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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than  
the Weakest Ink."  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1943.

### Medical Procurement Survey

Hereforth medical men for the armed forces will be selected so as to make sure that physicians are available where they are most needed. This, at least, is what the Canadian Medical Procurement and Assignment Board has undertaken to do, following a two-day conference at Ottawa attended by leading medical men of the armed forces and the civilian population, who thrashed out the best methods of completing a nationwide survey of Canada's medical manpower. The appointment is now announced of twelve field secretaries who have been loaned by the services to facilitate the job ahead. They will travel and assist in making a personal check up on the available personnel. The dental profession has been authorized to set up their own divisional committees and will complete their own survey. The nursing associations and the provincial health departments will also make their own surveys.

According to Dr. T. C. Routley, Toronto, general secretary of the Procurement Board, the armed forces have already taken approximately 3,000 doctors, 1,000 dentists and 7,000 nurses, and many more are needed. "First of all, however," he says, "we must have a complete understanding of what we have and how far we can go in dividing that personnel for the Armed Forces and the civilian needs."

It is recognized that Canadian universities must continue to graduate doctors and information as to essential staffs for schools of medicine will be obtained. Doctors and scientific workers who are in the Armed Services may be made available for important research activities associated with the war.

The Board has already channelled more than 700 physicians into the Armed Forces.

### Illegal

The essential thing about the steel strikes, according to the King Government's own legislation, is that they were illegal. Yet, notes the Financial Post, the government did business with the strikers. What further use or meaning can illegal strike regulations have?

The steel companies themselves are on the sidelines. It is not the companies but government decrees which held wages at certain levels. The people of Canada (through their government) are the only steel customers today. If the government orders a steel wage increase it will presumably pay more for the steel it buys. Taxes and excess profits taxes will catch any cream that may settle on top for the companies.

Hence the steel union strikes and the readiness of the Administration to walk right into the trap prepared for it by the union concern all Canadian citizens mainly; the steel companies only secondarily.

In itself, an increase in basic wages to some hundreds of unskilled laborers in the lowest pay category connected with two steel companies would be relatively unimportant. The cost to the steel companies and to the people of Canada would be insignificant. Certainly this wage increase by itself will not add much momentum to inflation. It is the extension of increases to all or most in the industry that would be dangerous.

The danger, says the Post, lies entirely in this demonstration that the present Administration has a labor policy only of delay, irresolution and compromise; that its present failure in the steel strike simply foments further strikes, sabotaging the war effort and washes out its own "illegal strike" regulations completely; that the administration invites further union demands which can eventually lead only to collapse of the wage ceiling and, in its turn, the price ceiling.

### Canada's Retail Trade

Trends of retail trade in Canada during 1942 are discussed in the current Monthly Letter of the Royal Bank of Canada, with particular reference to the transfer of shopping away from larger centres of population. Reports received from branches of this bank in all parts of the country indicate that such a decentralization is taking place, but that the movement has been concealed by a general increase in the total value of retail trade. The letter goes on to say:

In spite of rationing, reduced stocks and other restrictions, retail trade in Canada showed no decline in 1942. On the contrary, the adjusted index of retail sales in Canada for October was 151.8 (1935-39=100) compared with 152.2 in September and 138.1 in October 1941. In the first ten months of this year, the level of trade was 15 per cent higher than in the same months of the previous year. Statistics of trade in the last two months of 1942, reflecting Christmas purchasing, are not yet available but reports from all centres in Canada indicate an increase of at least 10 per cent over that of the preceding season. Furthermore it is reported that only shortages of goods prevented a more substantial gain.

While it is true that these indexes of retail trade are based on dollar value and, therefore, do not reflect actual changes in volume the in-

crease in retail prices during the past year has been relatively minor and a comparison with sales in October 1941, the base period of the price ceiling, may be interesting. The October index was 14 per cent above that of October 1941 while the general index of retail prices rose only slightly more than 2 per cent during the year. The greatest increase was shown by boot and shoe stores, candy stores and women's clothing stores. The smallest increases were shown by furniture and hardware stores while sales by radio and electrical stores showed a decline of 6 per cent. In view of the restrictions on sugar, chocolate, fruit and other products entering into the manufacture of candy, an increase of 28 per cent over October 1941 seems unusually large. It should be remembered, however, that October was the heavy period of purchases for Christmas shipments overseas and candy was an important constituent of every box.

These indexes, prepared to indicate average movements throughout the country do not, of course, reflect local changes. Wartime restrictions, particularly those on travel, have undoubtedly had a notable effect on the distribution of retail trade in various communities, but the statistics do not indicate the nature of the changes.

### EDITORIAL NOTES

In B. C. the youngsters have no kick against Jack Frost, as in many districts schools have had to be closed on account of fuel scarcity.

Australian Foundation Day, commemorating the landing of Captain Phillip at Port Jackson, this date, 1788; previously, however, Captain Cook had explored the east coast in 1770, his expedition remaining several days in Botany Bay to allow collection of botanical specimens to be made by Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander, who gave the name "Botany" to the bay; the first free immigrants to land in Australia appeared in 1793; prior to that only convicts exiled from Great Britain were sent to what is now one of the great Dominions fighting for liberty and civilization.

Agriculture will have a sincere and practical friend in Hon. John Bracken as leader of the Progressive Conservatives in Parliament. The farm manpower problem was probably the most serious question now confronting the country he said in a press interview last week. "You cannot take 200,000 or 300,000 young men from the farms and expect those farms to maintain their high level of production of exceedingly necessary food supplies. The tendency to more diverse production in the west, accelerated by the wars demands, is all to the good."

The organization of the Province of Quebec Progressive-Conservative Association has begun with a meeting presided over by Gustave Monette, K.C., and John T. Hackett, K.C. The Association is subdivided into two districts, centred at Montreal and Quebec City, and covering 45 and 20 constituencies respectively, which add up to the 65 constituencies in this province. As part of the entire organization, county associations will be formed in all the counties of the province. At the meeting a motion was passed expressing confidence in Hon. John Bracken, leader of the Progressive-Conservative party.

Hitler's great strategic plan has been "smashed to pieces" according to Lord Halifax, the British ambassador, and "1943 will see the prelude to the victory that is coming." In a review of the war and the British ideas of peace, delivered before the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, Lord Halifax said Hitler's strategy had evidently been to conquer the near east through the Russian Caucasus and Egypt and to connect with the Japanese in the Indian Ocean. The defeat of this plan jointly by the Russians, by the British Eighth Army in North Africa and by "the rough handling of the Jap navy by the American Pacific Fleet" was characterized by the British ambassador as "one of the outstanding facts of 1942."

Any idea that the National Union party of the province of Quebec might work with, or form any partnership with, any federal political party was set definitely at rest by Mr. Maurice Duplessis, leader of the National Union party, when he spoke at the first talk-dinner of the junior section of the party in Montreal. Never, said Mr. Duplessis, would the party of which he was leader be anything but a provincial party operating in the province of Quebec. Never, said Mr. Duplessis, would a National Union party of which he was leader, tolerate any infringement of the rights of the province of Quebec by any party in power at Ottawa, whether Liberal, Conservative, Progressive, or C.C.F. or Social Credit. On the other hand, said Mr. Duplessis, the National Union party would work with any party which would respect the rights of the province of Quebec.

We were always at a loss to understand what that "something" was which "kept the rabbit's tail short." Here it is, being all things to all men and women:

F.T.N.—Fur trade Name — C.F.N. — Correct Fur Name.			
F. T. N.	C. F. N.	F. T. N.	C. F. N.
Arc Seal	Dyed Rab.	Bal. Tiger	Dyed Rab.
Aus. Seal	"	Bay Seal	"
Super Seal	"	Beaverette	"
Glo Seal	"	Bel. Beaver	"
Elec. Seal	"	Bel. Lynx	"
Baltic Seal	"	Elec. Beaver	"
Russ. Seal	"	Erminette	"
Siber. Seal	"	French Bea.	"
French Seal	"	French Chin.	"
Baffin Seal	"	French Leo.	"
North. Seal	"	French Sable	"
Near Seal	"	Lapin Dyed Shear. Rab.	"
Nordic Seal	"	Men. Bea. Dyed Rab.	"
Nulian Seal	"	Moline	"
Sealine Seal	"	Russ. Leo.	"
Baby Bea.	"	Squirrellette	"
Baltic Fox	"	Squirreline	"
Bal. Leopard	"	Twin Bea.	"

Assuredly a rabbit skin by any other name means money to somebody.

### Notes By The Way

Since the war savings certificates and war savings stamps were introduced in Canada in May, a net total of about 40 million of the war savings stamps have been sold. This is figured out by the Canadian Publishers War Plans Publicity Committee to equal about an average of 40 stamps for every home in Canada and about nine stamps for every man, woman and child in the Dominion.—Moncton.

Sir Charles Roberts, Canadian poet and historian, in celebrating his 83rd birthday, advised people to "work hard, play fair and square and they will get along all right." We appreciate these words, but feel the younger folk will laugh at them. They'll say "that's old stuff."—Renfrew Mercury.

President D. C. Coleman of the Canadian Pacific Railway has sound advice to Canadian statesmen when he says it is not too soon to give earnest thought to the question of postwar immigration. Canada needs a far greater population—perhaps 40,000,000 more people. It is to be hoped, as Mr. Coleman says, that "for the good of the country and there will be no artificial barriers" to prevent the entry of desirable Europeans or, for that matter, Asiatics.—Brantford Expositor.

Pétain was known in the last war as a defeatist. He used his position in the war off to oppose innovations in military technique, and became increasingly unpopular. During the Spanish War he became a champion of Franco, and in March, 1939, he was made viceroy of Spain. He was then sent out, and Pétain continued on friendly terms with the German ambassador who informed him that the middle of May, Pétain had already decided that France would be defeated, and was actively preparing to become the profiteer of this defeat. He was not a defeatist, but a French democrat; and he had already sounded the call. When called from Madrid to join the French government, he told his friends he was going to France to make peace. "France needs defeat," he said. "Victory would strengthen the political reaction which has brought her to moral ruin." It is not to add that he cherished serene dreams about Germany. He was not a defeatist, but a French democrat; and he had already sounded the call. 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