

Gerald Waring Reporting

OTTAWA—The debate in the Commons on the cost of living ended Monday night, having lasted exactly three weeks.

It ended because everybody who wanted to talk on the subject had done so then. The Commons voted 98 to 50 on straight party lines, against Progressive Conservative leader George Drew's motion for immediate consideration of action to halt inflation.

Had the debate been kept alive until tomorrow, it would have gotten a new shot in the arm when the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports an increase in the cost of living index for March.

It's a foregone conclusion that there will be an increase, although it won't be as high as February's near-record of 4.5 points. The February rise brought the index up to a new elevation of 179.7.

What that figure meant was that there had been a boost of nearly 80 percent in the cost of living of the average urban wage earning family over that family's cost of living in the years 1935-39 inclusive.

The smaller increase in March, to be announced tomorrow, may be a sign of a leveling off of prices, comparable to that which has been occurring in the United States. Only recently Finance Minister Abbott called attention to reports that wholesale prices in the U. S. had softened in March. He termed the U. S. wholesale price index "the most significant indicator of price trends" that he have.

Abbott's optimism is supported by the people who prepare our own cost-of-living index. Lorne Rowbottom, a lanky young British Columbian whose job is to tell us why our dollar seems to be shrinking month by month, reports that prices aren't rising as rapidly as they were a few weeks ago.

"I think we're coasting a bit now," he said.

As Chief of DBS' prices section, Rowbottom sees 65,000 retail prices for all sorts of goods and services flow across his desk each month. These are the prices collected by DBS' field workers for use in calculating the cost-of-living index.

The prices as of April 2 showed definite signs of softening as compared with those a month earlier. That's one reason Rowbottom is willing to predict that February's breath-taking rise of 4.5 points "will stand by itself for a long time, to come."

The Bren gun, one of the finest weapons of its kind in the world, will be discarded by the Canadian forces in favor of U. S. machine guns.

In view of the Bren's fine qualities, it's fate hung in the balance for months. But the military chiefs have now decided to dispense with it in the interests of standardizing Canadian weapons with those of the U. S. forces.

Many experts rate the Bren higher than comparable U. S. weapons, but the problem of logistics—of supplying ammunition and spare parts to Canadian forces which would be using all-American equipment—was believed to be too great. So now the Bren is out, along with the .303 Lee-Enfield rifle, and many other items of British pattern.

Only U. S. adoption of the Bren, which won't happen, would make it feasible for Canadian forces to continue using it. The hypothesis is that in any future war Canadians will be fighting alongside Americans. And our military organization will use the U. S. supply line, as in the past it used the British instead of setting up duplicate facilities. Our use of an important non-American weapon like the Bren would complicate the supply problem too greatly, Defence Headquarters ruled.

BURGESS BEDTIME

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course, she didn't understand a word they said, but just the same all her doubts returned. At the time Reddy didn't happen to be around. When he came back Mrs. Reddy had made up her mind, or thought she had.

"We are going to move," said she very decidedly.

"What for?" cried Reddy. He looked as surprised as he sounded.

"We are going to move," repeated Mrs. Reddy.

"But why?" cried Reddy. Why are we going to move? He's back now."

Of course he meant Farmer Brown's boy.

Then Mrs. Reddy told him of the two unwelcome visitors who had come almost before Farmer Brown's boy was out of sight. Reddy didn't know what to say. Something was wrong, but he didn't know what. He still was sure that all would be right now that Farmer Brown's boy was back. But there was the fact that those two boys had been poking around where they had no business to be, actually peeping into their home. He couldn't blame Mrs. Reddy for her doubts.

"Let's wait a little," said Reddy.

"What for?" asked Mrs. Reddy. She was walking about uneasily. The fact was that she wasn't quite sure herself what to do, not nearly so sure as she sounded.

"We don't know that any other place will be any safer," retorted Reddy.

Mrs. Reddy admitted that this was so. It was clear that she was still undecided whether to go or not to go. The very next day Farmer Brown's boy visited the Old Pasture again. He replaced signs that had been knocked down, signs warning others to keep out of the Old Pasture. Late that afternoon two boys stopped at one of these signs at the edge of the Old Pasture. They looked at it, then at each other. "Tommy's home," said one. Then they turned and sneaked away. Perhaps had Mrs. Reddy seen them then she would no longer have been undecided.

Farm Prices & Market Report

Continued from page 9

down somewhat for May and up for July which is good news. Bran has shot up, however, and is \$59.10 in paper and \$61.10 in bulk, with shorts the same price. Oileake is \$4.91 and soybean meal \$3.05. These are tough prices.

Eggs and Poultry

Egg production is high and the prices in April on the basis of Grade A Large were 14c per dozen higher than at the same period in 1950.

Grading Stations are now quoting producers for AL 50c, AM 48c, AP and B 42c.

Dealers are quoting for the graded pack delivered AL 57c, AM 55c, AP and B 48c.

Dealers are quoting retailers AL 50c, AM 57c, AP and B 50c.

And to consumers AL 63c-65c, AM 62c-63c, AP 50c-52c.

I would say something again about these spreads, but as this is our last kick I will leave it as is.

Potatoes

The potato market is bad and will no doubt remain so. Large quantities are going through to starch factories at the Murray Harbour factory is not yet open and there seems to have been some difficulty among the fishermen and the farmers in that section regarding its operation. Last reports would indicate that it is to be opened for starch production on Friday. There are still quite a few potatoes in the country to be disposed of. Personally I feel that the estimates that have been going out have been a little on the modest side. I think there are more potatoes than has been suggested. It is to be hoped, however, that the starch programme will remove an embarrassing portion of the surplus. It looks as if our acreage of potatoes will be decreased this year, and in view of conditions I would say that would be a desirable trend.

The following are the prices at various centers on the Island:

Tignish: Fairly good movement in tablestock. Some seed moving. Price 44c per bus. delivered at car.

O'Leary: Good movement in tablestock. Some seed moving. Price 44c per bus. delivered at car.

Wellington: Fair movement in tablestock. Price 44c per bus. delivered at warehouse.

Summerside: Tablestock moving freely. Seed slow. Price 44c per bus. delivered at car.

Borden Line: No report.

Kensington: Movement fair in tablestock. Few cars seed moving. Price 44c per bus. delivered.

Colville and Wiltshire: Fairly good movement in tablestock. No seed moving. Price 44c per bus. delivered at car.

Charlottetown: Fair movement in potatoes. Prices 44c per bus. delivered for seed and tablestock. Boat 9,000 bags now loading for U. S. Also considerable moving to Newfoundland by boat.

Montague: Tablestock moving on boats. Two small boats loaded last week. One loading today. Seed pretty well cleared up. Price 44c per bus. delivered.

Vernon River: No report.

Cardigan: Fair movement in tablestock. Seed movement slow. Price 44c per bus. delivered at car.

Morell: No report.

Souris: No report.

Elmira: Getting cleared up. Last car loading today. Price 44c per bushel delivered at car. Balance stock will go to starch factory.

Murray Harbour: No movement by rail past two weeks. Expecting Newfoundland boat this week. Will take about 2,000 bus. tablestock and some turnips. Tablestock 55c bag delivered at boat. Turnips 40c per bus. delivered.

The total movement for April was 983 cars. Movement has slackened off this week due to weaker market conditions.

Wool

We are now right into the wool season and wool will be received at the Grading Station at Charlottetown on and after May 15th. We are offering as an advance payment for the present time \$100 per pound. And after the wool is graded a final settlement will be made. If the price of wool should advance on the market our price will advance. If it goes down, of course a change may have to be made the other way. In any event the price that the P. E. I. Sheep Breeders' Association and Co-operative gives is the very last cent that can be obtained on the market. Twine, shipping tags, and sacks for lots of fifteen or so will be forwarded on request. Watch for the wool advertisement in the press.

Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary

—The spacious home of Mr. and Mrs. John Maslam, Carleton Siding, presented a gala appearance on Tuesday evening, May 1, when seventy-five relatives of Mr. and Mrs. James Stavert, North Bedeque, met to extend congratulations and good wishes to them on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.

When the guests had assembled a wedding march was played by Miss Carol Stavert, Charlottetown, granddaughter of the "bride and groom," while little Margaret and James Stavert, five year old twins, also grandchildren of the honoured couple, ushered them to the seats of honour. Rev. Donald MacKay, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Summerside, of which the esteemed couple are members, acted as chairman.

After a few appropriate remarks,

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Centre Row: Norma Pound, Leah Duffy, Ruby Drummond, Joyce Panting, Inez MacPhee, Elaine Gill, Georgina Cairns, Imelda Kane, Isabel MacIsaac, Jean Donald, Eleanor Kays, Dorothy Dewar.

Back Row: Harold Lee, Hazen Hogg, Keith Burhoe, Shirley Downe, Barbara Gallant, Elizabeth Sims, Margaret Coles, Katherine MacDonald, Helen Simpson, Ann Worthy, Marie Taylor, Viola Munn, Eleanor Minchin, Elaine Humphrey, Leah Pickering.

Absent: Gladys Dixon, Adeline Peters, Donna Shaw, Charlotte Cairns, Jean Zakem. —Smith Photo.

Mr. MacKay called on Dr. L. M. Callbeck, Summerside, who read a complimentary address. This was followed by the presentation of a purse, by Mrs. Lloyd Gorrill, Summerside, a niece of Mr. and Mrs. Stavert.

A letter of congratulations was then read by Mr. Lloyd Gorrill, from the Session of the Presbyterian Church, Summerside. Beautiful bouquets of flowers were presented to Mrs. Stavert by her grandchildren and also from Mrs. Robert Baker and Miss Erma Baker, North Bedeque.

Mr. and Mrs. Stavert cordially thanked those present for their kind remembrances and good wishes on this happy occasion. Then the gathering joined in singing: "For they are jolly good fellows." Following this a musical programme was rendered; Solo by

Mrs. L. M. Callbeck, Summerside. Piano solo, Miss Carol Stavert. Solo by Mr. Albert Muttart, Carleton, a brother of Mrs. Stavert, now in his 81st year. Piano solo by Mr. Arthur Callbeck, Tryon. Solo by Miss Mary Muttart, Carleton, a niece of the "bride". Piano solo by Mrs. L. M. Callbeck. Added to all these numbers was a "sing-song" with Mrs. Blanche Harper,

Carleton, at the piano. Last but not least was a sumptuous repast greatly enjoyed by all. The tables were decorated with two beautifully trimmed wedding cakes, gifts of Mrs. Stanley Stavert, Charlottetown and Mrs. Allison Harper, Carleton. All repaired to their respective homes, wishing the "bride and groom" many more happy returns of their wedding day.

LONDON, (CP) — Anyone who attacks the press can rely on being reported in full, Lord Woolton told the annual dinner of the Newspaper Society. The Conservative Party chairman said editors are always "bending backwards" to show they are not biased.

BELVEDERE, Kent, England (CP) — A wasp that stung the driver of a streetcar here was blamed for an accident that resulted in nine persons being injured.

Napoleon and Uncle Elby

By Clifford McBride



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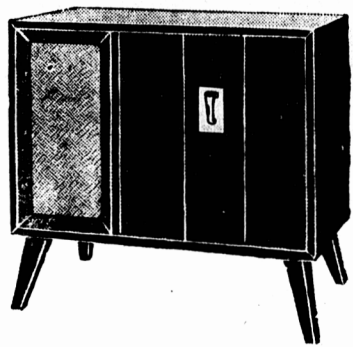
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Don't Forget Charlottetown's FESTIVE WEEK—JULY 1-7

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