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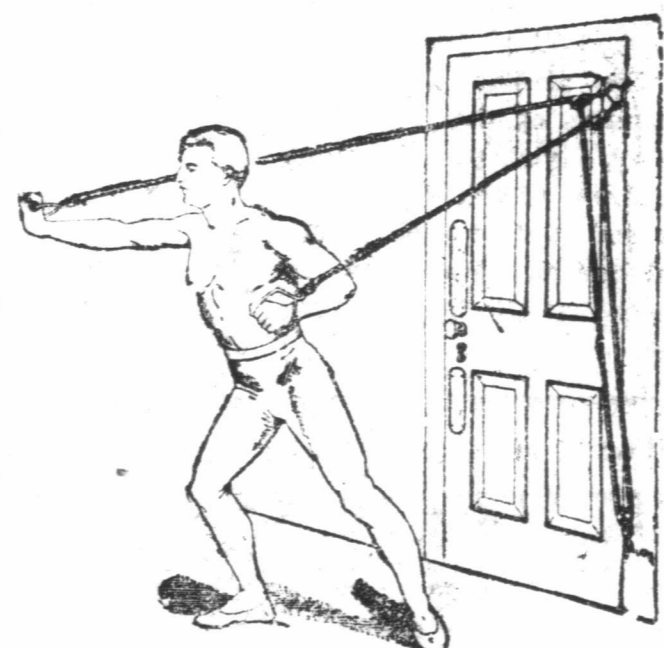
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A Resolution and the High Cost of Living

People do not need a resolution of the Board of Trade to realize that the present high cost of living is "due largely to the uncontrollable causes arising from the great world war." They already knew that. But what the people do need is definite information that present high prices are due ENTIRELY to the war and this they do not know, by a long shot. The gentleman, who expressed the opinion of the meeting of the board that the resolution was not a wise one and might be misunderstood, was certainly taking the right stand and the pity is that he did not press his objection further. However, the board is on record, by means of the resolution, as contented to accept things as they are without even encouraging an effort to find out if certain interests are using the war as a means to exploit the public, as is strongly suspected. It is all very well for the Board of Trade to unctiously resolve that "we must learn to bear with patience whatever sacrifice it (the war) entails, exercising in our individual affairs prudent economy, etc." Having washed its hands of one of the most acute problems of the day it is hardly in keeping for the board to even offer any suggestions in the matter. Economy is right and proper, but it is merely blind folly to fold one's arms and accept, as final the dictum that the war and the war only is to blame for prices now prevailing.

Cheaper Food Wanted.

All over Canada, today, the cry of the working man is for cheaper food and other necessities. To this cry respond, the Board of Trade, in effect, holds out a stone. Gradually, however, the forces of the people are making headway and the insistent demand for relief has had the effect of putting under way investigations to show to what extent the war has caused price to advance and how much, if any, the profiteers are padding on for their own "patriotic" ends. East and west this movement is in progress and other cities, beside St. John, have seen the necessity for putting into operation the machinery provided by the Federal government. Were the advice of the Board of Trade followed, things would be accepted as they are and then God help the small man who after all, foots the bills. It is entirely unnecessary for the Board of Trade to herald its policy of inaction abroad by means of a resolution. If not willing to assist in a movement having as its object the prevention of possible exploitation of the necessities of the people, it had better have remained silent. The machinery provided by the Dominion government is none too perfect as to withstand a few clogs such as the resolution in question. The initiative in the matter should rest with the government but it does not and so the people themselves are obliged to show cause why the government should take action. The Board of Trade would do away with this and substitute, in its place, economy—for the small man, of course.

Advices Blind Acceptance

The mayor and the commissioners of St. John are already on record, by resolution, as expressing the belief that the present price of milk in

the city is not justified even by war conditions and, by so doing, they have made it possible for the full facts of the matter to be brought to light. And let it not be feared but that, if the present price of milk is shown to be a fair one, the common people of St. John will pay the price willingly, because the burden then must be borne if the great object of the war is to be achieved. The people have, however, every reason to suspect that there is too much of a margin between what the farmer receives and what the consumer pays and they want to know. But the Board of Trade advises blind acceptance of things as they are and would apply economy for the possible evils of the matter. Milk is but a starter, with that question cleared away there is flour and the hundred and one necessities which must come under the probe. The people want to know, and they intend to know, if they are paying any of their hard-earned money in order that already swollen dividends may be further inflated. The average citizen will side with the mayor and the commissioners in this matter for, in considering the welfare of the people, they are discharging the first duty of public office. Resolutions such as that passed by the Board of Trade will be seized with avidity all over Canada, by those who would shun the light of investigation, and will provide a powerful lever for an even further boost in prices. The wage earner to-day, all over Canada, suspects that he is being exploited by "interests" to whom this horrible war means but opportunity for business expansion and the piling up of additional profits. The small man is quite willing to pay what prices are demanded by the stern exigencies of the war, but he will not help to fill the pockets of unscrupulous profiteers. He demands that these high prices be investigated and, in making these demands, he is but exercising his rights as a citizen. One thing is certain, whether the combines have Canada in their grip or not, the only way to find out is to try and do so and this determination will be pursued despite the simple faith expressed in the resolution of the Board of Trade.

In a recently published statement, Mr. Alex. Macdonald, of Winnipeg, gave some reasons for the high cost of living in which he gave instances of manufacturers dictating the price at which their products should be sold by the retailer. He instanced cases of certain companies, which manufacture breakfast food, starch, matches, large concerns handling milk, also canneries. Dealing with the price of canned goods to-day, Mr. Macdonald openly blames the manufacturers, through their combines, for recent big advances.

The Minister of Labor has full power to demand under oath production of full business returns from any firm where it is suspected excessive prices are being demanded. And if the investigations now taking shape prove only one-half of what is suspected, hanging is too good for those who, in such times as these, would stoop to such criminal meanness.—The New Freeman.—St. John, N.B.

Money Plays Small Part in Happiness

Whenever and wherever I travel, I am always impressed with a growing conviction of the small part which money plays in human happiness. Some of the most uphappy people I have ever encountered were dowered with every earthly boon.

During this season there has been a man, worth millions; possessed of bright children and a gentle-faced wife; yet the man's disposition ruined his own life and that of his family.

His face looked like the envelope of a forwarded letter. It was marked all over with the stamp of ill-temper and discontent. His wife's face expressed disappointment, weariness, fear, and his daughter was a pessimist and a cynic at twenty.

They had travelled the world over, yet found nothing of interest anywhere and for people they had little but criticism; even for one another. No day laborer's family could be more unhappy, surely.

A woman of wealth, and of marked physical beauty, with a young, handsome and gifted daughter, is forever seeking happiness, she tells me, and never finding it. The daughter is restless with ambition and her face expresses irritability and discontent.

Both mother and daughter are looking out, never in, for happiness. Happiness is like a woman, and so long

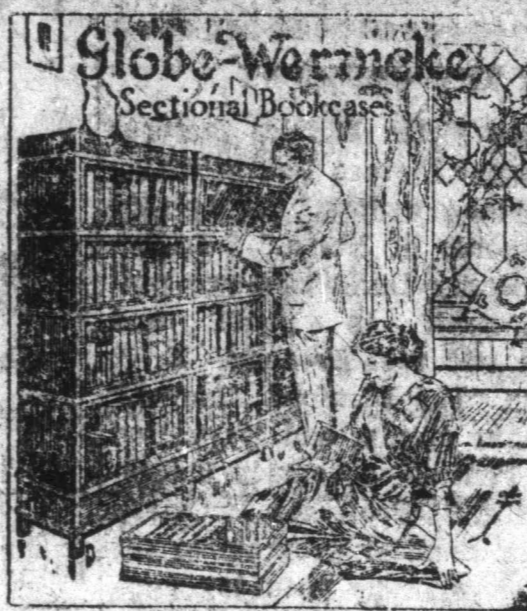
as the human heart is like a pursuing lover, she turns her face away. When the lover ceases to pursue, and busies himself in other ways, happiness, looks and smiles. The object of life is not personal happiness—it is self-development, self-completion.

Keep in mind, oh you who seek joy! no matter whether you are rich or poor, the idle tourist or the day laborer; the spender of unearned inheritance or the wage earner. The object of life is the development of the best in you.

Once you realize this, happiness will be possible to you. The very realization brings it nearer.

Until you do realize, believe and know it to be true, nothing can give you happiness. You will seek, and seek vainly, for lasting pleasure. As fast as you attain some desired object, its value will depart; as soon as a joy is seized, it will perish. But once you understand that life is given you as a season for self-development, the Great Searchlight of the Soul will fall on the way to Happiness and you will know that you must have money and a change of environment.

That is not true. It is not substantiated by the history of great souls. The most noble, the most successful, the most admirable, the most beautiful lives in the world's galaxy, were not



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those who from youth to maturity found the conditions by which they were surrounded to their liking. Every great soul makes its environment serve its purpose of development. And once a man does this, he begins the mastery of circumstances. He begins to create his own environment; he begins to understand what the word "Happiness" means. He knows it is independent of money, place, or position; it is within.

I have met such souls among the world's toilers more frequently than among the idle rich. Yes, I have, too, encountered the enlightened and illumined, being in halls of fashion; but wealth, or fashion, or poverty, or labor, can only serve the purpose, and can not hinder or harm the soul that finds the true meaning of life, its purpose and object—self-perfection.

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HOW TALL WAS WELLINGTON. Dispute in Great Britain over Two or Three Inches on Famous General.

To think of the Duke of Wellington as a little man is almost as difficult to think of as Napoleon as a big one, says the Manchester Guardian. Yet a heated controversy occupies its correspondence columns in The Spectator, as to whether there was much to choose in height between the two.

The duke was "very little, if at all, taller than Napoleon," says the writer, in an article of a late issue, and recently a surprising number of people who know the duke or lived as children with someone who was his

intimate friend, hasten to rebut the attack on his inches.

The belittling school quote Thomas Carlyle, whose eye for physical characteristics was a keen one and who described the duke in 1850 as a shortish, slightish man. But the duke was getting old then and the stoop that marked him even as a young man may have increased. The people who will not have him less than medium height have better evidence to go on. One of them lived in constant association with him, till she was 18, at the house of the parents of another he was a constant visitor, a third frequently saw him riding in the park, and all claim five feet nine inches or more for him.