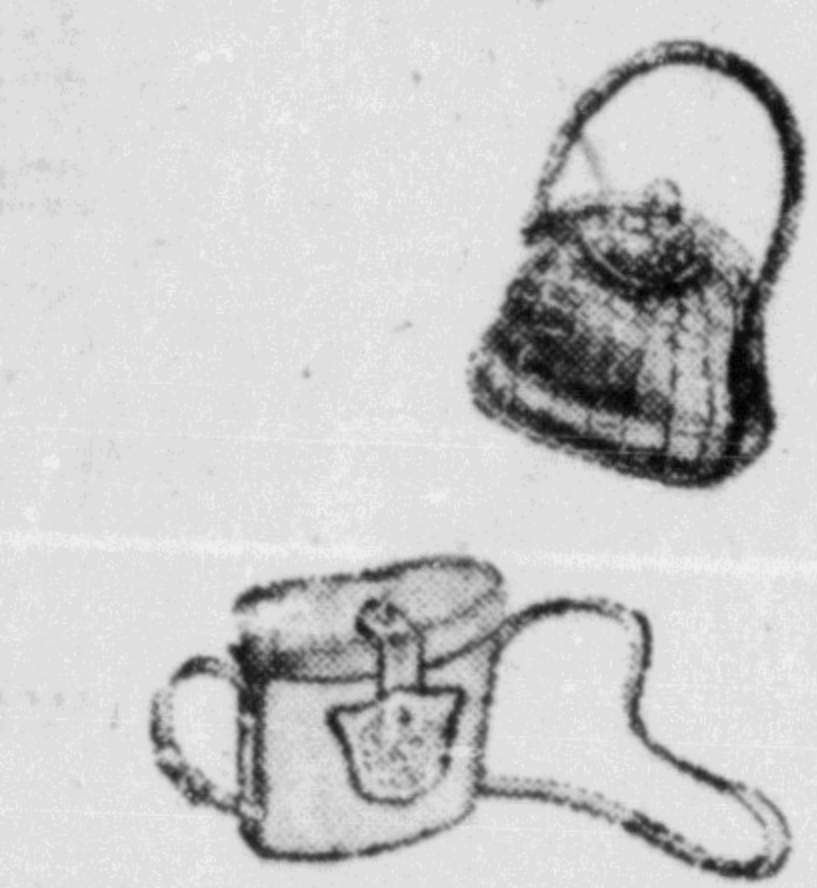




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Business In Canada Good in 1951

By FORBES RUHDE

Canadian Press Business Editor TORONTO — Business was good in 1951, or it was bad depending upon what merchants had on their counters or in their warehouses.

As far as the greater part of business and the vast majority of Canadians were concerned, it was good, with the country driving ahead on a vast program of expansion.

But for the man selling automobiles, household electrical appliances, some textiles and clothing lines, and for many men and women employed in making these things, business had plenty of troubles.

The troubles, however, did not arise from any lack of basic soundness in the economy but from the fact that Canadians went on a buying spree which the government felt it had to choke off to prevent prices going through the roof.

In the early year, every one was buying; the householder was raiding the shelves and the storekeeper was stocking them up, while the manufacturer was

making all he could to satisfy the surge of demand. Then, war savings came credit restrictions which increased down payments and monthly installments for goods bought on credit. The buying spree became a morning-after headache.

BUYING SLOWER

The restrictions came at a time when the average family, partly because of the high cost of living and partly because of heavy expenditures in the last few years, felt it did not have the immediate money to meet higher payments. And, once slowed down, people took a longer look at their pocketbooks before opening them up for anything.

The chief consolation offered the businesses that were hardest hit was that the buying spree couldn't have lasted anyway, and that perhaps it was better to have it stopped before it brought about worse trouble.

In any event the result was that, though dollar volume of sales may be up for the year because of higher prices, people have probably been buying less in the last nine months of the year than they did in the same period of 1950. And the fall-off was felt the worse because it hit particularly at certain industries and at centres where these industries are located.

With inventories up at the year end many business men are facing money troubles.

This seems to mean that there should be no real worry about shortages of goods in the coming year. It probably will mean, also, an extra-heavy rash of January sales.

This should have some effect in holding back the rise in prices which marked 1951. Nevertheless, potent forces continue to hold prices up.

For one thing there is a limit to the price inducements which merchants can offer, for they have paid high prices themselves and their operating costs are heavy.

As both business-sustaining and a price-sustaining force, there is the unprecedented expansion taking place across the country which keeps employment at a high level, despite pockets of unemployment here and there, and which keeps pouring new money into the economy. Coupled with this is a probably-record farm income.

New buyers will be coming to the market, and people who are not buying today will be returning to the counters and showrooms when some of their present obligations have been paid off.

However, there should be some influences this coming year to restrain the run-away price pattern of the last year.

For instance, rearmament was perhaps the major factor in slowing the early-year buying of 1950, by creating the idea that we were going back to something like wartime shortages.

This, under anything foreseeable, was an erroneous idea. Rearmament, under its present plans, is not likely to create any such shortages. It will take a growing slice out of our national production but it is nothing like full-scale war, and there is the fact that our ability to produce has been growing and will continue to grow.

Altogether, as we enter 1952, it seems a time for people to remain as calm as they can in a troubled world; and for business to apply what cures it can to present ills, with every prospect that, given no major international upsets, the times will continue "boom" times by comparison with almost any other time we have had.

LONDON (CP)—Exhaust steam from a power station will be used to heat about 3,200 apartments here, saving an estimated 11,000 tons of coal yearly.

DISTRICT NEWS

Indians Abuse Beer Parlors

FORT ST. JAMES.—Chief Antoine of the Fort St. James Indians has admonished his people to behave themselves when entering beer parlors. If they did this, they would save themselves a lot of trouble. There has been complaint of natives abusing the privilege which they have received of being allowed to enter the beer parlors at Vanderhoof. Several of them landed in jail.

Vanderhoof Has 1039 Population

VANDERHOOF.—While the official figures of the 1951 decennial census shows the village of Vanderhoof as having a population of only 638, a count taken by a committee of the Vanderhoof Board of Trade shows the actual population of Vanderhoof at the present time to be 1039, an increase of approximately 300 per cent from the 1941 census.

Excavation For New Warehouse

PRINCE GEORGE.—Work has been commenced on excavation for concrete footings of the proposed new warehouse and office building to be erected here on 1st avenue for McLennan, McFeely & Prior Ltd. This phase of the project is being undertaken by Dezell Construction Company.

Vancouver Has Civic Deficit

VANCOUVER.—Ald. George Miller, chairman of the civic finance committee, yesterday told city council that there would be a deficit of \$600,000 on last year's operations. He forecast further difficulties during the coming year.

After the meeting Ald. Miller suggested to newspapermen that there was only one way of meeting the situation—by increasing taxes.

Prince George NOTES

A new 1600 hp. Fairbanks-Morse diesel engine has been installed at the Prince George power house and it is believed there will be no recurrence of the recent power crisis when the city was without light for a while and had to be placed on a dim-out.

The per diem hospital rate for the Prince George Hospital has been increased from \$10.45 to \$11 and the co-insurance rate from \$3 to \$4.50 per day.

Apology From Bench in New Evil "Firewater"

REGINA (CP)—It isn't often that a judge apologizes in sentencing a prisoner. But that's what Chief Justice J. T. Brown of the Saskatchewan Court of King's Bench did recently in sentencing an Indian for manslaughter.

The Indian, Robert George Strongquill, killed his young wife after a drinking party—and the evidence was that two white men had supplied him with drink.

The episode touched off a discussion of the so-called "firewater evil" just when British Columbia and Prince Edward Island acted to admit Indians to beer parlors, and Manitoba had the question under consideration.

Two Saskatchewan cabinet ministers, clergymen, welfare workers and a number of the Indians themselves voiced varying views. Some saw the Indian situation simply as part of the greater problem of liquor as a whole. Others said it's time to quit treating Indians as children.

The question of admitting Indians to drinking establishments arose from a provision of the new Federal Indian Act. It gives the provinces a free hand in the matter. Previously only Indians who had forewarned their privileges as wards of the government had been able to enter beer parlors.

Alberta and Saskatchewan have announced they will not follow the example of B.C. and P.E.I. in taking advantage of the option.

Manitoba's special committee on liquor enforcement and administration has voted in favor of allowing Indians in drinking establishments but the provincial government has yet to make a final decision.

Mr. Justice Brown, in sentencing Strongquill, said the white man is "the tool and the instrument" that the liquor traffic uses to menace the sanity and sobriety of the Indian, to rob him and his home of his means of livelihood and bring his downfall.

"And as a member of that race," he said, "I apologize to you, an Indian, and to your race for this Trojan horse kind of gift which we have so generously and so heartlessly bestowed upon you."

RECALL INDIAN'S WORDS

In the comment that followed, words spoken by Chief Gambler of the Crees in signing a treaty with Queen Victoria's representatives 75 years ago were recalled:

"We don't want your firewater. It's bad. It makes us crazy." But one Saskatchewan treaty Indian, A. H. Brass, whose wife is a direct descendant of one of the Cree chiefs who signed the 1874 treaty, said he did not agree completely with the widespread belief that an Indian goes "crazy drunk" when he drinks.

He argued that if liquor restrictions on the reserves were removed at least the quality of the alcohol consumed would improve.

"Where liquor is illegal, people will drink hair tonic, shoe polish, or anything else they can get hold of," he said. "If drinking were allowed, the Indian could

Best Pictures of 1951

Wayne, Neagle and Guinness Best Box-Office Draws

From Hollywood, New York and London, polls, both official and unofficial, named 1951's outstanding actors, actresses and the best plays.

In Hollywood, straight-shooting, hard-riding John Wayne is reported to have again plugged his way to the top of the movie industry's money-makers.

For the second straight year the action star was named in the Motion Picture Herald's poll of theatre men as the star who brought the most money through the box offices in 1951.

The comedy team of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis placed second, replacing the No. 2 star last year, Bob Hope, who helped start them on their big-time careers.

Pals Hope and Bing Crosby, who placed second and third in 1950 and jockeyed for the top spot in previous years, dipped a few positions. Crosby was fifth and Hope sixth in this year's list.

No. 3 among the money-makers is Betty Grable. Two other veterans, Abbott and Costello, placed fourth.

Rounding out the top 10 are Randolph Scott, Gary Cooper, Doris Day and Spencer Tracy, in that order.

Across the water Anna Neagle and Alex Guinness were Britain's top movie box-office draws the past year, the London bureau of the American Motion Picture Herald announced.

The paper added that it was

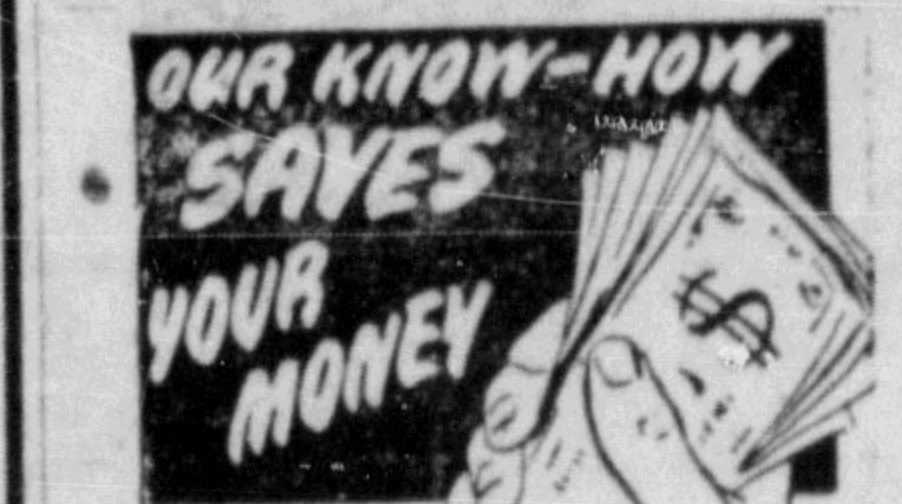
at least get alcohol intended for drinking.

Miss Marjory Bernard, director of the Regina Welfare Bureau, said she thought the evils of drinking among Indians were similar to those among whites—they varied with the individual Indian just as with any other race.

Attorney-General J. W. Cormack of Saskatchewan said: "Some people speak of the Bill of Rights when pointing out that Indians aren't allowed to drink. But the Indian chiefs are against any relaxation of restrictions."

Welfare Minister J. H. Sturdy attached some blame to the policy of segregating Indians on reserves where they lack opportunities to become integrated with the life of Canada.

"Wherever there are reserves there is an attendant misdeeds (half breed) problem—one cannot be solved separately from the other," the minister said.



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Oil Activity Hits Record

EDMONTON (CP)—A record of 108 oil and natural gas discoveries in western Canada in 1951 was reported Wednesday. Forty were oil strikes and 68 gas discoveries in new areas.

More than 200 oil companies poured more than \$200,000,000 into western oil and gas exploration, development and land, these sources said.

Best director—Ella Kazan for "Streetcar." Best actor—Arthur Kennedy as the blind veteran in "Bright Victory." Best actress—Vivien Leigh in "Streetcar."

Best foreign film—the Italian-made "Miracle in Milan." The elections are made annually by 15 critics representing nine New York daily newspapers.

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