

## SALES TAX IS HEAVY BURDEN ON CANADIANS

Levy, in Effect Since 1920,  
Denounced by Labor and  
Manufacturers.

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance  
OTTAWA, Canada, March 11.—Since 1920, Canada has obtained one-eighth to one-quarter of its tax revenue from a general sales tax. This tax has been a good revenue producer and has been kept in effect for that reason only.

Its injustices and defects are recognized by all political parties in the Dominion, and it is highly unpopular. But for the emergency need of revenue which has developed since hard times descended on the country, the Canadian sales tax would have been abolished last year.

The tax first was imposed in 1915, to raise funds for war purposes. It still is classed as an excise war tax in the statutes of Canada and in government reports.

While other war-time nuisance levies, such as taxes on receipts, telegrams, money orders, insurance policies, railway tickets and sleeping car berths, went into the discard, the sales tax stayed because it yielded a handsome revenue at small cost and inconvenience to the government.

### Abolition Long Demanded

Its abolition long has been favored, in theory at least, by both liberals and conservatives and of course by progressives who, like the American party of the same name, regard income taxation as the most equitable way of raising national revenue.

Among Canadian organizations on record for wiping out the sales tax are the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, which generally takes a conservative attitude on taxes; the Trades and Labor congress, many boards of trade and chambers of commerce, and all major farmers' associations.

Farmers and industrial workers oppose the tax as burdensome to citizens of average or small income. Organized business is against the tax on the ground that it discourages trade, discriminates unfairly between classes of goods, imposes an expensive job of accounting on business staffs, and often is evaded.

### Tax Once Lowered

The Liberal government, in power from 1921 to 1930 in Canada, first increased and then lowered the sales tax. It was a 2 per cent levy in 1920 raised to a peak of 6 per cent in 1923 to meet the heavy public expenditures of the post-war period.

After 1923, the tax was cut down steadily, one notch at a time, until in 1930 it was brought to the nominal figure of 1 per cent.

Through this period the Conservative opposition continually attacked the government for not abolishing the tax outright. Business welcomed the reductions, but repeatedly asked that they be speeded up. When the tax was cut to 1 per cent in 1930, the Liberals in effect promised to eliminate it the following year.

The Dominion elections of 1931 placed the Conservatives in power and the shrinkage of the government's income due to the depression obliged them to find immediately a source of extra revenue.

The sales tax was raised from 1 to 4 per cent on Prime Minister Bennett's motion, not because he liked the sales tax, but because, to quote his budget address, "in a period of great depression, departure from known practiced

## Learns to O. K. Food



Okay! Catsup! That's what the "winkum and blinkum" in the above photo means as Miss Helen Bonnell, 50 North Hawthorne lane, reports after her microscopic examination of foodstuffs in the new course offered by the botany department of Butler university.

The course is offered to acquaint students at the university with methods used by United States officials in enforcement of pure food laws.

Students expecting to work in canning factories during the busy season have enrolled for the course.

## FLEEING WOMAN SLAIN BY POSSE

Companion Is Shot in Duel  
in Dark Canyon.

By United Press  
SAN JOSE, Cal., March 11.—For half an hour, an unidentified man and woman crouched side by side in the darkness of Silver creek canyon, their rifles and revolvers spitting bullets at a posse which surrounded them.

When the guns finally were silent, early today, officers approached and found the woman dead and her

methods of taxation should be as slight as possible.

"In other words, there should be as little dislocation of business as possible and the taxes imposed should be those with which the people are familiar."

The sales tax in the Dominion is now a 4 per cent levy on both Canadian-made and imported goods. It is paid either by manufacturers or wholesalers on finished products only.

Formerly the tax was imposed on goods at all stages of manufacture, so that an article processed three times was taxed three times, while a similar article completely made in one factory was taxed only once.

This injustice has been remedied, but there still are enough inequalities in the tax to give it the reputation of a nuisance.

## MOTHER'S PLEA WINS CLEMENCY FOR WAR BABY

Youth, Held in Drug Store  
Theft, Born in German  
Siege of Paris.

A mother's love raised a curtain in criminal court today upon a drama beginning with the World war, and saved her son from prison.

She told of her son's birth in Paris, France, in the midst of the war, and found the road to freedom for her boy, Johnny Brixy, 17, of 2519 South Pennsylvania street.

Consequently, American probation methods are working for him, although he confessed a theft from a pharmacy.

With devotion born in hardship, the youth's mother related the story of her son's birth during the German siege of Paris, 1915.

### Extremely Nervous

She explained her boy was extremely nervous. Doctors lay this to the circumstances of his birth, she said.

Then, in broken English, she unfolded tragic details of the death of Private Brixy, the boy's father. He fell on the battlefield obeying the command: "When you can no longer advance, die where you stand!" Then the mother married Ora May, an American soldier, and came to America at the close of the war.

### Influence Lacking

"Judge, I want my boy to be good," she sobbed, "but he never has had the real influence of a father."

"I left my home in France to give him a chance in life, your honor—America has been my land of promise."

Judge Frank P. Baker lectured the youth and withheld judgment. Now Johnny must attend church, instead of serving a three to ten-year prison sentence.

## 'Ray! Queenie!

By United Press  
DETROIT, March 11.—Queenie, champion ostrich at the Belle Isle zoo, need never hide her head again. She has shattered all known records for ostrich egg laying, by laying two eggs in one day. Ordinarily, according to zoo director John Ireland, ostrich hens lay one egg every five days.

## 'INTERLUDE' TO BE CUT

Half of O'Neill's Five-hour Play Will Be Deleted in Film Version.

By United Press  
HOLLYWOOD, March 11.—Some 50 per cent of Eugene O'Neill's five-hour play, "Strife Interlude," will be deleted from the motion picture version.

About 40 per cent will be cut before filming, and it is expected that 20 to 25 per cent of the filmed product then will be cut.

## AMERICAN BIOGRAPHIES in Miniature



THOMAS A. EDISON  
(1847-1931)

## GRISWOLD TO VOTE AGAINST TAX ON SALES

Peru Congressman Favors  
Greater Levies on 'Pro-  
tected Rich.'

By Times Special  
WASHINGTON, March 11.—Representative Glenn Griswold (Dem.), of Peru, Ind., today joined the growing revolt against the sales tax, announcing he would not vote to tax any necessity of life and proclaiming his belief that funds should be raised by greater taxes on the "protected rich."

Griswold also announced he would vote against the provision in the revenue measure assessing a 10 per cent tax on admissions to amuse-

ments, unless the provision is amended to exempt admissions under 50 cents.

Griswold has been a consistent rebel this session. He voted against the foreign debt moratorium, and against the \$2,000,000,000 Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

"I am opposed to a tax on what a man eats or wears. I would be opposed to such a tax even in times of prosperity," Griswold said. "I am more opposed to it with 110 million of the population of this country suffering from the effects of a Hoover dejection and already uttering a cry of misery."

We make endeavor to give every service the careful attention it deserves. Our reputation has been built on our ability to care for even the smallest details.

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