

The Evening Times and Star

ST. JOHN, N. B., AUGUST 22, 1917.

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TALK AND ACTION

When are the government and its food and fuel controllers going to begin to control? When is the talking stage going to end and the stage of action going to begin? This country has been three years in the war, but thus far people of small and moderate incomes have had no protection of any sort from the government in the matter of prices. Let us look at a few facts.

Sir Clifford Sifton is chairman of the Canadian Conservation Commission. The Dominion government publishes in connection with that commission a journal called Conservation. From the last issue of it we take the following:

"High prices of food stuffs are due, partly, to the shortage of food, partly to waste in handling and, partly, to manipulation of the markets and to speculation. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the Canadian farmers sold their wheat last fall at \$1.40 per bushel. Who received the difference between that price and \$2.50 per bushel, the price which recently prevailed? Here the work for the food controller or a food dictator. The people are becoming restless respecting the speculation in wheat in all other food products, and would be glad to see the elimination of the speculator. Wherever profits are abnormal and unreasonable they should be confiscated."

That was published a week ago, in a government publication, after many months of ineffective discussion about controlling prices, and regulating supplies, and giving the great mass of consumers some form of protection against prices of necessities which have been abnormally enhanced by speculation and manipulation.

The Toronto Mail and Empire, a government organ, tells its readers that the United States government is going to ascertain the cost of coal, iron, steel, lumber and many other articles, "and fix the price." "There is," the Mail and Empire says, "talk of blue ruin from the interests interlocked with, but kicking in to be expected." It goes on to say that protests from the interests concerned will not deter the Washington authorities from taking action.

Returned soldiers in St. John are to be congratulated upon their decent and sensible course with respect to the Warrents' meeting. They made no trouble. The Standard wanted the Sydney war veterans to meet here and vaguely suggested that it ought to be. The returned soldiers have shown that they are not going to promote disorder because political of a certain class want the job done. In Great Britain the government and labor have co-operated steadily since the first of the war. In Canada the government has antagonized labor in many ways and to no good purpose.

desirable. All the arrangements are provisional and liable to reconsideration at the end of six months.

AT OTTAWA

This is the great weakness of the Borden government—its continual subordination of national interests to party interests. Anything to save the administration. It has been so ever since the war began. It was this partisanship which prevented an offer of coalition until after Sir Robert Borden had announced his policy. Sir Wilfrid was not asked to help frame a policy for a national government. He was merely invited to join the ministry for the purpose of disarming Liberal hostility to the ministry that could not stand alone.

For four months now the government has been trying one device after another in order to avoid defeat at the polls. Recruiting, justice in taxation, the cost of living—all these great issues which should have engaged the entire energy of the ministry—have taken second place. Ever since the National Service scheme was launched the government's course has been a series of political makeshifts. The Rogers resignation is merely one more. Sir Robert Borden's resignation may come next.

But the country is getting ready to elect a new House of Commons and to choose from that new house a real national government.

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Extract from Mr. W. B. Tennant's letter of Aug. 20 to the Globe: "To me the esteem of my friends and the value of their friendship is more precious than gold." The paragraph does not refer to checks or notes.

The Standard newspaper now takes up the unpleasant business of explaining to its readers that the Hon. Bob Rogers was, after all, not a good man to have around the place.

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"Not the Only One. Clerk—I would like more salary, Sir, as I am going to get married. Employer—Sorry, but I'll have to reduce it. I am going to get married myself.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Mabel's Engagement. "Mabel is at the beach. She writes me that she's engaged."

The Greatest Number. We were talking to a certain local real estate man at luncheon the other day, when we got this bit of wisdom. In talking about one thing and another, he said:

Not His Fault. Some years ago there appeared in a certain town an organ grinder carrying a placard announcing that, besides having a large family to support, he had but six hours to live.

Stag Parties. "I wonder why they call them stag parties?" remarked the man who had just received an invitation to attend one. "That's probably an allusion to that well-known quotation, 'The stag at eve had drunk his fill.'" replied his wife, meaningly.—Houston Post.

Beginning Early. Father—"Well, Carolyn, how do you like school?" Carolyn (aged six)—"O, so much, papa. That's right, daughter. And now what has she learned today?" "I've learned the names of all the little boys."—Stray Stories.

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A KINDERGARTEN (Half-Cent Chronicle) For the past two weeks the press has been filled with tales of the wonderful achievement of Food Controller Hanna in providing the people of Toronto with food at a price of comfort in this time of dearth. They were still paying through the nose for their fish dinners. But if it was the main business of the food controller to cater to Toronto and let the rest of the country continue to groan under the high cost of living, there was nothing to be said. But it now transpires that even favored Toronto was handed a "gold brick."

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DOUGLAS FIR SHEATHING CAR NOW LANDING J. Roderick & Son Britain Street Phone Main 854 STATION HOUSE TENDERS The Directors of the St. John and Quebec Railway Company will receive sealed tenders up to 12 o'clock noon, Tuesday, August 28th, 1917, for supplying the material and constructing the stations and outbuildings of the St. John and Quebec Railway between Gagetown and Westfield. Plans and specifications can be seen at the office of the Company in Fredericton and at the Provincial rooms in St. John. Tenders to have attached certified cheques for 5 per cent of the amount of same. The Directors do not bind themselves to accept the lowest, or any tender. E. S. CARTER, Secretary. Fredericton, August 14, 1917. 8-29.

To Quickly Relieve Soreness and Inflammation Rub in a few drops of Absorbine, Jr. It is surprising how promptly it penetrates and acts—how clean and pleasant the attempt to break up his meeting in Sydney was due to the organized efforts of the profiteers and Tory politicians. Regarding the attitude of the congress towards the war, he said that their policy had been constructive and their every effort had been to aid in winning the war. They had worked in harmony with the government until conscription was proposed. The government had failed to show convincing reasons for the need for conscription and the labor representatives felt that the plea of necessity to preserve the state could not be justified so long as the government refused to conscript the material resources and continues to permit private individuals to make large profits from the war needs of the country.

Wasson's Drug Store sells it. up the 1917 wheat harvest of about 650 million bushels, and protect both producer and consumer. Here is his programme for work to begin on September 1st: License all elevators and mills over 100 barrels daily capacity. Open government agencies to purchase wheat at all the principal terminals, and re-sell at reasonable prices for export and to millers. Establish a committee under President Garfield, Williams College, to determine a fair price for the 1917 wheat harvest. Call upon elevator and millers to fix a price schedule based on patriotism, designed to stabilize the price of wheat, flour and finally bread. If Mr. Hanna does not know what to do, he at least can learn from Mr. Hoover. Up to the present "food controlling" in Canada has been of the kindergarten sort.

Come and get "hep" to the drink with "pep" ssh

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