

THE DAILY NEWS

THE LEADING NEWSPAPER IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA
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HEAD OFFICE

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DAILY EDITION

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 1916.

DEAR LIVING

The increased cost of living is not a new or a war problem, though the war has aggravated the situation tremendously. The cost of food and clothing has been gradually mounting year after year and, in most countries, out of proportion to the increase in wages. Methods of dealing with the problem have been discussed for years, and volumes of evidence have been compiled, but nothing effective in the way of action has been done.

The passing of an order-in-council by the Dominion government on November 10th brought matters to a head in Canada, and threw the onus of investigating upon the municipal councils, in that these bodies are invited to investigate any supposed combination to keep up or drive up prices in their various localities.

The municipalities are first to assure themselves that some specific article is being put up to an abnormal price, then they must examine the merchant as to the cost and selling prices; overhead charges, and the quantities of the article on hand. If there is any sign of a combination to force prices up, a report must be made to the Minister of Labor, who will report to the Attorney General, who will take action if he considers the circumstances warrant it. In the opinion of our city solicitor, this procedure will take about six months.

An investigation into the cost of most articles of food and wearing apparel will show that prices are being steadily advanced by the producer and the manufacturer, for some reason or another. Take shoes for instance. A baby's shoe which nine months ago cost

85 cents at the factory, costs \$1.35 today. A man's shoe which nine months ago cost \$3.35 at the factory, now costs \$4.45, and a lady's shoe which nine months ago cost \$3.10, today costs \$4.35. Any shoe dealer can produce his invoices to show that these figures are correct. Similar advances have taken place in most other commodities. What can any municipal council do in regard to the advance made by the producer and the manufacturer? What does the government propose to do, when it is shown that the increases in price are not made by the retailer, but by the man who produces the article?

The fact of the matter is that the problem is one which is world-wide. The commercial world today is a complex nervous system, controlled from the various nerve centres. Take flour, for instance. Liverpool is the centre of the wheat and flour market. If the people of England, or the Fiji Islands, are practically out of flour and shipments are not on the way, the market at Liverpool immediately records the fact by a jump in prices. This jump is world-wide. Though Canada may have enough wheat and flour on hand to feed her people many times over, it makes no difference, up goes the price on the Winnipeg and Chicago markets. The actual supply of a commodity in Canada has no bearing on the price paid for that commodity by the Canadians. The world's ratio of supply and demand sets the price. Suppose there are signs of an impending jump in wheat, John Smith, in Winnipeg, buys two million bushels which he has no intention of ever seeing, much less using; John Jones in

"Beans Is Beans"

—and the cost is soaring skyward with pork, beef, eggs and other foods until the cost of living represents an increase of from 30 to 50 per cent. While meats and vegetables are beyond the reach of many millions of families, Shredded Wheat Biscuit continues to sell at the same old price and retains the same high nutritive quality. Shredded wheat biscuit contains all the rich body-building nutriment in the whole wheat grain, including the bran coat, which is so useful in keeping the bowels healthy and active. Eat it for any meal with milk or cream or in combination with fruits.

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Chicago does the same, and Harry Smith, in Liverpool does the same. This same wheat is turned over several times within a few hours, each time at an advance, and the housewife in Prince Rupert is threatened with a dearer loaf because certain gentlemen with too little to do, and little desire for productive labor, prefer gambling with the food supply of the nation to working. All the municipal investigations in the world will not prevent these gentlemen from playing their game. Practically the same game is being played with most commodities, on a more or less extensive scale. What is the government going to do about the gambling in food stuffs? If necessary, the whole supply of wheat should be taken over by the government at a fair price; enough set aside for the needs of Canada, and the balance sent to the Allies who need it, at the same price.

The municipal investigation is merely a nibbling on the extreme edge of a vast circle, and will never cause the slightest tremor to penetrate to the centre in which the real trouble lies. It is just exactly as if a doctor attached a plaster to the skin of a patient to cure an internal cancer. The government must begin at the centre and work outwards to the edge, and the sooner it begins the better.

CITY OF PRINCE RUPERT

Court of Revision, Municipal Voters' List. TAKE NOTICE that a Court of Revision, consisting of His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Dybham and Alderman Casey, will sit on Monday, the Eleventh day of December, A. D. 1916, at 2:30 p. m., as a Court of Revision to correct and revise the list of voters for the year A. D. 1917. The Court will sit in the Council Chamber, City Hall, and any person having any complaint as to any name being improperly placed on said list, or improperly omitted therefrom, shall attend and lay his complaint.

MINERAL ACT

Rivermouth Fractional mineral claim, situated in the Skeena Mining Division of Cassiar District. Where located:—At the head of Alice Arm, adjoining the Rivermouth and Cariboo mineral claims.

TAKE NOTICE that I, G. R. Naden, Free Miners' Certificate No. 94,096B, acting as agent for Carrie Pratt, Free Miners' Certificate No. 93,917B, intend, sixty days from the date hereof, to apply to the Mining Recorder for a Certificate of Improvements, for the purpose of obtaining a Crown Grant of the above claim.

And further take notice that action, under section 85, must be commenced before the issue of such Certificate of Improvements. Dated this 23rd day of December, A. D. 1915. Apr. 2.

DENTISTRY

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DENTIST

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From the East.

Trains arrive Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 p. m.

For the South.

Tuesday, 5 p. m. Boat sails at 7 p. m.

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Stuart J. Martin

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