

## THE DAILY MAIL

NEW BRUNSWICK'S ONLY HOME COMMUNITY PAPER

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FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, NOVEMBER 25, 1937

## PRICES AND GOVERNMENT CONTROL

PRICES—the rising cost of living—thought of only in terms of wage increases and market trends a year ago, are emerging in debate as a consumer problem. That the rise, if sharper in some countries and in particular sections than in others, has been universal is stressed in one day's news, which recorded the recommendations of a Commission for cuts in the price of coal and gasoline in British Columbia; a protest in the British House of Commons against undue increases in the cost of living, and President Roosevelt's demand for an investigation to determine the effect of monopolies on higher prices in the United States.

Four years ago and less rising price-levels were accepted as the sign of recovery. They were the unmistakable evidence of increasing purchasing power, derived from expanding primary prices, re-employment and wage increases, themselves encouraged by naturally or artificially stimulated movements of goods. In those days President Roosevelt was the apostle of higher prices as the way to recovery, and embodied his doctrine in the invalidated N. R. A., which, fixing minimum schedules of wages and hours, codified prices in the industry to which they applied. It was practiced, too, by means of subsidies through A. A. A.

It is not improbable that the investigation now ordered will find monopolies have affected the price factor, will even suggest a way for their control, just as simply as the British Columbia Commission has arrived at the conclusion that gasoline can be 30 per cent. cheaper to the consumer by Government regulation of the distributing agencies. What is still more probable is that price rises are definitely—who can say how drastically?—checked by the controls already in effect.

There is no need to remind any one that Government control has become much wider in scope than it was a decade ago. And it is becoming increasingly apparent that much of the control has been undertaken without any consideration of its effect upon the system as a whole. The fundamental characteristic of our freely, individually organized system is its dependence upon a price structure. Though somewhat altered by the advent of mass-production, price-levels are still determined by the law of supply and demand—quantity in relation to purchasing power.

During the last half-dozen years or so the law has been subjected to new influences—regulations, restrictions, controls, many of them necessary in the specific spheres to which they were applied, but all of them exercising some influence over the whole economic structure. In the spheres that are controlled or regulated prices are forced, not free, and the "subtle, indirect effects," as Sir Josiah Stamp calls them, penetrate into the "unplanned" fields, frequently affecting them even more violently.

For example, subsidized agriculture may have given the American farmer the desired increase in purchasing power, but as it was applied farm production was curtailed, increasing prices to the consumer, while at the same time business was taxed to pay for the subsidies, thereby adding further to commodity prices. Success of control is not to be judged from gains temporarily shown in the regulated area. No more is it to be applied willy-nilly on the theory that such gains will result. If it is to be applied at all it must have consideration for possible injurious effects elsewhere. And who is to say what would be the widespread effect of a 30 per cent. reduction in gasoline prices in British Columbia, obtained by closing two in every five of the existing service stations and limiting the number of brands to be sold?

## POLAND'S TRADE WITH CANADA

OWING TO THE competitive nature of many of the products and the comparative remoteness of both markets, Canadian trade with Poland is small, writes Mr. J. C. Macgillivray, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Hamburg, in the forthcoming issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal. In the year 1936, according to the Polish statistics, only 0.2 per cent. of that country's imports came from Canada, which in turn is credited with absorbing 1 per cent. of the exports of Poland, although considerably more than half of this latter figure was represented by Polish rye exported to Canada for transshipment to the United States.

Canadian statistics also indicate that commercial intercourse between the two countries is very limited and even below the level indicated by the Polish figures. In 1936, according to Canadian returns, the Dominion exported goods to Poland to the value of \$406,835; imports into Canada from Poland were valued at \$121,323. During 1936 exports of copper from Canada to Poland had a value of \$288,126, accounting for 70 per cent. of the total exports to that country. The other leading export commodities, together with their values, were: asbestos, \$21,684; abrasives, \$39,287; aluminum, \$5,534; and undressed fox skins, \$7,657. Small quantities of rubber tires and tubes, canned fish, rags, skates, and machinery were also exported to Poland from the Dominion.

## UNITED STATES HAY MARKET

WITH THE SUPPLY of feed grains well above the average and the hay production about 10 per cent. over the 1931-35 average and about equal to the 1925-29 average, the prospects for imported hay on the United States market for the 1937-38 season are not encouraging, writes Mr. R. G. C. Smith, Assistant Canadian Trade Commissioner at New York, in the forthcoming issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal. The domestic supply of feed grains per consuming animal is the largest since 1932, while the hay supply per animal is also over average, though slightly under the heavy supply per animal of 1935.

The current situation is similar to that ruling in 1928 when imports of hay reached 60,000 tons, but the number of hay-consuming animals was less than at the beginning of 1937, so that the hay supply per animal was somewhat over that of this year, being 2,140 pounds. Statistically therefore there should be an opening for slightly more than 60,000 tons of imported hay for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938.

At present prices it is considered that there is little opportunity of exporting timothy or alfalfa from Canada except in the case of exceptionally good lots. On the other hand, there is an opening for heavy clover. So far there has been little movement of the new crop to the United States in the face of ample hay and corn silage supplies, but with increased consumption it may be that the demand will improve later in the year.

## SNAP SHOTS

There are some good cooks amongst our women to judge by the numerous very fine suppers that are being given by the different churches. In the days when we were younger there used to be some good cooks at St. Paul's and also at Wilmet Church, and there were also a lot of darn good looking girls in these congregations. The mothers are there today looking as young as ever and they in turn have good looking daughters who are good cooks.

Congratulations to Wen Jones, the courteous head of the Old Age Pensions Board who is seventy-one years young today. He has given good service to his native town and is giving it to his native province.

If a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, why does everybody leave an important customer to answer the phone?

The general opinion is that traffic cops should stop those reckless drivers instead of impudently interfering with careful drivers like us.

Somewhat, it never occurs to the modern girl that she will some day be as unsophisticated, old-fashioned, and worldly-innocent as her mother is.

## HON. W. P. JONES

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still associated with his son Charles J. Jones, K.C., of Woodstock, as practicing barrister. Hon. Mr. Jones has been Mayor of Woodstock as was also his father the late R. K. Jones, and was his son C. J. Jones. Mr. Jones represented Carleton County in the Provincial Legislature for several years and was for a time Solicitor General of the Province. In the general elections of 1930 he was selected as Leader of the Liberal party in the province. But his party went down to defeat in the elections of that year.

When the Old Age Pensions Board was organized two years ago Mr. Jones was appointed Chairman of the Board and his executive ability is due in no small measure to the splendid organization which has been formed in connection with the pensions office in this city. There is a no more kindly gentleman in the province of New Brunswick than Wendell P. Jones. He has always been popular and esteemed in his home town of Woodstock where he resided all his life and he has the respect and esteem of all classes in this city. In his business connection Mr. Jones is one Government official with whom it is a pleasure to do business. His ability was recently recognized when he was appointed legal expert adviser for New Brunswick in connection with the Rowell Commission. In years past Mr. Jones' legal ability has been recognized by different governments who sought his advice, irrespective of party politics. This is a fine tribute to the ability of any man in these days when party politics are generally considered as the standard of selection.

This afternoon at the Old Age Pen-

## TOBACCO

(Continued from Page One)

vice from upper province people who are familiar with the growth and curing of tobacco this might lead to tobacco industry being developed for commercial purposes in this section.

It is doubtful that any industry in Canada has made more rapid progress than the production of tobacco. In ten years there has been an increase from 41,976,775 pounds to 71,352,000 this year, according to an official summary. Previous to a decade ago tobacco growing was in a somewhat experimental stage, though steady progress was made. For generations Quebec people have been producing tobacco for their own use, but the amazing development has been in Ontario, which now has its tobacco belt, centred in Essex and Norfolk Counties, but extending to Oxford and Brant Counties. Ontario is credited with 62,000,000 pounds from 57,142 acres, and Quebec with 8,925,000 pounds from 7,758 acres. British Columbia's production amounted to 427,000 pounds from 450 acres.

However, there is in Quebec a distinct revival in tobacco growing, and with excellent prospects of success. Antonio Barrette, member of the Provincial Legislature, is quoted as saying there is in sight an annual production of 20,000,000 pounds of high quality tobacco in the new Joliette section, which has been found well adapted to its growth. Mr. Barrette says the money received for this year's crop will pay off all the capital invested in the district, even in land and buildings, and will make a handsome addition to the return to the promoters.

With added experience in curing, Canadian tobacco is steadily improving in quality and achieving additional popularity with discriminating smokers. There seems no doubt that soon Canadian growers of tobacco will be able to compete with the best produced in any part of the world.

sion office Hon. Mr. Jones was presented with a book by the members of the commission and staff of the Old Age Pensions. The presentation was made by Rev. R. H. Scott, who is a member of the Commission. Mr. Scott referred in fitting terms to the respect and esteem in which Mr. Jones is held by the entire staff of the Old Age Pensions Board and in conclusion wished Mr. Jones many more years of happiness and usefulness.

Mr. Jones made a fitting reply. The Daily Mail joins with the legions of friends of Hon. Mr. Jones in extending to him hearty congratulations on his seventy-first birthday.

## MYSTERY RE BURNED CAR

Royal Canadian Mounted Police are today seeking to find the owner of a 1931 Ford sedan which was discovered a short distance above Douglas last night, burned and abandoned. No information concerning the burning of the car is available. It was brought to Fredericton at about 11 o'clock last evening and had apparently burned some time in the afternoon. Residents of the district could offer no information concerning the ownership of the car or other details.

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE

(Continued from Page One)

The interest from the sale of old Government House helps to defray the Governor's official expenses, but in past years, if one will look through the Comptroller-General's report, he will find that many items of expenditure in connection with the upkeep of the Governor's household were paid for out of the public treasury. At times under past Governments these included, the Governor's Christmas cards, pamphlets containing the family portraits and even invitations connected with the Loyalist Society. In one case a Lieutenant-Governor sat for a portrait of himself which now adorns the walls of the Legislature and which cost this province nearly one thousand dollars. In most cases the portraits of the Lieutenant Governor were placed on the walls of the Legislature following the Lieutenant-Governor's death and were paid for by the family.

In our opinion the dignity of the office of the Lieutenant-Governor should be upheld. He is the representative of His Majesty the King in this province. But we believe that the Lieutenant-Governor should be able with the salary he receives from the office and the fact that the office is generally given to a man of means, to pay for the upkeep of his house and for his social functions even though these functions include the entertainment of public men, out of his own pocket. Any man upon whom the honor of being Lieutenant Governor has been conferred should appreciate the honor sufficiently to dip down in his pocket and spend a few dollars in the way of entertainment. In these days in which there is so much destitution and suffering throughout the land, every dollar that can be spared should go to the alleviation of the hard lot of thousands of our people. It is ill becoming our public men to spend the public money to too large an extent in the upkeep of social trimmings, whilst people are on relief.

We also believe that the Lieutenant Governor of the province should reside in the Capital of the province and that his appointment to the office should be made on condition that he be prepared to do this. It might mean that he would have to vacate for the time being some delightful home in another part of the province, but in the old days pre Confederation Governors left their stately homes in England and came to New Brunswick where they lived under the most primitive conditions in what was then the wilderness. The time will come when the Cabinet Ministers will have to reside at the Capital in order to accomplish their duties. Then the Lieutenant Governor should do the same.

## EIGHT PROVINCES

(Continued from Page One)

No Legislative Union  
"Quebec is in favor of collaboration and co-operation but is firmly and decidedly against legislative union," said the letter.

Premier Duplessis suggested "It would be possible to establish a system of national unemployment insurance without infringing upon the rights of the province."

Apart from Quebec, six provinces have expressed agreement with the Prime Minister's proposal to amend the British North America Act for his insurance proposal. They are British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Manitoba, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia.

It is expected that Premier Dymally will give a statement as to the position of New Brunswick on the proposed amendment.

## MINTO

(Continued from Page One)

It is stated at Minto today that relief funds amounting to five thousand dollars have been received from the United States by the local union from the U.M.W. headquarters and that further relief monies would be received as needed. Mr. Morrison also stated that these amounts would be supplemented by a levy on every local in Nova Scotia.

"Without a trade union the fair wage board is useless," Barrett told the men. He and Morrison expressed resentment at the attitude of local merchants in the matter of credit for food supplies.

"Had we known that the merchants of Minto would question the ability of the U.M.W. of A. to pay their obligations, the money matter would have been attended to much sooner," said Barrett. He declared the merchants were co-operating with the coal operators to break the strike, but if necessary supplies would be brought in from Nova Scotia.

The ballot on which the strikers are voting today reads as follows: "Are you in favor of the proposal of government?"

It was announced that a majority will decide the question.

Morrison assured the meeting that relief will be handed out as needed, and that all the local unions in Nova Scotia will give assistance to the strikers in Minto. He concluded by declaring, "Regardless of the result of balloting, whether to work or to stay out, we will stick with you, and at all costs, retain your union."

Barrett went into details concerning the needs of the coal miners and insisted that only men who are thoroughly familiar with conditions in the mines could possibly adjust them properly. He declared that the time is coming when acts respecting labor must be passed, and it was up to the laboring class through the medium of their trade unions to prevail on the

## Capitol

NOW PLAYING

Ralph Bellamy

— IN —

## WILD BRIAN KENT

With Mae Clarke

Produced by Sol Lesser  
Directed by Howard Bretherton  
Released by 20th Century-Fox  
Adapted from HAROLD BELL WRIGHT'S biggest best-seller  
"The Re-Creation of Brian Kent"

— EXTRA ATTRACTION —

## BAD GUY

With Bruce CABOT, Virginia GREY, Edward NORRIS, Jean CHATBURN, Cliff EDWARDS  
Screen Play by Earl Felton and Harry Ruskin  
Directed by Edward Cahn  
Produced by Tom Reed

Here MON., TUES., and WED.

## A Family Affair

With Lionel BARRYMORE, Cecilia PARKER, Eric LINDEN, Mickey ROONEY and Charley GRAPEWIN

government to pass satisfactory legislation.

W. S. Walker, district board member, spoke briefly with reference to the conference in Fredericton. He as well as the other speakers urged the men to think carefully when casting their ballot. "The union will carry on regardless of the outcome of your voting," Walker said.



An Evening's Entertainment  
YOU  
Can't Afford to Miss!

FRIDAY, NOV. 26

## "College Night"

A Group Of One-Act Plays

## GAIETY

NOW PLAYING

## NEXT YEAR'S BIGGEST MUSICAL... TODAY!

Topping every tune-filled triumph of the past... M-G-M's Giant Show floods the screen with stars... hit songs... romance... laughs... girls!



HERE MONDAY

BOBBY BREEN

— IN —

"MAKE A WISH"



ROSEBUD

Cut smoking tobacco

THE MARITIME SMOKE