

Changing Economy

NEW PATTERN is developing in the economy of the country. The buyers' market has arrived in many lines. Supplies in wholesale warehouses have greatly increased. Prices of many commodities are holding firm. Prices of others are weak and coming down. Some plants are closed down. Others are working reduced time.

Business leaders and government officials are showing some concern about the trend although they are not admitting great alarm. The consensus is that there are still enough reservoirs of public or private buying power to prevent a depression. Nevertheless, there is less confidence.

A general buyers' strike, waiting for prices to fall further, could cause real trouble. Every lay-off of workers cuts down their buying of others' products. This process could pyramid dangerously.

Labor unions, as a general rule, are having to think twice about demands for further wage increases. Some are also asking for pension of welfare funds. Either wage increases or welfare funds add to the cost of business. In some cases the increases might be squeezed out of profits. In other cases, it would only mean an increase in prices, if possible, or a cut in working time and production. In such cases labor would be cutting its own throat by pushing new demands.

The responsibility of the employers is also great. If for any reason they may have priced themselves out of the market, the lean period is even more likely. Today, with a buyers' market returning, competition will force a holding down of prices. New ways will have to be found to produce or sell more efficiently.

There is no questioning the fact that the economy of this country has started down. It can bounce lightly and level off on a high plane of prosperity or it can go smash and scatter hardship and misery all around. The answer may depend on whether the labor unions and the employers use self-restraint and intelligence. Rigidity or selfishness in pushing short-range advantages will in the end result in large losses. Willingness to be reasonable now might well prove to have been a saving blessing in the end.

THE OLDER WORKER

THE GOOD QUALITIES of older workers in the manufacturing industries are fortunately coming into greater recognition. Besides the better appreciation they are winning for themselves, studies bringing out their merits are increasing. The older worker frequently offers more highly developed skills and mature judgment, the Monthly Labor Review of the United States Department of Labor points out. He tends to be more settled in his work and social habits.

The survey, made by a Bureau of Labor Statistics official, grants that some tasks require more strength or speed than the older worker has. The only disadvantage of older workers, it finds, is that their disabilities last longer once they are injured. But they are, on the whole, less likely to be absent as frequently and perhaps less likely to be injured than younger workers.

Discrimination against the older worker is based in part on lessened agility and stamina. In part it is unfair. It seems absurd to regard the man of 45 as old, as is often done in industry.

Fuller knowledge of the work performance of older workers needs to be obtained.

No data are available for the comparison of output by age groups. Longer years of work, when well done, will mean longer lives for many, innumerable happier homes, and a kindlier and stronger democracy.

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LETTERBOX

FIREMEN CANNOT STRIKE

Editor, Daily News:
With regard to your comment Wednesday that should wage conciliation proceedings break down between our Union and the city "strike or lock-out action would then be permissible," may we quote the following:
"Constitutional and bylaws of the International Association of Fire Fighters:
"Article III, Section II: We shall not strike or lock-out either cause nor direct any lock-out of employees and the Union shall neither authorize nor in any way encourage any strike, sympathetic strike, or suspension of work on the part of any employee or group of employees during the term of this agreement."
J. C. EWART, President
J. S. FURNESS, Secretary
Local 559, I.A.F.F.

PROUD INDIAN

Editor, Daily News:
Many hundreds of years ago we Indians enjoyed the natural resources of our own country. We also had freedom which one would think might still be our inheritance today.
Yet in a local hotel a boy I went to school with was asked for his "paper."
We people from Eastern Canada, who have votes which we have never yet used, are proud of being Indians and do not like being treated as tramps. What I would like to know is why any man in this country should be asked for his "papers." After all, this is OUR country.
LARRY BAIRD

Advertise in the Daily News!

RESERVE ARMY MEN RETURN

Six Prince Rupert army reservists returned Wednesday evening from a fortnight's winter training at Wainwright, Alberta, a journey which also included a four-day delay at Terrace and a plane flight for the final 95 miles of the journey home.

The group arrived in Terrace from Wainwright by train Sunday morning to find the rail line to Prince Rupert blocked with snow. It was not until yesterday that the weather would allow air transport to make a flight to bring them here.

The six reservists were William Finlayson, Jim Comer, Everett Pierce, Mike Sawka, Dennis Garon and Glen Olsen. Four others are still away, two having remained in Alberta and two visiting at Smithers.

Bad flying conditions delayed the flight from Terrace yesterday until 5 o'clock C.P.A. Pilot James Black was forced to fly high and detour out over Hecate Straits to reduce altitude through the overcast without danger. The trip lasted almost two hours and concluded with the plane's arrival at the Seal Cove air base at 8:45 after a landing in the harbor in near-darkness.

Dr. Fiddes Coming To Hazelton Soon

To serve throughout the summer, Dr. Fiddes, from Brandon, is expected in Hazelton in April to assume the duties of medical superintendent at the Wrinch Memorial Hospital. Dr. Fiddes, who plans to go to Angola, in Southwest Africa in the fall, has been in Skeena district before. Some years ago he spent a while in Port Simpson and Ocean Falls.

Expects Plague of Grasshoppers

REGINA—A warning that the heaviest grasshopper outbreak in ten years is expected in Saskatchewan this spring has been issued by J. C. Nollet, the minister of agriculture.

Reminiscences and Reflections

Local basketball players, in their flaming zeal, sometimes experience a "bang on the knee." It's just as well to bang somewhere else. The knee, as a seat of future trouble, can make a player wish he'd never heard of basketball. But, if you must invite grief, get a dependable protection and enjoy reduced risks—as well as expenses.

That election in Ireland was not without a few original touches. Things were thrown. Perhaps there was more force than accuracy, but that's neither here nor there. Anyway, a pleasant time was had. And, list to this. Among the objects hurled were oranges, with safety razor blades inserted in them. Now, by Jove, that's not cricket!

Great War No. 2 ended for people living in the East End of London, less than a couple of months ago. A German bomb, weighing 2,750 pounds, was removed from a back yard—a hair-raising job, and performed without mishap. For seven long years, anyone living in the neighborhood was a stranger to peace of mind. And some misguided folks would scheme for another war, with bigger and better bombs.

A wearisome business, this taking off and replacing of chains on automobile tires—and all because of this pesky, super-abundant snow. The old sleighs, with their gleaming runners, wouldn't do a thing like that. And speaking of sleighs and sleigh bells and keen, clear air reminds one of buffalo robes—the heavy, shaggy robes, giving not a not unpleasant odor.

Mails are coming through and, but for the twin afflictions of snow and slides where they have no business to be, would travel with more speed and regularly. But one should have dwelt in the north when Barney Mulvaney and his partner George Berneis supervised the movement of His Majesty's post, along the winding Skeena River in dead of winter. And sometimes there would be more than letters and papers. Six dogs panted their way over the ice to Hazelton, there to relax, to rest, to dine, to fight, or perhaps seek social diversion.

MANCHESTER, Eng. (P)—Exchange concerts in Britain and Holland are to be given by Manchester's Haile Orchestra and The Hague Orchestra in April.

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Making Orient Trip On H.M.C.S. Crescent

Petty Officer Richard James, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. R. James, 640 Seventh Avenue East, is making the trip to the Far East with H.M.C.S. Crescent which sailed recently from Esquimalt. He is pictured in the Victoria Times being farewelled by his wife and young son, P.O. James, who is now serving his eighth year with the Navy, was in Prince Rupert during the early years of the war.

Decree of divorce has been granted in a Vancouver court to Howard Guel, Holmes of Vancouver who was married in 1942 to Kathleen Gertrude Holmes of Smithers. Edward Carlson of Smithers was cited as co-respondent.

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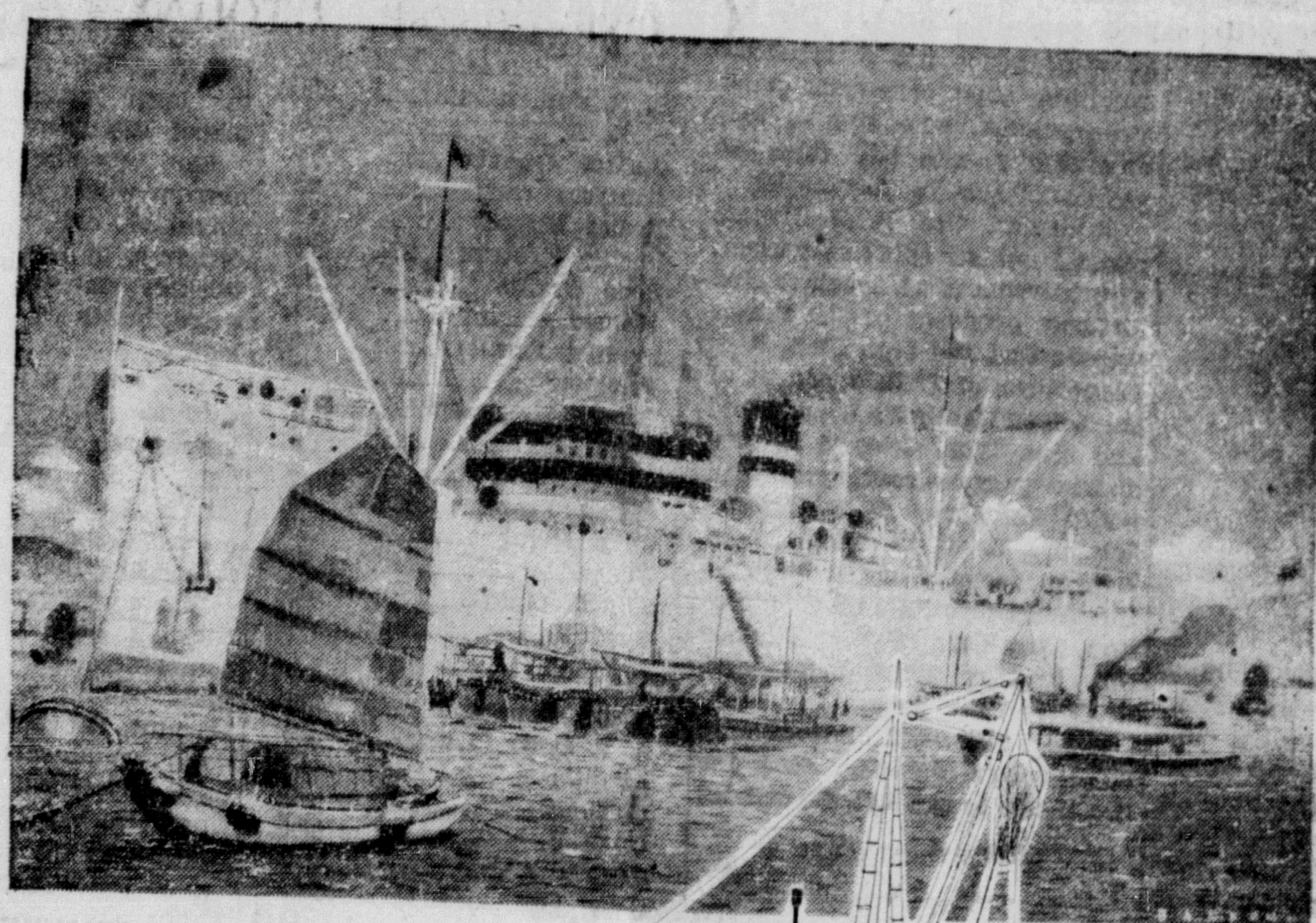
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