

"The Jarvis Record"

TELEPHONE 37, JARVIS, ONTARIO

Published Every Thursday Morning

Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association and the Ontario-Quebec Division of the C.W.N.A.

ADVERTISING RATES UPON REQUEST

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

40¢ per copy in Canada \$1.50 per year in advance

The United States \$2.00 additional for postage

The date to which subscription is paid is indicated on the address label

A. L. MILLER, Editor

STEAM IN THE KETTLE

HERE'S A FAST STUDY for debaters taking the negative side in an argument over price controls: The wartime "miracle" of price control was, in reality, comparable to holding a heavy hand on the lid of a spoutless kettle coming to a boil.

It worked, but simply because the kettle never got up a head of steam sufficient to blow the lid and the hand off.

Had the war lasted much longer, there is a possibility that not only would the lid have hurtled off and up and injured the confining hand, but the kettle would have burst its sides as well.

Of course, this is simply an opinion and we have no way of proving it. Fortunately, we don't have to, because war's ending also ended price control — a measure that seemed justifiable at the time, but one that had to be paid for later in any number of instances.

But a renewed policing of prices by government, as advocated by a good segment of the population, would be simply a challenge to the natural law of supply and demand and one foredoomed to failure.

This demand and one foredoomed to failure, on the basis of two factors, first, the amount of available goods and second, on the number of people who want them enough to buy them.

If there are more buyers than goods available, the price will go up and injured the confining hand, but the kettle would have burst its sides as well.

The government, of course, can issue a ruling that the public's demand shall not be satisfied, but such a ruling cannot nullify the validity of the law any more than government ruling can stop the kettle blowing its lid off under a good head of steam.

The lid can be held on for awhile by a strong man, mark you, but sooner or later, kerplop!

Price control might work for a short time if wages were pegged, but here we're on a touchy subject. Labour is not willing to go that far. Besides, even if wages were pegged, the ensuing black market would make a monkey out of the ineffectual government law.

These shortages, which the black market capitalizes on, would in turn cause further inflation of prices.

Isn't this where we came in? Didn't the advocates of price control present their case as a remedy for inflation?

No, the only way to "control" prices, that is, hold a check rein on them, is to guarantee additional production to balance any additional demand. When these are balanced, prices can't increase.

"SUFFERING IN THIS COUNTRY"

— By Lewis Milligan —

"THERE'S SUFFERING in this country! Wouldn't an excess profits tax and subsidizing the basic needs of the people, be the answer?" This ended a discussion of the question, "Is Price Control the Answer to the High Cost of Living," on the "Citizens Forum" broadcast recently over a CBC Trans Canada

network. The speaker was a member of the studio audience, and the question was left in the air and unanswered, the chairman declaring the discussion closed.

There's suffering in this country! That statement stuck in my mind, and I began to think of people in other parts of the world who were suffering from the lack of the bare necessities of life. I thought of India and China, where millions of people are actually starving. Then I thought of the millions of people in Canada who are well-fed and enjoy a standard of living that would be a dream of Paradise to the people of the Eastern World — including Russia.

But we need not go so far away for a comparison. By a strange coincidence, this morning I received from a friend in England a letter which came as a shock and a revelation. Like many other Canadians I had sent parcels of food to friends in the Old Country, but had ceased to do so in the last year or two, assuming that food was now more plentiful. Whenever I asked them if they were short of any particular item, they did not answer my question. However, I asked my daughter-in-law to make up a parcel of food and sent it off as a Christmas present and the postage cost about \$4.00 in all. The letter I received this morning read as follows:

"What a delightful surprise you have given us! My sister was out when the parcel arrived, so I had all the thrills to myself, and after reading your daughter-in-law's letter and seeing the contents, I just sat down for about half an hour in an absolute trance of bewilderment, surprise, pleasure and almost incredulity at such kindness. Like a lot of other people, we have been making-do and going on making-do, thinking that things would get easier all the time, and for a period they did, but now it is really worse than it ever was — a dreadful circle of higher wages and higher prices, and I see that, in the New Year, most of the post-war controls are coming back. I think I told you that I have been waiting since the middle of September to go into the hospital for an operation; well, I'm still waiting; another blot on our fine Health Service."

I read this letter with a catch in my throat. All that rapture and gratitude over a few cans of meat, tea-bags, sugar, etc. I thought of that man standing up in the CBC studio and declaring, "There's suffering in this country!" Of course there is suffering in every country, but for the CBC to permit a discussion on the standard of living in Canada to close with such a travesty of the truth is a low form of treason. I have frequently listened to these "Citizens Forum" broadcasts, and have attended two of them, and my general impression is that they provide a free radio service for leftist propaganda.

The political questions selected for discussion always present an opportunity for chronic malcontents who chiefly compose the studio audience, and they monopolize the question period with little prepared speeches. For instance a "housewife" in the audience closed her little speech by saying: "Why, if you can subsidize gold mines, can't you subsidize the essentials, like bread and milk?" These are the things we are worrying about."

In the course of his speech, the "suffering" member of the audience referred to corporation profits and excess profits taxes, and said that what the "little people" of Canada wanted was a "decent standard of living." Well, all profits are taxed away and the food is subsidized in Socialist Britain, with the result indicated in the above-quoted pathetic letter from one of the "little people" of England. These disgruntled "citizens" should get down on their knees and thank God for the high standard of living they are enjoying in Canada.

THE THAMES RIVER FLOOD AT CHATHAM CLAIMED ONE VICTIM, EIGHT-YEAR-OLD TERRY HALL. SCHOOLMATES OF THE MISSING BOY TOLD POLICE HE HAD VENTURED OUT ON THE ICE AND CRASHED INTO THE FLOOD WATERS IN TEUMACH PARK.

LEE HOOVER, WHO JOINED THE R.C.A.F. SEVERAL MONTHS AGO AND WHO IS NOW STATIONED AT CAMP BORDEN, IS CURRENTLY SPENDING A TWO WEEK HOLIDAY AT HIS HOME HERE.

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This Week

Specialty Written for the Record

— By Harry Eccles —

A recount of ballots in the Windsor

mayorality election resulted in a

surprise. There can be no appeal from

the recount when the result is so

clearly in favour of one candidate.

Brophy had been given a majority

of thirty-eight votes in the first

round of the December 8th election.

Recounted by a recount, and

when this ended on Monday, Reaume

was declared elected by sixteen votes.

The final decision was Reaume, 16

votes, Brophy 16,558.

The three judges for the recount

rejected arguments by counsel for

Brophy that they refuse to certify

the recount because of alleged

irregularities in the election and in the

recount itself. There can be no appeal from

the recount when the result is so

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Pen, Scissors and

Pastepot

Specialty Written for the Record

— By Harry Eccles —

We are a little behind this week

but on this occasion have a justifi-

able reason for it. We were wait-

ing on Tuesday according to the pre-

diction of those thirty people out in

British Columbia who isolated them-

selves in a lonely mountain cabin wait-

ing for the end to come. It's get-

ting so you can't depend on any pre-

diction any more. Gen. McArthur

was won and his troops home for

Christmas and look what has hap-

pened. Doug Abbott has predicted

higher income taxes in the next bud-

get. We think we'll go along with

that one.

A lifelong citizen of Cayuga, in

the person of "Uncle" George Platte,

passed away on December 24th. Men

of the enigma when they read the

ward because of certain conven-

tional goals they may have attained

as they went through life. Some of

the greatest achievements, however,

are never recognized. George Platte

was a pioneer in the history of Cayuga

and his home town of Cayuga.

We have always argued that pro-

hibition of the wrong way to try to

bring about real temperance. There

is no law in the world that will make

any one abstain from drinking. A

girl — or at least some girl, like

me — was no law that will make

any one abstain from drinking. A

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