

THE CAUSE OF HIGH PRICES

To What Extent is Supply and Demand Responsible for High Prices.

(From the address of Mr. Jos. Laporte before the Publicity Club, Montreal.

Before undertaking the study of the question of Supply and Demand and its relation to high prices, I wish to emphasize the fact that I am not an expert on food distribution. With the present chaotic conditions existing, through the war, in the food situation, it is difficult to prescribe a remedy to the situation.

For the sake of analysis and comparison let us consider the year 1913 as perfect or normal from the standpoint of food production and distribution. Each country was then producing about its normal quantity of foodstuffs, consuming its local requirements and exporting its surplus.

The exchange of food products was following its course. Then the war broke out and as a consequence a large producing factor amounting to millions of men was suddenly called to the colors with the result that they became consumers. At the start the decrease in production was not so apparent, but as the surplus stocks were drawn upon, it became apparent that the world was fast moving towards the scarcity of food.

As more men were being called to the colors production decreased proportionately in the countries affected by the call to arms, and other parts of the globe less affected were called upon to supply the deficiency.

Each country became more and more engaged in supplying men and munition workers the production of agricultural products became less. This also applied to Canada and the U. S. A. but with the difference that they were not being subject to the actual destruction of their fields and industrial machinery.

That is why they were called upon to produce more and supply more to those European countries who were being devastated by the fighting armies.

Countries like England especially, and to a lesser degree France, Italy, Belgium, Holland and other neutral countries whose sugar supply came mostly from Germany and Austria, had to get their supply from Cuba and other sugar-producing countries not affected by actual fighting.

Tea from Japan, China, India and Ceylon were in great demand by the armies in Europe. Rice, a failure in India, had to be supplied mostly from the U. S. A. and Japan. Jams, Canned Foods, Dried Fruits were supplied almost exclusively by the North American Continent, as many other foodstuffs.

The armies sent to Europe were so many new consumers sent to swell the already too large number of non-producers.

The corresponding increase in prices made it apparent that the law of supply and demand was in full action and no amount of conservation, price fixing and restricting could have overtaken the situation bordering on famine and high prices towards which we were going head-on when the war came to an end by the Victory of the Allied Armies in October, 1918.

To what extent has the situation changed since? and will we see lower prices again? are questions the answers to which depend on two factors:

The first is a speedy ratification of the peace treaty by the U. S. A. which I hope they will accept as other countries have done, and thereby put the universe at rest; and the second is the return of the millions of men, non-producers, to the soil and other industries dependent upon it.

You cannot expect to beat the law of Supply and Demand. As long as production does not come up to consumption you must not expect much relief. Europe has only started to rebuild her lost Agricultural production and is impaired through strikes and political troubles caused by the return to civil life of millions of men accustomed to a different kind of activity than farming and industrial activity.

affair world wide which no single country can solve satisfactorily.

The only solution is patient waiting and the renewed efforts of all countries to put Production on par with Demand. This does not mean that measures should not be enacted to stop wilful hoarding when this is evident. Those guilty of such offence deserves the maximum. But such laws or restrictions should be drawn up by men covariant with conditions and not by politicians in quest of votes.

Thank God the War is over. But we must not rejoice to the extent of forgetting the unfortunate countries who gladly consented to be devastated for the sake of humanity and a most worthy cause, and our own lads who are coming back to us, some never again to help in production, but the greater part ready and willing to take back their places if only a fair chance and a little time.

For them and for the return to pre-war conditions I ask you to give your best effort, and to those who grumble about the high cost of living, while drawing large salaries to stop quibbling, and look conditions squarely in the face and help to solve this great problem.

IN MEMORIAM

DEATH OF MRS. CATHERINE MACDONALD

The death occurred on the 9th October, at Rosbery, P. E. I., of Mrs. Catherine Macdonald widow of the late Neil Macdonald aged 83 years. She leaves to cherish a gentle and affectionate memory five sons: John A., Master Mariner, of Georgetown; Neil, in Seattle, Alexander, and J. Malcolm, in Boston and Gordon at home and three daughters: Mrs. A. J. Gillis and Mrs. Hector McDonald, Butte, Montana, and Mrs. Arthur Edmonds, of this city.

The funeral which took place on Saturday 11th inst. to Belfast cemetery was largely attended the Rev. J. W. McKenzie conducted the services at the home and grave.

The pall bearers were: Mr. John R. McRae, Mr. Charles R. Morrison, Mr. William McInnis, Mr. C. N. Morrison, Mr. J. Milton McDonald and Mr. Francis W. Painton.

MARITIME BOYS PARLIAMENT

Acting on the suggestion given by Taylor Station, Ontario Advisory Committee held a Provincial Boys' Parliament and its success justified their judgment.

The success of the Ontario Boys' Parliament has led to a Maritime Boys' Parliament, which will meet at St. John during the Christmas holidays.

Members for this Parliament will be elected from the nine Provincial Conferences to be held in the Maritime this fall. Four in Nova Scotia, four in New Brunswick and one in Prince Edward Island.

The delegates at each Conference will nominate members for the Parliament, and an election will take place the Saturday night of the Conference. The travelling expenses and the entertainment of the members elected will be paid.

The Province of P. E. I. will be entitled to two members. One to be chosen from the city, or town delegates, and one from the open country. If the Provincial Conference enrolls over one hundred and fifty delegates three members will be elected. One to represent the City of Charlottetown, one to represent the towns, and one to represent the country. In this Province the election will take place at the Leaders and Older Boys Conference which will be held in Charlottetown, November 7-9.

Each centre sending delegates should come prepared to make nomination for two or three of the best possible boys to represent our Province.

OCTOBER

June hath one rival only—thou art she. O fair October, with the red and gold! None doubt her scepter till again we see Thy queenly presence sweep through wood and wold.

And then the heart, divided, swerves and sways Between its memories of her tender skies, Her wealth of roses, her enchanted days, And what thou yieldest for our ruptured eyes.

So different wholly, yet so equal quite, Which more is sovereign we debate in vain; But this we know, and own with swift delight; Today, October, thou dost rightly reign.

—Philip B. Strong

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NOW, more thought has to be given to the stockings children wear. Cooler days—cold nights, demand it.

Hardy as the little folks may be, they do need protection against chills.

This year the problem is easily solved.

Mothers will be glad to know that they will have no trouble getting "Little Darling and Little Daisy" Hosiery.

The soft Australian Lambs' wool from which these finest of stockings are made is once more available.

Your dealer should be able to supply you. If he is not yet able to do so, we will gladly see that you are supplied.

LITTLE DARLING HOSIERY—for babies and tiny tots up to seven—has silken toe and heel.

LITTLE DAISY HOSIERY—for children up to twelve—has extra strength in heel and toe.

Many dainty shades and black.

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Charles Riggs, New York; L. H. D. McLeod, New York; F. Scott, St. John; F. R. Crawford, St. John; A. B. McLeod, Truro N. S.; H. P. Blackey, Montreal; C. B. Swain, Chicago; S. M. McDaniel and wife M. Stewart; Fred MacKarachee and wife Pictou N. S.; B. W. LePage, Rusticoville; E. J. Maxted, Toronto; Bruce Simpson, Toronto; H. S. Wansmaker, St. John; Henry Hyams, Montreal; Oscar Lancelot, Montreal; G. S. Oxley, Quebec.

—Mr. P. A. Ledwell of Boston is on a visit to his home in Souris P. E. I. A. J. Jones, Halifax; J. A. McRae, Toronto; W. P. Murray, Monston; and wife, Truro; J. H. Smallwood

REVERE HOTEL

John Benit, Moncton; C. G. Wassitt, Toronto; R. A. Loin, Montreal; J. J. Smith, Toronto; R. A. MacKlin, Halifax; W. W. Lane, Halifax; S. A. Hiltz, Halifax; C. S. Parkinson, St. John; G. R. Watson, Moncton; Capt. W. Thompson, Ottawa; T. H. Arscott, Montreal; E. R. Hard, Chicago; C. LeVail, Toronto; R. E. Kink, Toronto; F. W. Rush, Toronto; A. Smylie, Toronto; Geo. T. Dixon, Fortune; R. E. Stuart, Fortune; S. J. Gilliat, Halifax; J. Simpson, Amherst; W. Simpson.

When Preparing Fish

A few drops of ammonia in the water in which you wash your hands will remove all fishy odor from the hands. Bear Island, Aug. 26, 1903 Minard's Liniment Co., Limited. Dear Sirs,—Your traveler is here today and we are getting a large quantity of your MINARD'S LINIMENT. We find it the best Liniment on the market making no exception. We have been in business 13 years and have handled all kinds, but have dropped them all but yours; that sells itself; the others have to be pushed to get rid of.

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GinPills FOR THE KIDNEYS AND PAINS IN THE BACK



Remedy for back, sides and head and all ills resulting from deranged kidneys, such as rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, neuralgia, swollen joints and stone in the bladder. Relieve congestion, soothe inflamed tissues, bring normal action, which purifies the blood and corrects the ailments. Gin Pills have helped thousands. They will help you. Send for free sample, or get a box from your druggist or dealer, 50c. with money-back guarantee.

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PHOSPHONOL FOR MEN

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Prince George Hotel advertisement with building illustration.

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