for a share of whatever the county might grant.

Ald. Miller agreed with the Mayor. No further action was taken.

Copies of (1) An order-in-council bearing on the cost of living, sent by the Department of Labor, Ottawa; (2) A questionnaire of Municipal and Economic problems--Municipal Statistics and particulars, Industrial Conditions, Vacant Lots, general, and schedule of local prices--sent by the Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, to be filled out and returned; and (3) A request for suggestions re Agricultural, Industrial, Transportation, and Immigration problems, etc., sent by the Senate's special committee on Agricultural, Industrial and Trade Development, were submitted to the Council by the Mayor.

**Re Cost of Living**

The order-in-council re cost of living prohibits combinations to increase prices, or lessen competition, except in cases of workmen for their own reasonable protection; the withholding of any necessary life from the market except that raised by the farmer, etc., for himself and authorized by the council of any municipality whenever it "shall declare by way of resolution that in its opinion excessive prices are being demanded within the limits of such municipality for any necessary article of life; require dealers to submit a sworn statement of the cost and selling prices of their goods; if then the council shall consider further investigation necessary they may report the case to the Minister of Labor, who has power to examine accounts himself and refer all matters to the attorney general of the Province. Penalty for false statement is a fine up to \$5,000 or imprisonment up to two years, or both.

Ald. McGrath suggested that all three documents be referred to a committee in conjunction with the Town Clerk.

This was supported by Ald. Miller. Ald. Stuart pointed out that no action could be taken to investigate the Cost of Living unless the Council should first declare that "in its opinion excessive prices are being demanded within the limits of this municipality for any necessary article of life." Ald. McGrath's suggestion would enable any investigations on prices to be held in this town. It was patent that excessive prices--that is, prices out of due proportion to the cost of production and distribution--were being charged in Newcastle, and not only in Newcastle but in countless other places, as well. It was the duty of the federal government, which alone possessed all the machinery and authority necessary, to make the investigation, but, since that government was partly shirking its responsibility by putting the burden of investigation also upon the municipalities, the council should render the government all the assistance in its power by doing all the order-in-council required or allowed in the way of getting evidence as to the cost of living within its own district. He believed that much of the increase in prices was unavoidable, being caused by the war, in which so much shipping, metal, food and raw material was being destroyed, so much land being rendered temporarily incapable of production, and so many men being withdrawn from productive industry; but, at the same time, he believed that part of the increase was not due to unavoidable causes but was entirely artificial, being

caused by speculators who have stored or cornered large quantities of staple articles and are holding them for high prices regardless of the suffering such holding may cause among those whose wages have not increased since the war in the same proportion as have prices. He did not blame the retailers. It may be that they are making undue profits, but on the other hand it may be that they are making less than before the war, being compelled to pay the wholesalers such prices as prevent them making much. He did not blame the wholesalers, for while they may be robbing the public, they on the other hand may be the victims of persons or conditions further back and higher up. What we need, and what the retailers should welcome, is a thorough investigation into local prices, so that the average citizen shall be able to understand who, if anybody, or what, if any thing, is responsible for the certainly high prices that prevail. He believed that all coal storage plants, all means of transportation, and every other business in which monopoly and extortion are possible, should be nationalized, that is, owned and operated by the government, and the products sold at cost. In order to give the Retailers of Newcastle the opportunity of publishing their costs, expenses and profits and thus show the citizens the true state of affairs, so far as local conditions are concerned, he would move the following:

That, in the opinion of this council, excessive prices are being charged in the Town of Newcastle for the staple necessities of life.

This was seconded by Ald. Scribner.

Ald. Stables said that Dominion Secretary Trower of the Retail Merchants' Association had said in Newcastle the other night that when a complaint was sent to Ottawa that goods were being charged too much for, the complaint was investigated by a committee of three lawyers, who if they thought there was an overcharge, handed the complaint to the attorney-general of the province to be dealt with by him. These lawyers, not being practical business men, could not be expected to do the matter justice.

Ald. McGrath thought that the motion was too sweeping. It was charging the merchants of Newcastle with charging too much. Why not say "Newcastle and Elsewhere?"

Ald. Stuart--The resolution does not fix the blame on anyone in particular, but merely states that excessive prices are being charged in Newcastle. The Order-in-Council alludes to municipalities, but our own. The motion is to call the Department of Labor's attention to the charge that someone or something is responsible for excessive prices in Newcastle--and that we desire to find out who or what that somebody or something is. First in Newcastle were, so far as he knew, no higher than anywhere else in Canada, but he believed they were too high everywhere, therefore the resolution to set the machinery of the law in operation.

Ald. Miller thought it would be going beyond the council's authority to insert "and elsewhere" in the resolution. We should confine ourselves to Newcastle. No member of the council charges the local merchants with making excessive profits. The government is giving us a chance to have our say.

Ald. McGrath did not see the value of the information sought to any department. Such information could be picked up in the daily papers, and would be far more reliable than any resolution passed by this council.

The Mayor said that the Law of Supply and Demand applied to the local prices, as usual. But there was doubtless some artificial inflation of prices somewhere.

Ald. Stuart said the question should be put squarely up to the government. Let the latter take the proper steps to relieve all injured parties, whether they be producers, merchants or consumers.

The Mayor said that lots of things from outside figured in this matter. We could not help prices very much, but there was no harm in the government delegating this investigation to us.

Ald. McGrath objected to the word "excessive" in the resolution.

Ald. Stuart--If you take out the word "excessive," the Department will not order the investigation we need.

Ald. Hayward--Are the Mail Order Houses behind this affair?

Ald. Stuart--If you want to get at the Mail Order Houses, why not ask the government to take over their business and turn the profits into the public treasury?

Ald. Mackay would like to see the motion include something to show that Newcastle was not singled out as the only place having high prices. It showed weakness on the part of the government to refer such matters to such bodies as ours. The government should deal with such matters themselves.

The Mayor said that great things may come out of these discussions--the solution of such problems as Monopolies and Trusts, public franchises, etc.

Ald. McGrath--You mean by "excessive prices," higher prices than are justified by cost of production, etc.?

Ald. Stuart--Yes.

Ald. McGrath moved in amendment

# TWO LONG YEARS HE SUFFERED

## "Fruit-a-tives" Made Him Feel As If Walking On Air

ORILLIA, Ont., Nov. 28th, 1914.

"For over two years, I was troubled with Constipation, Drowsiness, Lack of Appetite and Headaches. One day I saw your sign which read 'Fruit-a-tives make you feel like walking on air.' This appealed to me, so I decided to try a box. In a very short time, I began to feel better, and now I feel fine. I have a good appetite, relish everything I eat, and the Headaches are gone entirely. I recommend this pleasant fruit medicine to all my friends."

DAN McLEAN.

50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 25c. At all dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

# ANNUAL SESSION DOMINION ALLIANCE

The annual meeting of the New Brunswick Branch of the Dominion Alliance convened in Sussex on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 6th, 1916, Donald Fraser, President, in the chair.

The report of the Executive Committee, with the recommendations taken up section by section, and adopted as a whole.

Among other things it was recommended that support be given only to those candidates in the next provincial election who will pledge themselves to support prohibition legislation.

The treasurer submitted his report showing receipts \$2,633 and expenditures \$2,208.

Rev. W. D. Wilson, the Field secretary, submitted a very encouraging report. He reported the work of repealing the Scott Act well in hand in York, Northumberland, Sunbury, Quaan, Albert and Carleton Counties.

Concerning Northumberland he said: "Northumberland was next visited and there we organized another auxiliary of our Alliance with Mr. E. A. McCurdy as president. In this county we had a fairly vigorous campaign. Progress is being made all over and an efficient corps of workers are canvassing the county. It would be unfair not to make mention at this time of the help and co-operation of such men as E. A. McCurdy, C. C. Hayward, H. H. Stuart and Rev. J. S. McArthur and Rev. Father Dixon. Their help and counsel had contributed greatly to the success of the movement."

Reasons for Prohibition

"1--Because it closes every bar and saloon in this province and the help of the Scott Act Counties is required to keep them closed.

"2--Because we ought to make this law province wide, to give it a fair trial.

"3--Because we can get the full and unquestioned benefit of the new Act passed in Ottawa last session of the House of Commons.

"4--Because we ought to have uniformity of action. The laws of different provinces are different, and law enforcement as we have at present by town council and county council, will have province wide uniform administration of our prohibitory act.

"5--To repeal the Scott Act means that we can use both our influence and our vote to make prohibition a success and also insure its continuity. According to the new Act, if we do not repeal the Scott Act before the referendum is taken then we shut ourselves out from having a vote as to whether we want prohibition or not."

There was a large attendance from all over the province. The Newcastle representative was Mr. E. A. McCurdy, president of the Northumberland County Temperance Alliance.

Following were elected officers for the ensuing year:

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The contributions at the meeting amounted to \$1,700, this money being donated to carry on the temperance work in New Brunswick.

Rev. W. D. Wilson, Rev. Thos. Marshall, President Fraser and Mr. E. A. McCurdy were appointed delegates to attend the Dominion Alliance Convention at Ottawa, Dec. 12th, when legislation relative to a Dominion-wide prohibitory law would be drafted.

# Wounded New Brunswickers Grateful

## Soldiers in English Hospitals Write Cheerfully to F. W. Sumner

F. W. Sumner, New Brunswick's Agent-General in England, has received numerous letters from wounded Canadian soldiers expressing their appreciation of his kindness in sending them novels, newspapers and other reading material.

J. Barnes of Newcastle is now a patient in Beaufort War Hospital, Fishponds, Bristol, and advises Mr. Sumner that his wounds in the right thigh are likely to incapacitate him for fully four months.

Pte. Edward Carroll writes from the War Hospital at Chichester that his wound in the left thigh is healing rapidly. He is a son of Patrick Carroll of Escuminac, Northumberland County.

The wounded New Brunswick heroes invariably write in a cheerful tone and all express their desire to get back to the firing line and continue the business of defending the Empire.

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Thorough mixing is what makes cake delicate and tender

makes the best cake because it creams quickly and thoroughly with the butter which is the hardest part of the mixing. Its purity and extra "fine" granulation make it dissolve at once.

2 and 5-lb. Cartons  
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VANCEBORO, Me., U.S.A. Canadian Branch, ST. CROIX, N.B.

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In the Bank's Steel Lined Vault, rented at from \$5.00 per annum upwards. These boxes are most convenient and necessary for all possessing valuable papers such as Wills, Mortgages, Insurance Policies, Bonds, Stock Certificates, etc.

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In the High Oven Range the Oven is heated with the very first kindling because it is in the direct path of the flames so it becomes ready for baking very quickly and requires less fuel to finish baking. Heat in this range travels the natural way UP no forcing down of the heat and smoke.

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# Apples!

In barrels and half barrels at Brightman's Bakery

Sweet Apples  
Gravensteins  
Bishop Pippins  
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Kings  
Spies  
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# Brightman's Bakery

# MINARD'S

## "KING OF PAIN" LINIMENT

Extract from a letter of a Canadian soldier in France.

Mrs. R. D. BAMBURCK:  
The Rectory, Yarmouth, N.S.  
Dear Mother--

I am keeping well, have good food and well protected from the weather, but have some difficulty keeping uninvited guests from visiting me.

Have you any patriotic drug-gists that would give something for a gift overseas--if so do you know something that is good for everything? I do--Old MINARD'S Liniment.

Your affectionate son,  
Rob.

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