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THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1913

INCREASED COST OF LIVING.

The Legislature of Ontario has been discussing the problems of the increased cost of living. A motion was tabled by Dr. McQueen of North Wentworth calling upon the government in view of the rapid and unprecedented increase during recent years in the cost of living and the difficulty which many of the citizens experienced in providing themselves with necessaries, to appoint a Commission to investigate and report to the House. The government declined to accede to the request on the ground that the increased cost was not confined to Ontario but was common to the whole of Canada, and that if a Commission were necessary it should be appointed by the Federal Government.

It will be generally admitted the Ontario Government adopted the right attitude. Every part of Canada is suffering from the increase in the cost of living simply because every part is sharing in the unbounded prosperity which during the present year has broken all records. If a Commission be necessary let the Dominion government appoint it; but there is no necessity for it, the Commission could ascertain nothing new and could recommend nothing new, for the satisfactory reason that the causes in general are known to all economists. The more prosperous, the greater the wealth of a community, the higher the price paid for necessaries; the more money in circulation, the more will one be prepared to pay for both necessaries and luxuries. In the gold fields, where gold is as plentiful as coal in Nova Scotia, a miner has no hesitation in bartering \$50 worth for a few pounds of bacon or salt pork. He gauges the value of the article by the quantity of gold in his possession; never mind whether the article be really worth it from the point of view of supply and demand or not; he simply can afford it and is willing to pay the price asked. It is here that the later economists differ slightly in their interpretation of the law of supply and demand from Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill. They assert that it is not merely the quantity and the expenses of production governed by the effects of competition that fixes the price of a

commodity; nor is it the demand there may be; though all these count. The ultimate deciding factor in the settlement of cost is the final marginal utility, the slight rise in price which will deter the consumers purchasing so much; the slight fall that will induce them to purchase more. In a word the market price must be such as to equate demand with supply, and the demand must satisfy the conditions of final utility.

An illustration is at hand in the fox industry. A limit will soon be, if it has not already been reached, for the price of a pair of foxes. The limit depends on both the seller and the buyer—the former determines what he thinks would be the price he should accept; the latter, who hesitates to buy or not—who is on the margin of purchasing must ultimately determine the limit price. A slight rise would deter him (unless he be a wild speculator) as the price in his view may have reached the limit of utility, i. e. the highest point at which the investing public is prepared to risk its money. So he ceases buying and the bottom is knocked out of the market, so far as new flotations are concerned.

So it is in general commodities. Prices rise and fall with the ability to purchase, with the increase or decrease of prosperity, but not above or below a point within the average means of the community. It is just here the sudden increase in the cost of living tells hardly upon certain classes of society, who do not immediately share in the fruits of unbounded prosperity, but who do have to shoulder the burden of the increased cost of living. In the course of time this rights itself, as it is righting itself here. The cost of labour goes with the cost of living. Men who could be got for fifty cents a day a number of years ago, cannot now be hired for a dollar. Jurymen who would willingly serve for \$1 a day five or ten years ago must now have their \$1.50, and so on. It takes time to level up, and it is while the levelling up process is in action that the wage earner and salaried man are at a disadvantage.

PROTECT THE WILD LIFE.

In a letter to The Guardian recently, Mr. Albert E. Morrison, Charlottetown, directed the attention of the public and of the authorities to the necessity of providing better protection for the wild life of the province.

The subject is one which should interest all our people. Apart from the cruelty of "killing for fun," apart altogether from the inhuman relic of savagery that prompts the taking of innocent and harmless life, the wild animals, especially the birds, should be protected for the service they render in ridding the earth of insects which are injurious to vegetable life. It is well known that the birds are the world's great scavengers and that without their assistance the farmers would be powerless against the myriad insect life that is forever threatening the crops, the fruit trees, the forests and in fact all vegetable life.

As the forests recede before the axe and the plow, and the haunts of our native wild life become more and more circumscribed the need of extending more protection increases yearly if the denizens of the air and of the forests are going to be saved from extinction. The protection can come only from a healthy public sentiment backing up the existing laws which, if properly observed, will afford all the protection needed.

There is an observance of the letter and not of the spirit of the law. Mr. Morrison in his excellent letter pointed this out when referring to the placing in cold storage, for use during the close season, of animals killed legally (?) during the open season. The law should so restrict the killing during the open season as to prevent this abuse.

If rabbits, for example, are required for fox food there is no reason why the native rabbits should be exterminated for this purpose. It has been demonstrated very clearly that the imported English rabbit can be successfully and very numerously bred in captivity and if our valuable foxes are to have animal food the

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imported domesticated rabbit has as much right to provide the sacrifice as any other of our domestic animals.

Our native game birds, of which the partridge is practically the sole survivor, owing to the smallness of our province and the narrowing up of their native haunts and hiding places, require more protection than the annual close season of a few months to enable them to recover from the effects of the annual slaughter. The few years of rest from the huntersman given to partridges some years ago had the effect of re-stocking our forests with these excellent birds but they are again threatened with extinction by indiscriminate slaughter. This should by all means be prevented and it is hoped that such measures will be adopted, before it is too late, as will preserve them.

The Fish and Game Association has done much for the conservation of our natural resources in wild life, but much yet remains to be done. If the enforcement of the laws is left to the members of this Association; if they are not backed up by a healthy and willing public sentiment, and if the only object among gun-owners is to evade the game laws, then our wild life is doomed. The wild life, whether native or occasional visitors, is a valuable asset to the province and its conservation should be of as much general concern as that of any other of our natural resources.

We have too many boys carrying guns around looking for something to kill "for fun," too many men in whose breasts the savage instinct to kill their fellow men has been modified by civilization and Christianity only into a desire to kill something in the name of sport. The difference between sport and slaughter, between honest game and inhuman cruelty should be kept a little more prominently before the young. Killing innocent wild life is too liable to become habit and a bad. Its cruelty should not be lost sight of.

NOTES

They are all getting on to our fox business. The Winnipeg Tribune says: "In Prince Edward Island 'Fox populi, fox Dei,' which being interpreted is 'The silver fox is the Golden Call of this here province.'"

A TRYING DAY IN THE COMMONS

OTTAWA, March 31—The House today buried itself over a great variety of subjects from divorce courts to locomotives and from the decapitation of partisan officials to the price of codfish in the diners of the I. C. R. All this happened on the way into supply and after the motion to go into supply had been adopted. The codfish issue was raised by George W. K. Y. of Richmond, N. S., whose apparent object was to connect the higher price charged in this rare and delicate viand with the million dollar surplus shown by the minister of railways on the year's operation of the government railway.

The I. C. R. vote was first taken up when the house was called upon for the one-sixth vote in committee on the estimates. Hon. Frank Cochrane in a very short but instructive railway budget announced a year of record-breaking earnings, and a program involving an expenditure of four millions on the better equipment of the railway.

Premier Borden gave the House a further description of the proposed harbor improvements and deep water terminals for the I. C. R. at Halifax, showing that the government is providing not only for the needs of the present, but of the future as well. The Halifax improvements are to cost a dozen millions.

At the opening of the House Mr. Borden and Sir Wilfrid Laurier made graceful references to the death of Lord Wolseley. Both spoke of his service in Canada and his conduct of the Red River expedition.

On motion to go into supply A. K. MacLean asked if the contract for the West Indian service had been awarded to Messrs. Pickford and Black. "The report is incorrect," said Hon. G. H. Parley, "the matter is still under consideration."

Mr. McCannery, of Saskatoon, asked for further information in regard to the dismissal or resignation of a Mr. Ulyott, lands agent at Saskatoon, who had been represented in a return as having resigned, but who, it appeared, had been dismissed.

Hon. Robert Rogers explained that the man had been dismissed during his administration of the department of the interior. Ulyott was an active partisan, and apparently the treasurer of the local campaign fund as indicated in a document which the minister produced. Part of this document, Mr. Rogers stated, was in Ulyott's hand writing. It contained advice to the Liberals to make up their minds to win, and then go and do it; and there was also reference to a payment of something over \$400 to one man. "Any other information that my hon. friend wants," said the minister, "we will be pleased to furnish."

The House then went into committee of supply, the purpose being to pass a vote of one-sixth of the estimates of 1913, and then get through and of the supplementary estimates and the other appropriations which so far have been voted. An agreement for this purpose had been arrived at between the parties, the understanding being that the government would furnish explanations as to the Halifax terminals and one or two other matters.

Mr. Emmerson, however, insisted that Mr. Cochrane give his statement of the business of the Intercolonial, Mr. Cochrane accordingly read a statement of the year's work.

berths and would involve impossible expense if enlargements were attempted. Accordingly the scheme which has been announced was devised. The first unit which would consist of the railway and the bulkhead pier would provide for eight large ocean ships, and when business warrants, two more piers will be constructed, giving accommodation for eight more ships. The first unit will cost five or six million dollars. The whole work about twelve millions. The right of way would cost about half a million. The plan was astonishingly simple, the grades would be easy, and the layout would be unsurpassed on the continent of North America.

A. K. MacLean, after some questions said that in the main he approved the scheme. He regretted that Mr. Borden's statement had not been given out earlier. He agreed that the best statement had been adopted.

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL. The house next took up the Transcontinental vote and Mr. Cochrane made a statement: In district A, which reaches from Moncton to the Quebec boundary, the entire distance of 256 miles has been graded and the track has been laid and telegraph lines constructed. In this district 99 per cent. of the bridge work is also completed.

In district B, which runs from the Quebec boundary to beyond the Quebec bridge, the track has been laid and grading done on 500 miles, telegraph lines 357 miles, bridges 98 per cent.

Mr. Cochrane stated that it was expected trains would be running into Quebec before the first of September next. A contract has been let for a car ferry between Quebec and Lewis which will be completed by the spring of 1914 when trains may be run from Winnipeg to St. John.

The commission which has the Quebec bridge in charge does not expect that it will be completed before the end of 1917 and the car ferry will be used up to that time. A small station will be built on the Champlain Market site but a larger site will be secured for the main freight and passenger terminals at Quebec. Already a frontage of 500 feet has been secured on the river between Wolf Cove and Champlain Market.

THE LIBERALS BALK. The committee rose at half past one without passing the one-sixth vote agreed upon between the leaders, Hon. George Graham, who was in charge of the opposition, declared at the last minute that no new work was to be included.

Hon. Robert Rogers and Hon. W. T. White insisted that the agreement had included all the main estimates, including new work. They asked that this agreement be carried out. The opposition refused and the committee reported progress. The matter will be thrashed out when the House resumes tomorrow.

WHISKEY AND WATER. LOUISVILLE, April 2—The Rugby Distillery Co., warehouse collapsed last night sending five thousand barrels of whiskey valued at a quarter of a million into the flood of waters.

A HANDSOME SHOWING.

At this season of the year the need of a tailored suit appeals to every lady who wishes to be well dressed, in fact no wardrobe is complete without one. The choice of cloths and dress goods made by Paton & Co., and specially displayed today gives an excellent idea of the weaves and textures most worn in the leading cities abroad.

Black and white whipcords, something chic and up-to-date, 54 inches \$1.35 to \$1.95 per yard. Bedford cords, the latest cry from the world of fashion, in tan, navy, grey, black, and cream, 54 inches, \$1.66 per yard at Patons. Something extra smart in a tan and white stripe Bedford cord at \$1.85 per yard. The old reliable Hygrade Broadcloth in all the newest shades, tan, brown, grey, toupes, green anemist, plum, red, navy, black and blutte 54 inches wide \$1.75 per yard. Light weight cloaking for the fashionable Johnny coat in the most pleasing shades and weaves \$1.75 to \$2.25 per yard. White serge with black hairline stripe 54 inches \$1.35 per yard. The old reliable poplins all shades 58c to \$1.75 per yard. Navy serges from 65c to \$2.35 per yard. Paton's serges cannot be beaten. Everyone is invited to call and see the special navy serge 54 inches wide from 95c per yard. Another bargain in navy serge at 90c and yet another special at \$1.50 all 54 inches wide. Everyone is invited today, Wednesday, April 3rd, and see the special trimmings.

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A. Aylward, Charlottetown

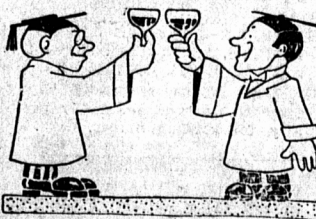
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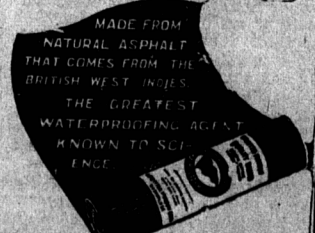
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MAGNIFICENT CARPEY SELECTION

(Continued from page 1) grades always stocked. The hearth rugs are surpassingly nice and can be had in all desired sizes from the small door mat up. In great demand are the straw mats and a complete assortment is shown in pretty colors, 9 x 10 all seamed with border 2.25, while the mats come in two sizes 25 and 35 cents. In oilcloths and linoleums some lovely patterns are shown. For borderings of 2 inch plank, hardwood pattern there are several widths 18, 22 and 27 inches while the squares can also be had two yards wide, cut any width. The flowered and conventional designs on the oilcloths are to be had to suit any room at a moderate price. The faintest lace curtains, muslins, midrasses and nets possible to procure are ready for selection. The curtains come in coffee, ecru and white ranging in price from 50c to \$10 per pair, while the muslins sell from 15c to 50c per yard. Furniture covering rich in texture and design, come in tapestries, silk and wool and sell from 65c to \$3 per yard. The table covers, are of many pretty designs for all sized tables, and choice colors are shown. Paton's can make a window shade to suit any sized or shaped window, length or breadth, and have handsome linens for that purpose, also window, poles, fixings, etc., to finish an up-to-date job. To make the housewife's work easy their carpet sweepers are the best manufactured and no where will one find a nicer or better carpet and housefurnishing department than at Paton & Drug Co., The Rexall Store, Corner Great George and Kent Sts., Mt.