

## The High Cost of Living.

SECOND REPORT OF COMMISSION.  
St. John's, Nfld.,  
7th May, 1917.

His Excellency,  
Sir W. E. Davidson, K.C.M.G.,  
Governor.

Sir—  
The undersigned, the Commissioners recently appointed to investigate the high cost of living, respectfully beg leave to submit their second interim report, as follows:—

(1) They recommend that the Government take steps without delay to give the fullest publicity to a notice urging everybody to undertake the production of all possible potatoes, turnips, cabbage and other foodstuffs, and assuring them that they need have no fear whatever that there will be any over-production of these articles during the coming season, because the needs of the Colony are likely to be so great in regard to foodstuffs, that the real danger will be, not that there will be an over-supply, but that there will be a scarcity. The reasons for our apprehension in this regard are:—

(a) Because the world is suffering from a serious shortage in wheat and other grains, owing to diminished crops the past year, and to the withdrawal from industry, because of the present war, of about forty million men, while twenty million more human beings, it is estimated, are producing munitions, clothing, and other supplies for the soldiers;

(b) Because, in addition to difficulties in the way of properly distributing the supply of foodstuffs that exists, the problem is becoming steadily more intensified by the growing seriousness of the submarine menace, a seriousness on which it is needless for us to dilate;

(c) Because Newfoundland, being so remote from centres of production and distribution, stands to suffer the most in the event of any serious shortage of foodstuffs, owing to the difficulty of procuring enough shipping next fall to bring into the Colony the supply needed for next winter; for evidence has been submitted to us indicating that importers here are not purchasing foodstuffs at present to an extent commensurate with the likely needs, preferring to wait until the situation becomes clear later in the season, a circumstance which is likely to cause further strain on the transport facilities of the Island at the season when they are already strained to their utmost.

(2) We find that the production of potatoes within the Colony during the calendar year 1915 was 650,000 barrels and during 1916 was 682,000 barrels; that the importation for 1914-15 was roughly 50,000 barrels, and for 1915-16 was 32,000. Seeing, therefore, that there has been no export of potatoes, we deduce the fact that unless an unusual quantity has been consumed by the people or by animals, of which there is no proof, there should be ample for home consumption until this year's crop is harvested.

We, therefore, recommend that those holding potatoes at the present time for high prices be warned of the danger of retaining them too long lest they lose sale for them, because the present prices were partly raised by the offers of dealers purchasing potatoes for intended export, and there is the risk that if holders retain their stocks too long, they may be left on their hands, and consequently there would be the loss to the holders of a fair profit for the commodities, and a loss to the community of the foodstuffs involved.

(3) We find that four importations are sufficient to last until the potato crop is gathered, but that with rising prices in the wheat-growing countries the cost of this commodity is likely to be much higher and the stocks to be greatly curtailed. Therefore, to guard against the contingency that full supplies may not be obtainable at any price, and that other foodstuffs may have to be substituted, and in order to assure the producer a reasonable guarantee in his undertaking and to allay any fear that may exist as to an over-supply reducing the price to an unprofitable figure, we recommend that to stimulate the more general cultivation of foodstuffs during this season, the Government issue an order that from and after August 1st, 1917, no potatoes suitable for family consumption shall be sold by any person at a lower rate than \$2.00 per barrel of 130 pounds, and proportionately for smaller quantities.

We cannot too strongly emphasize that the more foodstuffs that are raised in the Colony this year the more money there will be kept at home to circulate among our own people, with all consequent advantages, besides which there would be the relieving of the strain on shipping, while if the different sections of the country not at present producing

enough for their own needs were to do so, it would save internal transportation and materially reduce the cost of living.

(4) We recommend that the Government issue an order without delay prohibiting the killing of immature cattle and sheep, so that a reasonable assurance may be afforded of an adequate provision of meats for next winter's needs.

(5) We are pleased to learn that steps have been taken by the Agricultural Board to encourage increased growth of crops and we recommend that efforts be made by the authorities to secure a more widely extended adoption of the principles advocated by the Board and by the Agricultural Committee of the Newfoundland Patriotic Association.

(6) We recommend a more general distribution of the literature provided by the Agricultural Board in connection with its annual report, giving directions for the cultivation of the various crops, and that measures be taken to provide, through the local agencies of the Government, in the various outports of the country for the dissemination of this material.

We have the honour to be,  
Your Excellency's  
Most obedient, humble servants  
P. T. McGRATH,  
H. W. LeMESSURIER,  
C. H. HUTCHINGS,  
W. J. ELLIS.

[Note.—Mr. Hall had gone to Sydney before this report was completed.]

## Here and There.

**Turkeys, Ducks and Chicken at ELLIS'.**

**PERSONAL.**—Mr. W. W. Blackall, who was on a short visit to Canada, is a passenger on the incoming express.

**Turkeys, Ducks and Chicken at ELLIS'.**

**EXPRESS PASSENGERS.**—The following first class passengers are on the incoming express: Capt. S. Carroll, Miss K. Miller, Miss D. Manuel, J. Vidatzker, E. Hollands, W. W. Blackall, H. Cockburn, W. E. Stevens, A. Cousins, J. B. Keenan, H. A. Leonard, A. T. Rowley.

**IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT.**—Mr. A. Sheard, who for some time was Secretary of the International Grenfell Association, has been appointed Executive Secretary of the Financial Committee of the Episcopal Church of America, with headquarters at New York.

**Received a shipment of Scotch Coopers' Tools. BOWRING BROS., Ltd., Hardware Dept.**

**PERSONAL.**—Mrs. W. G. Munn and Mrs. T. A. MacNab leaves by tomorrow's express for Montreal to be present at the marriage of Mrs. Munn's daughter, Gwendoline, who on June 5th is to be married to Lieut. Edward Dickie, 48th Highlanders. Mr. Munn will leave about the 29th inst. for Montreal.

**"HELLO" GIRLS STRIKE.**—By the last Canadian mail we received word from Winnipeg, Manitoba, saying that as a result of 900 government telephone employees going on strike, 42,000 telephones are put out of commission. The increase in wages demanded by the strikers, amounted to \$150,000 a year.

**TO INSPECT LITTLE BAY MINES.**—Mr. W. A. Mackay, accompanied by Mr. Appoint, an American mining expert, left by yesterday's express en route to Little Bay, where the latter will go over Mr. Mackay's claim and if satisfied will purchase and operate the same. Should the mining expert's report be favourable Mr. Mackay and a number of local investors stand to make good interest on their money.

**Stafford's Essence of Ginger Wine only 15c. bottle.—may 1, if**

**From Cape Race.**

**CAPE RACE.** To-day. Wind E. light with fog and rain. A Dart, showing R. Prowse & Sons flag was sighted bound in Saturday; nothing sighted since. Bar, 28.90; ther. 45.

**DIED.**

Suddenly, on Sunday morning, of paralysis, Rebecca, beloved wife of Luke Monchinton, aged 64 years; funeral on Tuesday, at 2.30 p.m., from her late residence, No. 13 Burt's Hill; friends will please accept this, the only intimation.

At 10 a.m. to-day, Mother Joseph Kelly, of St. Bride's Academy, Little-dale. Died from wounds received on the field of honor "Somewhere in France." Pte. Robert Hickey, 1309, D. Co., aged 25 years, also a Gallipoli veteran, leaves to mourn him a father, mother, two brothers and three sisters, and a large circle of friends.—R.I.P. New York and Canadian papers please copy.

## Raun-dom Reels.

**THE DINING CAR.**  
The popular conception of the dining car is that it is a portable restaurant which is owned by the railroads and paid for every thirty days by the passengers.

Dining cars are operated for the benefit of people who are averse to the hard-boiled egg and the Ben Davis apple as traveling companions. It has many conveniences, including a polite conductor and a bill of fare with the prices printed upon it in plain, menacing type. A person who is traveling through the Rocky Mountains and turns to scan these prices will not have to lower his eyes over a thirty-second of an inch.



The menu card is a great disappointment to frugal passengers.

Dining cars have small, well-ventilated kitchens which conceal the food while it is being cooked, while at the same time advising those in the dining-room that somebody has ordered beefsteak smothered in onion. The menu card is a great disappointment to frugal passengers who wander in under the impression that an egg sandwich and a glass of milk can be obtained without splitting a \$2 bill both ways from the middle, and it is not an unusual sight to see an embarrassed tourist withdraw noiselessly to the smoking car and console himself with a seed orange. Most people, however, remain and pick out a few durable dishes which they can pronounce plainly with an indelible pencil.

Dining cars are constructed on a swinging platform, which provides the guest with mixed rations at no extra cost. When the car attempts to take a few reverse curves and straighten out without breaking in two, the motion has a discouraging effect upon passengers who take careful aim with a forkful of peach pie and narrowly escape stabbing themselves in the left ear.

Dining cars make a specialty of serving coffee that could win the pole vault in the Olympic games. It is also one of the few places yet extant where the iron-hooped, chrome nickel apple pie is considered a delicacy, nevertheless, if it were not for the dining car, thousands of passengers would go hungry from Salt Lake City to Seattle. We should also remember that the man who kicks the loudest about dining car rates usually gets up from the table leaving nothing visible but the water bottle.

## Sinking Hospital Ships.

Because hospital ships, with wounded soldiers and nurses on board, have recently been sunk without warning by submarine pirates, the International Committee of the Red Cross has sent to the German Government a protest against what the British Admiralty calls "this culmination of savagery." It says:

In torpedoing hospital ships combatants are not attacked, but defenceless, persons, wounded, who have been mutilated and paralyzed by shell fire, women who have been devoting themselves to works of mercy and charity, men whose only weapons are such as do not take the enemy's life, but help to preserve it and to alleviate his sufferings.

If a submarine commander, the committee adds, suspects that a hospital ship "is being partly used for military purposes" he has the right, under the Hague Convention, to make an inspection, but for the torpedoing of a ship in hospital service there can be no excuse.

This protest will be ineffective.



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Here is a big, roomy, powerful four cylinder Overland that is the last word in motor car construction and efficiency.

It is luxuriously appointed and completely equipped.

It is finished in a rich brown with hood and boot to match.

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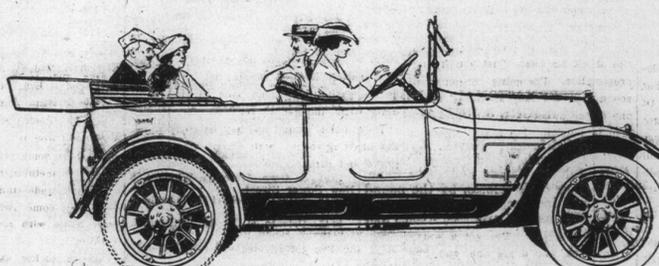
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Model 84-B  
The Willys-Knight five passenger touring car, 114 inch wheelbase, Knight type engine,



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City Club Building, Distributors, St. John's

The Willys-Overland Company, Toledo, Ohio, U. S. A.

## Gardening to Music.

Christian Science Monitor: The story is one of a derelict hop garden in Kent, of a neighbouring camp of soldiers, and of the War Agricultural Committee. It tells how the War Agricultural Committee took note of the derelict hop garden, and approached the military authorities at the camp, intimating certain views; how the military authorities took up the matter with enthusiasm; how 500 men marched to the hop garden with bands playing; how in two hours the poles in fifteen acres were pulled up, and stacked ready for removal; how the soldiers were played back to their billets by the band; how a check was forthcoming for their labors; how, next day, a steam plow was hard at work, and how, within a very short time, what was once a hop garden was planted with potatoes.

**STOMACH TROUBLES.**—Stafford's Prescription "A" cures Indigestion and Dyspepsia. Price 25 and 50c. bottle. Postage 5 and 10c. extra.

## Substitutes for Bread.

London Daily Mail: There are plenty of substitutes which can be served in place of bread in any middle or upper-class household. Oatmeal, barley flour, rice flour, and rice, to say nothing of lentils, and nuts, and maize, provide the cook with abundance of choice. Bread should be saved and spared in every conceivable manner and should never henceforth be placed on the table ready cut or made into toast. For the really poor the conditions are different. They must have bread because it is their principal article of diet. If we can save a weekly average of a pound of bread per head then we shall defeat the submarine blockade. The situation is so exceedingly serious that it calls for the utmost self-denial and care. Thoughtlessness in the consumption of food has become almost as dangerous to the cause of freedom as open disloyalty.

Label fruit jars with pictures from fruit catalogs; that is, if you want the children to do the labeling and enjoy it.

# 2 in 1

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