

Waiting Table



Canada's Waitresses, 1867 – 1968

Transcribed and curated by Chris Willmore

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For Callie Hawe (literally¹)

Cover Image: Detail from a work pin in the collection of C. Willmore. Even after the period under study, ‘waitress’ and ‘waiter’ were different professions in many parts of Canada.

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¹ At the time of writing, Callie Hawe is an undergraduate student at the University of Victoria, writing their Honours thesis under my supervision. This sourcebook was created to help them research their topic, which is connected to the history of the serving profession in Canada.

“They help to drink the wine”² (Victoria, 1867)

Schultz v. Scammell – To recover the sum of \$40 for eight bottles of champagne alleged to have been drunk on the premises of the Eureka Concert Saloon³, and \$5 25 for 21 drinks at 25 cents each, all of which were alleged to have been supplied defendant. Mr. Bishop for plaintiff; defendant for himself.

His Lordship expressed surprise at the price charged for the wine, and said that it didn't look like depressed times, though such prices would very likely end in depression (laughter).

L. Davies testified that the bill was correct; defendant was waited upon by young “ladies;” the room was full of people; witness waited at the bar, and the young ladies would come out of the room in which the defendant and others were and tell witness to charge the wines and drinks to Mr. Scammell; defendant acknowledged the account but delayed payment.

Defendant admitted that part of the account was correct, but that he had ordered eight bottles, and objected to the prices charged.

Witness to the Court – The women are there as waitresses; they help to drink the wine (laughter); it is part of their duty; there are no lodgings for ladies.

H. W. Schultz proved that defendant had promised to pay the account.

“Under false representation”⁴ (Victoria, 1868)

Phillips vs Lush – This suit was for \$100 damages claimed by plaintiff in being brought up from San Francisco under false representation, to act as waitress at the Park Hotel⁵.

Mr. Sebright Green appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Robertson, instructed by Mr. Bishop, for defendant.

Mrs. Phillips, on giving her evidence, said she was a widow with one child, and was induced to call on Mrs. Lush in San Francisco, from seeing her advertisements in the local papers; after two interviews she entered into an engagement to come to Victoria, and arrived with Mrs. Lush and Ellen Connaway, another girl hired for the same establishment, by the Del Norte on the latter part of last September. On arriving, they were all immediately driven out in a carriage to the Park Hotel; she only served that afternoon and night, as she found the employment utterly different

² From Summary Court. (1867, February 12). *The British Colonist*, p. 3.

³ “GO TO THE EUREKA CONCERT ROOM, the most popular, fashionable and attractive place of resort in town, where in addition to the most attractive talent, the proprietors have engaged several efficient waitresses. Music and singing commences every evening at nine o'clock. Glover & Co., proprietors.” From *The British Colonist* for February 28, 1866.

⁴ From County Court. (1868, November 14). *The Weekly Colonist and Chronicle*, p. 5.

⁵ “The Park Hotel is now on the high road to fortune. We must not omit to notice the splendid suite of apartments which this hotel can boast of, and if we mistake not, those who have entered into the bonds of Hymen will soon discover the advantages here presented to them for the uninterrupted enjoyment of the rosy hours of the honeymoon.” OPEN HOUSE. (1864, September 6). *British Colonist*, p. 4. This article also spells ‘Lush’ as ‘Lusch’.

to what she expected, and for which she was engaged; two parties in San Francisco, a mother and daughter (names unknown) whom she met at Mrs. Lush's rooms in that town, recommended her to accept the situation, for she would find Mr. and Mrs. Lush, at all times, a father and mother to her. In consequence of what was expected from her at the Park Hotel, she left the next morning after breakfast without taking her clothes; she afterwards got them by paying \$33 50, through Mr. Darke, whom she consulted in reference to the matter, that amount being claimed in repayment of plaintiff's passage money.

Cross-examined – Gave her watch as security for \$33 50; went to Mrs. Bowman's for a few days, then she engaged herself with Mrs. Dr. Powell, at \$30 a month; had lived there until yesterday morning; left only because she wished to return to San Francisco. The respectable gentlemen of this city had cautioned her in the bar-room of the Park Hotel, about staying there if she wished to be considered respectable; she saw enough without such caution to determine her to leave; she positively refused to drink liquor with the gentlemen who called at the house; she drank some soda-water twice; the occupation was altogether mis-represented to her; she felt very wretched all the night she was in the house; she always lived in private service in San Francisco; never got less than \$25 a month; was quite certain she was engaged as waitress and chambermaid in a quiet respectable hotel.

Ellen Connaway, the other girl, who came up from San Francisco at the same time, corroborated the plaintiff's testimony in all its main features; acknowledged insulting language was used to herself on the first and only night of service in the Park Hotel; left with Mrs. Phillips the next morning as it did not at all agree with her expectations, and the service she engaged for.

Messrs. Drake and Bishop were respectively examined on different sides upon the matter of settlement; Mr. Drake acknowledged the agreement was canceled in his office, and that he told Mrs. Phillips it would be a useless operation to sue Mrs. Lush.

The Attorney for defendant at this stage of the proceedings, urged a non-suit on the grounds that a husband is not liable for his wife's actions beyond a natural domestic agency; and quoted in support of his views, the law of Torts, Chapter 20, section 2; next that no proof had been put before the Court that Mrs. Lush was really the wife of Mr. Lush, or that she acted with his instructions or concurrence in hiring these waitresses. Mrs. Lush was then called in evidence; she flatly contradicted the statement of the plaintiff that she had not been thoroughly informed of the exact work expected from her at the Park Hotel – but admitted she hired both women at San Francisco with the concurrence and under the instructions of her husband, Mr. Lush. Strong efforts were made to obtain from this witness an admission of the character of her house, but nothing was elicited, as usual, to prove its positive disrepute. The witness maintained that many respectable ladies called in the summer afternoons and took refreshment with their husbands.

At five o'clock P.M. Mr. Robertson addressed the Court on behalf of his client, and at six o'clock the jury returned a verdict of \$75 and costs in favor of Plaintiff.

“Seemed quite a smart girl”⁶ (Montreal, 1874)

[From the report for 1873/1874 of the Female Home Society, Montreal:]

No. 456 – A waitress, aged about 17. Seemed quite a smart girl, and had been seduced by the hostler in the hotel where she had served. Shortly after she arrived, she asked for pen and ink to write home, she said. I saw the letter addressed to her seducer, and told her I had to see what she had said. I was quite shocked at its contents. She told the man she had got into a “horrid-looking house, and oh, Pete, if you only saw the bed-room I was taken into, you would not put your horses into it.” This of our beautiful sunny bed-room with its row of little iron bedsteads and pink coverlets, that the girls take delight in keeping tidy.

She confessed she only said it to make him think she was miserable, so that he would send her money. This is often the way evil reports get abroad. The girl was so ashamed at being found out that she, being a Roman Catholic, went to the nunnery. I often thought of her, and was really glad to meet her at the depot, getting a ticket to go home to her mother.

It is quite a common thing for these women to tell tales of want and ill-treatment, in order to excite pity, and *get money*, that is the chief thing.

“To procure servants”⁷ (Winnipeg, 1881)

Mr. A. Taylor returned [to Ottawa] yesterday from Winnipeg. He has been entrusted by several residents of that city to procure servants, of whom he wants four waitresses, one cook, three housemaids and two kitchen girls. Salaries paid range from \$12 to \$15 for the servants, and \$25 to \$35 for cooks.

“A villain of the blackest dye”⁸ (Toronto, 1881)

[CONTENT WARNING – DRUGGING, SEXUAL ASSAULT]

A charge is proffered against a citizen of this city, [Toronto,] which, if true and of which there is very little doubt, stamps him as a villain of the blackest dye. The story, so far as can be learned, is as follows:-

Miss Mary Grasby, a young lady of 19 years, is a waitress in a place near the city. Last Monday night Miss Grasby took passage on one of the steamers to come into the city to visit her married sister, Mrs. Sutherland. While she was seated in the cabin, an official of the boat approached her, and made indecent and improper proposals. He taunted her with her poor clothes and dependent position. He offered to give her a quantity of jewelry, \$10 in cash and a cheque on the bank for \$100, telling her what a splendid thing it would be if she had a bank account and could draw upon it whenever she liked. He pressed his suit vehemently and with all the

⁶ From Female Home Society. (1874) Report of the Female Home Society, p. 8.

⁷ From HOME AGAIN. (1881, March 19). *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 4.

⁸ From TORONTO. (1881, June 17). *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 1.

ardor of unbridled desire, but Miss Grasby repulsed him, saying that a married man like he was should be ashamed to make any such proposal to her. Upon being refused several times the man drew a handkerchief from his pocket and pressed it over Miss Grasby's nose and mouth. She immediately became unconscious, and it is said the fiend then accomplished his diabolical purpose.

“Should waitresses be attractive?”⁹ (Toronto, 1882)

Certain of those shrieking sisters who are the worst enemies of the woman's rights movement, which they caricature and disgrace, have been indulging in very foolish utterances as to the impropriety of lady waiters at restaurants making themselves as attractive as possible. We believe that if not the whole duty of woman, at least an important part of it is to make herself as attractive as possible, and we repudiate the insinuation that in an honest man's pleasure in beholding a pretty face or figure there can be any possible disrespect or impropriety. And we are glad to feel assured that none of the young lady waitresses of this city will act on the advice above quoted. As a class we have heard complaints, more especially at the more high-toned restaurants, of the thinness of the beef, of the tardiness of attendance, but we never expect anyone to forward to this paper a wail over the want of attractiveness, and of the most conscientious efforts to make the most of it, from the topmost bang to the ultimate boots.

“She appealed for protection”¹⁰ (Toronto, 1883)

W. H. Mumford, a salesman, has been paying his addresses to a waitress in the Shades Restaurant, Court street, and yesterday he drove to the hotel where he stopped, telling them he had just got married and that he and his wife were going to New York. No sooner had he entered the hotel than the supposed wife (the waitress) jumped out of the cab and ran back to the restaurant, where, in an excited manner, she appealed for protection. She was sent to her mother's, where she fainted. Mumford, on finding the bird flown, got terribly excited, and it is supposed he has gone to New York. The question is raised as to what caused the wife to act so peculiarly. Mumford was left a lot of money by a dying relative in England recently, and has been spending it recklessly.

⁹ SHOULD WAITRESSES BE ATTRACTIVE? (1882, October 7). *The Toronto World*, p. 2.

¹⁰ From FROM TORONTO. (1883, October 22). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

“A hot bed of vice”¹¹ (Donald, 1887)

[CONTENT WARNING – SEXUAL ASSAULT]

Donald [British Columbia] has long had the unenviable notoriety of being the most disorderly and immoral town on the C.P.R. west of the summit of the Rockies. As the headquarters of construction during the building of the road it was perhaps to be expected that rowdyism and lawlessness should prevail. Still the presence of a contingent of Northwest Mounted Police, even in the worst times, exercised a restraining influence, but when that force was withdrawn and the preservation of order devolved on the Provincial Government of British Columbia, the utter inefficiency of the local administration became apparent. The town became divided into two distinct parts, that on the east being the site of the residence of the C.P.R. officers and their families, while the western portion of town was inhabited by saloon keepers and prostitutes of the lowest class. There are now twelve or more licensed saloons besides a number of unlicensed dens in which drink is sold. Two of the saloons were and are kept by women of ill-fame – “Mother McKenzie” and “French Nell” – and a most infamous house kept by a notoriously bad character, J. K. Ritchie, has been for some time licensed as a saloon and dance room. No respectable woman cared to go into the western portions of Donald, as flaunting about the streets might be constantly seen at all times of the day some of the inhabitants of the brothels located there. A strong remonstrance was inserted in the report of the grand jury in October last calling attention to the condition of the place, but no notice was taken by the authorities of the remonstrance.

But “it’s a long lane that has no turning,” and the respectable portion of the inhabitants were rejoiced to hear that on Monday, the 5th inst., a constable was sent from Revelstoke, some 80 miles from Donald, to arrest J. K. Ritchie on a charge of rape. The case has created much excitement and deep indignation. From the evidence given by Mary E. Walters it appears that on the 10th Nov she was engaged at an employment office in Liverpool. A Mrs. Haynes is the lady (?) superintendent, the office is at 135 Dale street. It was represented to Mary Walters that she was engaged as domestic servant and waitress at a hotel. Her passage was paid out and her wages were to be at the rate of \$15 a month. On her arrival at Donald she was met by Ritchie and taken to his house. He soon gave her to understand what she was expected to do, and informed her she was not to take less than from \$20 to \$25 from anyone, that she would get a per centage on all dances and drinks, in fact that she was to act in every way for the good of the house. The poor girl, fresh from England, without a friend in a distant country, found herself in this den of infamy, to which a license had been granted by Stipendiary Magistrate Vowell. The alleged rape took place at 7 a.m. the morning after the young woman arrived in the house. She had been kept up all night attending to the rowdy customers of the “hotel.” As soon as Mary Walters could get out of the house, about 9 o’clock, two hours after the attempt had been made upon

¹¹ From A HOT BED OF VICE. (1887, December 16). *The Daily Free Press (Winnipeg)*, p. 4.

her, she made her way to the railway station, leaving all her baggage at Ritchie's in her anxiety to get away. She made her way without delay to Victoria and informed the superintendent of police what had happened to her. The police department took the matter up, wired to arrest Ritchie, and sent Mary Walters to Donald with Mr. Hussey, Government agent, to conduct the prosecution.

The case took three days' hearing, and on Monday morning the prisoner was brought before S. M. Vowell and duly committed for trial at the next assizes. To the surprise of many, Ritchie has been admitted to bail. Another girl arrived at Donald from England on Friday last and is at present at Ritchie's saloon.

A petition most influentially signed by a large number of the inhabitants of Donald has been presented to his honor, Judge Walkem, who is to preside at the county court held at Donald on the 19th inst., praying him to immediately cancel the licenses held by Ritchie, and calling attention to the other saloons in the town which are conducted in a loose and disgraceful manner, and are prejudicial to public morality.

The Rev. Canon Cooper attended the hearing of the case, *Regina v. Ritchie*, on behalf of the Church Emigration society of England, and he has sent a strong recommendation to the committee of that society at home, urging them to take steps to prevent the emigration of young girls, except through well known and duly authorized organizations. The respectable inhabitants of Donald have come to a determination, that no longer will they submit to the condition of things that has brought such discredit on the town. Many men with wives and families justly refuse to bring up their children amidst the moral filth and pollution that derives its continued existence either from the apathy of inefficiency of the local authorities. Public opinion, now aroused, will not be quelled until the Augean stable is cleaned out, and common decency and public morality be respected.

“The Donald assault case”¹² (Donald, 1887)

[CONTENT WARNING – SEXUAL ASSAULT]

Mrs. Walters, in her evidence, gave an account of her various experiences since she left England up to the time of her leaving Donald for Victoria, after the assault complained of had been committed.

It appears that she left Dublin, her native place, in September last for Liverpool, with a desire of gaining higher wages, and in that city was engaged by a labor bureau to go out to Donald, B.C., as a waitress in a hotel, the intermediate cabin passage being advanced by her prospective employer, J. K. Ritchie. Fifteen dollars per month was to have been her salary, and this seemed to the innocent Irish maiden, for she was not married then, a handsome amount.

She took passage, and while on the way out became acquainted with her present husband, a young Englishman bound for California. The acquaintance ripened into an engagement and when they landed in New York they were married.

¹² From THE DONALD ASSAULT CASE. (1887, December 15). *The British Colonist*, p. 1.

On the ship was a Mrs. Stewart, who was also engaged to come to the same town and to the same house, but her actions during the trip on the steamer caused Mrs. Walters to sun her society. She and her husband and Mrs. Stewart came on the same train to Donald, and on the way some rumors were heard by Mrs. Walker about the rough character of the house in which she was going to become a domestic. Not knowing that the marriage had canceled all previous engagements, she decided to carry out her six months' agreement, thinking she could protect herself from insult.

Her husband wanted to remain with her, but this she overruled, and when Donald was reached, she and Mrs. Stewart were met by Ritchie, and taken to the hotel – a dance-house of the vilest description. The inmates and surroundings aroused her suspicions and the latter were only too well confirmed before sunrise. After supper, she was taken into the dance-hall and introduced to some of the employés and frequenters, and during the long night she was compelled to serve drinks and dance with the roughest kind of men, who made her propositions of a lewd nature, all of which she stoutly refused. One of the men, remarking the evident respectability of the young woman, endeavored to tell her of the nature of the place, and Ritchie, having seen him talking and suspecting the purport of the conversation, “fired” the wood-be friend out; not, however, before he had told her that he would assist her to escape.

The dance was kept up until after seven o'clock in the morning, and about the only man who danced with her that did not make any improper advances to her was the colored musician who furnished the music. Ritchie made several pretexts of showing Mrs. Walters the way out of the house, and at last succeeded in getting her into a small room at the end of the dance-hall and away from the sleeping apartments. He here made proposals which the woman rejected, and she endeavored to escape. Her assailant tripped her and she fell down, and when she got on her feet, again threw her down, placed his hand over her mouth to keep her from shouting, and accomplished his vile purpose, she being too much worn out from the exertions of the long night to resist.

Ritchie left her, and she went to her room, got a couple of envelopes, and said she was going to post them. Ritchie would not allow her to go, and she apparently submitted, but after he had gone to bed, she succeeded in getting to the street and walked down the track toward the station, meeting on the way the man who had warned her. He ascertained the cause of her appearance at that hour, and took her to the station, and paid her way to Victoria, accompanying her, and delivering her to her husband.

The matter was laid before Supt. Roycraft, and after sifting the authority the authorities decided to prosecute Ritchie, the injured woman reluctantly consenting to prosecute.

“A bawdy house raided”¹³ (Victoria, 1888)

Last night about 11:30 o'clock Sergeant Sheppard, in company with Officers Lavin and Lindsay, raided a house of ill-fame at No. 10 Broad street, kept by a woman named Kate Marbles, on a warrant sworn out before Mr. T. Shotbolt, charging the woman with inveigling a girl named Lizzie Rogers into the house for immoral purposes. The officers arrested the mistress, Lizzie Rogers, and three other women, and locked them up for the night and they will appear before Judge Richards this morning, although the girl claims that she went into the house of her own accord. She has been engaged as a servant in several families since her arrival from Liverpool nine months ago, and was recently employed at the Commercial hotel as a waitress. She is a good looking girl, about 20 years of age, and her conversation is in striking contrast with her more fallen companions, one of whom remarked on the way to the cells, “This puts me in mind of old times in New York when they used to march us eighteen deep to prison.”

“Paying attention to a waitress”¹⁴ (Toronto, 1890)

[CONTENT WARNING – ASSAULT WITH BOILING WATER]

John Bruce, Toronto, who drives a hack, has been paying attention to a waitress in the restaurant at 53 York street, named Mary Barnett, who claims that Bruce betrayed her. While getting supper, the girl threw a dipper of boiling water into Bruce's face, scalding him seriously, destroying one eye and perhaps the other.

“The cook and the waitress”¹⁵ (Winnipeg, 1891)

[CONTENT WARNING – VIOLENCE AND ABUSE]

The session of the city police court this morning was more than usually interesting, though many old and young loungers were disappointed. Magistrate Wolf presided and W. B. Canavan was for a defendant. Both are noted for repartee, and they good-naturedly indulged in their favorite pastime to the delight of the large audience.

The case was a charge of assault proffered by Rose Merchault against John Kelch. The parties to the suit were engaged as waitress and cook in a hotel, and the row arose over an order given for a guest's breakfast yesterday morning. The complainant said she ordered a mutton chop, but on returning for it shortly after the cook told her no order had been given, and then grabbed her by the throat, nearly choking her, and also striking a blow at her head. The defence alleges that the plaintiff was under the influence of liquor and insolent, and denies either choking or striking the young woman, merely placing one hand on her shoulder and directing

¹³ From A Bawdy House Raided. (1888, June 15). *The Victoria Weekly Colonist*, p. 3.

¹⁴ From John Bruce. (1890, April 1). *The Guelph Daily Advertiser*, p. 3.

¹⁵ From THE COOK AND THE WAITRESS. (1891, January 9). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4.

her out of the kitchen. A couple of other waitresses were called as witnesses, who corroborated the story of the complainant, though acknowledging she called the cook a liar in language more emphatic than polite.

During cross examination of one of the latter, Mr. Canavan endeavored to substantiate his client's assertion that the young woman was under the influence of liquor. He met his Oliver. The witness said the plaintiff had not been drinking, and added, "I do not think any gentleman would say so." The other witness seemed desirous to make additional charges against the defendant, and remarked that the cook had struck her on two occasions, and at another time had spilled soup over her dress. This gave the magistrate and counsel an opportunity for banter, the former closing with the remark that "she was, at least, in the soup." The cross-examination of the defendant by the plaintiff was unique, if not strictly legal.

"Did you say you did not choke me?" asked the young woman.

"Yes," replied the cook.

"Well, I guess you did. Did you say that you sent me to the office?" was the next shot.

"Yes," again came from the defendant.

"You didn't. You say I was under the influence of liquor?"

"Yes."

"No siree. I have not drunk any liquor for two weeks."

At the conclusion of the evidence his worship considered the facts were in favor of the complainant and fined Kelch \$5 and costs.

"Concerning the waitress"¹⁶ (Halifax, 1891)

The good, old-fashioned waiter of our youth is every day moving nearer and nearer towards the setting sun, who was our deepest sympathy in consequence. Enterprising restaurant proprietors are now going for the waitress, presumably under the impression that the diner approaches his meal with a better appetite when his plate is daintily put before him by a golden-haired damsel with a diamond ring and a sore eye, than when it is abruptly planked down in front of him by a greasy little man with a patent India-rubber shirt front that never needs washing – and never gets it.

There is one thing about the waitress, though, and that is the masher. It is not necessarily that the smart young man feels that his social position is considerably elevated when he can demonstrate to a whole roomful of people that he is actually on speaking terms with the magnificent creature who generally sacrifices her family dignity by serving soup. There is business in the attentions of the masher. In return for the privilege of being allowed to address him by his Christian name, the waitress condescends to supply him with the best cut and all the available gravy; and the assuming little man, with no claims to personal beauty and an ordinary respect for

¹⁶ From Golsworthy, A. (1891, May 29). CONCERNING THE WAITRESS. *Our Society*, 1(26), p. 12. Written by Arnold Golsworthy (1865 – 1939).

public propriety, gets a rather cold time of [it]. I am not exactly what you would call a paragon of loveliness myself; and so I know what I'm talking about. My attainments are of a far more solid kind. I have acquired the rudiments of history and geography and freehand drawing, and I have been as far as decimal fractions in arithmetic. So you see, I'm not like an ordinary person. There was a time, it is true, when after a visit to my customary restaurant, I used to lie awake at night with a remorseful feeling of guiltiness, and shiver with apprehension lest the young lady who had served my dinner should go home in a fit of frenzy and hang herself in the wash'us, because I had willfully ignored her friendly advances. But since I acquired my deep and exhaustive knowledge of the world a few weeks back, the dreams of my youth have fled.

I feel that I am called upon to tender a few words of humble advice to the waitress of to-day. It is true that I have never been a waitress myself for family reasons; but I have had a very fair experience as a diner. There have been times when I have had as many as three dinners in one week, so of course I'm a sort of authority on the subject. There, if her ladyship will condescend to accept a few points from a young man old enough to be her third cousin, I will respectfully rise to remark.

In the course of your experience, madam, as waitress at any large establishment, it is just possible that in the pressure of business you will be asked to wait at table. I know it's an awful bore, of course, and so inconsiderate towards a lady of your social position and high attainments; but, really, it can't be helped. If the first customer should happen to be a young man with patent leather boots, and a girl's brooch in his cravat, your business will be to spend a few moments in front of the mirror, just to see that your hair is fixed on securely. Then you go up in the corner with another young lady and giggle consumedly, in the hope that the young man will volunteer some funny remark. By this time the place is beginning to fill; and you accordingly sail gracefully towards the young man to see what he wants, casting a look of withering contempt on the crowd of rude people who are trying to draw your attention from him by coughing and clinking their glasses. After you have exchanged the usual civilities, tell the young man that you went to the theatre last night, that you're not quite sure where you will be on Sunday, and that he mustn't be rude. After which you supply him with an underdone sausage and some cold bread; and then you go down and tell one of the other girls what he said, and giggle some more.

Just about this time the little man in the opposite corner with no moustache and no gold ring on his finger, who has been rapping the table till he's nearly blue in the face, will rudely ask why he isn't being attended to. Walk over to him leisurely with a scornful air and ask him if he is speaking to you. This witty remark will of course annoy him, and make the young man laugh [as] judiciously as a mouthful of sausage permits. While the old fellow is giving his instructions, you do your best not to hear a word he says, but conduct a correspondence over his shoulder by special telegraph to the nice young man. Having received your order, you leave the little man abruptly without a word, and the next time you are passing you bring him a plate of soup. He will then tell you that he ordered a chop. They always do this – so rude of them, isn't it? You can't exactly call him a liar, because that wouldn't become a lady

of your standing; but you indignantly deny the chop theory all the same. In removing the soup, do your best to spill a little on his coat-sleeve for his impudence in controlling you, and then make a point of seeing that he gets the homeliest and most consumptive-looking chop you've got. Why, bless your heart, a waitress's life wouldn't be worth living if you didn't stand on your rights sometimes!

“Occupation for young girls”¹⁷ (Toronto, 1891)

It is not difficult for girls to get employment in Toronto. Many and varied are the situations daily offered, yet now and again there are indications that there is a large class of young women who prefer any kind of employment to that of household service. Many are the families in Toronto who can testify to the difficulty of obtaining good servants and nurse-maids. Quite a different state of affairs exists in regard to any employment which gives an opportunity for seeing something of “life.” The other day King-street was half blocked in front of a restaurant by applicants for the position of waitress at the exhibition. The applicants were tenfold more than those required.

“A sort of crude practical joke”¹⁸ (Vancouver, 1891)

Simpson and McIntyre, the two men who were arrested on Wednesday for creating a disturbance in the dining-room of the Merchant's Exchange, appeared this morning before Mr. I. H. Hallett, S. M., and after the evidence was heard, were dismissed. It seems that they went in there for breakfast yesterday morning, and tried to get away without paying for what they had. The waitress refused to let them leave until they had paid, when one of them made use of some grossly insulting and indecent language. The police were then called in. The only by-law covering the case is pronounced defective and no conviction could be obtained. The men, who were represented by Mr. John Boulton, seemed to enjoy their visit to the Police Court very much and treated the case as a sort of crude practical joke. Witnesses of their ungentlemanly conduct regret that they were not well “sinched.”

“An elopement”¹⁹ (Vancouver, 1891)

It is currently reported that an hotel man has skipped out with a girl who was a waitress in the hotel and has left his wife and family behind him. He had for some time been paying marked attention to this pretty young lady and several times the boarders were annoyed by rows between the wife and the waitress. The hotel is now in other hands.

¹⁷ From OCCUPATION FOR YOUNG GIRLS. (1891, September 8). *The Toronto World*, p. 3.

¹⁸ From The By-law Defective. (1891, September 17). *The Daily World (Vancouver)*, p. 8.

¹⁹ From An elopement. (1891, December 18). *The Daily World (Vancouver)*, p. 5.

“A pleasing presentation”²⁰ (Vancouver, 1892)

Miss Elsie Giffin, who has for some time back, occupied the onerous position of waitress at the Ottawa house, Pender street, and who is about to sever her connection with the hotel was last evening presented with the following testimonial signed by the proprietors on behalf of the guests:

To Miss Elsie Giffin: We, the guests of the Ottawa house, learning that you have expressed a desire to resign your position as waitress in the dining room of this house, embrace this opportunity of tendering our sincere regret at your determination and likewise to utter the hope that you may yet change your decision and still continue to occupy the position you have so efficiently and so acceptably occupied for some time back. Should you, however, adhere to your determination, you will carry with you the best wishes of the guests whom you have so willingly and agreeably attended upon since your connection with the house, for your future welfare and prosperity. Permit me, on behalf of your many friends, to present you with this token of their respect and esteem and to wish you every happiness and prosperity in the future.

“Female labour in Ontario”²¹ (1892)

Numbers of girls are employed as waitresses at restaurants, lunch parlours and coffee houses. In these the hours are irregular owing to the nature of the business. In those which supply meals in the evening, the girls are generally divided into two sections. One half begin work at eight in the morning and leave off at six or seven in the evening, the other half begin at half-past nine or ten in the morning and leave off at nine or ten in the evening, but all remain on Saturday evening. Where noon meals are given the girls have a lunch before noon and dine at three in the afternoon. Some day restaurants close at six, and then the girls do not remain in the evening at all. In some of the coffee houses a relief corps is employed during the busiest part of the day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., when the regular staff is not sufficient for the work. On the whole the hours are not excessive, for the work is not continuous and the labour is for the most part unskilled. Meals are always given to the girls at their place of business at whatever hours are most convenient, for, owing to the nature of the employment, the ordinary meal hours are not possible. [...]

As waitresses in restaurants and coffee houses girls receive \$2 and \$3, and are given their meals besides, except on Sunday. Those employed from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. receive \$1.50 and their dinner. No special training is necessary, but a girl is required to be neat, quick and able to write a good hand to take down orders.

²⁰ From A Pleasing Presentation. (1892, September 8). *The Daily World (Vancouver)*, p. 8.

²¹ From Scott, J. T. (1892). *The Conditions of Female Labour in Ontario*. Toronto: Warwick & Sons. Written by Jean Thomson Scott (1866 – 1939).

“Claimed as due for wages”²² (New Westminster, 1896)

New Westminster, March 11. – [...] The County court docket this session is an unusually lengthy one, made up of small cases. [...] Gavin vs. Hughes is an action brought by a waitress, Miss Gavin, against her employer, Henry Hughes, of the Hotel Douglas restaurant, to recover an amount claimed as due for wages. The defendant avers that the amount due was tendered the girl and declined or returned. Judgment was reserved.

“Sent back to Goderich”²³ (Windsor, 1896)

WINDSOR, Ont., December 1 – Elijah Kidd, who was arrested several days ago on a warrant from Goderich charging him with obtaining money under false pretences, was sent back to that place yesterday, as was Julia Card, the 17-year-old girl with whom he eloped. It has been learned that Kidd had a wife in Toronto, an English waif who had been brought out by Dr. Barnardo and whom he married before she was 16. They had three children, two of whom died. Then Kidd left his wife, claiming that she was unfaithful, and she had to work as a waitress in a restaurant, to earn her living. Ten days ago she died in a Toronto hospital.

“Music in hotels”²⁴ (Vancouver, 1897)

A special meeting of the Licensing Board was held in the Mayor’s Office this morning. Mayor Templeton said that at a previous special meeting they had discussed the free music question, as they had heard that girls were being brought in under false pretenses. They had heard what these girls had to say. They had asked the inspector to look into the matter and make a report.

Commissioner Shelton asked if the girls were not brought in in contravention of the act.

The Mayor said no, while they had civil rights no criminal action could be taken.

Commissioner Layfield pointed out that they had nothing but the girls’ word. One said that she was engaged to work in a first-class hotel and to serve beer. One person might call it a first-class hotel and another a very moderate one.

The inspector said that she found that there was no hotel.

Commissioner Shelton said that the whole thing was a breach of contract.

Commissioner Layfield pointed out that there was nothing to show that the girls were brought here for immoral purposes.

The inspector read declarations from girls saying that they were engaged to wait on table, but when they arrived they were told that they would have to wait on

²² From THE ROYAL CITY. (1896, March 11). *The Daily World (Vancouver)*, p. 4.

²³ From Sent Back to Goderich. (1896, December 2). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 8.

²⁴ From MUSIC IN HOTELS. (1897, April 5). *The Daily World (Vancouver)*, p. 5.

tables and serve drinks, receiving 10 per cent of the cash receipts in a room where amusement took place, sparring exhibitions, etc. The houses were considered not to be respectable places. Another girl said that when she reached the house she saw another girl drinking at the bar and punching a man. These declarations applied to the Rossland.

The inspector then read his report. At the Rossland there were rooms with beds in them and mattresses, but no blankets. There was a room with a stage in it. Here beer was served. The ventilation was bad. There was a dance until late on Saturday morning. There was a free fight. Those present were principally waitresses from other houses, pimps and tin-horn gamblers. There was another fight on Saturday night. He intended to prosecute the parties. The difficulty was to prove that the girls were immoral. During the fight on Saturday night, one of the girls was knocked down insensible twice. This girl and the man who had struck her had left town for New Westminster to get married. The Poodle Dog has 17 rooms, etc., there are no blankets on the beds. A room is used for music. He was told that girls sat around in the afternoons with men. There was the requisite number of bedrooms, but not properly furnished, but the blankets, etc., it is claimed, are in the house.

Commissioner Shelton said that the inspector should notify all these houses that he would oppose their license.

The inspector went on to report that the Grotto had 17 rooms, some of which were used by the serving girls. There was a room for amusements. Drinks were served in it by girls. He could not see that there was any disorderly conduct, as Mr. Gold was very strict. Nobody but the girls were allowed up stairs. The Rathskiller has rooms; down stairs there is a bar-room, where there is a platform for amusements. Upstairs the house was well appointed. They have sparring exhibitions and the place is overcrowded every night. It would be dangerous in case of a panic, in case of fire, or otherwise. The doors opened inward.

Commissioner Shelton said that it just resolved itself into the question whether they were going to have a music hall or not.

The Mayor said what was wanted was a by-law which could be put in use if necessary.

Resuming, the inspector said that the Grand had closed its music room. It was the least objectionable of all. As regards the Dougall house, he had seen a girl drinking at the bar. There was a small dining room at the back of the kitchen. Upstairs the house was well furnished. The dining-room proper was being used for amusements.

After further discussion, Commissioners Shelton and Layfield said that it remained to see whether the City Council would give a license for a good music-hall.

The inspector pointed out that under the present system, many young men were going astray, frequenting these places six nights a week and going home at all hours. These girls were the attractions, and they were seen going home from rooms in the early morning. A strong fact was the point, the Mayor said, that these hotels could get no girls in town to work in them, and the women had to be imported. This, he thought, was a strong point which showed what kind of places they were.

“Shot dead by her lover”²⁵ (Vancouver, 1897)

[CONTENT WARNING – MURDER-SUICIDE]

On Monday evening Kitty Askew, waitress, was shot dead by her lover, Wm. J. Immel, who immediately thereafter killed himself. Jealousy was apparently the cause of the tragedy. Kitty Askew was a step-daughter of H. Condron, who kept a little fruit and candy store near the Market Hall until a few months ago, and who was an applicant for the position of chief of police. He and Kitty’s mother are now living at Port Haney. She has lived there for about ten years, and for the last few weeks has been employed as a waitress at the Boulder restaurant and had, in fact, only just got home from work a few minutes before the tragedy.

She was 18 years of age, blonde complexion, and tall, with a fine figure. Were it not for some smallpox marks on her face she would have been a pretty girl, and with the patrons of the restaurant was popular on account of her attention and quiet manner. She had occupied a room in Mrs. Casher’s house on Pender street, between Seymour and Richards streets, and it was on the street at the corner of Richards and Pender, just outside the baker’s shop, that the murder and suicide took place.

William J. Immel, the dead girl’s lover, who shot her and then turned the gun on himself, was about 28 years of age and about medium height. He was a blacksmith by trade, but had done various other kinds of work when unable to get a job at his regular trade. He went to Seattle to work last fall and only returned here about three months ago, and at the time of his suicide he [was] working at a blacksmith’s shop on Water street. He is said to have been a good workman and a steady, industrious fellow, his only fault being his extreme jealousy for Kitty, and his hasty temper, which was not improved by the sharp answers given him by his sweetheart. Some such quarrel resulted in the shooting.

“Little employed in hotels”²⁶ (1897)

Waitresses are comparatively little employed in hotels of any size and importance. But there can be no doubt that if you could obtain hotel experience it would be of great service to you, should you in after life wish to go out as a waitress for private dinner-parties and other entertainments, where women are now frequently preferred to men. Try to obtain a situation as a still-room maid, then work your way up. Your idea of cooking lessons from a professional waiter is an excellent one, and should certainly be carried out. A point to consider is that it is not easy to change from private to hotel service, or *vice-versa*, but hotel work offers the fuller training of the two. Either a waitress or a parlour-maid, however, who thoroughly knows her work, is always sure to obtain employment.

²⁵ From VANCOUVER. (1897, July 14). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 7.

²⁶ From ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS. (1897, December 18). *The Girl’s Own Paper*, XIX(938), p. 192. Only the answers were printed, not the questions.

“The Trilby reached her jaw”²⁷ (Vancouver, 1898)

A rather curious mishap occurred the other day at an hotel where girl waiters are employed. In journeying between the dining room and kitchen the waitresses are obliged to pass through a swinging door. It is customary the world over for the bearer of the loaded tray to open such a swinging door with a sharp kick, and it is that custom that is responsible for the mishap.

One of the waitresses, who is very short-sighted, was heading from the kitchen for the dining room armed with a heavily laden tray, at the same instant that another waitress [reached the other side of the door]. The girl with the tray reached the swinging door and let fly with her Trilby, just as the other girl opened the door in her own direction. For an instant there was a display of footwear and lingerie and then a crash. The girl with the empty hands had received the toe of the girl with the tray square on the point of the jaw, and down she went, all in a heap.

The unfortunate girl lay there writhing in agony until counted out; she was dragged to her corner, but it was at least two minutes before she regained consciousness. The other girl was awarded the high-kicking championship of that particular hotel.

“A ‘restaurant’ raided”²⁸ (Ottawa, 1898)

Down in a tenement row, at 137 Broad street, Mrs. Emily Vaillancourt has been keeping a restaurant and refreshment saloon for the past few months. The neighbors say the place has been well patronized, and in the locality the house has a decidedly bad reputation. For some time it has been a questionable resort, to which young men have been allured by alleged waitresses.

About three o’clock yesterday morning the place was raided by a squad of police under Sergt. Robillard. Three inmates, Mrs. Vaillancourt and her sister, and a Miss Ferguson, were found in the company of seven young men well known about town. When the police entered the crowd were enjoying themselves immensely, but the hilarity soon ceased, and the whole party were escorted to the station.

“A question of dress”²⁹ (Ottawa, 1898)

The waitresses at the Windsor Hotel have given notice that they will leave, as a result of a disagreement with the management over a question of dress. The waitresses were requested to wear a certain style of garment which was provided by the management. The girls did not like the way the new garments fitted, and would not wear them until they were changed. They were given the option of wearing them

²⁷ From The Trilby Reached Her Jaw. (1898, April 21). *The Province (Vancouver)*, p. 2.

²⁸ From A “RESTAURANT” RAIDED. (1898, July 18). *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 5.

²⁹ From WAITRESSES ON STRIKE. (1898, December 16). *The Ottawa Journal*, p. 3.

as they were or giving ten days notice and leaving, and the latter horn of the dilemma was taken up by the girls.

“Gratitude in a restaurant”³⁰ (Vancouver, 1899)

“Thank you,” the queer-looking old man said pleasantly, as the waitress in the quick lunch restaurant put his buttered toast and coffee before him. She turned upon him with a frown, thinking perhaps that she had detected a touch of irony in his words, but she checked herself when she noticed the sincere expression on his face.

“Why do you thank me?” she asked rather sullenly.

“Why?” he repeated with a surprised smile. “Oh, I see – you’re not accustomed to it. Well, first I do it on the principle that a kind word will never do any harm, and it may do some good. Secondly, I think that a word of thanks is due for every service rendered, even if the service is compulsory. Thirdly, and that is my chief reason in this case—“

She was already beginning to wish that she had never asked and she knew that the head waitress was observing her from the other end of the restaurant.

“Thirdly,” he went on, “I uttered my expression of gratitude on this special occasion in recognition of your little nod when you received my order. That nod, so easily executed and so rarely seen, told me that you had heard and understood what I said. Most girls do not move when you give your order. They stand close to you, but their eyes are directed into vacancy and you speak as if to a wall. While the sound of your own voice is still in your ears, they move off impassively as icebergs, and you do not know whether they have heard or not. Or they stare you straight into the face, but with an expression of stony indifference that makes your human soul shiver with cold and your heart yearn for some place where noisy darkies throw plates and dishes at your head. Or they turn the back of the head to you in order to bestow beaming smiles upon some fresh looking youngster at the next table. You astonished and pleased me with that charming little nod of yours. And it should be a great pleasure to me, indeed, to reward you with something better than words.”

She drew closer and gave her entire attention to his words in spite of the burning looks of the head waitress.

“But then I suspect that any offer of money would be resented by your pride and self respect, and I would not for anything in the world tempt you to violate the rules of the establishment, which are explicit on this point. Besides that, I have to consider that there will be only ten cents left in my pocket when I have paid my bill, so you will have to be satisfied with a repetition of what I said before. Once more, I thank you for that nod.”

“Humph!” remarked the object of the old man’s eulogy as she whisked off with an indignant toss of her head.

³⁰ From GRATITUDE IN A RESTAURANT. (1899, September 16). *The Province (Vancouver)*, p. 10.

“Waitresses’ and cooks’ wages”³¹(Vancouver, 1900)

A meeting of the Waiters’ and Cooks’ union³² was held Thursday night for the purpose of drawing up a scale of wages, the following being agreed upon:

For a 25c restaurant – First cook, \$18 per week; second cook, \$15; waiters, \$11; waitresses, \$8.

A 15c restaurant – First cook, \$15; second cook, \$12; waiters, \$9; and waitresses, \$7.

For hotel – Waiters \$35 and room, and waitresses \$25 and room.

This rate of wages has already been presented to the restaurants and hotels, and all but three places have agreed to it. It is expected, however, that before many days these three will also come in.

“Calgary romance”³³ (Toronto, 1904)

Toronto, May 10 – A considerable element of romance lies at the back of the presence in the city of Russell Melville, a well-to-do Calgary rancher. While in Toronto last summer Melville met at the Walker House a pretty dining room girl, Katie Cole. Discovering she, like him, was a native of England, he took a great interest in her, which soon ripened into a more ardent emotion. Finding she was desirous of re-visiting her native land he gave her a ticket to England and an expensive wardrobe, a \$150 gold watch, diamond ring and other costly jewelry. On her return from England he met her at Montreal. They were married there and left for his house near Calgary. The union thus auspiciously begun, however, was destined to be of short duration, for after a few months residence on the ranch Mrs. Melville departed one night without informing her husband of her destination. In search of his missing spouse, Melville is now in the city.

“Want advanced wages”³⁴ (Toronto, 1904)

Toronto may possibly have to face a repetition of the strike of the waiters and waitresses, who figured in a prolonged struggle for advanced wages in Chicago last fall. With the object of improving their position the local branch of the Waiters, Bartenders and Waitresses’ Alliance intend to make a big effort to establish a standard schedule of wages in the hotels, clubs and cafes of the city. At present there is no fixed rate for waiters and waitresses, the bartenders being the only branch of the Alliance having an agreement with their employers in general.

During the past twenty-five years the waiters, especially, have made various attempts to have their wages increased, but did not succeed till about ten years ago,

³¹ From WAITRESSES AND COOKS’ WAGES. (1900, November 3). *The Province*, p. 7.

³² First organized in August, 1900.

³³ From CALGARY ROMANCE. (1904, May 10). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 1.

³⁴ From WANT ADVANCED WAGES. (1904, October 14). *The Globe*, p. 4.

when a slight advance was made. One of the oldest waiters in the city, who has gone the rounds, having been employed at one time or another in almost every café and hotel of any importance in the city, and in Canada, places the prevailing average rate of wages paid waiters, waitresses, and domestics about as follows: Waiters, hotels, per week, \$6 to \$7; waiters, clubs, per month, \$20 to \$25; waiters, clubs, summer months, \$30; waitresses, cafes, per month, \$12 to \$15; domestics, per month, \$10 to \$20.

According to the foregoing scale the waiter employed in a hotel or café receives the highest wages, though he has to depend largely upon tips to bring his week's earnings to a level with those of an ordinary laboring man, who is paid from 20c to 25c an hour. In the clubs, waiters are generally forbidden to accept tips, but they are provided with clothes.

Twenty years ago one of the large hotels paid married waiters \$18 and single waiters \$16 per month, which at that time was considered high wages for this class. Since then the waiters claim that they have been the only trade – their own expression – that has not obtained an advance in wages. While they have not to pay their board, they say that they feel the general increase in the cost of living as much as the ordinary laboring man or trade unionist. They have to purchase their own clothes, and in compliance with the rules of all up-to-date hotels and cafes have to be presentable for functions of all kinds.

In most of the hotels and cafes they state that they work from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and are not off duty til 12 o'clock on from three or four nights a week. There are about 250 union waiters in the city.

The waitresses, who receive on an average of \$15 per month, want a reduction in hours of labor and an increase to \$22 per month. During the recent scarcity of domestics many waitresses were induced to accept positions at a slight advance in wages. About a year ago there were upwards of a thousand waitresses in the city, but that number has dwindled to something over 600. At present many of the large cafes are experiencing difficulty in securing desirable waitresses. On an average the waitresses believe that they are underpaid, and while their meals are provided they say that their room rent is much higher.

The question will be carefully considered at a meeting of the Waiters, Bartenders and Waitresses' Alliance to be held in room 10, at 36 1-2 King street east next Sunday afternoon, when it is expected a schedule of wages for each branch of the Alliance, excepting the bartenders, will be drafted for submission to the Hotel and Restaurant Keepers' Association.

A local joint Executive board of the Bartenders' and Waiters' Unions has been formed here, the first of its kind in Canada. Delegate James Scales of the Waiters' Alliance was elected Chairman and Delegate F. Arthurs of the Bartenders' Union, Secretary.

“Waitresses on strike”³⁵ (Vancouver, 1904)

The staff of the King Edward Grill on Hastings street, consisting of three waitresses and one waiter, went on strike yesterday afternoon. To-day a new list of employees has been installed. The strike has several interesting features which were related to-day by Miss Florence McNeill, who called at The Province office this afternoon to explain the cause of the trouble.

“You see,” said Miss McNeill, “it’s this way. Mr. Syford, the proprietor, refused to give us roast beef at our meals, so we just simply quit the place and walked out. This morning we applied for our wages, but the proprietor told us to sue for the money if we wanted it. I have always been used to eating the best fare at a restaurant, and that is always what the ‘help’ is supposed to have. He wanted us to eat hash. Why, the idea!” and Miss McNeill’s countenance grew scornful at the recollection of what she termed an “insult” to herself and the other waitresses of the institution.

“I worked for several years at the Dominion Hotel in Victoria,” continued the lady, “and really I never heard of the keeper of a restaurant wanting to give poor food to his employees.”

Mr. Syford was asked regarding the strike, and he declared that it was a matter between himself and his employees.

“When there is a sirloin steak on the bill of fare they want sirloin,” explained Mr. Syford. “When it is game that is what they want. The rule of the place is that they shall have good, plain food, and that is what they get right along.”

A double wedding³⁶ (Toronto, 1905)

Toronto, July 26 – The tale in detail of the first double wedding of Chinamen to white girls ever known in Toronto arrived at the city hall yesterday in two little yellow cards, being the formal registration of the unusual event.

The weddings were solemnized a week ago tonight. The bridal parties left Charlie Sing’s York-street restaurant early in the evening and drove to the house of Rev. Robert Brown, who, as a lady at the wedding festivities afterwards remarked, is the “only Chinese minister in town.” Mr. Brown’s house is at 6 Westmoreland avenue, and here it was the knots were tied.

Charlie Lee lives in Brampton. He is a laundryman and a Presbyterian 33 years of age, and was born in Shanghai. His bride is Nellie M. Chandler, a Toronto girl, waitress, and Anglican, 22 years of age. The bridesmaid was May Barrett, 424 College street, and the best man, Charlie How, 119 Bay street.

Charlie Sing, the other happy bridegroom, is a restaurantee and a Methodist, 29 years of age. He was born in Canton, and is the son of Lum Sing. Charlie was once a laundryman in Canton. His bride is Retha Matyzinger, a waitress and a Lutheran,

³⁵ From WAITRESSES ON STRIKE. (1904, November 4). *The Province*, p. 1.

³⁶ From MARRIED CHINAMEN. (1905, July 27). *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 7.

21 years old, who was born in the State of Ohio. The bridesmaid was Olive England, and Charlie How was again best man.

A course for waitresses³⁷ (Ottawa, 1905)

The regular monthly meeting of the board of the Young Women's Christian association was held yesterday afternoon. [...]

The domestic science committee has arranged for classes in dressmaking, embroidery and cooking. The latter will comprise housekeepers' and waitress' courses. A dining room will be properly equipped and the waitress' course will consist of lessons in the personal appearance and dress of the waitress, care of pantry, dishes, silver, knives, sink and dish cloths; care of dining room, brass, copper, furniture, floor sweeping and dusting, waiting on door, laying and decorating table, serving breakfast, luncheon and dinner, and the preparation of fruit, bread, butter balls and beverages.

"Costly Thirst"³⁸ (Montreal, 1906)

A combination of rich beggar and waitresses working, not for salary, but for what they could get out of the patrons of the saloon where they were employed, was the distinctly unusual condition of affairs revealed in the Police Court yesterday before Judge Piche – a combination which drew from the judge some very severe strictures as to the method on which certain free and easy saloons are conducted in the quarter frequented by the habitués of the wharves.

Gustave Bernard was the beggar, and according to his story, he was in the habit of carrying about a thousand dollars on his person as he went around with the hungry hand in search of the charitable public. But he pleaded guilty to a thirsty habit of mind, and admitted that on the 9th of July he had given generous accommodation to assuage his drought.

According to his story, he had dropped his profession for the day and visited Longueuil, where he used the proceeds of many a hard luck story in unloading schooners at the village bars. Returning to Montreal, his thirst was still in evidence, and he visited Mercure's saloon on Commissioners street, where he fell a ready victim to the fair Hebes who administered the drinks, and a good deal of personal familiarity ensued, in the course of which he declared the young ladies had relieved him of four or five hundred dollars of his hard begged savings.

He admitted that he had a fairly good "souse" on at the time, and had not the clearest recollection of how the illegal transfer was effected. He had a very distinct idea, however, that after he left the saloon he had been assaulted on Jacques Cartier square and the balance of the thousand extracted from his unwilling pockets, and he suspected that the ladies had secured aid in order to go through him to the limit.

³⁷ From Y. W. C. A. WORK. (1905, September 16). *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 10.

³⁸ From WAS COSTLY THIRST. (1906, August 29). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 8.

The waitresses whom the wealthy mendicant suspected were Blanche Cote, Dorian Contant and Blanche Levesque, and he accused Louis Laplante of being their particular agent in the second forcible robbery. However, his memory was so bemused that he could not identify one of the fair trio as the parties with whom he had dallied in the saloon where he had been separated from his gold, nor did her recognize Laplante as the man who had assaulted him.

Barnard was not at all definite in his story to Judge Piche, except that he was very sure he had lost all his money and had been pretty well intoxicated on the night of his loss. He said he had come from France twelve years ago, and as he suffered from an injury which incapacitated him from hard work, he had since subsisted by begging, making a fairly good living, so that he had saved up the thousand dollars for his old age.

Camille Delorme, a bartender in Mercure's saloon, said he had seen the ancient mendicant in the place on the night in question, talking with two of the accused girls, and, of course, drinking. He, however, did not see him with any money, or hear him complain of being robbed.

Judge Piche enquired what wages the waitresses got, when the witness replied that they were not paid at all, but simply depended upon tips from the frequenters of the place.

Blanche Desrosier, another waitress at the saloon, stated that on the night in question she had seen the accused girls "fooling" with the old man, but she did not know they had taken any money from him.

Charles Cassady, an employee at the Bonsecours market, said he had gone in the saloon for a glass of beer and had seen Barnard in a back room with the accused girls, and complaining that they had robbed him, but he had seen no money.

This was all the evidence offered at the enquete, and Judge Piche at once decided that there was not sufficient evidence to hold Louis Laplante, and discharged him, but decided that the three girls must be held for trial.

"There is nothing sufficiently attractive about this old man's appearance to have induced these girls to hang around and fondle him," remarked the judge, "and they must have had some other motive for paying him such particular attentions. Moreover, if such a state of affairs as has been spoken of exists at the saloon where the prisoners were employed, it is high time it was closed up."

"No eight hour day here"³⁹ (Vancouver, 1906)

Into the Hastings street office of a popular physician on Saturday last there entered two ladies, says the Vancouver World. One walked with difficulty and appeared to be in pain.

After a careful examination by the doctor the question was asked:

"What is your vocation?"

"I am waitress in —'s restaurant."

³⁹ From NO EIGHT HOUR DAY HERE. (1906, March 15). *The Nanaimo Daily News*, p. 2.

“How many hours are you employed each day?”

“Twelve.”

“Do you sit down while on duty?”

“No; when not waiting on customers I stand.”

“Your trouble is varicose veins. You are overwrought. You must have rest, or you will be permanently crippled. Lie up for a while.”

“Good god! I can’t afford to lie up. If I do, I shall starve. It takes all that I get in wages to keep me while I am well.”

This true tale is respectfully dedicated to Comrade Hawthornthwaite, in the hope that he will devise some plan for the relief of the overworked waiter girls of Vancouver.

“Severely scalded”⁴⁰ (Winnipeg, 1906)

Miss Marie Corrigan, a waitress at the Palace Café, corner of Garry and Ellice, was severely scalded on the face and breast yesterday at noon, by the spilling of a cup of coffee. She was passing from the kitchen to the dining room, with the boiling fluid poised on the tray above her head, when another waitress going to the kitchen accidentally collided with her. The contents of the cup poured down her face and inflicted a painful burn, which may result in disfigurement for life.

The unfortunate young lady was removed to the General hospital where she is at present resting easily.

“Girls work 23 hours”⁴¹ (London, 1906)

London, Ont., June 25 – A girl employed as a waitress in a local restaurant has had trouble in getting her wages from the proprietor, and the case may come to court.

A gentleman who interested himself in the matter paid a visit to several restaurants, and reports that the hours of a waitress are worse than those of any girls in factories.

He said: “In one place where I enquired, I found that the girls began work early in the morning and worked through the day and evening until one o’clock the next morning, making the hours 17 a day. This was the case six days a week, while on Saturdays it was a common thing for them to work 22 hours. I think this is just as much a case to be looked into as factory inspection.

⁴⁰ From SEVERELY SCALDED. (1906, April 3). *Manitoba Morning Free Press*, p. 13.

⁴¹ From GIRLS WORK 23 HOURS. (1906, June 25). *The Ottawa Journal*, p. 5.

“It’s in her line”⁴² (1906)

Oh, man, you are an easy mark!
The waitress at the counter knows it.
You think you are the only one,
And she allows you to suppose it.
With airy smile and winsome way
She goes about the table tripping,
And while you think you’ve made a hit
She wonders if you’re strong on tipping.

The way she turns her orbs on you
Is bound to cause your heart to flutter.
You blush and wonder who she is
The while she passes you the butter.
You rubber as she turns to go
And almost tear your new suspender
And wonder if she’d care to win
A heart that’s warm and true and tender.

Anon she comes with your dessert
Upon the shining platter steaming
You wonder as you see her come
If you’re awake or only dreaming.
You note her pink and dimpled cheek,
You mark her bright and golden tresses
And wonder if you could afford
To buy her shoes and hats and dresses.

And as she murmurs in your ear,
“Are them potatoes done a-plenty?”
And then checks up your modest meal
And says, “The tea will make it twenty,”
You feel quite certain in your mind
That one so fair could not be fickle
So in your large and generous way
You slyly tip the girl a nickel.

⁴² From It’s In Her Line. (1906, December 5). *The Windsor Star*, p. 5.

“Girl help for Canada”⁴³ (Winnipeg, 1907)

Contracts made in Britain whereby girls are employed for domestic help in Canada, must be carried out to the letter. This is the ruling made by Magistrate Daly today as the result of a case in point which came before his notice following the arrest by Detective Stark of John Beckett, of the Don Boarding House on Lily street, and Kate Mulholland, a waitress in Beckett’s employ.

The circumstances of the case are these:

One month ago a party of Irish girls signed contracts in Belfast to enter domestic service in Canada, the amount of the passage money being advanced by the anticipated employers. Among the girls was Kate Mulholland, who was to have entered the employment of Mrs. Johnson, of Souris, who had advanced £9 5s. 6d. When the girl arrived in Winnipeg, she was persuaded by Beckett that the contract, having been made in Ireland, was not binding, and under this pretense he secured her as a waitress for his boarding house.

In the meantime, Mrs. Johnson had come to Winnipeg in search of the girl and laid information with the police which led to the arrest of both Kate Mulholland and Beckett. The girl explained her side of the affair and Magistrate Daly was appealed to. He decided that the contract was perfectly valid and ordered Beckett to refund to Mrs. Johnson the amount of the passage money advanced by her to the girl.

“Practically an ultimatum”⁴⁴ (Victoria, 1907)

As a result of demands for shorter hours and higher wages made by the recently organized branch of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees’ International Union upon the restaurant keepers of this city, there is a possibility that all the members of the union will go on strike in two weeks’ time.

The formation of the union came as a result of the increasing feeling among the waiters that they deserve better treatment than they are receiving from their employers. They consider that they are overworked and underpaid, and the union has lost no time in presenting what is practically an ultimatum to the proprietors of the local restaurants. It is a schedule of the hours to be worked and the pay to be received by all members of the organization, and with it there is a notification that the regulations will go into effect on the 15th inst. This schedule decrees that, on and after the date mentioned, the following wages and hours must be accorded to members of the union:

1. Waiters working in restaurants shall receive not less than \$10.50 per week, ten hours to constitute a day’s work and six days to the week.
2. Waiters working in hotels and clubs shall receive not less than \$35 per month, six days constituting a week’s work.

⁴³ From GIRL HELP FOR CANADA. (1907, March 15). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5.

⁴⁴ From WANT MORE WAGES AND SHORTER HOURS. (1907, May 1). *Victoria Daily Times*, p.2.

3. Night waiters shall receive not less than \$12 per week, eleven hours to constitute a night's work, and six nights a week's work.

4. Waitresses working in restaurants shall receive not less than \$8 per week, ten hours to constitute a day's work, and six days a week's work.

5. Waitresses working in hotels shall receive not less than \$30 a month, six days to constitute a week's work.

6. Overtime, 50 cents an hour, or fraction thereof.

7. Banquets, working not later than 12 p.m., \$3; after 12 p.m., \$5. After work preparing for banquets, 50 cents per hour.

8. Extra shifts of ten hours, \$1 per day extra to regular wages.

9. Outside work, viz., fairs, parks, etc., \$2 for five hours or less; \$3.50 for ten hours within [the] city.

10. Outside the city, picnics, etc., \$3.50 and transportation.

11. Any waiter or waitress working the seventh day shall be fined \$1.50 in [the] event of there being available union help in the city.

On Monday several of the employers held a meeting, at which it was decided to turn down the above schedule and to refuse recognition to the union. As the union intends to call a general strike if its demands are not met by the 15th, this action on the part of the restaurant keepers may cause a general walk-out on that date. The men declare that the present working hours, twelve hours, either day or night for seven days a week, are too heavy and that the scale of pay is not in keeping with present living conditions. They also claim that an acceptance of their terms by the restaurant-keepers will have the effect of driving out an undesirable element made up of "cheap" waiters who possess very little knowledge of the business and are willing to work for whatever they can get. Members of the union declare that the leading restaurant proprietors in the city are nearly all in favor of accepting the employees' demands, and that the opposition is being offered by the less conspicuous, but more numerous, restaurant men.

From the other side the claim is made that the schedule presented by the union is impossible of acceptance, in view of the increased cost of provisions and the decreasing profits made in the business. Several employers point out, providing the schedule be adopted, the public would have to pay more for their meals. They are determined not to accede to the union's demands and threaten to import waiters from the east if the strike is called. This threat is looked upon by the union as impossible of execution, and as the men are fully determined to strike on the date set unless their employers grant their requests, the outcome will be watched with interest by those who depend upon restaurants for daily nourishment.

“Waiters are out on strike”⁴⁵ (Victoria, 1907)

The union waiters of the city this morning at ten o'clock served notice on their employers that if their demands as to wages, shorter hours, etc., were not complied with they would walk out. Consternation reigned in hotel and restaurant circles for a short time. Some proprietors, under the stress of the circumstances, complied with the demands; others refused. The King Edward hotel was left without waiters, and the proprietor and clerks are serving the guests.

The waiters demand a week of six days only, and ten dollars and a half per week in restaurants. Girls are to be paid at least \$8 per week. Overtime is to be paid for at fifty cents per hour. For night work waiters are to receive at least \$12 per week of six nights, eleven hours each. The wages demanded in hotels are to be not less than \$35 monthly, with six days a week. For outside work there is a special schedule ranging from \$1 per day extra up to \$5.

The waiters complain, as one of them explained this morning, that they get no rest. They have been working early and late for meagre wages. They have no holidays. In fact, holidays are their hardest days. Then it is that the city is crowded with merry-makers who are in haste to be served and are impatient if they are not. Moreover, they work seven days per week for the sum of from eight to twelve dollars.

“We want,” said a waiter at the Poodle Dog, “a chance to cool our feet in the briny ocean occasionally.” All complain of long hours with resulting physical ills.

The president of the union was very angry at anything having leaked. He wished to know what business it was of the public, any way.

Mr. Robinson, head waiter at the Driard, said that the proprietor of the Driard had acceded to their demands and the waiters would not leave.

The proprietors of the following hotels have signed agreeing to the new schedule: The Dallas, New England, Driard, Victoria and the Royal Café.

L. Bates Vandecar, of the Driard, stated that he had signed under protest. He considered it in the nature of a hold-up. The waiters were receiving \$42 for thirty-one days' work before; now they were getting \$35 for twenty-four days. To him it meant an extra man, and as soon as he conveniently could, in all probability a new staff of waiters.

Mr. Levy, of Levy's restaurant, explained that he had only one union waiter. He was walking out. “But,” he continued, “I will close up my dining room before I will submit to their demands.” The same is the statement of the manager at the Poodle Dog.

All feel that it is practically impossible to accede to the demands of the waiters. They state that the waiters were getting from \$45 to \$60 per month with board and sundries thrown in. To put on extra men means from \$140 upwards in increased expenses, and a raise in prices which would result in many who now patronize restaurants and hotels being unable to do so in the future.

⁴⁵ From WAITERS ARE OUT ON STRIKE. (1907, May 15). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 2.

The Dominion hotel reports that things there are all right; none of the waiters have left or are likely to leave, since they receive all that is being asked for.

The solitary union waiter at the Oak Bay hotel reports that he is getting all he wants and some extras, and so will not leave.

Mr. Kelly, of the King Edward, stated that under no circumstances would the proprietor accede to the unreasonable demands of the union. He intends to go elsewhere and get new girls to take the place of those who have left.

The waiters will hold a meeting to-night when they will consider the further steps to be taken.

“Waiters are at work”⁴⁶ (Victoria, 1907)

The King Edward alone of the hotels and restaurants has stood by its first declaration not to grant the demands of the union waiters. Mr. Kelly yesterday explained that the girls were getting more than the union schedule demanded. They only worked forty-two hours a week, while the union schedule was sixty hours. A. C. Hamilton, the proprietor of the hotel, announces that he will continue to hold out.

Mr. Smith, of the Poodle Dog, has announced his willingness to sign the agreement demanded. The other hotels and restaurants complied with the demands of the waiters early yesterday.

One of the surprises of the day was the sudden acquiescence of Levy, of Levy’s restaurant. In the morning he said that he would never yield. However, on a little further consideration he complied with the request.

“The question of tipping”⁴⁷ (Vancouver, 1907)

Undoubtedly tipping is a great evil. Its allowance anywhere argues niggardliness on the part of the employer. At the same time, it is one of those evils which must be countenanced in the present, while we work for their abolition in the future.

Women seldom tip. For the most part, this is due to poverty, economy or unaccustomedness. More and more of them are doing it every year, however, and doubtless there would be still more did not many of them feel embarrassed and undecided as to the proper mean between extravagance and stinginess.

A good rule is to give one-fifth of the amount of your bill, and to give nothing at all if the bill be under 25 cents. Thus, for a 50-cent luncheon, one would give 10 cents, while for a \$2 dinner one would allow the waiter or waitress 40 cents.

Do not tip at all when the service is bad; when the attendant gives you no napkin, or drops a fork, or spills the coffee as it is placed on the table.

Do not tip, either, any one who has not given you any attention whatever. The waiting line of strange menials in some hotels are a nuisance not to be tolerated.

⁴⁶ From WAITERS ARE AT WORK. (1907, May 16). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 4.

⁴⁷ From The Question of Tipping. (1907, August 17). *The World (Vancouver)*, p. 29.

Finally, do not tip when you know a good salary is paid, and the subordinate is not dependent on his or her patrons for the necessities of life.

“Sad tale”⁴⁸ (Calgary, 1908)

[CONTENT WARNING – PHYSICAL ABUSE, RACISM]

Calgary, January 1 – The yellow peril is not of the future in this city, but of today. A Chinese cook in one of the local hotels took exception to the manner in which one of the waitresses was sorting over some fruit for a favored guest of the house and remonstrated with her. He was told to mind his own business and replied by breaking a plate over her head and striking her with his fist. Her middle name was Jeffries, and, smashing an egg and throwing a cup of scalding coffee in the Chinaman’s face were but a few things she did in a very short time. The Chinaman cried for help and was gathered in by a policeman, taken to the station, and before the police justice assessed five dollars for starting the disturbance.

“To receive their young men”⁴⁹ (London, 1908)

London, Ont., Jan. 12 – The waitresses and chambermaids and kitchen help of two city hotels are demanding separate rooms and a parlor in which to receive their young men. The hotels have refused and are bringing new girls. The waitresses formed a union some time ago.

“Easily earned”⁵⁰ (1908)

The unit of exchange in British Columbia is 5 cents (2½d.). A single-sheet newspaper costs that, a “shoe-shine” twice or thrice as much. A trivial incident may serve to elucidate the high level of expectation. Not many weeks ago a young and impecunious Scotsman who reached Vancouver in search of fortune, left the tiny silver five-cent piece on the table as an acknowledgment for the attention of the waitress who had brought him a cup of tea. She eyed it with interest, and said: “I guess I’ll leave that there till it grows bigger.” Money, in a word, is easily earned.

“Another busy day in police court”⁵¹ (Victoria, 1908)

Douglas Matheson, head waiter at [the] Strand café, was charged with assault by Mrs. Ada Bertha Dakin. According to the woman’s story she had worked there as a waitress but had been taken ill. As soon as she was better she returned to the café

⁴⁸ From SAD TALE OF A CHINAMAN. (1908, January 2). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 3.

⁴⁹ From Phase of Woman’s Rights. (1908, January 13). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 1.

⁵⁰ From Scottish Journalist Who Recently Toured the Dominion. (1908, February 11). Britain’s Gateway to the Orient. *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 9.

⁵¹ From ANOTHER BUSY DAY IN POLICE COURT. (1908, June 8). *Victoria Daily Times*, p. 4.

and was told to go to work in the morning. When she did this next morning Matheson, according to her evidence, ordered her out and when she refused to go until the proprietor appeared, he grabbed her by the arm to shove her out.

Matheson called two waiters, J. Simpson and Wallace Scott, who swore that they had heard Matheson order her out but had not seen him touch the woman although they were there all the time. After these two men had been heard the magistrate dismissed the case without calling upon Mr. Matheson to go into the box on his own account.

“Refused to go to the circus”⁵² (Lethbridge, 1908)

[CONTENT WARNING – ATTEMPTED MURDER]

Lethbridge, July 18 – A man named Rudiak attempted last night to murder Mary Ferrens, a waitress at the Windsor Hotel, with whom she refused to go to the circus. She was stabbed on the return from the performance with another man. Rudiak was arrested a few hours later. The girl was stabbed on the left shoulder at the base of the neck. She was not seriously hurt.

“Over-worked waitresses”⁵³ (Winnipeg, 1909)

Sir – Few give any thought to long hours and scant pay that the neat young lady who serves up the meal has to work. Competition in this business is making life to the waitress unbearable, and the worst feature is, no one seems to think it is often carried on at her expense. For instance, one restaurant run by a Chinaman once had a dozen girls, it now has eight; wages are reduced to \$5.75 per week of 84.2 hours. In the fierce competition one restaurant will serve up a little better dish than another if the keeper can see a way of placing the burden on the girl. Out of the \$5.75, laundry eat up – this is to be decently clean - \$1.35, which works out at 5 cents per hour. Organized labor – you who eat in these public places – take note. If 5 cents per hour is not enough for your sister, be man enough to try and improve the condition of the other fellow’s sister, for after all it is the other fellow’s sister whom you may wed some day. I am glad to see the Trades and Labor council have the matter under observation, and in the near future an organization may be formed to help the waitress to a living wage. [...] ⁵⁴

If a girl reprimands a young man who is getting a bit fresh, she is considered crazy by the boss. The boss is there to make money, and the waitress, having no soul, for it is soon worked out, is just as much a part of the business as the pots, pans and kettles. It has occurred to me that if the city has the power to make by-laws, there is room here for the city fathers to protect these young ladies who are to figure as the

⁵² From A JEALOUS GALICIAN. (1908, July 20). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 3.

⁵³ From Hope, V. L. (1909, February 20). Over-Worked Waitresses. *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 17. Written by Victor Hope (d. 1924).

⁵⁴ I’ve omitted a few racist sentences which are not directly related to the topic. (The author thought the rise of Chinese-owned restaurants was worth looking into.)

motherhood of the next generation. I will be pleased to note any further correspondence on the matter.

Respectfully yours,

VICTOR L. HOPE
829 Ashburn St.

“The strike celebre”⁵⁵ (Prince Rupert, 1909)

The dining room girls of the Premier hotel [in Prince Rupert] arose in their might about six o'clock last evening, and walked out, leaving a full dining room to get their dinner as best they could. The strike, it seems, had its source in some difficulty between a waitress and one of the cooks. At any rate the girls mapped out their campaign and at an hour when their services were very much in demand, they marched in a body from the dining hall. Their places were quickly filled with male help.

“Ames has two spouses”⁵⁶ (Edmonton, 1911)

Peculiar circumstances surrounded the case of William Henry Ames, who was arraigned before Judge Taylor, at Vegreville, yesterday afternoon, on a charge of bigamy. Ames is an Ontario man and came to Vegreville with a wife and three children. Quite recently, he was sentenced to a short term in prison, for wife desertion. It was then that the fact became known that he was also wedded to Mary Trosseau, a waitress in one of the hotels.

When arraigned in court yesterday on the bigamy charge Ames faced his first wife and their three children, and a pathetic scene followed.

The enormity of his offense seemed suddenly to dawn upon him and his repentance was mingled with tears shed by his wife and children.

It was a difficult problem for Judge Taylor to solve. The Trosseau girl, who is a French-Canadian, is still working at the hotel. He reasoned that it would work a great hardship upon the first wife and her three children to send Ames to jail, and he therefore allowed him to go upon a suspended sentence. He must, however, make regular reports to the police on his future conduct.

“Restless spirit”⁵⁷ (Sudbury, 1911)

At the spring assizes at Sudbury, Ont., before Chief Justice Falconbridge, the first indictable case from Porcupine was heard, when John Paget was charged with the attempted murder of his wife in February last. The story [...] started with the

⁵⁵ From THE STRIKE CELEBRE. (1909, December 30). *The Daily World (Vancouver)*, p. 6.

⁵⁶ From AMES HAS TWO SPOUSES AND ONE OF THE WIVES HAS THREE CHILDREN. (1911, March 3). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 1.

⁵⁷ From UNWRITTEN LAW BECOMES POPULAR. (1911, May 11). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 17.

marriage of the couple eight years ago in London, Eng., where Paget drove a baker's wagon; of their emigrating to Canada five years ago, and Paget securing work as a farm laborer at Manotick, near Ottawa, their infant child dying while there, and of Mrs. Page leaving the farm to reside in the village.

It was not long before Mrs. Paget grew weary of the apparent monotony of village life and left for Ottawa, where she secured work as a waitress. From there she drifted into the north country. For a year and a half no correspondence passed between them, but [it] was then resumed by the wife, and last Christmas she returned to live once more with Paget at Ignace, Ont., where he had secured employment as a machinist's helper.

In less than a month the restless spirit again exhibited itself and Mrs. Paget left once more for the north country, and she had Paget follow in February. Apparently not until Paget reached Porcupine did the book of the past five years completely unfold itself. Comments on his wife's character were common in Porcupine. She was conducting a small restaurant and a blind pig, and when on February 11 last he discovered his wife, as he thought, embracing the bartender, William Reise, there was a row. The quarrel was resumed later in their rooms and grew so loud that Reise went up to interfere. As he opened the door of the room he found Paget holding his wife with one hand and drawing a revolver from his hip with the other. The opening of the door distracted the attention of both for the moment and Mrs. Paget escaped, while Reise grappled with the accused. Two shots were fired in the direction of the fleeing woman, one of which went through the roof and the other ploughed the cheek and ear of Reise.

“With a piece of bacon”⁵⁸ (Edmonton, 1911)

[CONTENT WARNING – ASSAULT]

Magistrate Cowan not only imposed a fine of \$10 and costs in the case of Ole Olson, charged with assaulting Pauline Terky, but took Olson to task for his conduct towards a woman. Olson is employed as a cook and Miss Terky as a waitress in a local hotel. They had some words yesterday over an order and it is alleged that Olson struck the waitress in the left eye with a piece of bacon.

A guide for student waitresses⁵⁹ (Guelph, 1912)

WAITRESS – Work

Table service in our country varies widely according to the habits and income of individual families. The following directions used daily by Macdonald Institute, may be simplified or elaborated as desired.

⁵⁸ From In the Police Court. (1911, December 19). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 8.

⁵⁹ From Ontario Agricultural College. (1912). *The Student-Waitress Work of Macdonald Institute*. Guelph: Ontario Agricultural College.

It is folly to sacrifice health and strength to elaborate service; it is bad form to attempt elaborate service without adequate help; but the simplest service may be rendered attractive by its dainty neatness and efficiency.

The efficient waitress is distinguished by her ability to serve food properly with neatness and the least delay possible; and with certainty that it is at the right temperature, either hot or cold.

The Personal Equipment of the Waitress Manner

1. A quiet courteous manner must be observed at all times. Cheerfulness and promptness are essential.

2. A waitress should stand straight, step lightly, and move quickly and noiselessly, but with no appearance of haste.

3. She must not place her hand on the back of anyone's chair while serving, and must avoid leaning over the person she is serving any more than she can help.

4. Her sense of the fitness of things will prevent loud talking in the kitchen, serving-room or hall.

Appearance

1. Dress – Should be unobtrusive and plainly made. Institutions usually require a uniform costume.

2. Apron – should be white, with bib and shoulder straps.

3. Collar and Cuffs – usually stiff plain white linen.

4. Cap – this is not always worn, but always makes the costume more attractive, and adds to the dignity of the waitress, in the same way as the nurse's cap does.

5. Shoes – should be noiseless, comfortable, and provided with low broad heels. Rubber heels are very desirable.

Cleanliness

1. The body should be kept sweet and clean.

2. The teeth should be kept in good condition, and clean.

3. The hair should be kept clean, and dressed simply without ribbons, bows, etc.

4. The finger nails should be given special attention.

5. The whole dress should be immaculate.

General Table Setting Directions (Used in Macdonald Hall)

1. Place the silence-cloth on smoothly and evenly.

2. Place the table-cloth with the centre creases even with [the] centre of the table, and keep it smooth, spotless and free from crumbs.

3. Place centre-piece and flower jar in place if used.

4. Place silver and cutlery for each cover evenly one-half inch from table-edge. Allow about twelve inches for each cover.

5. Fresh table-napkins should be placed in the centre of each cover, or to the left. After a napkin has been used its place is in a ring (or neatly folded) to the right of the cover.

6. Place glasses for dinner to the right of the knife and just below its tip; for breakfast and tea place two or three glasses beside each carafe. Handle glasses only by the base, never by the edge.

7. Place two carafes, one at each of two diagonal corners.

8. Place a salt-cellar and pepper-shaker in good order, at each of the other two corners.

9. Place bread and butter plates to the left, two inches from the table-edge with the crest towards the centre of the table. (This is the position for all crests).

10. Place the bread plate at one side of the table and the butter plate on the opposite side diagonally, except for dinner when bread is placed to the left of the cover, or on the fresh folded napkin in the centre.

11. Place the chairs evenly spaced and straight at the table.

12. Be constantly watchful that the glass, silver and china used are perfectly clean.

13. Just before the people come to the table, inspect it to make sure nothing is wanting.

General Directions for Waiting on the Table

Serving

1. Study the table and the menu to be sure you know the order of its service.

2. Study individual tastes and anticipate needs if possible.

3. Serve the hostess first; then pass to the others in turn from her left.

4. Stand to the left to place or remove dishes. [Stand to the] right [to place or remove] beverages.

Place all crests the same way, towards the centre of the table.

Place and remove plates with the left hand.

When offering a dish for people to help themselves, stand to the left and hold the dish or tray almost level with the table, with the serving spoon and fork in the most convenient position for the user.

5. Fill beverage cups only two-thirds full, put the spoon in the saucer to the right of the cup-handle, and place with handle convenient to the user.

6. Keep the fingers off plate-rims as much as possible, and never put fingers inside or on the rims of cups or glasses.

7. In placing dishes, serving-spoons, etc., never reach over in front of a person. Go round to the other side.

8. It is "bad form" to speak to the people at the table collectively, e.g. "will anyone have" – if necessary, inquire of the hostess or of each individually if they wish for anything.

9. Avoid all clatter of dishes, and keep cool.

10. When not occupied serving, remain in the room within reach of the hostess' eye, until you are sure there is nothing more to do, or until dismissed by the hostess.

Removing Courses

1. Carry everything in and out of the dining-room on a tray unless otherwise instructed.
2. Start to remove a course when everyone at the table has finished. If one or two come very late, begin to remove when the majority are ready.
3. Remove everything relating to one course (china, silver, etc.) before serving another.
4. Never pile one dish upon another at the table. Never carry more than two plates at a time to the side-table – one in either hand.
5. You may pile silver and china as you go along at the side table, but it must be noiselessly.
6. When butter has been left untouched on a bread and butter plate, remove it to the side of the butter plate to preserve it.

Some Things to Remember

1. Work in the serving room should be as nearly noiseless as possible.
2. Lunching in the serving-room cannot be permitted.
3. Waitresses should not converse with people at the table or with one another while on duty in the dining-room. When in difficulty or requiring further instructions, go to the serving-room chief for directions.

General Directions for Clearing the Table

1. Use a tray as much as possible.
2. Remove first the food; then china, glass, silver, etc.; then the crumbs.
3. If necessary, remove the flowers, fold up and put away the table-cloth and silence-cloth.
4. When clearing the table, be careful not to spot or soil the cloth in any way.
5. Leave the side-table in good order, and the chairs in place.

“Restaurant workers submit wage scale”⁶⁰ (Edmonton, 1912)

The hotel and restaurant employees of the city have presented to their various employers a minimum wage scale to go into effect May 1. The principal changes over the present scale are in the matter of hours and overtime. Two or three of the employers have already signed, and the union expects little or no difficulty in getting all to come into line.

The scale follows:

First class cafes and lunch counters per week: First cook \$35, second cook \$25, third cook \$17.50, night cook \$28, night second cook \$17.50, yardman \$12, disher \$12, waiters \$17.50, waitresses \$12, cashier \$12.

⁶⁰ From RESTAURANT WORKERS SUBMIT WAGE SCALE. (1912, April 22). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 5.

Second class cafes and lunch counters, per week: First cook \$28, second cook \$15, disher \$12, night cook \$22, yardman \$12, waiters \$15, waitresses \$12, cashiers \$12.

First class hotels, per month: Head cook \$150, second cook \$100, third cook \$75, baker \$90, disher with room \$30, disher without room \$40, waitress with room \$30, waitress without room \$40, butcher \$75.

Second class hotels, per month: Head cook \$120, second cook \$75, third cook \$50, pastry cook \$75, disher with room \$30, disher without room \$40, waitress without room \$40, waitress with room \$30.

Third class hotels, per month: First cook \$85, helper \$50, waitress with room \$30, disher with room \$30, disher without room \$40, waitress without room \$40.

No employees of this union [are] to work more than 10 hours straight, or nine hours in 14 hours, unless when necessary, and then not for more than two shifts.

All overtime to be paid at the rate of time and one-half.

Banquets where waiters wear tuxedos, \$5.

Banquets, for waitresses, \$4.

Lunch jobs and short shifts, three hours \$1.25, and 25c an hour after.

“A waitress at summer”⁶¹ (1912)

“I have a far easier time here than just doing my housework at home,” one of the bedroom girls at a large Canadian summer hotel told me last week, and a table-waitress later admitted the truth of the same statement in her case also. In fact, most of the help in expensive summer hotels take these positions for the sake of the partial holiday and the change of air and scene. They make good money, too.

The city housekeeper is probably realizing that this is why her good housemaid vanished a few weeks ago. But the help at the summer hotel have not all been in household service in the city. There are many stenographers among them, dressmakers, tailors and saleswomen. “The head of my department told me when I left,” said one who had been working in one of the big Toronto stores, “that he would take me back whenever I wanted to come. He could always find a place for me. I was in the mail order department.”

Another said, “I never feel afraid to give up a position at home to come up here, for I know I can get another when I go back. I have good recommendations from every place where I have worked. You can always get work in Canada if you are any good.”

This class of girl is likely to do well as a waitress, even if she has never tried it before. “For the first two or three days I did not do so very well,” a former dressmaker admitted. “It was so hard remembering the orders. After that, however, I found it quite simple.”

“Do you have to do any other work besides waiting table?” I asked.

“Not a thing,” was the answer, “except that each girl must set and keep in order her own tables, and keep the floor around the tables clean. Each is supposed to take

⁶¹ From Rose Rambler (pseudonym). (1912, July 11). A Waitress at Summer. *The Globe*, p. 5.

care of ten guests, two tables for four and one for two, or one table for four and one for six. If all the guests happen to come in at once, it keeps me pretty busy.”

“What are your hours?”

“All the help have breakfast at half-past six, and are on duty at seven. As soon as the dining-room doors are closed we sweep and dust the floor around our tables, and set them again. Then we are free to do as we like until half an hour before the next meal, when we get the water and butter ready to serve, and put fresh flowers or ferns on the table.”

“Between times?”

“Oh, we walk through the woods or go bathing, meet the boats or get in a shady spot and read. There are over fifty of us and we have some pretty good times too.”

The bedroom girls have pretty much the same sort of life. Each girl has twenty-five rooms to look after. This sounds worse than it is, for one must consider that in a summer hotel there are only small rugs, usually of matting, on the floors, that there is very little bedding, which makes the bed-making much easier, and that there is practically no dust. The floors are washed once a week. The work is finished daily by two o'clock; the girls go on duty every night for an hour after the evening boats come in, so that they will be ready should the in-coming guests need them, and every third night each girl takes a turn on duty until ten.

Several married couples were among the help at this hotel. “We are trying to pay for our house in Toronto,” one little woman told me. “We have been doing this work for several summers, though this is only our second summer at this hotel. I clear myself on an average of \$120 in the two months and a half we are up here.”

“How much of that is wages?” I asked.

“We get \$15 a month each, whether we are waitresses or housemaids. Of course my husband gets more than that. He is in the dining-room.”

“Fully three-fifths of your money comes in tips,” I calculated aloud.

“Yes,” she answered. “People usually tip well. Those who come just for week-ends sometimes do not give anything, but they usually do, and those staying for a long time often give me a dollar a week, or two or three dollars when they are leaving.”

I asked if the dining-room girls would not make more in tips than the bedroom girls, and was rather surprised to learn that they averaged about the same.

Later I saw the comfortable quarters of the help, a big, airy building a few rods back of the hotel; again I saw them in swimming [outfits] and sitting about in cool nooks, chatting and reading, and always I came to the conclusion that being a waitress in a first-class summer hotel was not a half-bad life at all.

“A teacher’s experience as a waitress”⁶² (1912)

Dear Rose Rambler – I wish to recall to your mind “Pansy,” who wrote you concerning employment of teachers during the summer holidays. I read with deep interest your article, “A Waitress at a Summer Hotel.” Later, with even deeper

⁶² From Pansy. (1912, September 17). A Teacher’s Experience as a Waitress. *The Globe*, p. 5.

interest, I compared my impressions with yours, and decided this was another case where distance lends enchantment to the view. I went to this Canadian summer resort wearing glasses as rose-hued as Mrs. Wiggs', but they were rudely shattered. I went prepared to rough it a little, but found that my ideas of roughing it had never been properly developed.

As far as the work was concerned, I had nothing to complain about. My duties lay in the ordinary or officers' dining-room, so were lighter and of shorter duration than those of the girls in the guests' dining-room. The big, airy kitchen, with its immense cooking ranges, was simply wonderful to me. So, too, were the French chefs, who seemed such adepts at their work, spoke such horrible broken English and, I'm sorry to say, uttered such fluent English oaths when they were excited. One of them, I remember, reminded me of a Turk, he handled such a long carving knife and had such a red, severe-looking face. I dreamed one night that he chased me with his knife and wounded several people who tried to stop him. Just as I said: "What does it matter? They are dying as soldiers of the cross," I woke up and was glad to find it wasn't true.

I got acquainted with some very nice girls during my week's stay. There was a tall girl who talked and walked with the air of a tragedy queen, another with fair, fluffy hair and rosy cheeks, who spoke with such a soft, Irish accent. A little, slim, brown-eyed kitchen girl, who had such a time avoiding the attentions of a devoted Irish widower, gifted with a big warm heart, but neither wealth nor beauty.

When work was over, the girls had their washing and ironing to do, and their rooms to keep tidy. The rooms were not very attractive places, so I always spent every spare minute out of doors, as far away from our lodgings as possible. All those sleeping on one flat washed in the bathroom, which was supplied with two basins. The girls who knew what it was like had brought basins of their own to put in their rooms.

The springs of our bed were weak, and we were forced to sleep close together in the centre of the bed, so "sleep, gentle sleep," didn't visit me too much during my stay.

You should have seen our dining-room, our "feed-room," I mean. Imagine a dingy room with big tables spread with half-worn white oil-cloth, and set with thick dishes – cups with chips all around the tops, and heavy steel knives. Two big granite toilet jugs held water and tea. Tasting the latter you realized it wasn't the fragrant brew your mother used to make, also that it had separated milk mixed with it. You wondered why the beef was served in chunks, spread over with a kind of flour gravy, but after a while you understood, and continued to refrain. Butter you always tested by means of that useful organ, the nose. Porridge with skimmed milk didn't appeal to you, nor did pie made with gummy currant jam.

Don't you think hired help have a right to expect appetizing food and clean, comfortable sleeping quarters? Those girls expected it, and when they didn't get food they could eat, they made use of their chance when they were serving and helped themselves. Do you blame them? Of course, it was an offence against the hotel discipline, but they were willing to run the risk of being caught.

There were so many petty rules that were galling to one's self-respect – it all implied that the “help” were an inferior class who didn't know their place and must be constantly reminded of it. For instance, help were requested (that was a little better than being commanded) not to go down to the wharf when the boats came in.

Well, I could have complied with rules all right if I could have proper rest and food, for I have no desire to be a “toady.”

Such an experience certainly is a revelation. It helps one to appreciate other people's difficulties. I'm not a bit sorry I went. I am sorry I hadn't grit enough to endure to the bitter end, but I fear I wouldn't have felt ready for my own work had I stayed.

Thanking you for your kind assistance and advice,
“Pansy.”

“Of course she had to leave the place”⁶³ (Vancouver, 1913)

[CONTENT WARNING – ABUSE]

A young woman with her little son of three years, came to Vancouver from England. To get her away from a brutal, drunken husband, her father had paid her fare. She got a situation and was quietly earning a living for herself and her child, when her husband followed her. He protested that he had reformed and vowed if she would go back to him, he would always be good to her, and she went. For a short time he kept his promise, but drifted back to his old ways. When sober he earned \$4 a day, but week after week he only gave her \$5 on Saturday night, telling her it was all he could earn, whereas he had spent his wages in dissipation. He abused and beat her, and the neighbors heard his noisy abuse and her cries. Finally he opened the door one day, and kicked her down the steps. She got a place as a waitress, boarding with her little boy, with the mother of another waitress in the same restaurant, so that the child was well cared for. Her husband happened to pass one day and saw her. He entered the restaurant and swore fearfully at her, calling her vile names and swearing he would get the boy. Of course she had to leave the place, and, taking her child, went to the United States, as the magistrate, to whom she appealed for protection, told her there was no law in British Columbia to prevent her husband taking the child, also her wages. The point is that the law allowed him to take the child away and to take her wages from her. Do you think if women had anything to do with making the laws of this splendid new country, of which we are all so proud, that they would have such laws left on the statute books for one day?

⁶³ From Spillman, M. A. (1913, February 7). Casual Comment on Women's Activities and Interests. *The Province*, p. 14. Written by Mary Alicia M. Spillman (1851 – 1932).

“In a Winnipeg Café”⁶⁴ (Winnipeg, 1913)

I wait in the café because I must, since the white-robed divinity who deigns to act as a mediator between the chef and myself in the matter of soups has departed to the kitchen regions and has not returned. As I wait I watch the people thronging in. First comes a very little man with a very large moustache and a very stiff back-bone, as if by these artificial means he can delude the public into thinking him a sixty-fourth of an inch taller than he really is. Hard on his heels comes a tall, raw-boned old-countryman in tweeds, trouser bottoms turned up, hands in pocket and chin protruding. He disdains the assistance of the head waiter and stalks off to a seat of his own choosing. A timid little mouse of a woman appears diffidently in the doorway and is promptly shown to the worst seat available, against which she is too shy to protest. I see, looming just behind her, a sleek Canadian business man whose manner oozes prosperity and patronage, and at his elbow that other type of man who loves to nod familiarly to the waiter on the assumption that he has been lunching in this fashionable resort for so many years that he has come to be regarded as a member of the family.

Then as it comes to about ten minutes past full noon-tide they come throning in – grave business men, who digest big deals with their chops; quiet well-tailored business girls; husbands and wives, who, complacently sure of each other, are intensely interested in what is going on around them; lovers who are oblivious to everything but each other; loud-voiced men who talk to the gallery and make an ostentatious display of wealth; youths whose faces are just beginning to be moulded into lines of weakness or strength and nervous people, peering about and rubbing their hands aimlessly together.

The Puree Mongole – a polite way of saying pea soup – has arrived, which breaks in upon my reflections, and my mind wanders on other things until I see the sweet-faced little cashier rise unobtrusively from her place and, touching a departing guest on the arm, apparently remind him politely and gently that there is a popular prejudice in favor of paying for one’s meals. It is done so very quietly that I think hardly anyone notices what has happened.

While I am still wondering whether his lapse was accidental or intentional, the voice of the big breezy blond haired lady at the next table reaches me. “Boy,” she says to the head waiter, “will you please hurry our waitress a little? We’ve been waiting for fifteen minutes and haven’t had our orders taken yet.”

Boy, indeed! The head waiter gives her a withering look and walks away with a very good imitation of deafness. I give a swift glance at the woman and am surprised to see her laughing.

“Now I’ve done it,” she says ruefully to the lady with her. “He is mortally offended because I called him a boy. Heaven only knows what we will get served now.”

But just then the manager comes through. She stops him and laughingly explains the situation, and of course the wheels begin to move with accelerated speed.

⁶⁴ From Beynon, F. M. (1913, June 25). The Country Homemakers. *The Grain Grower’s Guide*, p. 16. Written by Francis Marion Beynon (1884 – 1951).

The tart little woman on the other side of me has just sent back her soup for the second time when I come back to her from the blond haired lady. She explains, for the benefit of the company generally, that if there is one thing more than another which she cannot abide it is cold soup, her voice following the waitress who is flouncing out with it. As there is no one left to talk to, she subsides into a rumble of all-round discontent.

I am musing on all these people and speculating as to their various aims in life when the waitress comes back and moves the check a little closer to my hand as a polite intimation that a café at midday is not the place for dreaming, and I arise and depart.

“Was not murder”⁶⁵ (Saskatoon, 1913)

Pedestrians passing along Twentieth street yesterday afternoon about 2 o'clock were startled by a waitress from the Puritan shouting “murder!” The cause of the sensational cry, however, was not as serious as at first thought by those who heard it, the trouble arising out of a dispute Charlie Christie, one of the proprietors, got in with the waitress' admirer, who interfered when she was plainly told what her duties were. For a few seconds a lively fistic encounter ensued in which the interferer was badly used up.

“It was only a family row”⁶⁶ (Saskatoon, 1913)

It was only a family row that caused one of the waitresses in the Puritan restaurant on 20th street to run out the door and yell blue murder about two o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Charlie Christie, proprietor of the restaurant, gave the following account of the affair: “Nearly all the midday customers had left. I told the waitress to serve one of the three who were still there, and she refused, claiming she had done enough work for a while. I told her I was boss and she must do that or leave, whereupon a too willing friend of hers, who was also employed in the restaurant, took her part, with the result that I hit him fair between the eyes, knocking off his glasses and causing the girl to run out the door screaming. Her admirer soon disappeared and has not been around since.”

Commenting on the incident, Mr. Christie said it was exceedingly difficult to secure good restaurant help in the city.

⁶⁵ From WAS NOT MURDER. (1913, June 27). *The Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 1.

⁶⁶ From ONLY FAMILY MURDER ROW; NO MURDER AT ALL. (1913, June 27). *The Saskatoon Phoenix*, p. 3.)

“For immoral purposes”⁶⁷ (Prince Albert, 1913)

[CONTENT WARNING – SEXUAL ABUSE, ASSAULT, HARRASSMENT]

Abraham Strachman, who is identified with a rooming house in Saskatoon, where he is fairly well known, was committed to stand trial at the next sitting of the criminal court in Saskatoon on a charge of attempting to procure for immoral purposes Agnes Wyles of Prince Albert, by Magistrate Lindsay a few days ago.

This is one of the several sensational white slave allegations which have been aired in the Prince Albert police court recently. At the commencement of the preliminary hearing, the accused, for whom W. E. Gregory, K.C., appeared as counsel, flatly denied the charges. The hearing was a lengthy one. At its conclusion counsel for the accused moved that bail be granted. In view of the seriousness of the case, the fact that the accused was a business man of Saskatoon and the fact that the law was now laying stress on offences of this nature, A. E. Doak asked that if bail was allowed, to fix the sum at a substantial figure. Accordingly bail was fixed at \$4,000, of two securities of \$1,000 each, and personal security of \$2,000.

Agnes Wyles, an attractive-looking girl of 18 years, of medium height and build, was the first to testify. Her testimony was to the effect that she came to this country last July from Glasgow, Scotland, and first took up a position in Quebec as a hotel waitress. At the time of the Toronto fair, she moved along with her sister, Grace, to Toronto, where she stayed for some time with some old country friends. She then left for Winnipeg and was for some time employed as waitress at the Seymour hotel there. Next she spent some time in Regina, afterwards going to Saskatoon where she was employed at two of [the] local hotels and also at a café.

She had met the accused on occasions while in Saskatoon and he had asked her to go dance with him. She heard that the Tuxedo hotel in Prince Albert was wanting waitresses through Jack Waller, a brakeman on the C.N.R. She went to Prince Albert and secured employment about the end of May, just previous to the races. During that week the accused came from Saskatoon. On Wednesday evening of race week he approached her and asked her if she would like to accompany him to Yorkton where he had a house and some property. She understood that he was wanting her for immoral purposes.

Cross examined by counsel for the accused, witness said that by the accused's manner of approach she could tell that he was wanting her to “sport.” He had suggested to her that he would take half of what she had earned, and she could keep the rest for herself. She swore that she had never been an inmate of a “sporting” house. She laid the charge against the accused but would not have done so but he had refused to pay her wages. [...]68

⁶⁷ From Saskatoon Man to Stand Trial on White Slave Trade Charge at Assizes Here. (1913, July 15). *The Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 1.

⁶⁸ The [...] stands for this unrelated paragraph: “An attractive girl, answering to the description of the above witness, appeared before Magistrate Brown in the police court here this morning on a charge of vagrancy. A fine of \$10 and costs was imposed. She was arrested by the police last night wandering about the thoroughfares and unable to give a satisfactory explanation [for her behavior, so she] was

An attractive girl, answering to the description of the above witness, appeared before Magistrate Brown in the police court here this morning on a charge of vagrancy. A fine of \$10 and costs was imposed. She was arrested by the police last night wandering about the thoroughfares and unable to give a satisfactory explanation [for her behavior, so she] was locked up. The young woman will not have to pay the fine imposed but [must] get out of the city before nightfall.

Lucy Baur, the other girl in the case heard at Prince Albert, is taller than Agnes, but of rather plain appearance. In her evidence she stated that she came to this country last year from the state of Ohio. She had known the accused in Saskatoon, although she did not appear at his instigation. She took a position at the Tuxedo hotel, Prince Albert, after Jack Waller of the C.N.R. had informed her that the Tuxedo was requiring waitresses. On the Wednesday evening of race week in Saskatoon, [the] accused visited Prince Albert and during his stay took the witness to a dance. On that occasion he suggested to her that Agnes and herself should go to Yorkton, which he described as a summer resort. He told her that there were some “swell guys” down there, who had lots of money. She promised to think it over, which she had afterwards done. Witness at one time worked in a café in Saskatoon where she had quite frequently met the accused and had asked him to place her in Prince Albert.

“Belle Nicholson, Waitress”⁶⁹ (1913)

As she says herself, Belle had a grand time coming over on the boat. There were the Stewarts from home, and the Bains, and the McGillicuddys. The other people on the ship were as glad to talk to you as if you were their next door neighbor, or better than that. Nor had Belle the slightest anticipation of difficulty on arriving in Canada, for had not Maggie McCarthy, her mother’s cousin, told her that she would look out for her?

“I am that glad to have a friend,” said Belle to Maggie on the station platform. “I’ve had a grand time coming over, but if I had not known that you would be here to meet me, my heart would have been sad.”

“Yes, and I have the work ready for you,” said Maggie, “and I am glad to see you, myself.” And then Maggie shed a tear thinking of the old cottage where there wasn’t room for a quarter of the McCarthys, and of her mother Mrs. McCarthy, who now wore her best [fur coat] sitting on the front verandah of her son’s house in Saskatchewan.

THE HELP OF A FRIEND

“I said to the lady who is the superintendent of the institution where work that I had a friend who would be here on Friday. I told her you were a small girl, and well

locked up. The young woman will not have to pay the fine imposed but [must] get out of the city before nightfall.”

⁶⁹ From MacMurchy, M. (1913, August 9). BELLE NICHOLSON, WAITRESS. *The Regina Leader*, p. 16. By Lady Marjory Jardine Ramsay MacMurchy Willison (1869 – 1938). According to the author, this is a fictionalized account based on real situations.

brought up, and that your mother [...] had always seen to it that you minded your manners. She said to bring you with me as soon as you had had a rest.”

“But I don’t need any rest,” replied Belle. “I am as strong as a young horse.”

“Well,” responded the wise and experienced Maggie, “until you come to experience the feel of the [land]. You will be glad enough to have a few days to settle down. It is a new, strange country to the likes of you, although for myself I felt at home from the very first day. You have to be awful smart to live in this country, Belle.”

Belle sniffed, for she knew that her cousin Maggie had the reputation of thinking well of herself. “You must spend a lot on your clothes, Maggie,” she said reprovingly. Maggie admired herself. “It is necessary to look well if you are to succeed in business,” she replied.

Belle Nicholson found that she would be the better of the rest from Friday till Monday. But she would not rest until Maggie had taken her to see the superintendent of the lunch rooms. This lady looked at the newcomer carefully, and kindly told her that she was in need of good girls, and that she hoped Belle would like the country and do well indeed as a waitress. It was settled that Belle was to come with Maggie Monday morning, although Miss Smith, the superintendent, explained that she would hardly be likely to keep Belle in the same lunch room with Maggie, as it was a very busy place and she might learn better where there were fewer customers. Belle, however, [pressed] hard to be allowed to stay with the only friend she had in Canada, and Miss Smith, rather against her judgment, consented to it. Belle began her training in a busy downtown lunch room.

HER FIRST WEEK

As it happened, this circumstance made Belle’s career as a waitress rather more difficult and stormy than it would otherwise have been. The first week she was so frightened that as Miss Smith’s assistant reported, “one would think the girl had no intelligence at all.” She simply could not fathom the method and meaning of checks. She rushed and she dashed. She upset and she more than once lost her temper.

Perhaps it was because the sea voyage was still affecting Belle, but she certainly did not seem to be a promising waitress. Then suddenly one morning, after she had been pronounced almost hopeless by Miss Smith’s assistant, Belle apparently acquired an understanding of what a waitress should do and be. This was a satisfaction to Miss Smith, who had been taken with her from the first. Perhaps she suspected that Maggie McCarthy had some share in making Belle Nicholson nervous and awkward.

Maggie had a positive genius for pointing out faults. Whenever Belle made a mistake, Maggie would be sure to see it, and naturally she mentioned the mistake to Belle later in the day. But by this time Belle had a firm grasp of the fact that to be successful in this new calling of hers, she needed to be neat and smart in her dress – all the waitresses were dressed alike in black waists and skirts, white collars, black ties, black shoes and stockings and white aprons – that she had to serve an average number of people as compared with the number served by the other waitresses, that

her checks ought to add up to the average for cash sales of the other waitresses, that she ought to be polite to customers and her fellow employees, and that she ought to break as few dishes as possible.

A GOOD OPINION OF HERSELF

Belle's next difficulty was that from thinking she knew nothing at all and was as stupid and awkward as possible, she came to have a very good opinion of herself. It seemed to Belle Nicholson that she had learned all there was to learn about waiting. I do not know what would have happened to Belle if, fortunately, at the same time she had not begun to admire Miss Smith, the superintendent, greatly. Miss Smith made Belle perfectly happy one day by giving her two tickets for a lecture. Belle took with her a new friend, Sadie Jones. The lecture was on "The Glory of Doing Work Well," and the lecturer was a clever woman who knew a great deal about business girls. "Oh, that was a grand lecture, Miss Smith," said Belle the next morning. "I am ready now to learn to do my work all over again."

BELLE AT HER BEST

In this period of her career as a waitress Belle Nicholson used all the common sense, the good home training that her mother had given her, the perseverance and intelligence with which she was naturally endowed, to learn now to do every detail of waiting as well as it could possibly be done. It was in her attention to detail and her determination to persevere until she was perfect that Belle differed from the average waitress. Nothing was "good enough" in Belle's judgment; everything had to be the "best possible." She was clean, neat and smart in her appearance. Naturally erect, with a good carriage and a graceful walk, it soon became a pleasure to see Belle move about the lunchroom. She was a kind-hearted and thoughtful girl, and she took a positive pleasure in serving her customers so that they would enjoy whatever meal they had come to order. She was watchful, silent, quick, good tempered, [and] resourceful. Belle was not born a perfect waitress, as I have tried to tell you; she learned by hard work and application to be one of the best waitresses that Miss Smith ever had.

It is difficult to average the wage of waitresses, for wages vary in different restaurants in the same city, and they vary greatly in the different cities of Canada. A fair wage that can be expected by a waitress is from four to six dollars a week, with three meals in addition. This is higher in Western Canada. Then also there is the additional sum which is made in tips. Belle found that in one of the lunchrooms where she served she might make as much as one dollar a day in [tips]. Certainly waitresses do add something tangible to their wages from tips.

HAPPY IN WORK AND FRIENDSHIP

Because Belle worked so hard and was an intelligent, conscientious girl, she has done well in the three years she has been in Canada. Lately she has been promoted to be Miss Smith's assistant, and she is learning a great deal more about the business of managing restaurants than she ever imagined she would know about anything. Miss Smith says that Belle Nicholson has organizing and managing ability; this is a valuable asset for any business girl to have. She enjoys her work and she is happy in the friendships she has formed. Maggie McCarthy has been married two

years, and there is a little Maggie who is very fond of Auntie Belle. Maggie's husband, John Tochtly, is sure that Belle and his friend William McGregor will by and by "make a match of it." "And if he gets a fine girl," says John, "William will make her a fine husband."

"What does tipping mean to the girl?"⁷⁰ (1913)

"I thought I knew all about tipping a while ago. My mind was quite made up about it," said a clever woman managing a business which employs a large number of girls.

"You were against it?" I asked her.

"Undoubtedly," was the reply.

"What made you change your mind?" I asked her.

"I haven't changed it," she said. "But the girls don't feel about it as I do. And this makes me hesitate, lest I should be mistaken."

The point of view of another woman employer is as follows:

"Why shouldn't these girls take tips if the customer feels like giving them a tip? If the customer feels that the girl has given her particularly good service, I do not see any reason why the girl should not have the benefit of the tip."

CUSTOMARY TO TIP WAITERS

There are some businesses where it is customary for tips, or gratuities, to be given by the person who is served to the employee. It is practically the rule that all waiters should be tipped for their service. Waiters in clubs and tea rooms sometimes receive their tips in a lump sum at the end of the year. In a large club for women in London, England, there is a box marked for gratuities for the household staff. In such clubs it is against the rules to give tips personally. But the rule is pretty generally broken in these clubs. There are some clubs, however, where tips are given only once a year, at Christmas.

IS THE HAIRDRESSER TO HAVE A TIP?

In Canada there are two classes of girls at work who receive tips: waitresses, and domestic helpers. More recently, I believe, it is beginning to be the custom to give tips to hairdressers and manicurists. The question I would like girls who are hairdressers and manicurists to answer for themselves is: Will tipping have a good effect on the standing of the hairdressing trade for women?

DO TIPS MEAN LOW WAGES?

One reason why waitresses, generally speaking, receive low wages is that the tips received are taken into account by the employer. Tips are just beginning to be given to girls who are hairdressers. The level of wages is not yet affected. But it is absolutely certain that if tips become customary in shampooing establishments, then the tendency will be for wages to go down. Now, girls at work, would you rather draw good wages without tips; or do you prefer to take lower wages and receive tips? A

⁷⁰ From MacMurchy, M. (1913, September 6). What Does Tipping Mean To The Girl? *The Regina Leader*, p. 17. By Lady Marjory Jardine Ramsay MacMurchy Willison (1869 – 1938).

great deal of money taken in tips, and high wages, never go together; I think I am safe in saying that this statement is absolutely correct, with the exception of perhaps a cook or butler in a big establishment, of which there are few in Canada.

If one customer gives a tip, it becomes necessary for every customer to do so, or else those who give tips will get good service; those who do not, will receive poor service.

HOW DOES TIPPING AFFECT THE GIRL?

What effect has the tip on the girl herself? One has an impression that the girl is more likely to work for the tip than she is to do her work as well as possible for the sake of the work. As far as I can understand the system of tipping in Canada, I cannot help believing that the tendency of any employment where part of the money earned is paid in the form of tips is for the occupation to become less desirable as an employment. I believe the best type of girls at work prefer to receive good wages and no tips to earning comparatively low wages and a considerable amount of tips. For one thing, the money paid in tips is fluctuating.

A UNION OF WAITRESSES

One believes, for instance, if a waitresses' union was formed and the union requested employers of waitresses to raise the level of wages and to abolish tips that it would have an excellent effect on the standing and character of those engaged in the trade. In such a case a waitress herself would have to enforce the rule against tipping. The customer would either take his money back or have it turned in to the management. Probably the eating places where no tips are taken would place a small percentage on prices charged for eatables in order to recoup themselves for the higher wages paid to their waiters.

WHEN TIPPING IS COMMENDABLE

As far as domestic workers are concerned, the case seems somewhat different. Gratuities are offered by guests who have been staying in the house where the domestic worker is employed. As a rule, few houses have many guests. It is not at all general for the mistress of the house to say to her domestic helper, "You have had extra work while Mrs. So-and-So has been staying in the house, and I will pay you extra wages for the extra work." The guest feels that the domestic worker has had a great deal to do on her account, and has been pleasant, agreeable and helpful. The gratuity is offered as an acknowledgment of help and kindness. It is intended more as a remembrance and friendly gift rather than as a money equivalent for services rendered. One would be sorry not to have an opportunity sometimes to acknowledge kindness by a gift; not that the gift pays for the kindness, but that the person who has received the kindness wishes to show that it has been truly appreciated. This is one of the advantages which belong to the work of the domestic helper.

A domestic helpers can be a friend as perhaps no other paid worker can. Whenever the personal relation enters in, the harm of the tipping system – whatever that harm may amount to – vanishes. Something of the same can be said of the work of the waiter. If one is served every day by a courteous, obliging waiter, one is glad of the opportunity to show one's gratitude. Besides this, gratuities are considered in the wages of the waitress. She is paid less than she would be if there were no tips. We

actually owe a waitress a gratuity for her services, because the employer in this case does not pay her what her work is worth; he calculates that she will make so much a day from tips, and he therefore pays her less than he otherwise would be compelled to pay. For the reason that if wages remain low and there should be no tips, then there would be no waitresses. They would be forced into other employments.

One cannot believe, however, that any employment for women where the gratuity system does not now exist would benefit from the introduction of tipping.

“Waitress wins suit for libel”⁷¹ (Vancouver, 1914)

Miss Mattie Sands, a head waitress at a local café, was successful in obtaining a verdict for libel yesterday in a suit she brought against her former employers, Messrs. Douglas Whyte and Charles Lehrmann, proprietors of the Ritz café, and James H. Murray. Miss Sands had been described in a local morning paper in a reading notice, prepared by Murray, and inserted by her employers, as being one of eleven Amazons who had quit work at the café and were parading the streets. The special jury, under the foremanship of Mr. E. H. Beazley, manager of the Union Steamship Company, assessed the damages at \$1.

Miss Sands, though tall and well-built, acted like anything but an Amazon while in the witness box. She gave her evidence in a demure and ladylike manner, as she told of the ground of her complaint. She said that she was head waitress at the Ritz café in March, 1913, and with the other girls had frequently made complaints to the proprietor about “the vulgar and profane language” alleged to have been used by the chef, Henry Clark, in addressing the waitresses.

“On the day the trouble arose,” said the witness, “I went to Mr. Whyte and told him that unless he did something to make Clark alter his language to the girls, either Clark or I would have to go. I told him I would give him three days in which to get another cook. Mr. Whyte said: ‘The chef is making money for me and I don’t see a reason to discharge him.’ ‘Does that mean I must go?’ I asked him, and he said: ‘Yes,’ and told me I could get my money. I walked out of the place and the other girls followed me.”

As a result of the girls walking out at the noon hour the restaurant was disorganized that day. That afternoon Mr. Murray, who was a customer of the café, with the collaboration of Mr. Whyte, drew up an article which they paid the News-Advertiser Publishing Company to print. The article is headed: A Storm in a Teacup – eleven damsels quit work – lunch patrons face a boycott – eleven Amazons parading the streets.” The article, which started out with a dissertation upon woman suffrage, wound up by stating that the dining room employees of the Ritz café, led by Miss Mattie Sands, had walked out at the noon hour on the previous day because the proprietor had refused to discharge the chef and after stating that it would not be safe for the proprietor to re-engage them, gave the full list of their names.

⁷¹ From WAITRESS WINS SUIT FOR LIBEL. (1914, January 23). *The Province*, p. 19.

“We say that when a young woman is attacked in this way and put on a black list in the public press that she is entitled to ask you to award her damages,” said Mr. Alex Henderson, K. C., in his address to the jury. He contended that the article was intended to convey the impression that Miss Sands was an unreliable and unworthy waitress for café proprietors to engage.

The News-Advertiser Publishing Co. had been originally a defendant to the action, but at the opening of the trial it was announced that the case against the News-Advertiser Publishing Co. had been withdrawn. The company had previously offered Miss Sands her costs and a small amount in settlement. An officer of the company in evidence stated that the article in question had been accepted by a junior clerk as advertising matter without drawing the attention of the company to its nature.

Mr. D. A. McDonald for the defendants intimated that he will appeal against the finding of the jury on the ground that the withdrawal of the suit against the newspaper which published the article was a bar to proceedings against his clients.

“Come from Minnesota”⁷² (Pibroch, 1914)

From Kittson county, Minnesota, to Pibroch post office, a hundred miles or so north of Edmonton, on the Edmonton, Dunvegan and B.C. railway, is a trying journey for the Trimmen family, who are going to their homestead in the Westlock district. Mrs. Trimmen has with her four sons and two daughters. The father of the family, who is superintendent of a large Minnesota farm, has already filed on his homestead, and will follow as soon as he can find someone to take his job.

Eilia, the eldest girl, is going to stay in Edmonton and work as a waitress, but Agnes, aged 13, Peter, aged 8, Josef, aged 5, James, aged 3, and Leo, the one-year-old baby of the family, are going north with their mother tomorrow.

“When my husband had secured his homestead,” said Mrs. Trimmen this morning, “we had to go up there and settle down – nothing else would satisfy him. He says he has got the best land in Western Canada. We are going north to get things fixed up, and he will follow with a car-load of stock and household goods.”

“I wanted to get away”⁷³ (Vancouver, 1914)

[CONTENT WARNING – ABDUCTION, SEXUAL ABUSE]

Sold into servitude when a child of three by her mother in order to pay her father’s funeral expenses, Mrs. Wong Lai, a young Chinese, who, according to standards, is a very pretty woman, gave some amazing evidence in the County Criminal Court. The woman was principal witness in the prosecution of Wong Chong, Lee Kwong Yip and Lew Chew on a charge of abducting her from the custody of her husband, Wong Lai.

⁷² From COME FROM MINNESOTA. (1914, March 19). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 8.

⁷³ From WOMAN IS SOLD SEVERAL TIMES. (1914, May 2). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 9.

In answer to the question of Crown Prosecutor O'Brian, she told Judge McInnes that Wong Chong had taken her away in a taxicab from the restaurant at which she worked as a waitress, and after giving her some champagne had taken her, attired as a boy, to Port Moody and thence to Edmonton. While at Edmonton she said she had lived an immoral life for four days, the proceeds of which had gone to Wong Chong.

The more amazing part of her story came in answer to the questions of Charles Macdonald, who appeared for the defense. She told of having been sold as a child of three to a woman who later sold her at the age of fifteen to be married. After the death of her husband and one of her children she was taken by relatives and sold to a man who subjected her to a dreadful life with other women in a resort in China. It was here, she said, she met her present husband, Wong Lai, who wanted her to be his third wife and bought her for a sum of \$280 from the keeper of the resort.

"How many children and wives had Wong Lai, then?" asked Mr. Macdonald.

"Two wives. One had five children and the other one child. He took me to his house, and I lived with his other wives," said the witness.

Shortly afterwards, she said, Wong Lai brought her to Canada, paying the poll tax for her. She was detained at the immigration shed on landing, and was only allowed to go on a form of marriage being undergone with Wong Lai. After her marriage, she says, Wong Lai took her to Chinatown, where she worked as a waitress and as dealer in a fan-tan game. In addition, her husband made her earn money by immoral means. On a trip which her husband took her to visit the Chinese quarters in Kamloops, Ashcroft and Penticton, he made \$1,500 out of her earnings.

"He told me he only got \$200, but he used to keep a book, and I got hold of the book and found that it was \$1,500," she said.

The money thus earned, she said, Wong Lai kept for himself, and never gave her any. In addition he used to beat her and use bad language and threats to her, so that she was afraid.

"I wanted to get away. I don't like him," she told counsel. Wong Chong, she said, had told her that he knew of an uncle in Edmonton to whom he would take her. Mr. Macdonald produced a certificate of marriage which purported to show that the woman and Wong Chong had gone through the form of marriage at Edmonton. The marriage purported to have been performed by a white clergyman, in the presence of two white witness, but the witness said she did not understand what it was about.

"Stay away and help us get higher wages"⁷⁴ (Vancouver, 1917)

Patrons of McLeod's café on Granville street have been in many cases persuaded to transfer their patronage to other eating places, according to the statements of the waitresses of that place, who have gone on strike as a result of two of the union waitresses having been discharged. Eleven waitresses quit work on

⁷⁴ From WAITRESSES GO ON STRIKE. (1917, October 7). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 14.

Saturday, and the restaurant was picketed, the girls handing to all patrons cards bearing the following message:

“It is illegal to boycott, but this is to advise you that McLeod’s café is unfair to organized labor. Waitresses are on strike for better working conditions. Stay away and help us get higher wages and better conditions.”

The waitresses state that they do not ask that the restaurant be made a closed shop. A new wage working schedule has been drawn up by the waiters and waitresses and according to their business agent all proprietors to whom the schedule was presented have either signed or have signified their intention to do so, with the exception of McLeod’s and one or two others, perhaps.

But the trouble at McLeod’s did not arise out of this, it is said. The waitresses say that two of their members were discharged because of their activity in the union, and the rest then went out to demand the acceptance of the new wage schedule.

Waitresses have been receiving \$9 a week, working seven days a week, with an eight-hour day. They demand a six-day week at a wage of \$10.

“Misrepresenting matters”⁷⁵ (Vancouver, 1917)

Mrs. McLeod of McLeod’s café states that the waitresses who went on strike from that restaurant on Saturday have been misrepresenting matters when they told people on the street that they were working for \$6 a week. She says the five-hour girls drew \$7 a week and three meals, while the nine-hour girls were paid \$10 a week and three meals.

She also stated that before the strike there were nine union waitresses and nine non-union ones. The reason she discharged the two girls, which led to the strike of the other union members, was because of friction among the staff. The union waitresses, she says, were always picking quarrels and arguments with the non-union girls, calling them “scabs” and other names. So she discharged them. The walking delegate, or business agent of the cooks’, waiters’ and waitresses’ union, then visited her and told her he intended to take the girls off unless the place was made a closed shop and the new scale agreed to.

Mrs. McLeod stated that she had always tried to be fair with her girls and would sign up when conditions in other restaurants were as good as those in hers. She stated also that she had engaged new girls to take the places of those vacated by the strikers.

“Waitresses’ strike still on”⁷⁶ (Vancouver, 1917)

The strike of waitresses at McLeod’s café is still going on. Both sides express confidence and satisfaction. McLeod’s state that business has not been hurt and they have a full staff of waitresses. The union states it is making good progress in its

⁷⁵ From SAYS STATEMENTS UNFAIR. (1917, October 8). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 10.

⁷⁶ From Waitresses’ Strike Still On. (1917, October 10). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 5.

picketing work. In the meantime, the strike has held up negotiations with other restaurants. The proprietors say, “Get McLeod to sign and we will.” The waiters say that, in reply to this, McLeod’s say, “Get the other restaurants to sign up and we will.” So the argument is in the nature of a circle.

“We thank you”⁷⁷ (Vancouver, 1917)

To our many friends and loyal patrons we desire to express our sincere thanks for your continued patronage during the unsettled conditions at our restaurant. We now have the necessary help, and you will receive the same service as formerly – the same well-cooked food and prompt and courteous service that has made our café so popular. McLeod’s Café, 476 Granville street.

“Petitioned the court for a judicial separation.”⁷⁸ (Vancouver, 1920)

[CONTENT WARNING – SEXUAL ABUSE]

What is believed to be the first instance of a Chinese woman availing herself of the matrimonial laws of this country occurred yesterday when through her solicitor Mrs. Wong Lai of Main street petitioned the court for a judicial separation from Wong Lai, who lives at 804 Gore avenue. The couple were married in Vancouver on May 21 1913, the petitioner alleges, but after living together for a year separated, because, as Mrs. Wong alleges, her husband was compelling her to live an immoral life. She has returned to live with him once or twice, but alleges that her husband has always tried to force her⁷⁹ into this kind of life. She alleges now that he has been cruel to her and that she is in bodily terror of him and does not disclose her full address in the petition, giving merely Main street.

“The second reading of Bill (F-3)”⁸⁰ (1914)

Hon. Mr. DAVIS moved the second reading of Bill (F-3), An Act to amend the Secret Commissions Act, 1909.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN – Explain.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – As I have objected myself to the second reading of a private bill without some explanation, I should not ask for the second reading of this public measure without giving the reasons why I have brought it before the House.

This is rather an important Bill, as hon. gentlemen can see for themselves if they look at the details. I have said it is rather important: I should say it is a very

⁷⁷ From McLeod’s Café. (1917, October 13). WE THANK YOU. *The Province*, p. 24.

⁷⁸ From First Chinese to Take Advantage of Divorce Laws. (1920, September 3). *Vancouver Sun*, p. 14.

⁷⁹ “Twelve months’ imprisonment was [given] yesterday [to] Wong Lai by Judge McInnes, on the charge of having forced his wife to lead an immoral life and living on the proceeds.” Twelve months’. (1914, June 19). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 8.

⁸⁰ From Dominion of Canada. (1914) Debates of the Senate of the Dominion of Canada. Ottawa: Holland Bros. The section quoted begins on p. 408, and is from May 6, 1914.

important Bill to the people of this country. Its object is to put a stop to a system of graft and petty bribery that has grown up, not only in this country, but all over the world. I refer to the tipping evil. Where and how it originated I am not prepared to say, except that, going back to the early history of England, I find that the Roman magnates, after the conquest, when they went abroad sent a man ahead of them distributing pennies from a sack to the crowd. How it has grown to its present proportions I cannot say. However, the evil is here and it is high time that something was done to put a stop to it. I venture to say that 90 per cent of the people of Canada are opposed to the prevailing system of petty graft. Any one traveling who does not meet the demands of these highwaymen, who hold them up, is subjected to very unpleasant consequences, and would rather pay than be subjected to the sneers of those who look for tips. The purpose of this Bill is to put a stop to all that.

The system in itself has a demoralizing effect on the people who accept tips, because it is simply pauperizing them. If waiters in hotels and cafes, and porters on railway trains, are not paid adequately for their services, their employers should increase their wages. Any one who patronizes a hotel, or a restaurant, or a pullman car, pays all that the service he gets is worth. Traveling on a pullman car costs one about \$4 a day, and why should any one be expected to pay extra to make up the wages of the company's employees? When we go into a grocery store to buy groceries we never expect to tip the grocer's clerk. It is the same when we make purchases in a drug store or a shoe store. Then why should employees in cafes, or on trains be granted this special privilege of collecting tips? The thing is illogical, and nonsensical to all but those who receive the tips.

The evil has grown to such proportions that it is time to put a stop to it. Other countries are grappling with the problem, notably some of the neighbouring states and Switzerland. I am assured on good authority that the amount of money paid every year in the United States is about \$80,000,000, or about eighty cents per head of the population. The proportion paid in this country in the same way amounts to as much as would provide the subsidy of one of our provinces. Any one who travels a great deal must spend not less than \$500 a year in tips. This money comes out of the pockets of men who cannot afford to spend it in that way. They are robbing their families to the extent that they give tips. With the money extracted from them in that way they might take their families on pleasure trips or buy them luxuries.

Before introducing this Bill, I thought it would be well to get some idea of public opinion on this question. I knew that such legislation was very popular wherever it had been adopted. I gave copies of my Bill to newspapers and others in order to find out how they viewed it, and the question has been taken up by the press from one end of the country to the other. I have read scores of articles on the subject, all favourable to this legislation. From a large number of clippings I shall read a few. The Toronto Telegram sent out a reporter to interview residents of the city, and here are some of the expressions of opinion:

[EXTRACT FROM THE TORONTO TELEGRAM]

Away with all Tipping, an Inhuman, Insulting Evil – Toronto Business Men give their Opinion on the Advisability of Criminal Prosecution to stop Time-honored Practice – Travelers would do away with it.

“Why, if I had my way I’d send them all to jail or hang them. Probably I wouldn’t do that either, but I’d do something,” laughingly remarked Superintendent Beck of the Union station this morning when the Telegram spoke to him with regard to the proposed legislation making it a criminal offence to give or receive a tip. “Personally,” continued Mr. Beck, “I think it nothing but a nuisance and certainly something should be done.”

The Telegram pointed out to Mr. Beck that a lot of tipping was going on right “under his nose,” particularly where the ‘red caps’ were concerned. The superintendent did not know of any remedy unless an Act were passed making it unlawful.

Senator T. O. Davis, of Prince Albert, is the man who has started the trouble. He will introduce a motion in the Senate at Ottawa providing for an amendment to the Criminal Code making it illegal to give a tip or to receive one in Canada. He aims the Act at the hotel proprietors and railway companies and expects that when employees are deprived of their tips that fair wages will be given them. In this manner the senator intimates that many attendants, whom one meets on a journey, are underpaid and dependent on tips to gain a proper livelihood.

Thinks Bill splendid

“I think that the Bill is a splendid one and that it deserves hearty support,” said a prominent commercial traveler when interviewed at one of the hotels. “Not that I believe in being stingy,” he added. “But just look at the number of people who use the trains and have only moderate means. Why, they can get no service from the attendant because the moment a train comes in the employees rush for the baggage of the people who show signs of frequently giving tips. The person who is not so fortunate as to be able to afford tips is left to potter about as best he can. I certainly think that it should at least be enforced on railways, in hotels and also in restaurants. Employees should get enough money to sustain themselves in a proper manner without tips. Why should their wages be paid by another poor beggar who is struggling to keep up a good appearance himself?” concluded the traveler as he stamped away to buy a cigar.

Away with Tipping

“Down with tipping, the most inhuman, most embarrassing and insulting evil that we have to-day,” was the scathing comment handed out by a local business man. “Don’t you mention my name,” he added. “The Lord knows suffragettes are bad enough but what would happen to me if these waitresses ever discovered that I was opposed to tipping? Spare me their withering glances.”

Practically everybody interviewed by the Telegram was in favour of doing away with the system of tipping. All were careful that their names should be kept out of print and that no waitresses or hungry attendants were near.

One man was just issuing from the Union station when he bumped into the scribe. The latter took the opportunity of asking him what he thought about giving tips. And there, right on the Union station steps, that traveler delivered such a speech on the question of tips that the reporter felt assured he must have been tendered the key of the city. At any rate he seemed to have the key to the tipping problem.

He'd tip them

"Why, just think of it. There's a little rascal that I meet at my home station and within the past month I've tipped him a dozen times. The other morning I had no change and when I came along this morning he grasped the baggage of another man and allowed me to carry my own. In future I'm going to tip them, but it won't be with money," said the traveler.

City barbers who work on commission, and many employees who come in contact with the general public feel alarmed over the introduction of the Bill in the Senate, and they fear that their main source of revenue will slip away.

The Telegram found but one place where the system was approved of:

The reason of tipping

"Why, tipping is all right; we have always allowed our girls to take tips," replied the manager of a well-known Yonge street café to the reporter's query. "Oh! we like it," added two of the waitresses who were standing near the cashier's desk. One girl told the Telegram that she got about \$5 a week in tips besides her salary. "Why, I couldn't live on salary alone," said she. "I only get eight dollars a week."

[EXTRACT FROM THE MARKDALE STANDARD]

The following is an editorial article in the Markdale Standard of February 4.

Tipping the torment of travel

Tipping is one of the nuisances of travel. One seems to be almost perpetually plunging into his trousers' pocket to soothe the itching palm of somebody on train or in hotels or city barber shops. In the United States they are righting the evil thing. Some time ago a senator slapped a waiter bang in the face. He was arrested, of course, and humiliated by being sent to the cells. But the judge who tried the case, while imposing a fine, complimented the senator as a noble pioneer in the art of self-defence. The porters in the Pullmans will awaken you at night to search for your shoes, to develop a pretext for the tip. They begin to lay siege just before the terminal, when they produce their tormenting little whisks and brush your dust off on your neighbour, you probably all smiles with your heart in hot rebellion. It does not seem so very bad to see a coloured man take a tip, but the other day we got a shock like the one that almost killed father, when seeing a white Pullman conductor on the tipping line. After the shock subsided we thought he wasn't all white. At Hamilton a porter grabbed two grips and hastened to the railway platform. One owner came along and handed over a quarter. The second drew up a moment later, and it was another. This was reaping a harvest. When one pays from fifty cents to a dollar a meal, and that for several days, as many travelers do, and has to pay a surtax of twenty-five cents each sitting in order to get proper attention, the disturbance ensuing is not very conducive to delightful digestion. On the other hand, there are many students who take this method of raising funds. Knowing this, your heart relaxes. But to be held up by bandit

smiles, knowing your money is likely later to contribute to the gaiety of a ‘craps’ session, you feel it is an imposition from which companies ought to preserve their patrons.

[LETTERS FROM PROMINENT GENTLEMEN]

[Letter from L. W. Wilson, Commercial Traveler]

I have also received letters from prominent gentlemen in various parts of Canada congratulating me on having brought up this question. Here are some of them:

Kingston, March 3, 1914.

The Hon. T. O. Davis, Ottawa.

Sear sir – While I do not know you personally, I cannot help just sending you a line offering my heartfelt congratulations and also of all my friends for the very clever and able Bill you are introducing, making it a criminal offence for giving or accepting tips. This is one of the best Bills ever going on record and is also, I believe, one of the most popular, and I only pray from the bottom of my heart that you will be successful and push it through to a successful issue. I am one who knows the very great annoyance of tips, as I have to do so much traveling, and every one traveling will appreciate you in this Act. I think with the traveling public you are about the most popular member in the Senate.

Make it strong so that people will be afraid to evade it in any way, and if you do it will only be a short time until the whole rotten system is entirely wiped out. Wishing you every success and apologizing for the few remarks.

I remain ours very truly,

L. W. Wilson, Com. Traveler.

[Letter from J. Wilson, Manager at the Specialty Supply Co.]

The Specialty Supply Co.,

Distributors of Specialty Goods of Standard Merit.

J. Wilson, Mgr.

324 McIntyre Block.

Winnipeg, Cn., March 3, 1914.

Hon. T. O. Davis, Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Senator – I was delighted to read in last night’s paper your opinion on that universal nuisance of tipping and sincerely hope you will be successful in passing such as to do away with it. I would gladly gather petitions to help you if necessary to accomplish in passing that law.

Why! It has actually become unbearable, a lot of us would not like to live up to that so-called ethic, but one is looked upon by that tipping fraternity as a ‘cheap skate’ if he does not come through with his two ‘bits’ or a dime at least according to the occasion, and believe me many of us can’t afford it, but it’s the ‘style’ and habit and of course we poor devils have to live up to it.

Wishing you success in your efforts, I beg to remain, yours for a ‘tipless people,’

J. Wilson

[Letter from F. A. Robinson, Presbyterian Church]

The Board of Social Service and Evangelism

The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Toronto, February 23, 1914.

Senator T. O. Davis, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

Dear Sir – As one who uses the railways and hotels a great deal, may I say that you will have a very large number of well-wishers to the Bill that you intend to introduce this week.

Not only is the tipping custom an abomination to the traveler, but the recipient must always be unmanned. The open palm is altogether too common, and in many cases I have known those who could ill afford to be tipping constantly who have suffered a good deal in regard to the kind of service they should receive.

Yours with good wishes,

F. A. Robinson.

[Letter from A. R. Riches, S. C. Kanady Lumber Company]

S. C. Kanady Lumber Company,

Wholesale Lumber.

348 Confederation Life Building

Toronto, Canada, Feb. 24, 1914.

Dear sir – I have not the honour of your acquaintance, but I just want to congratulate you on having sufficient nerve to introduce a Bill as per enclosed clipping. This tipping business appears to me as the starting point of all boodling and crooked business. It is almost impossible for the small person, who cannot afford to hand out money freely for nothing, to get along, and I think, Mr. Senator, if you can put a measure through that will make it a criminal offence for any one to receive or offer any consideration to the servant or servants of other people, you certainly will deserve the thanks of the people of Canada.

Yours very truly,

A. R. Riches.

[Letter from A. O. White, Saskatoon-Saskatchewan Land Co. Ltd.]

Saskatoon-Saskatchewan Land Corporation, Limited.

Toronto

26 East Queen street

Toronto, March 5, 1914.

Senator T. O. Davis, Ottawa, Ont.

My dear Senator:

I think you deserve to be congratulated on bringing up the Bill we read so much of in the papers. You know that I do a great deal of traveling and the tipping nuisance is becoming worse all the time and there is no disguising the fact that we practically one and all dislike being held up for services not rendered. It is bad enough when we actually receive some services for the gratuity, but most of us know that nine times out of ten there is no service at all rendered and the tip is really a hold up as the non-tipper is almost invariably made to feel very keenly his position.

I was present with a party at the Alexandra Hotel in Winnipeg when the bill came to something like \$6.50; the change was 50 cents which was left for the waiter. The waiter hurried after the guest (and by the way it was not myself, though I was

one of the party) and said the change had been forgotten. Of course, this was said in such a manner that it made all the party feel rather small. It so happened that this guest was indirectly connected with the hotel and he reported the waiter with the result that he made ample apologies next day, but this is one of the exceptional cases and it is very seldom that there is any redress in the matter.

I believe you will have the heartfelt sympathy of the whole community if you succeed in putting through this Bill, and as I understand such Acts have been passed in other places. I suppose such is possible here. At any rate I wish you every success.

Yours truly,

A. O. White.

[BACK TO SENATOR DAVIS]

It appears to be the general opinion over Canada that this tipping nuisance should be stopped. There was a time when a tip of five or ten cents was considered reasonable, but now it costs one about seventy-five cents to even get inside a hotel. A gentleman of my acquaintance traveled to Winnipeg in a chair car. When he got near his destination the porter made a rush at him with his whisk. On the journey the porter had not paid the slightest attention to him or done anything for his comfort, but as soon as the journey was coming to an end he made an effort to extract a twenty-five cent tip from him. At the station he handed his grip to one of the red caps and had to pay him twenty-five cents to carry it into the station, and from there he had to carry it himself to the hotel. When he got there he had to pay the bellboy twenty-five cents to take it to his room. Then he asked the boy for a pitcher of water. The bellboy disappeared – they have the system organized – and took very good care that another boy brought up the water. That necessitated the payment of another tip. After drinking the water he went downstairs to get a newspaper, and when he returned to his room and wanted another drink he found that the chambermaid had emptied the pitcher. He had to send for another and pay another twenty-five cent tip.

It is simply organized graft. You find it everywhere. You go to a place on Bank street to get your boots cleaned, and you find there are two registers, one to record the regular charges for the service and the other to record the tips. The boy who cleans your boots does not get your tip. The thing is farmed out. There are people paying for the right to fleece the public in some of the larger hotels. They carry on their operations in the cloak rooms and other places. Instead of paying their employees proper wages these hotels look to the public to furnish enough in tips to make up their wages.

Somebody may attempt to defend the system by arguing that this Bill tends to interfere with the freedom of the people, and that any man who wants to tip should be at liberty to do so, as nobody is compelled to pay a tip. But no man should be allowed to do what is bad for his fellow men; he should give up his right for the good of the many. The evil is this: It may be all right for a millionaire to hand out tips, but how does it affect the poor man? He cannot get any service whatever although he is paying for it, unless he hands out tips; and if he does not tip it is because he has not the money and cannot afford it. I have seen a porter on a railway at Toronto station making a rush to take a little grip from a man, while two old women with big grips

were allowed to carry them out themselves. He never paid the slightest attention to them at all. I took these fellows who are looking for tips. Those who have done a lot of traveling can confirm what I say. No one need tell me that business cannot be carried on without tipping. In London there is a tipless hotel and it is well patronized.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER – Does the hon. gentleman say there is no tipping in England?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – There is, but as I have said there is one hotel where it is not allowed, and that hotel is doing a very prosperous business.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER – My experience has been to the contrary.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – Here is a newspaper editorial from which I quote the following:

[A NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL]

Oh, for a tipless world

Senator Tom Davis, of Prince Albert, will have many with him in principle, in his proposal for legislation in Canada to abolish tipping. It is when he comes to putting his proposal into concrete form that the difficulties will arise. His idea is that an amendment to the Criminal Code should be adopted prescribing punishment for tips, and making both the tipper and the tipped equally guilty. How such an amendment is to be enforced, and who are to enforce it, he does not even indicate.

In the United States those energetic and cheery travelers who used to be known as the 'knights of the grip' recently met in national conclave and condemned the gratuity with all the force of formal resolutions and a blood-sealed oath, and as a result there is on record the case of one commercial traveler who made a tour of 6,000 miles without giving a tip and without the slightest inconvenience thereby. His case must be exceptional, for such is the condition of affairs in this continent, whether it be in the United States or Canada, that it requires moral courage of truly heroic proportions to omit the sacred rite of greasing the waiter's palm, and things get worse instead of better.

Not so in London, where the tipless hotel flourishes and where the movement has gained such an impetus that there are now some 500 eating places that announce 'No gratuities.' The proprietor of the largest of London's tipless hotels plans to erect another of a thousand rooms in the heart of the visitors' quarter – and for an obvious reason. Holidays do not diminish the takings of this tipless hotel, and hard times do not dumb its dividends. It is the only hotel in London that is full the year round. Accommodation has often to be booked a month in advance. The tipless hotel is a convenience to the traveling public, and consequently an excellent business venture. When hotel managers on this side realize that they may increase their custom by offering a tipless service for which there is a steady and dependable demand, then the traveling public may get a relief from promiscuous alms-giving. Meanwhile we are afraid there is little to hope from the well-meaning efforts of Senator Tom Davis and other legislators.

[BACK TO SENATOR DAVIS]

The largest hotel in the city of St. Louis is a tipless hotel, which was just started recently. They have put signs up, 'No tips allowed.' People will say 'You may

put this on the statute book, but it will not have any effect.' True, there are some people who will evade the law, but at the same time such notice will ensure courteous treatment to every person traveling on the railway, because employees will be afraid of being punished.

It would not be a bad thing to provide in the Railway Act that the railway companies should put notices in the cars, 'No tipping allowed.' The matter should be taken up by the provinces, and when a hotel license is granted, there should be a provision embodied in the license that no tipping should be allowed in the hotel. It should also be carried down to the municipalities, and in granting a license for a café they introduce something in their by-laws to provide against this very thing. We have to make a start, and this is as good a time as any other. Tipping has grown to enormous proportions, and it is hard to say where it will stop. The ordinary man will soon not be able to travel, unless he has a pocketful of money. I am satisfied that ninety per cent of the people of this country are in favour of this measure, from the Atlantic to the Pacific; it is time such a provision should be placed on the statute book.

Hon. Mr. GORDON – While I have much sympathy with the object my hon. friend has in view, because I believe it will tend to reduce the high cost of living, at the same time he is endeavouring to build a fence around the lambs, which will turn out to be worse than a barbed wire fence, and which will have the effect of jailing or penalizing these lambs to the extent of \$200 for very little. Take for instance the case of the poor man, for whom my hon. friend expressed sympathy. The poor farmer's hired man driving a wagon to the city gives my hon. friend a lift; my hon. friend may not know that he is a hired man; when he reaches the end of his journey my hon. friend, who is a generous man, would likely give him a quarter or fifty cents.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN – That is far-fetched, and does not apply.

Hon. Mr. GORDON – Under this Bill both my hon. friend and the man who accepted the bribe are liable to this punishment.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN – No, no.

Hon. Mr. WATSON – Guess again.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – We will thresh out the framework of the Bill in committee. We are not trying to get at that class of men at all.

Hon. Mr. GORDON – While I have a certain amount of sympathy with the object my hon. friend has in view, the Bill he has prepared is so wide that it is going to affect people who are in employment and in places which he does not need to touch; until the Bill can be got down to the places which he himself only means to have affected, it surely should not be passed.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton) – I am entirely in sympathy with the object the hon. gentleman has in view with this Bill. Every man should pay once, but there is no law of God or man that he should pay twice. When you are served in a restaurant or hotel, you first pay for what you get, and then pay the man who gives it to you. The real cause of the whole system of tipping is brought about by the selfishness of the rich man who goes into the hotel and thinks it nothing for him to pay a dollar bill and have servants dance attendance upon him. People who cannot afford to pay the dollar bill have to wait until their turn comes. If you analyse the whole thing, that is what

it comes to. It is perfectly sound legislation to curb that practice wherever you can, but I have some doubt as to whether this Bill embodies a complete way of dealing with the matter. I am prepared to make the suggestion later that an alternative should be given to the people who give a public service, hotel, restaurant, barber shop, and so on, that if tips are allowed they publish the scale of tips they will allow to be collected.

Hon. Mr. CLORAN – They will not do that.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton) – I venture to say you will not find many of those scales of tips put up. Take the Ocean Steamship Company; if a man dare to leave a steamer without paying \$5 for this and for the other thing they would chase him up the wharf and hold on till they got it. These men receive very small salaries from companies like the White Star Line, which has never paid less than 100 per cent dividend, and in the meantime the companies pay their employees starvation salaries, leaving them to get their wages out of the public. The same conditions are found in the hotels. I was in a hotel in the United States, and there was a sort of indignation meeting there about the treatment of the hotel as to the maids, who were supposed to be paid \$5 a week, and to get all they could of the guests of the hotel; so that after paying well for your hotel accommodation you would find you had to settle up with the servants. If it is possible to check that evil, I would be glad to accept suggestions as to the means.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER – I wish to compliment my hon. friend from the far West upon this Bill. It is truly a democratic measure. In a country where manhood suffrage exists, all men should be on a level, and no class should be subservient to another. Begging publicly, surreptitiously or any other way, is degrading to the class that resorts to it. It is moral degradation. In this country all men should stand on an equal footing; nobody should be permitted to go begging alms or showing an inferiority which might have existed, which did exist when there were castes in this country, when there were servants, slaves and masters. Such a thing does not obtain in true democracy, especially in a country like ours where all men are equal before the law.

This Bill does not propose any revolution but merely a modification in a serious matter of education, which is certainly hard to bring about, as all reforms of abuses are. But it is worth making an attempt. I would not endorse the Bill as it is at present framed, but when it comes to committee we will be able to devise some means by which initiative may be taken. The result of this should be to diminish, and possibly to do away with an evil practice – I call it a social plague – and benefit will follow, if it is only prohibited in public places, say on government railways, where it has become a nuisance of enormous gravity. At hotels and railways and steamships we have to pay about ten per cent above the legitimate cost for anything we get, the effect of which is to degrade manhood and womanhood. The cause of the suffragette is progressing, and womanhood will be affected in the same way.

I greatly sympathize with my hon. friend on account of the predicament he was in and which he narrated to us, where, for a drink of water he had to undergo the trial he described. This recalls an incident which happened in the other House, modifying the saying 'wine, women and graft.' In this case it is graft, accompanied by

the degradation of manhood and womanhood. Our legislation should tend towards the elevation of all classes, but more especially the class which happens to be at the service of others – not because, in many instances, it is morally or intellectually inferior – but because that class is poorer. The hotelkeepers, the government railway managers, and people who conduct public institutions, should help the Parliament of Canada in putting an end to this most deplorable habit, the effect of which is to lower the standard of a very large and important portion of the community.

[Note:] The motion was agreed to, and the Bill was read the second time.

“Senators favor abolishing tips”⁸¹ (Ottawa, 1914)

Ottawa, May 6 – Tips will be abolished within a month if Senator Davis (Prince Albert) and a number of other senators and members of Parliament have their way, and it looks as if they might. Senator Davis’ bill, which provides for a fine or imprisonment for tipping and making the employer, the employee and the person offering the gratuity liable, was given second reading in the Senate today.

In moving the reading, Senator Davis said that within recent years an intolerable system of petty bribery had grown up all over the world known as the tipping system. It had become such a nuisance that it was grappled with by legislation, and he believed his bill would have the support of ninety per cent of the people of the country who were now subject to a growing scale of graft and tips in order to obtain accommodation and service. A person on a journey had to constantly have his hand in his pocket and had to bribe his way throughout his trip.

The senator said that tipping had a demoralizing effect on persons who received them. It had a tendency to pauperize waiters, porters, and other persons who should stand on a plane of manhood above the servile position which they were placed in through the acceptance of gratuities. Employers should pay their servants and not expect the public to pay their help. Tipping also developed a spirit of arrogance on the part of those serving the public.

Senator Ross, of Middleton, sympathized with the object of the bill and said “Every man should pay once, but no law of God or man should make him pay twice.”

Senators Poirier, Gordon and Cloran all spoke in favor of the bill and it was given a second reading.

“Exceedingly indignant”⁸² (Ottawa, 1914)

The waitresses in the House of Commons restaurant are exceedingly indignant at the legislation which has been introduced in the senate to abolish tipping and have started a lobby amongst the senators to kill the bill in its third reading. The bill got its second reading yesterday.

⁸¹ From SENATORS FAVOR ABOLISHING TIPS. (1914, May 7). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

⁸² From WAITRESSES ARE INDIGNANT AND START A LOBBY. (1914, May 8). *The Ottawa Journal*, p. 11.

Senator Tom Davis, father of the bill, has begun to put his principles into practice. The result is that he is having difficulty in getting his daily rasher of bacon and brace of eggs. The bill, if it ever reaches the Commons, will die a slow death there, as members there think it is impossible and impracticable.

“Tipping in Toronto”⁸³ (Toronto, 1914)

The “No Tips Bill,” introduced and given its second reading in the Dominion Senate, is giving rise to hot discussion. Business men and travelers seem to regard the measure with approval, but barbers, railway employees, hotel employees and others used to getting tips, take it as an imposition. The Toronto Telegram interviewed over a score of interested parties on both sides of the question. In the majority of instances employees were opposed to the bill, but only one traveler was found who sided with them. On the other hand, many employees thought the measure would have a very good effect and supported it on that account.

The Telegram accosted one traveler on the steps of the Union Station.

“I pay nearly ten dollars a week in tips,” he said when questioned. “I pay ten dollars a week in bribery. Why, some of these fellows around the stations wouldn’t warn you that a train was about to strike you unless they sized you up as good for a tip. Now, I don’t want anyone to think that I am a tightwad. I can see this thing from the point of a man who has had experience and who has paid for that experience. Now, you take a railway journey.

“You leave your home and you tip the taxi driver or the cabby 25 cents for breaking the speed limit – at least he says he is breaking the speed limit, but he isn’t going more than ten miles an hour. You then tip the red cap or whoever handles your baggage twenty-five cents. You buy a paper on the train and sometimes tender a quarter. Now, if your purchase comes to fifteen cents, it is part of the unwritten law of newsies that you shouldn’t ask for change. Then you tip the Pullman porter and the red cap at the other end and the hotel people, and I don’t know who you don’t tip. If you forget anybody, why, murderous glances are shot your way.”

“I don’t object to the tipping system around barber shops and the like, but it has gone beyond all bounds in some quarters,” remarked another traveler. “I have been told that these red caps at the Union Station only get six dollars a month salary and they depend entirely on tips for their living. I have been told that sometimes these tips amount to as much as \$17 per week. Now, when there are about ten red caps at least, and they are all depending on tips for a livelihood, you can readily understand how they work. Of course, they trip to grab up the most promising passengers. I think it is a good bill.”

A prominent business man favored the bill when interviewed.

“My midday meal,” he said, “costs me just about sixty cents. The meal itself generally runs to about fifty cents and the ten cents I leave under the plate for the waitress. I have observed that at restaurants where the waitresses know me that I

⁸³ From TIPPING IN TORONTO. (1914, May 13). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 4.

get much more attention than do people sitting nearby. It is not because they like me, but it is because they think I am good for a tip. Without doubt if this law comes into effect it will result in a better service at all the restaurants.”

“I favor the bill,” said another. “At the present time I feel sure that scores of waitresses and employees of restaurants and other places are being paid such poor salaries that unless they received tips it would be impossible for them to live. At the time this bill passes something should be done in the way of investigating the conditions surrounding these people so that they will not suffer to any great extent.”

“These barbers only get about eight dollars a week in actual salaries and depend on tips and commission to make up a decent wage,” said a hotel proprietor. “I think that both the commission system and the tipping systems are respectable methods of pocket picking. They are getting so bad now that they actually change your money into dimes and nickels so that they can get a tip.”

The Telegram interviewed employees of barber shops, shoe shine parlors and the like, as well as Pullman porters. They were all opposed to the passing of the bill. In the main their argument was that they did not get large enough wages to exist without tips.

“Tipping is a necessary evil,” said one hotel manager, “and if it was abandoned the rates would have to go up. The public must pay either with tips or through the office of the cashier.”

“A waiter or a bell boy in any large Toronto hotel who cannot clean up a hundred dollars a month should not consider himself a first-class man,” said another. “We pay our waiters \$30 a month and give them their meals, and we pay our bell boys \$16 a month. The reason these men stay is on account of the extra money they get, and the post that provides the most tips is always the goal for the best waiter or boy.”

The general opinion amongst Toronto hotel men is that hotel rates will go up, and the tipping habit increases [sic.] if the measure now before the Federal government is enforced.

“A Committee of the Whole on Bill (F3)”⁸⁴ (1914)

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (F3), “An Act to amend the Secret Commission Act.”

In the Committee.

On clause 3 paragraph A.

Hon. Mr. DAVID – Before this paragraph is adopted, although I am in favour of the Bill, I should like to ask the hon. member from Prince Albert (Hon. Mr. Davis) and the hon. members of this House whether it would not be proper to make a discrimination between the employer and the employee as to the penalty. The clause makes no such discrimination; the penalty is not to exceed \$100, but an employee

⁸⁴ From Dominion of Canada. (1914) Debates of the Senate of the Dominion of Canada. Ottawa: Holland Bros. The section quoted begins on p. 448, and is from May 13, 1914.

may be sent to jail if unable to pay the fine. Under the clause a poor little boy or a poor servant in a hotel receiving perhaps only ten dollars a month wages, if called to render special services to a sick person, will be exposed to a fine of twenty-five, fifty or even a hundred dollars if he or she accepts compensation for that special service. Does not the hon. member from Prince Albert think there should be a distinction between the penalty for such [a] servant, and that for the employer? Perhaps the question might be settled if thought proper, by applying the law, for the present only, to the employer and consequently striking out clause 8. The law would still be very good, and would have an excellent effect, because if it only applied to the employer or master of a restaurant, or manager of a railway, such employer would be obliged to notify his servants that no tips would be allowed and that any servant who accepted tips would be discharged.

Probably that would be sufficient, but if the hon. member did not think it proper to erase that clause, it might perhaps be amended, as I have suggested, in order to make a distinction between the employer and the poor servant. Perhaps other hon. members of this House will do as was suggested by the hon. member for Middleton (Hon. Mr. Ross) the other day, and if it is thought proper, keep the law in this respect as it is, and apply it only to employees or servants in public establishments, or on railways or vessels. I am not ready to suggest the amendment as it should be worded. I give only the idea and it would be very easy to draft the amendment. The hon. gentleman from Middleton (Hon. Mr. Ross) made the remark that it would be difficult to apply this clause to employees in private houses or places which are not public establishments. I shall listen to the discussion before I propose an amendment.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – I am not a lawyer and speak subject to correction; but I am under the impression that, in a matter of this kind, the fine is in the discretion of the magistrate or the judge. He might fine the small boy, in the case referred to, seventy-five cents. The maximum fine is \$100: they cannot exceed that. I find that this Bill is received with favour, not only by the traveling public, but the people who are being employed. The other night in Winnipeg the Trades and Labour Council passed a resolution approving of this Bill. The resolution was moved by Mr. Smith, who is the business agent of the cooks and waiters organization or union in Winnipeg, and he gave as a reason that they wanted to be put on a salary basis, and not be living on charity. I have a letter from the waiters' organization in Montreal to the same effect. They approve of the Bill; they say the time has come when they should have a living wage, and not be dependent on the charity of anybody, and they say it has not a tendency to uplift anybody by making mendicants of them.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton) – Would it not be better to make this clause read "To a fine not exceeding \$100, or to imprisonment not exceeding two months."

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – That would be better.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE – From what I have heard in the hotels and public places regarding this Bill, I have come to the conclusion it would be very hard to enforce it, although the principle may be good. Some waiters are pleased with the Bill. They say, and very correctly, "When the Bill is passed, we will get a good salary

from our employers, but we will get the tips all the same." You go to a hotel and you have a good waiter. You give him a quarter to serve you quickly. Even with this Bill in force you could not prevent the tipping, except in the case of some people who, probably, do not give a tip now. Therefore, the Bill is impracticable. Further, without the tipping it is almost impossible to travel. We all know the organization they have in the old country about tipping. They have an organization with officers, and it is understood that before the baggage leaves the hotel there is a special mark put on it which the public do not see, unless attention is called to it, and when a trunk arrives at the next hotel, the head waiter knows if the man gives tips or not; and if he does not give tips, his trunks are left in the corridor, and he is not attended to.

Hon. Mr. POWER – That is a strong argument in favor of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE – I am obliged to give tips sometimes, and I give them if I am well served; if I am not well served I do not give them. If four or five of us together are well served we make a little pot and give it to the waiter. The principle of the Bill may be very good. We will have to protect ourselves some way. We can say, "I don't give tips because the law forbids it." There is a certain class of employees which is not covered by this Bill. Take the girl who checks the hats at the entrance to the dining room; she is not paid a cent of salary, and she would be willing to pay something to be placed there. Under this Bill she is at liberty to receive tips, because her employer does not pay her. The employer does not pay the little girl or boy to take your hat, and therefore, if this Bill becomes law, they will be at liberty to accept tips, and the employer will not be liable under the law. I would advise my hon. friend to do with this Bill as I did with mine – let it stand for the session and bring it up next year – and we will see if we cannot be well served without giving up. The principle of the Bill has been admitted, we have discussed it, and why not move that the committee rise? We will know more about it next year.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – I accept the amendment proposed by the hon. gentleman from Middleton (Hon. Mr. Ross), making the clause read:

Every one is guilty of an offence liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$100 or to punishment not exceeding two months, or to both.

I assume that all law-abiding citizens in this country will observe the law if it is placed on the Statute Book, more particularly a law of this kind, because they will only be too anxious to observe it. My hon. friend argues that this law cannot be enforced. We might say the same with regard to bribery at elections, and other laws. We cannot make laws that will be universally observed; somebody will always break the law, but ninety per cent of the people will observe the law, and you will find the employees, as soon as this Bill becomes law, will take action themselves. With reference to the girl in the cloak room, if she is there she is an employee of the party who runs the hotel, otherwise she could not be there.

Hon. Mr. CHOQUETTE – She is not paid.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – That does not make any difference. They will pay her; they will have to pay her. What do they allow her there for anyhow – to rob the public? The argument put up by my hon. friend about placing signs on the baggage is a strong argument for this Bill. I noticed in the Ottawa Free Press of Saturday last, that the

reporters of that paper interviewed some people with reference to this Bill, who are supposed to be opposed to it. In Toronto the boot-blacks say: "When a man comes in who we know gives a tip, we make a little extra effort to give the man a good shine. But when a man comes in whom we remember as not giving a tip, we give him only a light shine. We do it roughly." And this, although the rules of the shop announce that the price of the shine is ten cents. Everybody should be treated alike. The effect of this law will be that people cannot gather together and bribe the waiter with a dollar to render a service that he will not render to somebody else, for that would be bribery under the law. That practice will be stopped, because they will be afraid; they will not know but that there are spotters watching them. The poor man will thus be treated fairly. Things have reached such a stage now that if a poor man cannot keep up with a rich man he is sneered at. I claim that these waiters and other employees take bribes from rich men – because it will be bribery if this Act is passed – but they will be forced to treat the poor man with better courtesy.

I do not think that any Bill that has been before either House has been received so heartily as this one. I have stacks of letters from people who have been mistreated in the way I have mentioned. I have a letter here from a gentleman who my hon. friend from Brandon knows very well, O. Fortin, D.D., Archdeacon of Winnipeg, a man in very high standing, who gives his experience of how he has been treated in traveling, and he approves strongly of the Bill. I have letters here from all parts of Canada. Every newspaper in Canada, except the Montreal Gazette, has approved of the principle of the Bill. They say we cannot enforce it, but the state of Mississippi has a Bill exactly the same as this, which deals with the employer, the employee, and the person who grants the tips. The penalty there is \$500, or penal servitude for six months for breaking it. Here is what a gentleman says who traveled through Mississippi:

A No tip State

H. M. Hailes, a Boston commercial traveler, gave his impressions of a no-tip state. In the state of Mississippi, said Mr. Hailes, the no-tipping law has been instituted, and the fine for giving or receiving a tip is \$500 or penal servitude. It is regarded as seriously as a bribe. And yet in the hotels in the cities of that state I received the best attention of any hotel I ever stopped at. And the indirect cause was no doubt the absence of the continual worry and annoyance of tipping. In a few of the hotels of St. Louis and Philadelphia the system is in force, and it has proved extremely satisfactory.

There they have it in force, and it has been carried out in Mississippi, and it has been successful and nobody is bothered. I would suggest that we give it a trial.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL – I am very much inclined to agree with the hon. member from Prince Albert. If this Bill becomes an Act of Parliament there will be, at all events at first, a good deal of difficulty in having it carried out generally, but I believe it is well to make a start. I think every one here is quite of the opinion that this tipping business has become not only a nuisance, but a real imposition on the traveling public. Unless a start is made it will go on getting worse all the time.

Some hon. GENTLEMEN – Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL – That is why I intend to support the Bill. The more the people take it into consideration and think it out, the better satisfied they will be to have such a law on the statute book. While, at first, there will be very considerable difficulty in carrying out, those who are looking to accommodate the traveling public – those in hotels, and restaurants, railway lunch rooms, and places of that kind – will very soon get into the way of making such arrangements that the comfort of travelers will not suffer, and that these arrangements will be such as not to require any extra payment on the part of the traveler. If it were the case, that hotels, and places generally, were in the habit of charging very low rates, and getting hardly enough to keep the business going, it would be a very different story, but we know very well that all the rates charged, whether in dining cars, sleeping cars, or hotels, are such as must give a very considerable profit to the people who are engaged in those centres. For this reason, even though some of us may feel that it may be difficult to carry out the provisions of the Act thoroughly, we are satisfied that it is well to make the attempt and see what can be done. If necessary the Act can be improved after we have had some experience of its working. With regard to subclause (b), it says:

Being an employer or master who permits or allows any of his employees, etc.

That is putting a very considerable burden on the employer, and it would be fairer to the employer to insert the word “knowingly” before “permits”.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – I was under the impression that the clause as it stands was only rendering the employer liable if he knowingly permitted a violation of the Act. If the hon. member from Middleton (Hon. Mr. Ross) does not think that it would interfere with the working of the Bill I have no objection to putting in the word “knowingly.”

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton) – It would have to be there anyway. The suggestion has been made that the penalty is too high, that the maximum fine should be reduced to \$50 and the term of imprisonment to one month.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – It rests entirely with the magistrate.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL – A reduction of the amount and the term would make it more acceptable to the other House, but as the amendment declares that the sum and the term mentioned are the maximum, my objection is met; because the magistrate convicting an offender may fine him a trifling amount or sentence to imprisonment for a very short time.

The clause was adopted.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY – I should like to point out that clause 3 (a) is too broad in its scope. It makes anybody employed in a private capacity liable to the penalty under this Act. It should be confined in its application to any one who renders a public service. A clause should be inserted either to exempt private individuals or to make the law applicable only to persons rendering public services.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton) – It would be better done by putting in a clause at the end to the effect that it shall apply to hotels, restaurants, steamship companies, railway companies, theatres, barber shops, etc.

The clause was adopted.

On subclause (c):

Hon. Mr. DANIEL moved that the word “knowingly” be inserted after the word “master” in the first line.

Hon. Mr. FORGET – I do not think it is necessary.

Hon. Mr. POWER – I do not think it will be judicious to insert the word knowingly. If that word were inserted you increase very much the difficulty of making the Bill effective. Any one initiating a prosecution would be obliged to prove the knowledge of the owner, and that would render the Bill practically unworkable. The employer can control his servants, and he should not permit this. He should issue instructions not to take tips. After that, I suppose, his day is done.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL – Perhaps I am wrong, and it may be the hon. gentleman from Halifax is entirely correct, but it appears to me unless the word knowingly was put in, the employer would be liable for any infringement of the Act that occurred in his place, whether he knew it was going on or not. If that was the intention of the Act, all right. I should think an employer should only be liable if he knowingly permitted his employees to break the law.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – Suppose we start at the beginning of the Bill, ‘An employee or master.’ Could we not add some words there – “of labour in a public way” – so as to cover everything without enumerating boot-blacks?

Hon. Mr. MURPHY – You have to cover the servants.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – But we wish to exempt private houses.

Hon. Mr. ROSS – This Bill deals directly with the offence mentioned, and, as I pointed out the other day, there is nearly always an alternative to the taking of tips or gratuities. It is easy for servants to organize a raffle or lottery instead of obtaining a tip from the customers and then sell lottery tickets to them. I would suggest that we add the following paragraph:

Obtaining money or money’s worth by any device or plan which in the judgment of the convicting magistrate is a device or plan to defeat the provisions of this section is an offence under this Act and punishable thereunder.

Hon. Mr. BOYER – Would it not be as well to put in a clause that no electors will be allowed to take a tip from the candidates?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – That is already covered by law.

Hon. Mr. BOYER – This is, coming from an independent source – as the members of this House have not to be elected – it would be a great relief to the other House. I simply make the suggestion. Another point I would like to call to my hon. friend’s attention: We often read in newspapers that a silver collection will be taken up after the services.

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton) – Put it in.

Hon. Mr. BOYER – Is it because the minister or clergyman is not paid enough? Who is going to pay the fine in that case? Now, to come to serious business, does the Senate really think that we are elevating the standard of our work by bringing in such measures? I believe this is the only part of the discovered world to-day where such a law would be put in force; and how it is going to be enforced is another question. Services rendered ought to be paid for. I do admit there are certain abuses, but those abuses can be cured by the public refusing to be preyed upon. If you take a chair in

the day car from Montreal to Ottawa, one gentleman – I call him a gentleman because he is generally better dressed than any of us – collects 50 cents. Now I am not sure whether the railway companies are responsible or not, but it is for them to stop that abuse, or for the traveling public to refuse to have anything to do with the second gentleman, who comes to collect. But how in the name of goodness are we going to enforce this law? We have today more laws on our statute books than would take the population of Canada to put into force; why augment the number? It is simply education that is required. If it went through the community that we would not tip, the hotel keepers and the sinners would soon ascertain the general intention and find the remedy themselves. My hon. friend suggested that there is a system abroad by which the luggage of any man who does not tip is stamped in a certain way. I have traveled abroad for a few years, but I am not aware that my luggage was ever stamped.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – Because you tipped; you are a rich man, and you can afford it.

Hon. Mr. BOYER – I must say that I did as the usual public does.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – Therefore you tipped.

Hon. Mr. BOYER – If any man does a certain service for me he is entitled to a reward.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY – Did you not pay him?

Hon. Mr. BOYER – Since we are coming down to our poor little selves, I may add that there was a sort of movement carried through the Commons, and I believe through the Senate, for an increase of indemnity. Was not that a tip, and did not some of us beg for it?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – That is far-fetched.

Hon. Mr. BOYER – What position will we be in now if this goes through?

Hon. Mr. ROSS (Middleton) – I would point out to the hon. gentleman who has just taken his seat that during the last few years a practice grew up in banks of asking for a bonus on anything substantial in the way of a loan. A man who went to do business with the bank had to pay seven or eight or nine per cent interest and then, in order to get his loan through, he had to pay a bonus besides. This Parliament last year inserted a clause in the Banking Act making those bonuses illegal. That is exactly the very same principle that underlies this Bill.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – The same principle underlies the statute which this Bill is amending; so that if my hon. friend employs some person who goes out and takes a tip from somebody when buying gasoline for his automobile he becomes liable under the Act as it stands. This Bill only enlarges that Act; the principle is there now. As far as enforcement is concerned, you can say that about any statute, that it cannot be enforced. What about the Bribery law? You may not be able to enforce it in full, but you do to a certain extent.

Hon. Mr. DAVID – I would move in amendment that the following words be added as clause (d):

This shall not apply to private residences.

The amendment was adopted.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – I think the Bill would be much better without that.

Hon. Mr. WATSON, from the committee, reported the Bill with amendments, which were concurred in.

“Senatorial logic”⁸⁵ (1914)

The anti-tipping bill has been amended so as to exclude from its purview, servants in private residences. Evidently the senate believes that bribery is bribery only under certain circumstances. Tipping the servant maid in a boarding-house is permissible, but tipping the chambermaid or the waitress in a hotel is a very reprehensible practice. Such is senatorial logic.

The “tipping question”⁸⁶ (Winnipeg, 1914)

Dear Sir – In the name of fair play I would like to present to your readers the waitresses’ side of the tipping question, in view of the bitter arraignment of them published in a local paper on Saturday last.

The writer of the article referred to declares that unless one is a generous tipper, “he will be kept waiting lengthy periods between courses, his plates may be shot across the table like quoits; half the condiments which go to make a dinner tasty will disappear off his table; his steak will be tough, his portions small and his service generally poor all round.”

I have eaten in Winnipeg restaurants and cafes for the past seven or eight years, and although by no means the least observant of men, I have never seen such things as the writer describes. As a matter of fact his charges are absurd. Every order in a café, whether the customer is a tipper or not, is taken in its turn. If the service is poor an appeal to the head waiter will rectify the matter, and as for condiments, the same relief can be obtained. The writer states with evident indignation that “it is nothing for smart waitresses to make \$20 to \$25 per week in tips alone.” Supposing this is true – and I very much doubt it – who amongst us would work for 14 or 15 hours a day for less? And yet these are the hours the girls in Winnipeg cafes are compelled to work by their employers. Some start at 7.30 o’clock in the morning and finish at one o’clock the next morning, with a 3 1-2 hour rest interval in the afternoon. The next day they will start at 11.30 o’clock and without any interval for meals or rest, will work until 8 or 8.30 in the evening. During all this time the girls are continually on the go, and for these long hours they receive in pay from their employers the generous sum of from \$20 to \$25 a month. In other words, from her employers she receives little more than eight cents an hour and works 69 or more hours every week.

⁸⁵ From EDITORIAL NOTES. (1914, May 15). *The Saskatoon Phoenix*, p. 6.

⁸⁶ From Tutte, A. W. (1914, May 16). TIPPING QUESTION. *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 11. Written by Albert William Tutte, alias William Albert Tutte (c. 1884 – 1943). At the time he was a reporter for the Winnipeg Tribune, and lived at 278 Ellice Ave., Winnipeg.

It will be seen by this that the girls are compelled virtually to depend upon the generosity of their patrons for their wages. It is not the fault of the girls either, for some time ago the waitresses attempted to form a union which would enable them to obtain better wages, but the scheme was blanketed by a concerted movement on the part of the employers who threatened to discharge many of the girls in the event of any demands being made.

The writer of the article in question declares that, "It is nothing for a girl to make \$25 a week". I will admit that occasionally such an amount is made by some of the girls when things are exceptionally busy, but the average amount is nearer \$15, and for the amount of work the girls have to do, this, in all conscience, is little enough.

The tipping principle may be an evil for which there is a remedy, but it is hardly fair to claim that the girls in Winnipeg cafes are responsible for it. I have always found that whether a man is generous with his money, or whether he pays nothing, he will get the same service. This is easily accountable, for despite the fact that the employers expect the girls to make wages in tips, they provide efficient head waiters who see to it that every one is treated alike, and, as a matter of fact, it is quite possible that the writer of this bitter attack on the waitresses is one of those who never take into consideration the amount of hard work each girl is called upon to do, has never tried that excellent gratuity – politeness.

Yours in the interest of fair play,
A.W.T.

278 Ellice ave.

“What is it? A petition?”⁸⁷ (1914)

The SPEAKER laid on the table a communication addressed to the Speaker and the members of the Senate from the waiters of the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, in regard to the Secret Commissions Act Amendment Bill now before the Senate.

Hon. Mr. YOUNG – What is it? A petition?

The SPEAKER – It is giving reasons why the Bill should not pass.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL – Read.

Hon. Mr. POWER – I do not think there is any Order of the House to have this communication read at the table. There is no reason why it should be read, any more than an ordinary petition.

The SPEAKER – It is not in the form of a petition but it is really a petition asking that the Bill not be passed.

Hon. Mr. BEIQUE – How is the House to know what the communication contains, unless it is read?

The SPEAKER – It can only be read if ordered by the House. I am laying it on the table where any hon. gentleman can see it.

Hon. Mr. DANIEL moved that the petition be read at the table.

⁸⁷ From Dominion of Canada. (1914) Debates of the Senate of the Dominion of Canada. Ottawa: Holland Bros. The section quoted begins on p. 471, and is from May 19, 1914.

The Motion was agreed to and the communication was read as follows

[From the Waiters of the Chateau Frontenac]

Quebec, May 14, 1914.

Gentlemen – Pardon me for the liberty I am taking in writing you re Senator Davis' Anti-Tipping Bill. Before passing this Bill, gentlemen, we beg of you to consider this question well from all points of view. This Bill if passed spells ruin to use waiters, as I will now explain:

If tipping is prohibited and our salary was to be fixed at say \$75 a month, (but I am afraid it would be much less) it would barely be sufficient for us to get along. You know full well, gentlemen, that at the present high cost of living, a married man with a family to support cannot live under less than that. Rent alone is anywhere from \$15 to \$20, and if you would like us to give our children the necessary education to become useful and respectable citizens, we would ask you not to make this Bill law, as it would hurt us more than the general public can imagine.

Another item is that nearly every waiter knows two or more languages, which tends all to the comfort of our guests as we are in constant touch with the best people of every nationality. Then consider what it costs a waiter to dress. A first class hotel does not supply us with anything. We have to buy our own dress suits, jackets, linen and lots of other things, for a guest in a good hotel would expect, and justly so, that his waiter be faultlessly attired.

Tipping at present, gentlemen,, is quite optional, and we would ask you earnestly once more to leave it at that. Now, if any of you gentlemen were to give a little dinner party at a hotel and you have waiters attending you who, in addition to being well dressed, make your dinner a success, and a good waiter can always make a dinner good irrespective of the cooking, and you are quite pleased with the attention shown you, would you not feel like giving that waiter a tip, or call it a reward, if only to show your appreciation? If, on the other hand, you are not satisfied with the attention of a certain waiter and you lodge a complaint with the head waiter, our punishment is swift and that danger always hangs like a sword of Damocles over a hard working if not always appreciated waiter.

I have made a man to man canvass here in the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, and found not one man in about forty-five who would like this Bill to become law. If a plebiscite was taken amongst all the waiters in Canada, you would find that ninety per cent are against it, and that is putting it mildly.

Hoping that you gentlemen in the interest of our families will not make this Bill a law, we remain,

Yours thankfully,

The Waiters of the Chateau Frontenac,

Per Joseph Riedl, 18 St. Flavin, Quebec.

To the Honourable President and Members of the Senate.

Hon. Mr. BOYER – What about the cooks?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – I have a letter on the other side to read.

“Committee of the Whole House on Bill F-3”⁸⁸ (1914)

The House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole House on Bill F-3, An Act to amend the Secret Commission Act, 1909.

(In the Committee)

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – Since the Bill was discussed in the Senate I have read a great deal of information with reference to it. The question was asked the other day if such a measure were enforced in any part of the world. I have the Anti-Tipping law of the State of Mississippi, which I desire to place on the Debates. It reads as follows:

[The Anti-Tipping law of the State of Mississippi]

We Observe the Anti-Tipping Law.

Patrons will please do likewise by not tipping employees and thereby avoid making the proprietor, manager or agent, violator of the law.

Anti-tipping Law proposed by the Mississippi Travelers' Association and Passed by the last Legislature.

Chapter 136 – Acts 1912

An Act to prohibit hotels, restaurants, cafes, dining cars, railroad companies and sleeping car companies from allowing ‘tips’ to be given to employees; to prohibit all persons from giving same to employees; to prohibit the employees of hotels, restaurants, cafes, dining cars, railroad companies and sleeping car companies from receiving same.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, that it shall be unlawful in this State for any hotel, restaurant, café, dining car, railroad company or sleeping car company to knowingly allow any person in its employ to receive any gratuity, commonly known as a ‘tip,’ from any patron or passenger; and it shall be unlawful for any patron of any hotel, restaurant, café, dining car or any passenger to give to any employee any such gratuity; and it shall be unlawful for any employee of any hotel, restaurant, café, dining car, railroad company or sleeping car company to receive any gratuity or ‘tip.’

Section 2. By gratuity or ‘tip,’ as used in this Act, is meant any extra compensation of any kind which any hotel, restaurant, café, dining car, railroad company or sleeping car company, or the manager, officer, or any agent thereof in charge of same, allows to be given an employee, or which any person gives to any employee, or which is received by any employee, and is not a part of the regular charge of the hotel, restaurant, café, dining car, railroad company or sleeping car company, which is not a part of its regular charge for the thing bought or service rendered, or a part of the service which by contract it is under duty to render. No hotel, restaurant, café, dining car, railroad company or sleeping car company shall evade this Act by adding to its regular charge, directly or indirectly, anything intended for, or to be used, or to be given as a gratuity or tip to the employee. All charges made by the hotel, restaurant, café, dining car, railroad company or sleeping car company must be made

⁸⁸ From Dominion of Canada. (1914) Debates of the Senate of the Dominion of Canada. Ottawa: Holland Bros. The section quoted begins on p. 500, and is from May 20, 1914.

by it and be in good faith a charge for the service which it renders exclusive of the service which it furnishes through its employees.

Section 3. Each hotel shall post a copy of this Act in the office and in each room, and each restaurant and café shall post at least two copies of this Act in two conspicuous places in same, and each dining car, railroad or sleeping car company doing business within this State, shall post two copies of this Act in conspicuous places in each passenger, coach or sleeping car.

Section 4. Any hotel, restaurant, café, dining car, railroad company or sleeping car company, and the manager, officer, or agent of same in charge, violating this Act, or willfully or negligently allowing the same to be violated in any way, shall each be subject to a penalty not to exceed one hundred dollars for each tip allowed to be given. If any person shall give any such employee a gratuity or tip such person shall be subject to a fine of not more than fifty dollars for each offence. If any of the above employees shall receive any gratuity or tip, he shall be subject to a fine of not more than fifty dollars. If the hotel, restaurant, café, dining car, railroad company or sleeping car company fail, neglect, or refuse to post this Act as required herein, such hotel, restaurant, café, dining car, railroad company or sleeping car company shall be subject to a fine not to exceed one hundred dollars for every day it shall so fail.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the circuit judges to specially call the attention of the grand jury to the provisions of this Act at each term of the court.

Section 6. All laws in conflict with this Act, be, and the same are, hereby repealed, and this Act shall take effect sixty days after its passage.

Passed House of Representatives January 17, 1912.

(Signed) H. M. Quin, Speaker House of Representatives.

Passed the Senate February 7, 1913.

(Signed) Theo. G. Bilbo, President of Senate.

Received in the office of Secretary of State on the 1st day of March, 1912, without the signature of the Governor; becomes a law under section 72 of the State Constitution.

(Signed) Joseph W. Power, Secretary of State.

There is the law, and it is supposed to be posted in every one of the hotels and dining cars.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS – Where does the law apply?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – Mississippi.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS – Can the hon. gentleman tell us how many coloured people there are in that state?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – I cannot say. I have a letter from the secretary of the Commercial Travelers of Mississippi to the effect that they are enforcing this law, and it is actually wiping out the obnoxious system of tipping.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS – The hon. gentleman holds up the state of Mississippi as an example for the people of Canada to follow.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – No. I think that in legislation of this kind we are intelligent enough to be pioneers. We are not waiting for Mississippi or any other state. I am

simply presenting this Act of the state of Mississippi because some gentleman said in the House that no other country had passed any law of this kind.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY – One hon. gentleman said there was no such state as Mississippi.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – This Mississippi law shows that the people on the other side of the line are taking an interest in this question, as well as the people of Canada. I have a letter from a gentleman in New Mexico. Some of the people in New Mexico know that there is such a place as Canada, although some hon. gentlemen did not know that there was such a state as Mississippi. This letter is from Mr. O. T. Toombs, Clayton, New Mexico, and reads as follows:

[Letter from O. T. Toombs, New Mexico]

May 16, 1914.

Senator Davis, Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Sir:

I have noticed by the public print of this country that you have introduced a bill in your Legislature, regulating the practice of ‘tipping.’ I believe that is the right kind of legislation. I believe it is a move in the right direction.

I am a member of the Legislature of the State of New Mexico. I would like to have a copy of your bill, and if you will kindly send me one, I will appreciate it very much.

Yours very truly,

O. T. Toombs.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS – I do not think the time of the House should be wasted with letters from New Mexico and Mississippi, and I am surprised that the hon. gentleman should present letters from such places as New Mexico or Timbuktu.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – I wanted to draw attention to the fact that in this legislation we are probably pioneers. Do hon. gentlemen think we should wait until somebody else hews out a path for us to follow? We have just passed a Bill along the lines of the Blue Law of the state of Kansas.

Hon. Mr. POIRIER – Is the gentleman who wrote that letter a constitutionalist in Mexico like Huerta?

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – Perhaps my hon. friend, who takes exception to the state of Mississippi, would not be averse to hearing the opinion of some people in this country. I have a few letters that would be interesting to the House. I have a letter from the manager of the Wood, Vallance Company, Limited, of Winnipeg, one of the largest hardware firms in Canada – about the largest. They have hundreds of travelers all over. The manager writes as follows:

[Letter from G. Myron McBride, Winnipeg]

Winnipeg, May 11, 1914.

Dear Senator:

I must thank you for your kindness in sending me a copy of the report of the motion for the second reading of your bill to abolish the practice of tipping in Canada, and the discussion thereon.

It is not worth while saying much on this subject, as I can see that the ground has been already pretty well covered, and there can be only one opinion among those who have felt the annoyance and injustice of the custom – and that includes practically everybody.

We all know how it bears upon the individual of moderate means, but business houses with traveling representatives perhaps feel it even more. You know travelers do not spend their own money when out in the firm's interests, and it is only human nature to be freer with other peoples' money than with what belongs to ourselves. By this time you must be aware of the fact that you have the public behind you, excepting naturally the small proportion who are directly benefited. All whom I have heard refer to the subject admire your courage and out-spokenness in attacking a difficult proposition and wish you every success in your efforts to place this measure upon the statute books.

There have been many comments and letters in the Winnipeg papers all along the same lines, namely, in favour of the legislation. I am mailing you to-day [a] copy of the 'Telegram' which contains some applicable correspondence from subscribers.

Again thanking you for your thoughtfulness in remembering me, and with my own best wishes,

Yours very truly,

G. Myron McBride

Senator T. O. Davis, The Senate, Ottawa, Can.

The following letter is from a gentleman in Toronto who has done a great deal of traveling. It is as follows:

[Letter from an anonymous Toronto business man]

Dear Sir – It was with great satisfaction that I saw one man who was in a position to do so, had sufficiently the courage of his convictions, and the interests of the traveling public at heart, to undertake doing away with the 'tipping system', which amounts to nothing less than an absolute 'hold up' and is of no possible benefit, except to the dishonest, incapable waiter, or porter, who declines to give reasonable service without absolute bribery, or blackmail. The amendment suggested, viz that the notice that it is illegal, is a good one and entirely necessary to the protection of all concerned and the carrying out of the law, and if it becomes generally known that such a law is in force in Canada, and is properly carried out, it will soon be declared to the everlasting credit of the country and its legislators. No man who knows the condition of affairs, and who places the comfort of the public and the good name of the country above his own selfish desire to get more than his just share of attention (if he be a wealthy man, or a spendthrift) can reasonably fail to support such a measure.

I am in a position to know whereof I write, and I can claim, without any fear of contradiction, that Canada suffers more from this crying evil and nuisance than any country in the world, not even the United States, from where it came to us in its worst form, and as in all other such class of evils that we have learned from them we have added to and improved on it to our cost. The custom of giving the 'pour boire' as an appreciation of additional voluntary service, or the three penny or even six penny

tip to the continental porter, the regulation tip on the Atlantic liners, which was a well established custom, and was properly regulated as to amount, or to the employees of the after service.

European hotels, upon leaving, as an appreciation of (good efficient service) though not to be confused with the system in vogue here, is undoubtedly responsible for it but unfortunately, has added all the additional bad features, and tends to entirely do away with and prevent the good results, for which its origin as a custom was responsible, instead of resulting in good service and proper appreciation of good voluntary service (since instead of being tendered voluntarily as a mark of appreciation of such 'good service' it has developed into 'a hold up' without giving way to which not even ordinary service is rendered (and unless paid in advance) and in many cases to absolute impertinence and neglect.

It may be that some of the hotels favour it as a means of having the public provide them with help, but I know that at least some of them already know that it is making it almost impossible to control their help at all, that a regular conspiracy exists amongst waiters, porters, bell boys, etc. under which the graft is insisted upon, and that the plunder is systematically divided, that the one who does not keeo 'properly on the job' soon finds the atmosphere too hot for him, and that the manager is in many instances powerless to protect the public and the owners of the hotel much as he would like to do so.

I know of an instance where the lady cashier has resigned her position at the desk, to assume that of checking the hats (even though she only secured the most unprofitable position of two) of one of our leading hotels, because she had discovered that there was more than three times the revenue from taking care of hats than there was in book keeping, and I know from experience that bellboys actually take the soap, towels, &c., out of the bedrooms in order that they may be called up and exact a tip, also that he invariably fails to bring a part of what is called for, in order that after he has exacted a tip, a second tip may be made, but invariably by a second boy, who also must be tipped, and no doubt both tips handed in the central 'clearing house' to be divided. Even the boy who notifies one of a telephone call, expects to be paid for it, and failure to give it, results in a second call from him, to inquire if 'it was all right' although we are compelled in most places to pay ten cents for each call we make, when paying our bill, and a business man finds it a fairly expensive item. This telephone boy is a small affair, but it is just the systematic way of making a successful grafter of him.

Any experienced traveler knows that hotel rates have so increased that they are certainly much higher than any other country, from the village hotel, which has jumped from 'one dollar per day' which all know was the regular charge a few years ago, to 'two dollars per day' (one hundred per cent) [to] all one fifty hotels, [which] are now two fifty to three, and a very ordinary room even in American plan hotels is estimated at the rate of a dollar a night, with fifty cents to a dollar more for a bath, whilst no European plan hotel, with a very rare exception, gives the most ordinary room for less than the one fifty, and in most instances to dollars, or three with a bath. This in addition to a bill of fare, at simply outrageous prices. Even as I say in very

ordinary hotels, and on diners, and in each case, 'service' or 'high cost of help' is the explanation, whereas the victim is compelled to pay in addition for that 'service' or help more than he could employ two or three waiters, servants or valets to wait upon him alone (if it were not for the expense of his waiter's fare and board) for one-third of what is squeezed out of him for ordinary civility, and very ordinary attention.

As to the accommodation, I know that hotel accommodation is entirely more expensive in Canada than in either England, the Continent, or the United States, and the grafting waiter is seldom the best one and does not in any way compare, with what a 'real waiter' used to be, when he depended on the sort of service he rendered, in advance, for his legitimate income. It is true that the fact that a small tip, in ordinary return for service, seems but little to the individual, but when he realizes that a sleeper usually contains twenty-four berths, and that a full car ordinarily pays the porter from four to five or six dollars per night, he wonders why a railway company cannot see the wisdom of paying their staff themselves, and exacting from their patrons, only what is reasonable in addition to his berth fare, in order to make up the amount to pay the porters' salary, if it is definitely settled that they will not pay their own staffs.

Why a bootblack or male chamber maid should receive the income of an accountant or office manager, and so become the most attractive bait of the train robber is difficult to understand. It is quite easy to understand that the condition of affairs in Canada is due to the great ease with which promoters, mining sharks, and speculators, have amassed large amounts of money, and the habit of such 'blowing themselves' and buying up every thing in sight, as if they were 'to the manner born' to the great discomfort and injury of those 'who know better', and it is a recognized fact that this class of people have detracted much from the comfort and respectability of one of Toronto's leading hotels, and enabled all who undertake to cater to the wants of the traveling public to bleed them to 'the Queen's taste.'

Why should the hotel keeper whine about the cost of his help, and the goods he must buy, and expect the public to pay for it and insure him a profit, generally five hundred per cent more than is expected in any legitimate business? If the merchant, the manufacturer, or any other businessman cannot compete successfully, he must step down and out, so let us have a law that will compel the hotel keeper, railway company, and all other business enterprises to pay his own way, charge the public directly (not through the medium of his servants) for what he furnishes him with, and if he gives accommodation as good or better than his competitor he will get his reward, and if not, let him take up some line that he is better fitted for. Let waiters and porters do the same thing, and the public will get better service and the good servant get the return for his work, and not the biggest bluffer or grafter.

Let me once more congratulate you on the position you have taken, and wish you every success in carrying it out. Let any legislator who contends 'that a law cannot be carried out' take shame unto himself, and keep quite clearly before you the fact that absolute publicity is the only way to make the law successful, and that a fine has but little effect on either 'the bloated easy money sport' or the waiter who scoops

enough in a day or night to pay an ordinary fine. Imprisonment is the only cure for them, and the just reward for a deliberate law breaker.

With apologies for the length of this letter, and best wishes for the success of the Bill.

Believe me,

Yours very truly.

This gentleman, who does not wish to have his name mentioned, is one of the largest business men in Toronto. I have here an editorial from the London Advertiser, a very respectable paper I understand, strongly approving of the Bill.

Hon. Mr. MURPHY – You should have got an article from the Presbyterian Witness, commenting on your Bill.

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – I could not well give all the letters and clippings I have received. But I see that this Bill has attracted attention in the United States, as the following letter and enclosed clipping from the Washington Star show:

[A cover letter and a clipping from the Washington Evening Star]

Washington, May 15, 1914.

Senator Davis, Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

I would greatly appreciate a copy of your bill referred to in the enclosed clipping from the Evening Star of this city, and will be obliged if you will send it to me. It seeks to correct an evil which seems to be worldwide.

Yours very truly,

Addison T. Smith.

The clipping enclosed was as follows:

Put the ban on tipping.

Ontario Senators approve Bill which will abolish custom.

Ottawa, Ont., May 14 – The Bill making tipping and the taking of tips an indictable offence has passed the Senate Committee of the Whole practically without opposition.

The Bill was introduced some time ago by Senator Davis, a western senator, and at first excited much ridicule. Then suddenly a widespread demand for the passage of the Bill sprang up, with the result that it has now been rushed through the committee which means that it will pass the Senate and be sent to the House of Commons for concurrence.

The Bill makes it an offence punishable by a fine of \$100 to give or take a tip and makes the employer equally liable to the fine.

The following is from a well known gentleman in Winnipeg:

[Letter from V. O. James]

Canadian Pacific Railway

Hotel System

May 7, 1914

Royal Alexandria Hotel, Winnipeg, Man.

Senator Davis, Ottawa.

Dear Sir,

I trust you will be successful in getting your anti-tipping Bill through. It will be a boon to many thousands of Canadians and it will be appreciated by visitors to our country. The tipping system is an abomination. It degrades the men who receive tips and it presupposes the men who give tips are imbeciles.

You have every business man in Canada in support of your Bill, I am sure.

I am Sir,

Yours truly,

V. O. James.

604 Northwest Trust Building, Vancouver.

The following letter is sent me by a gentleman in Toronto, who does not wish to have his name made public:

[Letter from a gentleman in Toronto]

Dear Sir:

Having seen in the press that you have introduced an anti-tipping Bill in the Senate of Canada, I feel it my duty to express my hearty approval of the course you have taken in regard to this growing evil. In the past week I have asked the opinion of no less than twelve men in different walks of life, and eleven of them spoke strongly in favour of your Bill, which I think indicates that there is a strong feeling against the tipping system in Canada. I think, Sir, that, not only should you be supported by the Senate and House of Commons, but that you deserve the thanks of the people of the Dominion for being bold enough to tackle a question which too many of your fellow members are afraid of.

I have also a letter from Archdeacon Fortin, of Winnipeg:

[Letter from Archdeacon O. Fortin, Winnipeg]

Holy Trinity Church, Winnipeg, Man., May 7, 1914.

The Hon. Senator Davis, Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

I see in to-night's Free Press that you are introducing a Bill against the tipping system. Permit me to thank you very sincerely for this wise and timely move. The whole country will look upon you as a public benefactor if you succeed in your laudable effort.

This tipping is nothing short of an intolerable nuisance. It destroys the manhood of the serving class, and imposes an unnecessary burden upon those who have just enough to pay their way. It is unjust and unreasonable, nor is it necessary to the success of any enterprise.

Last summer I stayed at the Strand Palace hotel in London. There no tips are allowed. Large placards are posted in the halls to the effect: Tips are neither expected nor allowed. The management pays all employees adequately.

As a result the hotel is so popular that one has to write at least a month ahead to have accommodation. Moreover the Strand Palace Company declared a dividend of 70 per cent last year.

Besides, so convinced is the company of the wisdom of its system, that another hotel having a thousand rooms is to be built at once in Piccadilly and managed in the same way.

I am sure that all sensible men will stand at your back.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

O. Fortin, D.D.,

Rector of Holy Trinity and Archdeacon of Winnipeg.

All this goes to show that this proposed legislation has taken hold of the people of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Now here is a letter from a Montreal waiter, which shows that all waiters do not wish to be treated as parasites:

[Letter from Charles Steadman, Montreal waiter]

Montreal, the 8th May 1914

60 Victoria street.

Hon. Mr. Davis,

Dear Sir – Having read your intention in the Montreal Star of the 7th inst., about abolishing the tips system, I can assure you that most of the waiters are in favor of it and would be most thankful to you because we don't like to live on charity, as we have to work 12 to 15 hours a day. Dear Sir, most of the hotel managers will say that the employees have the food in the house, but I can assure you that the food (you) [sic.] which we get in these big houses absolutely is not up to the standard and is only rotten stuff. Dear Sir, if you think that I am only [– that I] would like to blackmail the hotels, then just take a boy away and ask him about it. Dear Sir, if a Bill as you proposed should be passed, would you be so kind and help us to give a proper and fair wage and also treat us as you do your servants and give us a day off in the week? If we could get a minimum wage [of] \$3 a day, that would not be too much, and would be fair at the same time. And I hope, Sir, that you will be so kind hearted [as] to give us a proper and fair working condition.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

[Your] obedient servant,

Charles Steadman

60 Victoria Street,

Montreal.

The Winnipeg Telegram published an article which was unfavourable to this Bill, but it soon heard from its readers, who found fault with the position it had taken on the subject. Here is one of a number of letters which were sent to the editor protesting against his toleration [and generous] view of this form of petty graft:

Objects to Tipping

Editor Telegram – Re your editorial in the Telegram of the 8th, headed 'Tips,' I wish to say that, as a commercial traveler, your article, all through, does no credit to the best paper in the west. I have read your paper now for seventeen years, when in the west for a big portion of the year. I know many travelers who have read the editorial in question, and they have very freely expressed themselves regarding it. You don't begin to touch the question Senator Davis is handling. He knows what he is talking about. Your writer on this question does not. You dwell on the 'boot black' with his extra fine polish and you think he should have more than his price for selling his services to you. Would you, if buying some nice neckwear, and being waited upon

in a nice manner, feel it incumbent upon yourself to hand him a quarter? Travelers are subjected to this abominable graft in all directions. Porters in hotels and on trains, bell boys, who expect 10 cents for bringing a jug of ice water to your room, and they let you see it, too, by the expression on their faces. Elevator men in hotels, dining-room waiters, who adopt a most obsequious air while attending to their duties, but who have a fighting expression if you leave without the usual 'tip,' and they know you next time. I wish you would touch on this point. Why won't the railways, their hotels and trains pay their men a living wage, instead of leaving it to the commercial men to pay more than half their wages? Senator Davis is right when he refers to it as graft and bribery, and neither you nor any one else parts with these 'tips' willingly. Oblige by publishing this, or, if you decide not to, kindly return so that I can place it elsewhere.

H. J. Pooler.

The following is a letter from a gentleman well known in London, Ontario:
[Letter from George A. MacGillivray, London, Ontario]
London, Canada

May 11, 1914.

The Honourable Senator Davis,
Ottawa, Canada.

Herewith I enclose an editorial cut from the London Advertiser re tipping, the most pernicious habit on earth and truly one which leads to dishonesty.

If your Bill pass you will require no further monument, as that in itself will for generations to come prove to the people of Canada that you were instrumental in removing one of the greatest obstructions the traveling public have ever encountered.

For twenty-five years I have traveled extensively throughout America and only yesterday returned from Europe, and we only had to glance around to see that only those who practiced the tipping system were properly looked after. My stateroom steward informed me before the boat arrived at Quebec that he received a very small salary from the Canadian Pacific railway, and of course largely depended upon the 'tipping' for the support of his family. This was done, no doubt, to work upon my sympathy to ensure a liberal 'tipping,' and I gave him \$2; a friend of mine gave him \$2.50. I might state here I was obliged to carry my own suit cases from an upper deck stateroom and aft to the ship. My friend's extra fifty cents saved his strength, and this is the point I desire to press. I paid \$92.50 for my ticket from Liverpool to Quebec and would prefer paying \$100 or more and no tipping. We are, of course, expected to tip all waiters, even 'boots' called at my stateroom and asked if I wished to see him, and you can guess the rest.

All hail to the body of senators who will force the wealthy Canadian Pacific Railway and other strong companies to pay sufficient to their employees to abolish this system.

Further: on the ship's menu card the Canadian Pacific Railway have printed: Private dinners may be ordered free of charge. A few friends traveling together (or even one person) can go to the head steward and order these, and the result is the choice of delicacies is of course kept from the passengers, who have already paid for

them, and this steward takes good care they will have the best of everything because he knows there is a sovereign or two for his pocket. In this way steamship owners engage this steward for mere nothing. You can see here the injustice to the traveling public.

Then this same company advertise [a] first-class orchestra on board. About two days before [the] vessel lands some [member] of the ring suggests a collection for the orchestra. The sheet is passed around for subscriptions, and all are supposed to enroll their names and with, say, one hundred cabin passengers, the collection on the trip would be about fifty dollars.

I presume this orchestra is engaged by the company merely for their board.

Yours faithfully,

Geo. A. MacGillivray.

P.S. – The Strand Palace Hotel, London, England, is non-tipping; they have seven hundred rooms always full and I am told by men who know that the service is much better than at other hotels where tipping is tolerated. This same hotel company are building another 1,200-room hotel in London, and this is an evidence that tipping is most unpopular. These hotels charge for bed and breakfast 6 shillings. I was so struck with the editorial that I wished to acquaint you with my late experience.

Geo. A. McG.

I have received a letter from a writer, probably the same man whose letter opposed to the Bill was read the other evening. The language is so strong and offensive that I shall not read it. It shows the character of the men that some hon. gentlemen here are disposed to protect. The man who would write such a letter is nothing better than a thug. I have here an article from the London Standard which I would like to read:

The tipping evil

Why should the patron of an hotel or restaurant pay high prices for his food and the hired help beside?

The Sunday editor of the New York Tribune sent a reporter out to the lobster palaces and gilded cafes of Gotham with the injunction: "Get your meals there just as a regular patron would, and don't give any tips."

We are regaled with a story of how the reporter spent his money royally on filet mignon and chicken a la King, and denied the obsequious James who attended him and the numerous other flunkeys who infest a high-toned eating palace the usual tips.

He faced the scorn of the untipped for a week. He would return to a restaurant to note the expression on the countenance of the waiter who last served him. On a second visit he asked to be shown to a certain table, but it was 'reserved.' He got a corner out of the way. On one occasion he announced that he did not give tips. The waiter laughed his unbelief. At another place where high tips were the rule he tendered a dime.

"What is that, sir?" asked the waiter.

"Your tip," was the answer.

“I should prefer that you give it to some beggar in the street,” returned the offended waiter as he handed the coin back.

This was on the Gay White Way in the most profligate city on the continent.

What of the less pretentious places of New York, or Montreal?

You don't have to go into the Ritz or the Windsor to insult a waiter with a ten cent piece or to brave his scorn by withholding the tip altogether. The tipping habit has come to be such a nuisance that even in the cheap bars where the business man is wont to eat his ten cent bowl of soup or his ample meat sandwich the barman expects his coin, and may give you scant courtesy if you refrain.

Fancy going into a modest restaurant where you sit on a stool at a long counter and buy a quiet lunch at an outlay of 25 or 30 cents. You are met at the door by a smiling maid who desires to serve you by hanging your hat on a peg. You get a check. She gets 10 cents. Then you hang your legs over the stool and invest in a sandwich or a piece of pie. Price 25c. Another 10c to the obliging waiter or waitress who had the goodness to allow you to pay for what you ate. On your way out you encounter the shine boys, and if you escape them you get into the street without further damage to your pocket, unless it be Tag Day when you are assessed another dime.

Then when you reach home in the evening and learn that your wife was over-charged two cents for the pound of beefsteak the family ate at noon your anger can hardly be restrained.

The tipping evil grows out of the circumstance that the waiters are not adequately paid. The restaurateur expects you to pay for your food (at high cost of living rates) and pay for his help as well.

The nuisance will not abate till some one starts the machinery of the law to compel the payment of decent wages to employees of hotels and restaurants.

Tipping is a nuisance to the general public. Apart from that, it is pauperizing many people, and that is not right. Let employers pay fair salaries. That is the view taken in the following letter:

[Letter from Thomas Farrell, Carman, Manitoba]

Carman, Manitoba, May 14, 1914.

Senator O. H. Davis,

Senate Chambers, Ottawa.

Dear Senator:

As one who has known you, in Prince Albert, also your son who kept, at the time I knew him, a store in the above-named city, in reference to your Anti-Tipping Bill, do you not think that it would be fairer to employees of the different hotels, corporations, etc., that you should legislate to have them, the different employers of labour in this particular line of looking after the comforts of the traveling public, pay the employees a living wage?

Be fair, you know as well as I do that no man in this country can support a wife and family on a pittance of thirty or forty dollars a month.

Knowing you to be a friend of organized labour, and trusting you will give this matter your further kind consideration,

I remain, yours respectfully,
Thomas Farrell.

I was in a hotel in Montreal the other day with the hon. member from Prince Edward Island (Hon. Mr. Murphy), and I asked the proprietor: "Who pays the boy who takes care of the hats?" The reply was, "Pay him! He pays me fifty dollars a month for the privilege of looking after the hat rack." Then I said, "The tips are going into your pocket?" He said, "Only a portion," and added, "that fellow is worth twenty thousand dollars." My hon. friend heard that conversation. It is the same in all the hotels, and the money that people are paying in tips, or a considerable portion of it, is going into the pockets of trusts and corporations who are keeping up this system of graft.

I move that the following words be added to paragraph (b) of the proposed section 3A:

"Or if he carries on business as keeper of a hotel, inn, restaurant, café, place for the sale of alcoholic beverages, barber's shop or place for polishing boots and shoes, or operates a railroad, dining, buffet sleeping or parlour car fails to put up and to keep posted up in at least two conspicuous places in the premises in which such business is carried on, or in such car, a notice that tipping is forbidden under penalty of fine and imprisonment."

"Opposes Anti-Tipping Bill"⁸⁹ (Winnipeg, 1914)

How will the "No Tipping Bill" affect the "presentation to an esteemed employee" who is about to leave his or her position and friends, with a nice purse of gold or an equivalent gift?

Will the givers of such a gift or "tip" have to pay the hundred dollars' fine, or start on a jail bird career because they committed an awful crime, because they gave a token for services rendered?

Is not Canada a free country? It is not for the man who has to earn his living, but it is alright, for a few would-be legislators.

Will the postmen receive their usual grant at Christmas under the conditions of the "No Tipping Bill?" I am extremely sorry for the poor newsboys who take ten cents instead of five, for his paper.

Did Lord Roberts receive a tip, or to use a more polite word, "gift" of £20,000 for services? Well, I should smile!

Heaven knows we do not want to spend money by increased taxation on such an absurd bill. We certainly would need more stool pigeons, jails, patrol wagons – to say nothing of policemen and fine collectors, and quite a few other items, to make the bill a huge success.

⁸⁹ From A Waiter. (1914, May 21). OPPOSES ANTI-TIPPING BILL. *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 3. The author is described as "Man Who Works in Big Winnipeg Hotel".

Now, I say we should suggest that the bill be experimented upon at Ottawa, where it was proposed, before passing it this way, and I believe it would be very suitable at the capital. As for seeing it put into force in the west, I would sooner give the women the vote.

How many waiters and waitresses have gone to work in some first-class hotel and have just bought a new outfit of clothes and have been about two days in the employ of the hotel, when he or she gets the fatal sentence, "your services are no longer required"? Why? Because they have been reported by some sour-stomach old grouch, who thought he was the only one who needed attention. There are no questions asked of the waiters or waitresses. They do not get any chance to explain. They must get out. The party who complains is always right.

I have known people, or grouches, call the boss over and tell him they have been waiting for something about a half hour or more – they always stretch the time. As I said before, he or she gets fired. The next four or five weeks is lost trying to get work: it generally takes about that time unless one has friends to put us wise.

Can intelligent people wonder why a waiter or waitress expects a tip? Why, they would starve if it was only wages they got. I am not writing this article in the hope of promoting the tipping question, but to counteract the No Tip Bill, which is a pure feather bed proposition and the sooner we put it on one side the better it will be for everybody. I heartily endorse and thank the writer who calls his letter Fair Play and signs A.W.T. He has certainly given the would-be critic of waitresses and their tips quite a set back.

I think the writer of such an article must understand a person cannot make themselves obnoxious, and then expect to get service! A person must be wrong somewhere to have his meals shot across the table. I can take the said writer of such an article into any café, and get the best service that is possible, without tipping the waiter or waitress, but civility must be given. But the ignorant bring upon themselves all the little miseries and snubs which they receive.

As a rule, educated people do not have trouble with employees as we would have understood according to an article appearing in one of the local papers. The waiters' and waitresses' position is not a very happy one; there are more trials in the occupation than in many callings. He or she has to please all sorts of conditions of people, absolutely never certain of a position, and at the end of ten or fifteen years, practically worn out by the long hours and hard work.

Let any critic of waiters and waitresses go and work ten or fourteen hours in an American plan hotel, and see if he would be satisfied with his station of life. I believe his views would change quite a bit.

Second thoughts instead of a second reading in regard to the proposed No Tipping Bill introduced by our worthy Senator Davis. No doubt the promoter or promoters of such a bill would conduct and also have it passed on the one-sided basis. Are the people to be dictated to be one or two reformers who have not enquired into the grievances that the bill would cause were it to go into effect? Furthermore, it would be of no use to the people, that is, the majority. I may state it would help some,

who are so mean that they have never been known to help charities, to least expect them to tip waiters.

Now, do the pioneers of such a bill think that traveling, eating, and the other luxuries will remain at the same price as before? I guess not.

In all branches of catering to the public wants, the employee is given a tip or money so he or she may buy their own gift. It is not compulsory to give; it is given when extra service or attention has been rendered. The more people the employee comes in contact with, the less his or her wages are and [the] longer [the] hours, so hence our tipping system.

Now, what about the waiter's conversation in a Toronto hotel, in regard to the fifty cent tip? We give the benefit of the doubt, but it was not stated how large the party was, or how many times the receiver had waited on the said party, when he received his tip or gift for service and attention.

I may say that in quite a few private hotels and boarding houses in England and Wales, the service is charged for on the guest's bill. I cannot understand what difference the No Tipping Bill would make to the public. The employer will get the tip, instead of the employee.

When any of our politicians go traveling, they are allowed what we understand it to be mileage fees, or putting it politely, expenses. I would not doubt that the employee is put down for what he does not receive. Of course, what does it matter? The public pays for it.

The average waiter and waitress is looked upon as a social outcast; he is barred by quite a few of the ignorant. It's true, as in other classes, we have bad ones amongst us, but the average waitress and waiter is just as much of a lady and gentleman as the clerk is behind the counter. How many people would or could follow our calling if it were not for the almighty dollar? Surely it's not the wage that's the shining star. I do not hesitate when I say the average first class waiter is cool headed and a diplomat, to understand the ways of the people and the wonderfully quick memory that he has to have, especially working in a fast house.

More in the Senate on Bill (F-3)⁹⁰ (1914)

The House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole on Bill (F-3), An Act to amend the Secret Commission Act, 1909.

(In the Committee.)

Hon. Mr. DAVIS – Before dealing with the amendment I propose, I would like to give some information with reference to the Bill. It has been stated that all waiters and people of that class are opposed to this measure. I received to-day from Montreal a communication under the seal of the journeyman barbers, which reads as follows:

[Letter from J. D. Munro]

Montreal, May 26, 1914.

⁹⁰ From Dominion of Canada. (1914) Debates of the Senate of the Dominion of Canada. Ottawa: Holland Bros. The section quoted begins on p. 538, and is from May 27, 1914.

Hon. Mr. Davis, Ottawa.

Please send me a copy of your Bill re Tipping, one copy in English and one in French, and for God's sake let this Bill go through as soon as possible; it will do a great deal of good.

(Signed) J. D. MUNRO.

This document has the stamp of the Barbers' Union of the city of Montreal on it, a union [that] embraces the whole fraternity of the barber business of the city. That goes to show that the barbers are in favor of it. I have a letter here from Johnston & Barber, groceries, china, crockery, glassware &c., wholesalers, of London, Ont. I do not wish to read the whole lot of this, but it is a very strong recommendation in favour of the Bill. In short the effect of the letter is this: that the tipping is going to be a burden on the wholesale trade of the country. They say they cannot keep track of their finances, under the existing conditions. A wholesale house will send out fourteen or fifteen travelers. The firm can check up railway fares and hotel bills, but has no means of checking up the tips the travelers give; in some cases these amount so some five to ten dollars a week. Any hon. gentleman can see what a burden this is on the trade of the country and the placing of that unnecessary tax of ten dollars a day on the wholesale houses that employ ten or fifteen travelers.

I have also a communication under the seal of the labour unions of the city of Winnipeg. This is signed L. G. Mette, secretary of the Labour unions of the city of Winnipeg which reads as follows:

[Letter from L. G. Mette, Winnipeg]

Winnipeg, Man., May 22, 1914.

SENATOR DAVIS – My idea of writing is to congratulate you on the introduction of the Anti-Tipping Bill, and to say that we heartily endorse your actions on the same. The vote of our local lodge was unanimous in endorsing your Bill. IN fact, in doing so I believe we voice the sentiments of our entire organization, at which I estimate our Canadian membership at eight thousand. I believe we are in a position to appreciate your efforts. The Bill appeals to me on account of being a man of moderate means, and having traveled extensively through Canada and the United States, I could recall hundreds of disagreeable instances arising out of the tipping custom.

After your Bill has been ratified we implore and urge upon you to immediately use your influence to establish a minimum wage for female labour. Believing Winnipeg can set a rate, we take liberties in suggesting that no person or company be allowed to employ female labour at a less remuneration than \$40 per month.

We beg of you to give this your unceasing attention and sincerely hope that our girls will not be asked to live on less, which is impossible.

Absence prevented me from writing you before, but [I am] feeling reconciled in the belief that this will at least be encouragement to you in your work.

We would suggest that notices be posted as per Senator Boyer's amendment, stating that \$50 of the fine be paid to the informant, otherwise we do not think it possible to abolish the custom.

Yours very truly,
L. G. METTE,
99 Osborne street, Winnipeg, Man.

This letter is signed by Mr. Mette who is secretary of the Fort Garry Lodge, No. 597 of the Labour Unions of Winnipeg. I received, in both French and English, numerous letters, a few of which I shall read. As a matter of fact, it would take me from now to twelve o'clock to-night to read all the letters of approval which I have received from all sections of the country. Here are a few of the letters I have received on the subject.

[Letter from Napoleon Gelinas, Quebec]

Quebec, May 22, 1914.

Dear Sir – Just a few words to congratulate you on your Anti-Tipping Bill. You cannot imagine how pleased we are to see that you are thus working in our interest. The matter is so far gone actually that we cannot be waited upon unless we pay twice the cost of a meal. Once more I thank you, wishing you all due success in your undertaking.

Yours very truly,

Napoleon Gelinas.

[Letter from E. W. Levy, San Francisco]

San Francisco, Cal., May 16, 1914.

SENATOR DAVIS, Canada.

Dear Sir – I note from our local papers that you are the author of a Bill to abolish 'tipping,' which was passed by the Senate Committee of the Whole without opposition.

I would be very much pleased if you would kindly send me a copy of the Bill so that I can place the same in the hands of our legislators, and I trust that we will meet with like result.

Thanking you for courtesies to be extended,

I am, yours faithfully,

E. W. LEVY.

State House, Indianapolis, Ind., May 21, 1914.

[Letter from Charles Kettleborough, London]

Senator Davis of the Dominion Parliament, Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir – I have just seen a notice in the press of your Bill designed to prohibit tipping. I would be very glad if you would send a copy of your Bill to this bureau to be placed in our files in case similar legislation should be proposed in this state.

Yours very truly,

Charles Kettleborough,

Statistician and Draughtsman.

London, May 20, 1914.

[Two letters from Johnson & Barbour]

Senator Davis, Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir – You will please pardon me for writing you another letter on this tipping business. The writer has had 25 years experience traveling on the road, so I know something about it. The trouble is, that the hotels are in league with their help to rob the public. I told Mr. Reid one time when I was in Quebec that I would not think of going in their hotel or any other large hotel and having two meals without giving a tip. I would be afraid that they would either spit in the soup or give me poison. You cannot turn around in any of these large hotels without your hand in your pocket. Let them pay their help what they are worth, the same as we do, or the same as any other respectable firm does. We would not think of allowing anybody to come in our store and [start] tipping our help. I have talked on this subject with many travelers and they all have the same experience and the same opinions on this. It is rotten, and I hope your Bill goes through. I have been all over this country, from Halifax to Vancouver, and have never had a row in a hotel in my life, which I think is a pretty good record, and will prove to you that I am no crank.

Again wishing your Bill all kinds of success, we remain,

Yours truly,

Johnson & Barbour.

London, May 20, 1914.

Senator Davis, Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir – I noticed by the ‘Free Press’ this morning that the waiters of the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, are up in arms against your Bill. This is one of the hotels that they are not satisfied with a ten cent tip and the writer took this matter up about a year ago with Mr. Reid. He wrote me saying that they were thinking very seriously of trying out this hotel with no tipping. It was never tried out and I suppose they are still thinking. Why should a man be compelled to go in a hotel of this standing and give tips at all? The Canadian Pacific Railway is a very wealthy company and are in a position to pay their help without holding up the public. You can easily see why the waiters in this hotel do not want your Bill to pass. The Canadian Pacific Railway should be ashamed of themselves for tolerating this tipping business. If they came to us to buy any goods, you can stake your last dollar that they would not give us any tip, and why should we be compelled to tip their help? This tipping business is rotten, and 90 per cent of the men who give them will say the same thing. Wishing your Bill the very best wishes, we remain,

Yours truly,

Johnson & Barbour.

Mr. Reid, we understand, is the general manager of the Canadian Pacific Railway hotels.

[Letter from R. Elsworth, Montreal]

Montreal, May 2, 1914.

Hon. Senator Davis, Ottawa.

Dear Sir – I notice in yesterday’s issue of the different papers, that the waiters of some of the different hotels and other institutions that serve the public are

objecting to the Bill now before the Senate and which I hope and trust will become law. If there is an evil existing to-day, tipping is one of the greatest, and I can assure you it is the predominant wish of every traveler that you may be successful in having it placed as law on our Statute-book. I can assure you, Sir, that you have behind you every traveler and a lot who never travel. There is nothing so disgusting and annoying as to have a great strong man standing behind you with his hand out waiting until you drop something in it. 'Polite beggars,' they say it is optional whether you give or not. Well, if you don't give, don't go back, for you will get scant attendance there. There are many men who would like to take their family for an outing occasionally, were it not for the fear of having them slighted because he cannot afford to pay the regular fare and tip every one who turns a hand for them. It has become a pure and simple hold up, and it is time the turn was called. With best wishes for your success in your endeavor to do something for the people at large, and assuring you of the support of all travelers, I beg leave to remain,

Very truly,

R. ELSWORTH.

[Letter from Z. Di Muro, Montreal]

Montreal, May 26, 1914.

Hon. Mr. Davis, Senator, Ottawa.

Dear Sir – Please send me a copy of your Bill, the Anti-Tipping Bill – one copy in English and one in French – and for God's sake let this Bill go through as soon as possible; it will do a great good.

Yours truly,

Z. DI MURO,

1891 De LaRoche.

Here is a letter from a commercial traveler, expressing the views of those men:

[Letter from a commercial traveler, Montreal]

Montreal, May 7, 1914.

Senator Davis, Ottawa.

Dear Sir – I must congratulate you for bringing in a Bill to abolish tipping. I trust you are successful in making it law. I have been traveling for the last twenty years from Halifax to Vancouver, so I know [a] little something about the business. This tipping business is disgusting to me, and I know it is to thousands more. These hotels such as this charge us an enormous price for everything and then we are supposed to pay their help. Some fool that never made a dollar comes along and to make himself a good fellow throws his money away. If he had to earn it he would starve to death. I have always made it a rule to give the waiter in the dining room ten cents at every meal. They used to say thanks, but no more, except [when] you give a quarter. You are looked upon as a cheap skate if you give less. I would rather pay more and know there was no tipping. It makes you feel right; the other way you do not feel the same. This tipping business only breeds grafters and thieves. I have crossed the Atlantic many times and I know something about how it is in Europe and

also on the boats. Let us all pay a little more if necessary and be independent. I could write much more and I wish your Bill success.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Traveler.

[Letter from W. S. Bryers, Barkwell]

London, May 22, 1914.

Senator Davis,

Dear Sir – Not knowing you personally, yet I feel that I almost know you better than many of my intimate friends, as our opinions are so kindred on the no-tip degradation of which I have always been opposed. When returning from Edmonton last year on [the] Canadian Pacific Railway, I was singled out by [a] waiter of [the] diner. By his expression when he got my price for lunch when I placed no extra price of lunch on [the] plate he called out, ‘Cheque – exact price – no change’ – ‘same this morning.’ I replied, yes, no tip. I am like thousands of others set against tips and I informed the Canadian Pacific Railway; all they did was to write a few letters. I wish you every success and rest assured you have every wholesaler and every honourable traveler at your back, and to lose in a good cause is far more honourable than to win in a less worthy.

Sincerely yours,

W. S. Bryers, Barkwell.

The following is a pronouncement on this Bill from the Collingwood, Ont., Bulletin, of May 14, 1914:

[Extract from the Collingwood *Bulletin*]

Senator Davis of Prince Albert has introduced a Bill before the Senate which is intended to abolish tipping in this country and which, if carried, will at least make it a legal offence to offer or accept anything that might be so characterized. The Senator is along right lines and should be assisted. Coming from the West as he does, he knows the great evils of the practice which, throughout Canada, but especially in the western provinces, has already become such a nuisance as to make traveling to the person of moderate purse almost unbearable rather than the pleasure it might otherwise be. The Bill should be enacted and come into force at an early date.

The manager in chief of one of Toronto’s big hotels is opposed to the anti-tipping Bill now before the Senate. He says: “All of our waiters, bell boys, shoe-shines, bartenders, porters, and all the rest of the hotel help to a great extent on tipping as their means of livelihood. Our waiters do not receive a large enough wage to keep them. They receive from us a very small wage, averaging about 85 to 90 cents a day. They are very poor waiters if they don’t receive at least double or triple that amount every day. Of course this scale varies.

“It is the same with our bell boys. They receive a surprisingly small wage from us. And yet we refuse to keep them in our employ if they don’t average over \$2.50 a day. Many a boy is greatly discouraged if he receives only \$3 a day in tips.”

The manager in chief quoted is deserving of admiration for his candid statement, but not so much can be said of the barefaced scheme to bleed the public. Proceeding, he says, were there any chance the guests would have to pay more. Even then it would be more satisfactory. The guests would know that they were getting value for their money and were not being held up as at present. Go to it, Senator Davis. You are doing a public service.

The wholesale men particularly are anxious that this Bill should go through. The labour unions are in favour of it. They put it in this way: "It is pretty near time our people were put on a wage basis, and not have to live on charity." If a man comes in and asks for employment in an hotel, barber shop, or any place else, he is entitled to his hire; yet he is told at once, "we will give you \$2 or \$3 a week, and you must get the rest in tips." That is a very precarious source of income on which to support a family under present conditions: you are pauperizing this man and making a mendicant of him. Fully 99 per cent of the people of the country are in favour of this measure; it is time that something should be done. I move the following amendment:

That the following words be added to paragraph (b) of the proposed section 3A:

"Or if he carries on business as the keeper of a hotel, inn, restaurant, café, place for the sale of alcoholic beverages, barber's shop or place for polishing boots and shoes, or operates a railroad, dining, buffet, sleeping or parlour car fails to post up and to keep posted up in at least two conspicuous places in the premises in which such business is carried on in such car a notice that tipping is forbidden under penalty of fine and imprisonment."

The amendment was adopted⁹¹.

Hon. Mr. RILEY, from the committee, reported the Bill with an amendment, which was concurred in.

"Ketchup bottles and table glasses"⁹² (Montreal, 1914)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACISM]

A Chinaman and a white man sustained injuries which landed them at the Royal Victoria Hospital last evening as a result of a fight which occurred in the Chinese restaurant kept at 558a St. Catherine street west, by a Celestial named Harry Low. The white man in the case gave his name as Charles McComb, of 943 West St. Catherine street, and the trouble originated when he is said to have discovered that his wife had accepted a position as waitress in the Chinese restaurant.

McComb demanded that his wife immediately leave the restaurant, and she complied, but the proprietor of the restaurant is said to have refused to pay her up to date because of her leaving without notice. McComb decided to try a little moral

⁹¹ There are few references to this Bill in the House of Commons. Voting on the Bill was postponed a few times, and then possibly forgotten entirely due to the start of the Great War.

⁹² From TWO HACKED UP IN CHINESE ROW. (1914, August 11). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

persuasion upon the subjects of the flowery republic, but the Chinamen were not kindly disposed to that idea, and diplomatic relations had no sooner ended than open warfare set in. The proprietor of the restaurant, with his assistants, Tom Kee and Charlie Long, used ketchup bottles and table glasses as a means of showing McComb the error of his ways.

“Toronto waitresses and cooks organize”⁹³ (Toronto, 1915)

Cooks and waitresses of Toronto are organizing. Masters and mistresses ere long will have to deal not merely with one cook, but with an array of those autocrats of the kitchen. The whole of the force are not yet mobilized, there being only about forty members as yet in the Cooks and Waitresses Association, but reinforcements are coming up, and when sufficient ammunition is acquired war will be declared upon the invaders of their rights. It is not yet decided in what form the attacks will be made, but the possibilities of the situation are alarming. Starvation will stare households in the face, patrons will sit waiting, hungering and vociferating at the tables of city cafes, and the whole domestic life of those who depend upon cooks and waitresses will be unendurable should these ladies decide to strike.

It is estimated that there are about two thousand cooks in Toronto, and those who have encountered one cook will realize what this will mean to deal with a cook who is backed by such an army.

Mrs. Mary Harrison, the Secretary, who addressed her little band of followers last night at Forum Hall, stated that there were a large number of cooks and waitresses employed for 13½ hours a day, who only get \$4 and \$5 per week. The organization is chiefly for women employed in clubs and cafes. There is a class of people in Toronto who dine out, and these will be the greatest sufferers should a blockade be declared on the culinary regions.

“Summer tourists”⁹⁴ (Windsor, 1915)

People in Toronto do not realize what an early Canadian, home-keeping heart our city has until the summer tourists tally-ho into our midst. [...] For the last two weeks the enemy has been invading our tea-room. [...] A bustle at the door, and the sharp banging of the screen announces the approach of the enemy. A swish of taffeta and the heavy odor of geranium perfume indifferently distilled is followed by a smooth-shaven, extremely slim masculinity with a droopy panama hat and narrow shoulders.

They sit at the little table near the wall. They wait one minute in an impatience that causes the hair of the rest of us to strain with nerves. Then they try another table, like the Three Bears, and wait two minutes.

⁹³ From TORONTO WAITRESSES AND COOKS ORGANIZE. (1915, June 26). *The Globe*, p. 8.

⁹⁴ From E.M.S. (1915, August 19). SUMMER TOURISTS SPOIL QUIET OF OUR TEA ROOM. *The Windsor Star*, p. 8.

“Where’s the waitress for this table?” demands the taffeta in a voice that snapped like a whip.

Why, we only have one curly-haired waitress for each five tables in our tea-room. Before the war we had two, but that was a year ago. Curly-head enters bearing luncheons for two on a tray and stops to fill a tumbler with water.

“Waitress!” calls the taffeta. “Waitress, tell the girl to come here and wait on us. We’re in a hurry!”

Curly-head looks up in amazement, and then an answering snap appears in her blue eyes.

All through the hot noon hour the two girls flurried about with their trays. Their cheeks blazed and big drops of perspiration shone under their eyes. There was no time for a word of greeting. Checks were mislaid and drops of tea spilled on immaculate cloths, calling forth fresh reprimands.

“We should have gone over to the K—” said the voice of the taffeta complainingly, and then it rambled on, giving personal details of an extended tour and finishing with, “And I simply must have a manicure. I can’t go back on the 4.40 until I’ve had a manicure. I have one in every city I go to.” [...]

After it was all over, a gasping tea-room was left in a particularly cross frame of mind and panting with heat. Curly-head came over then and told us all about it. If you look casually at her you see a pretty girl of about twenty-five with gold curls and pink cheeks. If you are interested in people and look again and you will see that the flush is rather feverish and the cheeks very thin. She wears a wedding ring with the diamond on her left hand, and when she has been sitting down fanning herself for a time, her cheeks grow pale and her eyelids droop.

“They have no patience,” she explained. “That girl in the grey traveling coat now. She watched me put the desserts down for her two friends and I said to her, ‘Did you order a dessert?’ and she never answered a word, but just stared at me. So I thought she hadn’t. You know we leave our checks with the cashier to be made up, and they are filled for us in the kitchen. Then when they were going she went over and complained to the manager that I hadn’t waited on her.

“It’s so hard on me because I’m not used to it. But the war has hit us the same as other people. My husband has lost his position, and this was a chance to do something. The girls here are all nice, and of good families. We hate having anybody call out ‘waitress’ at us like that woman did. She’s a Yankee, not an American.

“I always know when it’s one of those women. Toronto women aren’t generally like that. They’re more considerate. And the men are splendid. They will wait every time if they see you are hurrying.”

“There is a tipping trust”⁹⁵ (1916)

It has come to light that there is a tipping trust that takes all the tips that foolish folk separate from themselves. When you go into a café and leave a quarter

⁹⁵ From *Tips – And a Tip*. (1916, March 4). *Saturday Chinook*, p. 6.

under your plate the waitress has to hand it over to the trust and get two cents back. We would deduce from this that the safer way is not to check your hat and coat, but to hang them over the back of your chair.

“Union help in restaurants now on strike”⁹⁶ (Edmonton, 1916)

At 12 a.m. yesterday, not being able to effect an agreement with the owners of certain restaurants in the city in respect to the new schedule submitted by the Cooks and Waiters’ Union, 30 per cent of the members of the union went on strike.

Under the new schedule the cooks and waiters are asking for an eight-hour day for the men, an increase of 50 cents weekly for waitresses, who have a minimum wage of \$10 per week under the union scale, and an increase of \$1 weekly for girl dishwashers, whose minimum wage under the union scale is \$8 per week.

Monday night it was announced that the following had agreed to the schedule and signed up with the union: Lewis’ Café, St. James’ Café, Queen’s Hotel, Mrs. Lewis’ Café, and the Waffle Shop.

Those still holding out are the Phoenix Café, Arcadia Café and the “We Should Worry” Café. The Broiler Café is said to be closed.

In all 53 men and women engaged in the business are out on strike, this comprising about 30 per cent of the membership of the local union, the other 70 per cent being still employed.

They are made up as follows: Broiler Café, 3 cooks, 2 dish-washers, 3 waitresses; Arcadia Café, 3 cooks, 3 dishwashers, 2 waiters, 1 waitress; “We Should Worry” Café, 4 cooks, 6 dishwashers, 6 waitresses, 1 pantryman; Phoenix Café, 3 cooks, 7 dishwashers, 5 waiters, 2 waitresses, 1 pantryman, 1 yardman; total 13 cooks, 18 dishwashers, 19 waiters, 13 waitresses, 2 pantrymen and 1 yardman.

The suggestion has been made that returned soldiers would be employed as non-union labor, but Secretary Peebles, of the Cooks and Waiters’ Union, asks that the statement be made that the Returned Soldiers’ Bureau has given assurance that this shall not happen and that the returned soldiers will be kept out of the dispute.

Secretary Peebles said that he would like it to become known that 47 members of the union have enlisted, and that all members of the union are giving one day’s pay per month to the Patriotic fund.

Replies to Proprietor

W. H. Peebles, secretary of the Cooks’ and Waiters’ Union, comes forward yesterday with a reply to the statement of A. M. Murray, proprietor of the “We Should Worry” Café, for which, as representing both sides of the argument, he asks publicity.

Mr. Murray says that the agreement continued in force until the 26th day of May ’16 and was thereafter terminable in the ordinary course of one month’s notice in writing by either party.

⁹⁶ From UNION HELP IN RESTAURANTS NOW ON STRIKE. (1916, May 17). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 4.

By the agreement the proprietor of the café was, in consideration of using the union label, bound to employ only members of local 55 Cooks and Waiters in good standing, and to sell union-made goods whenever possible.

The Cooks and Waiters claim that Mr. Murray has broken this agreement by employing non-union labor, and also by selling non-union goods, he having for sale at one time five brands of cigars which did not bear the union label. Under these circumstances they say that the agreement is rendered null and void, and that the onus of having broken it rests upon Mr. Murray.

Restaurant Proprietors State Their Case

The restaurant proprietors claim that the union has broken its agreement in not giving sufficient notice. Their agreement with the union calls for a month's notice before definite action is taken, and in the present case they state only ten days' notice was given and the employees of some restaurants were signed up to walk out before the new wage schedule was presented. They claim that the union has given them no support in supplying good men. They also argue that the union has no standard as to the efficiency of its members, and union men have missed shifts, etc., and were not fined by the union, as the agreement called for.

If a man out of the city was hired, the union would object, saying that there were union men in the city who could fill the vacancy, and if a man was not liked by the members of the local, although he were a good workman, other union members would make it disagreeable for him, and cases were known when requests were made asking proprietors to let such men out, on the grounds that they were not liked by members of the local.

The proprietors claim the union has been very indifferent to any attempts they have made to bring about an understanding. In the new wage scale, there are only two broken shifts allowed in each house, therefore the staff cannot be increased to any great extent during the busy parts of the day. An eight-hour shift only includes the work of two meals for a cook or waiter and the new scale costs one-third more than the one in use, and if the prices are raised, which would be necessary, patrons would leave the restaurant.

Proprietors who have been signed up with the union claim they have not had the trade because they were members of the union, but because the food was cheaper than in some other restaurant. It would be impossible for them to maintain present prices with the new wage scale.

“No love for either”⁹⁷ (Windsor, 1916)

[CONTENT WARNING – VIOLENCE]

Nick Polnonck lies in a cot in Hotel Dieu with a deep knife wound under his left arm, and Tam Naunzar is in the Ford city jail, charged with the stabbing, which was the result of a quarrel over a waitress who showed no love for either.

⁹⁷ From QUARRELLED OVER WOMAN; MAN IS BADLY INJURED. (1916, May 31). *The Windsor Star*, p. 1.

The girl, a waitress in Porter Bros.' café, Drouillard road, was waiting table Tuesday night when Nick patted her on the back. His rival, sitting at a table in front, muttered something. While Nick was drinking his coffee, Tam got up to go out. As he passed the table he drew a knife, and in a flash both men were in a struggle, which carried them to the sidewalk. When Nick fell to the ground with the knife in his body, the other man dashed away.

The crowd, hearing the scuffle, was soon in pursuit. After a long chase, extending over one hour, Naunzar was caught by the Ford City police.

Naunzar will be arraigned for his preliminary hearing before Magistrate Leggatt Wednesday, but the police will ask for an adjournment pending a report of the wounded man's condition.

“Suitable companionship”⁹⁸ (Vancouver, 1917)

Informations were laid and summonses issued at police headquarters at noon today, charging the proprietors of the Castle, Strand, Lotus, Astor, Empire and Europe hotels with violations of the provincial liquor laws, and the proprietor of the London Café, Robson street, with an infraction of the city bylaws. [...] Mayor McBeath this morning gave to The Province an account of alleged incidents which had led up to the action taken at police headquarters today. [...]

“In one establishment which was under the observation of a male operator acting alone, the operator stated he was refused liquor, although men accompanied by women were drinking liquor at tables. The operator,” continued his worship, “remarked to the waitress that it appeared he ought to have brought a lady with him if he wished to obtain liquor, to which the waitress replied that if before his next visit he would intimate his wish for feminine company she might be able to arrange for suitable companionship.”

“She was being deceived”⁹⁹ (Edmonton, 1917)

[CONTENT WARNING – DRUGGING, ABUSE]

Fred Stevens, alias Smifry Stefiuk, tried to take unto himself a wife by cave man methods and as the result of his amorous advances will spend the next six months in Fort Saskatchewan jail at hard labor. Smifry was charged with seduction in the supreme criminal court, and found guilty by Mr. Justice Hyndman.

A young Russian girl, working as waitress in the K. B. Café, caught the eye of the accused and it was a case of love at first sight – with him. “Will you accompany me to a farm in Saskatchewan and be my loving helpmate?” asked Fred, and Sadie answered in the negative. But Fred was a persistent cuss, and with the aid of some drugged milk, as was alleged by the complainant, finally persuaded her to accompany him to a local jeweler's where a license was secured.

⁹⁸ From Drinks to Youths and Girls In Defiance of Laws. (1917, March 7). *The Province*, p. 15.

⁹⁹ From Bold Young Lochinvar's Methods Fail. (1917, April 14). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 3.

There was no further ceremony and, thinking in her ignorance that the marriage license was sufficient, the girl went to a hotel with Stevens where they lived as man and wife for ten days. Friends informed her she was being deceived, and finally she left [the] accused and court proceedings were instituted.

[The] prisoner, who was not represented by counsel, stated in his own behalf that he had every intention of marrying Sadie, but that she fled from him before the ceremony could be performed. He showed his esteem by purchasing her Easter finery, and unlimited jewelry at the ten and fifteen cent store.

After finding Stevens guilty, Mr. Justice Hyndman imposed a sentence of six months, to date from March 21, when [the] prisoner was taken in custody.

“Insufficient grounds”¹⁰⁰ (Edmonton, 1917)

Employers must not discharge their help on insufficient grounds and not give a month’s notice, according to the decision of Magistrate Primrose in the police court today, in disposing of a wages case. The complainant, Rosa Borsu, a pretty girl who had been employed as a waitress at the Corona hotel, said that she had been summarily dismissed, and claimed \$6 for wages due, and \$25 in lieu of one month’s notice. She said that on Friday she was handed a roll of bills, and told that her services would no longer be required. The reason was attributed to the complainant’s propensity to enter into a discussion of the gossip of the house, and to unsatisfactory service in the dining room.

The defendant, Harold J. Daveborf, acting manager of the hotel, said that he had discharged the complainant at the request of the head waitress, who had informed him of her unsatisfactory work. The magistrate found that the complainant was entitled to the wages to the end of her working month, and also for a month’s notice, and ordered that she be paid the sum of \$31.

“An unhappy marriage”¹⁰¹ (Victoria, 1918)

Thomas Hume, a returned soldier, entered a plea of guilty in the City Police Court to-day on a charge of an assault causing bodily harm to his wife. She had been badly beaten and the Magistrate said that she had complained of threats when the information was sworn. Counsel for both stated that the parties could not agree and that the best course would be to have a mutual separation. It was stated further that Hume objected to the companions of the wife, owing to the nature of her employment as a waitress. They had only been married four months, and accused was in a high strung state on account of injuries at the front. A suspended sentence pending the draft of a separation was granted.

¹⁰⁰ From DISCUSSING HOTEL GOSSIP NO CAUSE DISMISSING HELP. (1917, November 29). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 2.

¹⁰¹ From An Unhappy Marriage. (1918, March 18). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 9.

“Hotel waitresses in Toronto underpaid”¹⁰² (Toronto, 1919)

Toronto, Jan. 8 – An investigation by Miss E. H. Dempsey, an organizer of the American Federation of Labor, who has been in Toronto for some time organizing waitresses in restaurants and hotels, has revealed what she declares is an intolerable state of affairs.

The highest wage paid to any waitress, according to Miss Dempsey, is sixty-nine cents a day if she rooms in the hotel and eighty-three cents a day if she provides her own room. In the majority of the hotels the girls are expected to work seven days a week. These conditions do not prevail in the Chinese and Greek restaurants, where the waitresses received from \$12 to \$15 a week and have better working conditions.

“A reduction in the hours”¹⁰³ (Winnipeg, 1919)

WINNIPEG, April 8 – It was announced today by officials of the Manitoba Wage Board that a reduction in the hours of waitress and male help employed in city restaurants has been ordered. Many of the restaurants had worked waitresses 60 to 70 hours per week, and some even eighty hours. The regulations of the board limit the number of hours per day to ten and of the week to 48, with one entire day each week free. Wages must be paid weekly.

“For employing a white waitress”¹⁰⁴ (New Westminster, 1919)

NEW WESTMINSTER – Jang Yow, the Chinese proprietor of the Strand café, was yesterday morning fined \$20 and costs in police court for employing a white waitress in his restaurant. He was warned that a repetition of the offence would mean the full penalty of \$100. This is the first case to be tried here under the new amendment of the municipal act which prohibits the employment of white women or girls by Chinese.

“Minimum wage for house workers”¹⁰⁵ (B.C., 1919)

After receiving evidence at Vancouver from employers and employees, a minimum wage of \$14 a week for a 48-hour week for females over 18 years of age engaged in public house-keeping occupations was established by the Minimum Wage Board of the Province. The finding will come into effect in about 60 days and covers a considerable number of employees.

¹⁰² From HOTEL WAITRESSES IN TORONTO UNDERPAID. (1919, January 8). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 1.

¹⁰³ From Limit Waiters' Hours. (1919, April 9). *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 10.

¹⁰⁴ From CHINAMAN FINED \$20 UNDER NEW ACT. (1919, April 27). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 7.

¹⁰⁵ From MINIMUM WAGE FOR HOUSE WORKERS. (1919, May 31). *The Daily Colonist*, p. 18.

A public housekeeping occupation is defined as including the work of waitresses, attendants, housekeepers, janitresses, cooks, kitchen help in restaurants, hotels, light lunch stands, and other places where food is cooked, prepared and served, for which a charge is made; and the work of chambermaids in hotels, lodging houses, and apartments where lodging is furnished, whether or not such establishments are operated independently or in connection with any other business; and the work of all female elevator operators.

Where room and board are provided, a deduction of \$3 a week for the room and \$6.23 for board will be allowed except in the case of hotels, where \$3 a week will be allowed off for a room and \$5 for board.

A strong fight was put up by the waitresses and chambermaids for a compulsory six-day week. Out of consideration for the small hotels the board made no ruling with regard to a six-day week, but ordered that the hours be 48 per week, except in cases of emergency, when they may be stretched to 52, but in that event time and a half overtime must be paid for the extra hours.

The members of the Minimum Wage Board are Mr. J. D. McNiven, Deputy Minister of Labor (chairman); Mrs. J. H. MacGill and Mr. Thomas Matthews¹⁰⁶. In the conference as "public representatives" were Mrs. Graves, Victoria; Mrs. Robbins, Revelstoke, and Rev. Dr. Whittington¹⁰⁷. The next conference will be at New Westminster, June 4, when office help will be considered.

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Some of the waitresses and chambermaids suggested to the board that the cost of living for a woman maintaining herself comfortably could only be met by a wage of \$5 a day or \$1,400 or \$1,500 a year, while one of the more moderate estimates, as worked out on the cost of living table, came to about \$985.

One instance was given of a hotel where five chambermaids were employed who only received \$11 a week, worked seven days a week, and had to pay for their own board and room.

That the Y.M.C.A. is running a hundred-room hotel at Field, B.C., with two waitresses and two chambermaids, who work from twelve to sixteen hours a day and receive \$25 a month pay was the evidence given by C. H. Chisholm.

Mr. George Haddon, secretary of the general hospital, appeared on behalf of the hospital board with the claim that working conditions at the hospitals were so different from in private institutions that it would not come within the scope of the board. No decision was made.

On behalf of a department store where the waitresses only worked 28 or 36 hours a week, it was pointed out that consideration should be given to that fact. With them the pay was \$8 a week with breakfast, luncheon and tea. It was explained that

¹⁰⁶ Little is known about Thomas Matthews except that he was once a member of the Vancouver School Board.

¹⁰⁷ "Rev. Dr. Whittington, at one time principal of Columbian College at New Westminster, and subsequently superintendent of Methodist Missions, has purchased property at Summerland, and will hereafter make his home there." News of the City. (1909, August 11). *Victoria Daily Colonist*, p. 6.

these positions were mostly filled by married women who liked the short day so that they could return home.

This gave rise to an outburst from one of the waitress representatives that the worst competition the single, self-sustaining woman or widow with children had to meet was that of childless married women who had husbands to support them, but both went out to work. The rejoinder from another woman was that so many of the men were paid insufficient wages, it was necessary that the wife should go out to increase the family income.

“The demand of the striking waitresses”¹⁰⁸ (Saskatoon, 1919)

That the present average wage earned by female workers in Saskatoon is insufficient to enable them to live and properly attire themselves and utterly insufficient to afford them any opportunity for self-improvement was the burden of the limited amount of testimony offered before the Minimum Wage Board at its session in City Hall last night. [...]

The demand of the striking waitresses, according to a delegate from their organization who testified before the board, is for a minimum weekly wage of \$12.50. At the present time waitresses in restaurants are receiving \$35 a month and their board. They pay for their own washing, which sometimes includes three aprons a day and often amounts to upwards of \$3 a week. Waitresses in hotels are receiving \$40 a month, according to this delegate. She was unable to give an estimate of the average charge made at the present time in Saskatoon for board and lodging suitable for a working girl, but was quite certain that it absorbs practically all of the girl's earnings, leaving her nothing for healthful recreation or personal improvement.

“Waiters-cooks union is still out on strike”¹⁰⁹ (Winnipeg, 1919)

A delegation from the cooks and waiters' union brought a statement to The Tribune office Thursday afternoon to the effect that 1,200 members still are on strike for the recognition of their union, shorter hours and more wages.

They walked out the day the general strike was called, it was explained, independently of any other unions. A schedule had been presented to the employers, which so far has been ignored. The delegates wished it made clear to the public that their strike had nothing to do with the sympathetic one just closed.

An attempt at negotiation made Thursday by union officials was a failure, according to members of the delegation. The employers refused to recognize the union, offering reinstatement individually on the same time and pay schedules that prevailed before the strike.

¹⁰⁸ From FAVOR \$15 A WEEK AS THE LOWEST WAGE. (1919, June 12). *Saskatoon Star*, p. 10.

¹⁰⁹ From WAITERS-COOKS UNION IS STILL OUT ON STRIKE. (1919, June 27). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5.

The schedule which was submitted by the union workers demanded a nine-hour day, with one day off a week, and a minimum wage of \$10 a week for waitresses and kitchen helpers.

“Many of us get only \$15 a month in down-town restaurants,” said a member of the delegation. “We are expected to make up a living wage out of tips.”

Men employees had been paid \$35 a month.

It was declared that the ruling of the minimum wage board recently requiring a minimum wage of \$12.50 a week for women workers had not been put in force.

“Resigned from office”¹¹⁰ (Winnipeg, 1919)

A. E. Fulljames, president of the Restaurant-Keepers’ association, has resigned from office, The Tribune ascertained today. He would not divulge his reasons. Asked when the restaurant keepers were entering their protest against the ruling of the minimum wage board that waitresses be paid at least \$12.50 a week, Mr Fulljames said that it was a matter for the association to deal with.

“Hours – Not Wages”¹¹¹ (Regina, 1919)

A very interesting interview was given by Miss Flett, the Labor member of the Minimum Wage Board, regarding the action of appeal by the café owners in the decision of the board in respect to waitresses.

“The real reason why the café men are appealing from the ruling of the minimum wage board of a 012,50 minimum wage for waitresses is not the wages fixed for them, but the shorter hours, only [they] then are ashamed to come out in the open and say so,” declared Miss Lynn Flett, a member of the board today, in discussing the question.

“If the employers wish to make an appeal, it should be to the minimum wage board first,” Miss Flett said. “I do not promise that there will be a reduction in the ruling, but they will get a respectful hearing. The board went into the matter and considered the question of tips very carefully and decided that it has no bearing on ages as far as we were concerned. Our business was to see that employers pay the girls a living wage, and we ruled accordingly.

“Tips are a matter entirely between a waitress and her customer. It is a gift which is made to her and not in any way to help the management which employs her,” Miss Flett explained. “But I am certain that the soreness is not so much caused by our wage regulation as our setting a 48-hour week with one full day off. The girls employed in cafes and restaurants commonly worked 65 to 70 hours a week, and this is a drastic change,” Miss Flett declared.

¹¹⁰ From “I SAW IT IN THE TRIBUNE”. (1919, August 19). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5.

¹¹¹ From HOURS – NOT WAGES. (1919, September 9). *Regina Leader*, p. 7.

“Appropriating nearly \$9 a week from the tips”¹¹² (Winnipeg, 1919)

Owners of restaurants where the price of steaks touches the dollar mark and the plebeian pork-an’ retails at 30 cents a plate, are both avoiding the regulations of the minimum wage law and indirectly appropriating nearly \$9 a week from the tips of every waitress in their employ.

This was the chief of charges made Friday by a delegation of waitresses who petitioned W. H. Hoop, business agent of the Wholesale and Retail Clerks’ union, to bring the influence of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor council behind action for removal of their grievances.

Members of the Winnipeg Restauranters’ association have adopted a plan of paying \$6 a week, plus any difference between that figure and the required \$15 which is not made up “from other sources,” according to members of the delegation.

In support of the assertion one of the members produced a card similar to those which, she said, employees of members of the association have been forced to sign on penalty of discharge.

The card is headed with the name of the Winnipeg Restauranters’ association. The first clause reads:

“I ... agree to enter service of the undersigned in occupation of My wages are to be \$6 a week, with a guarantee that the total compensation for my services from all sources shall not be less than \$15 per week.”

According to a second member of the committee the girls were told by her employers that the cards were being issued with the consent of the Minimum Wage Board.

Another of the waitresses declared that she had been told by her employer that if she refused to sign the card he would either have to discharge her or withdraw from the association.

Complaint was made by the girls that the practice not only lined the pockets of the employer and reduced the income of those to whom the tips were given, but made it necessary for a waitress to employ all her wiles in order to gather a living wage from the contributions of customers.

“It’s just a case of the boss putting it over on us,” one of the committee said, “and in turn we have got to put it over the public. If we don’t, our jobs won’t last long.”

According to the girls the employers see no advantage in retaining a girl who can make at least \$9 of her wages in tips. Tips sometimes amount to as much as \$20 a week, one of the girls said.

Hours of work was another source of complaint by the delegation, members of which declared that they were working from 8 1-2 to 13 hours a day, with no pay for time above 11 1-2 hours and a requirement that they grab their meals in a rush between times when they are serving customers.

“On top of this,” said one girl, “the boss makes us pay for our meals on the days when we are off duty.”

¹¹² From CHARGE CAFÉ MEN PAY \$6 WEEKLY WAGES. (1919, October 4). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 13.

Between July 1 and Sept. 15, according to the delegation, the cafes owned by members of the association were repaying their help as high as \$8.50 a week, but that amount was reduced this week to \$6.

Mr. Hoop stated that he would bring the complaint before the trades council at its next meeting. He urged the public to suspend the tipping system and force the employers to make up the additional \$9 required by the minimum wage law.

“The waitress charged him \$1.50”¹¹³ (Edmonton, 1919)

[CONTENT WARNING – VIOLENCE]

Objections voiced by Jean Barrett against the sentence of thirty days in the Fort Saskatchewan jail imposed on him by Magistrate Primrose for assaulting Roman Novak resulted in an additional ten days being added to the sentence. Barrett asserted that he had not been given an opportunity to call his witness in the case, requested information as to whether he could lodge an appeal and asked permission to speak to an attorney. After hearing the lone witness for the defence the magistrate increased the sentence from thirty days to forty.

The complainant, Novak, appeared in court with a face which had every appearance of having come in violent contact with a steam roller. A black and bloodshot eye and a cheek puffed almost beyond recognition were evidence of an assault. He testified that the argument arose in the Rex bar where the accused is employed as bartender, over the price of two bottles of beer and a bottle of lemon sour. He asserted that the waitress charged him \$1.50 for the three bottles. The money was paid after some argument which finally culminated, it is alleged, in Barrett assaulting him. A friend who was present with Novak in the same box corroborated the testimony.

Barrett took the stand in his own defence and claimed that the complainant and his friend were intoxicated. He asserted that Novak threw a glass of lemon sour in the waitress' face and attempted to strike her with the lid of a stove.

“Had not had a new suit for four years”¹¹⁴ (Edmonton, 1920)

It was [...] disclosed, according to the statement of Mrs. W. J. Ross, secretary of the Local Council of Women, that some waitresses are dependent on the tips they receive for necessary clothing expenses. A girl paid \$9 a week as a waitress had to use the whole sum for room rent, laundry, week-end meals and incidentals. She received her meals for five days of the week at the place of employment. Other expenses, such as clothing, amounted to \$260 a year. From tips she received \$5.25 a week, and with this money she obtained what clothing she could. [...]

¹¹³ From CITY POLICE COURT. (1919, December 6). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 5.

¹¹⁴ From MINIMUM WAGE MEANS LETTING CLERKS GO. (1920, October 12). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 1.

Mrs. W. J. Ross produced a statement showing the weekly costs incurred by a waitress. In one case a girl, on a salary of \$9, had to pay \$4 for a room, \$1 for laundry, \$2 for the week-end meals between Saturday and Monday, \$1 for carfare and \$1 for sickness charges.

In one case a girl had not had a new suit for four years, said Mrs. Ross. In another case a head waitress who received \$18 a week was assisting to support her mother.

“Do you know if an increase in the minimum wage would have an effect on the tipping system?” asked Mr. Martin.

Mrs. Ross replied that many people know the position the girls are in, and tip them on that account.

“Waitresses are not overworked”¹¹⁵ (Regina, 1920)

According to H. Terzakis, of the Balmoral Café, complaints made to the Trades and Labor Council that there are waitresses working in Regina 70 hours a week are groundless. Mr. Terzakis also takes objection to the assertion that Regina restaurants owned by “foreigners” are to blame.

“As far as I know,” said Mr. Terzakis to The Leader last night, “all of the restaurant owners are naturalized Canadians. I don’t know where there are any waitresses working 70 hours a week in Regina.

“Forty-eight hours a week is the standard week for waitresses in Regina. Under the law they are enabled to work a total of 56 hours a week. Most of the waitresses in Regina work this 56 hours a week, but they are paid the difference between that and 48 hours.

“Waitresses are being paid between \$35 and \$60 a month including meals and laundry. The law says that the minimum wage must be \$14 and from this we are entitled to deduct \$5.25 for their board. Taking the wages they are being paid, I do not think that there are many dissatisfied waitresses in Regina.”

“Gets tips – but would like to stop system”¹¹⁶ (Edmonton, 1920)

A waitress told the [Minimum Wage] committee that she had been working in a restaurant for \$10 per week. The restaurant, she said, provided her with two meals per day and her breakfast was cooked in her room, which she shared with another girl. “Yes,” she said in reply as to whether she received anything in tips, “sometimes we get tips, and these help quite a lot, but in some places the tips are not very large.” It would be better, she said, if the tipping system were done away with, and if they were getting higher wages people would not be inclined to tip as often. “However, you would not leave tips laying on the table.”

¹¹⁵ From Waitresses Are Not Overworked, Says Terzakis. (1920, October 13). *Morning Leader*, p. 18.

¹¹⁶ From GETS TIPS – BUT WOULD LIKE TO STOP “SYSTEM”. (1920, October 14). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1.

“Business girls seek work”¹¹⁷ (Vancouver, 1921)

When salaries go down the glamor of business life fades for the girl who wants something more than a bare living wage. Vancouver girls who held good positions in normal times have found the present quiet period in the financial and industrial world responsible for the cutting down of office staffs, and lower salaries. There are still some who intend to cling at all costs to the supposedly better social standing of the stenographer or clerk, but others are wisely turning their efforts to the work that is more in demand.

“Don’t call me a hashlinger, but I need the money,” laughed a bright young stenographer who has decided that waiting table in a club is more profitable than waiting for an office job.

“It’s not such bad work after all, and I like it better than I thought I would. It took a little courage at first because my friends thought it was a terrible social ‘come down’ to turn waitress. But I don’t think so at all, for my companions are as nice girls as I could wish to know even if they haven’t had business education.”

“Don’t you feel cheap when people leave you a tip?”

“Not at all; we accept the wages offered on the basis that a good living is made from the custom of leaving something under the plate for the waitress.”

The erstwhile stenographer thinks tipping is a good institution, naturally. But not only for the monetary benefits.

“It keeps the work from becoming too monotonous,” she says. “It gives one an added interest in being attentive to customers. And then there is the thrill of uncertainty of just how much one is going to make each day. I suppose it is the gambling spirit which we all have in us more or less.”

This is certainly an original way of looking at things, and the novice waitress hopes all future customers will think the same.

“I think it is all nonsense the way girls look down on waiting table,” she continued. “After all, it is woman’s work, and I for one would like to see fewer men carrying dishes.”

The stenographer-waitress is not the only one thinking that way. Is waiting table a man’s job in a country like this, where brawn and muscle are needed in developing the country’s natural resources?

The office girl is not alone in assuming the role of waitress, for the former stenographer has friends who have given up hairdressing for restaurant work. A waitress may have long hours, and be much on her feet, but the hairdresser’s assistants say that great strength is needed to stand over the fashionable ladies, shampooing, massaging and curling their refractory locks. So according to two of them at least, the waitress has the best of it.

“If you boost the business like this, what will you do if it becomes overcrowded?”

¹¹⁷ From E.M.C. (1921, March 20). Many Business Girls Seek Work in City Restaurants. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 10.

“Plenty of time for that,” was the cheerful reply from the pair of optimists. “In the meantime we have the summer season before us, when we are going out to the country hotels, and next winter maybe the offices will be clamoring to have us back to keep pace with business.”

No doubt this last will be fervently echoed by many a business man. In the meantime, if you see two or three especially nice girls at your favorite lunch room, don’t forget that tipping is really an excellent moral principle.

“Failing to pay wages”¹¹⁸ (Saskatoon, 1921)

[CONTENT WARNING – RACIAL SLUR]

Wong Bow and Lo Sing, Chinese proprietors of the O. K. Café, 20th St. West, were charged in police court before Magistrate F. M. Brown this morning with failing to pay wages alleged to be due to Mrs. Dorothy Webb¹¹⁹, a waitress lately in their employ.

Magistrate Brown was dissatisfied with the evidence produced by both sides, and adjourned the case until further evidence could be secured.

Mrs. Webb, in giving evidence, stated that she commenced working at the café on August 16, at a salary of \$8 per week, payable monthly. Last Sunday, owing to an accident to her finger she was unable to go to work, and sent a friend, Mrs. Mitchell, down to the café to acquaint the proprietors with the fact. Mrs. Mitchell returned and told her “The chink says he doesn’t want you any more.” Mrs. Webb went down to the café herself on Monday morning and was told that her services were no longer required. She was offered \$5 by Wong Bow as the balance of her wages, which she refused. She stated that she had previously asked for and received \$7, as she had needed the money, but claimed that a balance of \$13.50 was still due to her.

The evidence of Wong Bow and Lo Sing, given through the medium of an interpreter, was mainly to the effect that Mrs. Webb entered their employ on August 26, and not August 16, as she had stated.

Magistrate Brown adjourned the case until either side could procure substantial evidence on the question of the date of Mrs. Webb’s employment.

¹¹⁸ From WAGE CLAIM LAID AGAINST CHINESE. (1921, September 9). *The Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 3.

¹¹⁹ As of 1920, Dorothy Webb lived at 207 Avenue N, south, and was married to A. E. Webb, “a returned soldier, partially crippled, [...] [who] found some difficulty in getting a job.” He was brought to court in May of 1920 for tampering with an electric meter. “A wire ran from the switch block to the fuse plugs. Mrs. Dorothy Webb testified that [her husband] fixed the switch for the meter man to read it and then re-adjusted his contrivance after the man had gone. [Mr.] Webb said he did the whole thing as a practical joke and did not intend any harm, nor did he intend to defraud the city.” FOUND GUILTY OF TAMPERING WITH ELECTRIC METER. (May 3, 1920). *The Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 7. Mrs. Webb herself was an avid runner

“She was offered \$2”¹²⁰ (Saskatoon, 1921)

Wong How and Lo Sing, Chinese proprietors of the O. K. Café, Twentieth St., West, who were remanded last week on a charge of failing to pay wages alleged to be due to Mrs. Dorothy Webb, a waitress lately in their employ, were again arraigned before Magistrate F. M. Brown this morning. After hearing the evidence Magistrate Brown ordered payment of \$3.20, a part of the amount she alleged was due to her.

Mrs. Webb, in giving evidence, stated that she commenced working at the café on August 16, at a salary of \$8 a week. On September 4, owing to an accident to her finger she was unable to get to work. [...] Mrs. Webb went to the café herself on the following day, and was told that her services were not required. She was offered \$2 by Wong Bow as the balance of her wages, which she refused. She stated that she had previously asked for and received \$7, as she had needed the money, but claimed that a balance of \$13.50 was still due to her.

The evidence of Wong Bow and Lo Sing was mainly to the effect that Mrs. Webb entered their employ on August 26, and not on August 16, as she had stated.

Magistrate Brown found Mrs. Webb was actually employed in the café nine days, and ordered [the] defendants to pay the balance due to her for that time, \$3.20.

“Proposed to make a date with her”¹²¹ (Nelson, 1921)

[CONTENT WARNING – HARRASSMENT, VIOLENCE]

NELSON, B.C., Dec. 13 – Edmund Ralph, one-armed dope fiend suspect, lies at death’s door with a bullet through his right lung fired by Police Sergeant Alex. Stewart at the C. P. R. depot last night.

Ralph, about 8 o’clock, sauntered into Stonburg’s restaurant on Vernon St., “made eyes,” at the waitress, Mrs. J. Clyne, and proposed to make a date with her after he had relieved an elderly Swede in the room of his roll. The waitress warned the intended victim and then Stonburg, the proprietor, intervened, grappled with the man and received a shot in the stomach for his pains.

Ralph broke loose and fled to the station where he was followed by the police. From the shadows the gunman’s voice called on Sergeant Stewart to “stick ‘em up,” but the officer instead let drive in the darkness with an automatic and brought down his quarry who was armed with a .44 colt. Stonburg will probably recover, but there is little hope for Ralph.

¹²⁰ From CHINESE OWNERS OF CAFÉ TO PAY CLAIM. (1921, September 15). *The Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 6.

¹²¹ From TWO ARE INJURED IN SHOOTING AT NELSON. (1921, December 13). *The Daily World (Vancouver)*, p. 3.

“Must not employ white waitresses”¹²² (Sudbury, 1922)

Sudbury, Feb. 6 – Following startling disclosures in Sudbury Police Court, as a result of which three white girls, all under twenty and former employees of Chinese cafes, were sent by the Mercer for six months, Sudbury Town Council tonight unanimously passed a motion refusing licenses to Chinamen who employ female labor either in their restaurants or lodging quarters.

The Orientals were also ordered to tear down and remove all partitions surrounding separate eating-rooms or “stalls.” There are twenty-five Chinese restaurants in Sudbury, all of which are affected as regards the order as it applies to the employment of white female labor.

“50-hour week for women”¹²³ (Saskatchewan, 1922)

The basic week for female employees in hotels, restaurants and refreshment rooms has been changed from 48 to 50 hours, and where girls and women are required to work Sundays the minimum wage has been increased from \$14 to \$16.50.

The foregoing is the decision reached by the Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Board yesterday afternoon at the Parliament Building after hearing representations by the Caterers’ Association and a representative of the employees, who came down from Saskatoon for the purpose.

The wage question was not so much to the fore as the matter of getting the girls to work a greater number of hours per week without receiving extra pay. While the restaurateurs asked for a wage reduction, this was intended to apply more particularly to kitchen help, but the chief contention was for an increase in the hours of work to apply to all help.

The regulation in force up to the present provides for a maximum of 48 hours for places open for business six days in the week, and where places are operating seven days in the week the maximum was 56 hours. Provision was made for a minimum pay of \$14 per week based on a 48-hour week, plus time and a half for Sunday work.

WORK 56 HOURS

It was represented to the board that the majority of the girls engaged in this class of business were working the full 56-hour week. This applied to all hotels and a majority of the restaurants, and that while the girls were entitled to time and a half for Sunday work, the work was so rotated that the girls frequently only put in two or three hours’ work on Sundays. In other words, as a result of the arrangement of the hours during the week, the proprietors were able to get two or three hours’ work from the girls on Sundays before the time and a half rate became operative. This was all

¹²² From MUST NOT EMPLOY WHITE WAITRESSES. (1922, February 7). *The Globe*, p. 3.

¹²³ From 50-HOUR WEEK FOR WOMEN SET BY WAGE BOARD. (1922, April 19). *The Regina Leader*, p. 9.

the work that was required, and the girls did not get any chance to reap the benefit of the higher rate of pay provided for overtime.

The caterers were not agreed among themselves as to what was required with respect to wages, Wes. Champ of Regina, being of the opinion that there should be differentiation in the amount of wages allowed for dining room girls and chambermaids on the ground that the former were required to dress better than their upstart colleagues. This, however, did not meet with the views of the other representatives present.

MEALS ARE DOWN

During the discussion, Mr. Champ stated that prices charged for meals had been reduced 25 per cent. in the restaurants in Regina during the past 18 months.

John Lush, of the restaurant at the Parliament Building, expressed a desire for the return of the old days when waitresses wore cashmere stockings instead of silk hose. He declared they had too much time on their hands now and thought of little else but their dress. They were spending their surplus earnings in finery, he declared. He complained that two of his four girls had quit Saturday night after receiving their pay, without giving any notice.

REPRESENTS EMPLOYEES

A. M. Eddy, of Saskatoon, was sent down by the Saskatoon Trade and Labor Council to represent the employees in the northern part of the province, and he was the only representative of the female help present. The caterers were represented by Wes. Champ and John Lush, of Regina, and H. L. Mead, of the Royal George Hotel, Moose Jaw.

“Scale of wages high”¹²⁴ (Regina, 1922)

REGINA, May 1 – Restaurant and hotel keepers have raised a strenuous protest against the regulations of the Saskatchewan minimum wage board, relative to wages paid female help. The hotel men claimed that \$76 a month and meals, is an exorbitant pay for waitresses and chamber maids. Restaurant men averred the present day waitress spends most of her money on silk dresses and expensive furs. The board did not acquiesce in the demands of the employers, but promised further consideration of the complaints.

“Hotel owners seek relief”¹²⁵ (Saskatchewan, 1923)

Recommendations for the adjustment of the Minimum Wage Board in connection with wages and hours were brought in before the board meeting held in Regina last week.

The Saskatoon retail merchants were represented by President F. W. Masterson, and Vice-president G. Garfield Wray, who presented pleas from the

¹²⁴ From DECLARE SCALE OF WAGES HIGH. (1922, May 1). *The Vancouver Daily World*, p. 1.

¹²⁵ From HOTEL OWNERS SEEK RELIEF. (1923, January 15). *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 10.

merchants of Prince Albert and Saskatoon. Mr. Wray pointed out that the public at large and particularly the retailers were passing through a very difficult time and that some adjustments might be made in the interests of the retailer, the public, and labor itself.

A change in working hours was one of the things asked. The present time of 48 hours was considered not enough to allow the stores to keep open for Saturday evening. It was asked that the hours be changed to 51.

The board gave the retailers a good hearing and notations were made of the requests, with a promise of consideration by the board in the near future.

Hotel men from various parts of this province formed a provincial association while in Regina in attendance at the meeting. The following officers were elected:

President, Bert Acaster, Wascana Hotel, Regina; secretary-treasurer, Fred Ufland, Kitchener Hotel, Regina. A. Marchisio, King George Hotel, Saskatoon, was present at the meeting, representing also the Flanagan, Western, Barry, King Edward and Royal hotels of this city.

Officers of the association were interviewed, expressing their objection to the report in the press of Regina of their part in the discussion regarding wages for hotel employees.

They declare they did not attempt to seek a reduction in the scale. Through counsel, they state the hotel men offered to increase the minimum for waitresses and chambermaids from the present rate, \$27 a month with room and board, with the elimination of the one-day off a week clause.

It is claimed that waitresses in hotels have practically half a day off every day, from 10 to 2, from 2.30 to 6 and from 8 o'clock onwards.

They also asked representation on the board and not to be classed with restaurants, as the hours of employees were entirely different.

The object of the association is to have every hotel man in Saskatchewan a member of the newly formed body.

“Edmonton’s one and only woman aviator”¹²⁶ (Edmonton, 1923)

Near the Canadian Pacific Railway station, on Edmonton’s main street, is an unpretending little restaurant. If you step within there may come for your order a quiet little Chinese woman, who will serve you deftly, if mechanically, then disappear into the unknown realms behind the waiting doors. Unless you have been told beforehand, you will never guess that your sedate little waitress is Edmonton’s one and only woman aviator, Mrs. Annie Lee.

While in Saskatoon a couple of years ago, a Chinese aviator friend Lim On, suggested that Mrs. Lee should take a flight with him.

“I not afraid then,” she will tell you in her pretty broken English. “Before, when I see airplanes up over my house I nervous, scared” – and the slender hands clasped

¹²⁶ From Canada’s Only Chinese Woman Aviator Even Does Stunts – Loop–Loop and All That. (1923, February 3). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 10.

against her breast tremble in illustration of the extent of her fears – “but then I not afraid. Even that day, when there was accident, and blood all about aerodrome it not frighten me. I go up, and when I come down I say, ‘I go up again.’ Then after I go up three – four times I say, ‘I must learn to fly myself.’”

Mrs. Lee took her training in Edmonton, and “now can do stunts, spin, loop loop, all that.” She went into partnership with Mr. Lim On, and they bought a machine, but alas, one day while Mr. Lim was doing some stunts he had an accident[;] his knee was hurt and the plane broken. So now she has no machine.

Her plan, however, for the coming season is to purchase a plane, engage an instructor – if possible her own, in whom she had such confidence – and herself act as assistant instructor and interpreter to those compatriots of her own who wish to learn aviation.

Mrs. Lee is a woman of many accomplishments. She helps her husband, Mr. Fung Lee, with his restaurant, she sews, knits, crochets, embroiders, and she is a clever amateur actress, having taken part this season in several Chinese plays, the only lady in the cast¹²⁷.

She is Canadian, born in Vancouver¹²⁸, and very proud of her three children, the eldest a girl, and two boys of fifteen and thirteen, the former in high school.

The love of flying has taken keen hold on her, and her face lights up, her eyes sparkle as she tells you, “auto-car go bump-bump-bump – but airplane, oh, like a bird. If I get plane I, oh – I fly all over Alberta, yes, fly Vancouver.” However, if you ask her if her husband and children fly she will answer: “My boys, oh, want fly. Sometime if strong I let them. Take him doctor, he say all right, then they fly. But my husband, I not want him fly. He his mother’s only boy. She worry.”

“Ordered to pay”¹²⁹ (Saskatoon, 1923)

Mah Sing, Chinese proprietor of the Central café, First Avenue, south, was ordered to pay Ida Fast, a former employee, \$21.50 when he appeared in city police court this morning.

¹²⁷ “The play [...] was called ‘The Rebel,’ [...] and was a reproduction of the revolution in Canton of June of this year. [...] The story was complete with all the detail even of the assassination of the governor of Canton. [...] Another unusual feature in the presentation of a Chinese play is to have a Chinese woman take a part, and Mrs. Lee, well known locally as an aviator, took one of the principal female parts.” CHINESE DRAMA EDMONTON CAST AND COMPOSER. (1922, November 27). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 2. As for the revolution in question, “Sun Yat-sen formed a government in Canton on 6 September 1917. [...] In June 1922 the Kwangtung warlord Chen Kiu-ming brought about a coup in Canton and Sun Yat-sen was again forced to leave for Shanghai.” Sladkovskii, M. I. (1966). *History of Economic Relations Between Russia and China*. London: Transaction Publishers.

¹²⁸ The reporter’s information contradicts the 1926 census of the Prairie Provinces. According to the census, Annie Lee was born in China in 1885. She emigrated to Canada in 1905, and became a citizen in 1918. Her two children were born in British Columbia; her daughter Nellie was born in 1907, and her son Thomas was born in 1908. In 1926, the two children and their parents lived together with a lodger above the Depot Café.

¹²⁹ From MAH SING TO PAY WAITRESS \$21.50. (1923, February 13). *Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 3.

Sing claimed that the girl had offered to work for her board, and had told him that if any policeman asked what she was earning, to say \$12, to satisfy what she believed to be the requirements of the Minimum Wage Act.

The woman stated that no arrangements had been made, and that she had worked at the café 24 1-2 days, for which she had not been paid. She stated in evidence that she had three years' experience as a waitress.

“Steak flies in her face”¹³⁰ (Saskatoon, 1923)

Arrested on a bench warrant Wednesday, after he had failed to appear in court to answer a charge of assault proffered by May Campbell, a waitress, Nick Michas, of the Capital café, was arraigned before Magistrate F. M. Brown and was assessed a fine of one dollar and costs, with the option of 10 days in jail, in police court Thursday.

According to the evidence Michas had had an altercation with the waitress in the kitchen of the café, and after using obscene language to her, had, in a fit of rage, thrown a plate of steak which he was holding in his hand at the time, into her face. She had immediately gone to the police and laid the information which resulted in Michas being summoned to appear in court on a charge of assault. Later, she said, Michas had apologized and in consequence of this she had gone to the clerk of the court to endeavor to have the charge withdrawn. This was given as the reason for the non-appearance of the accused when the case was called in court Wednesday.

In delivering judgment Magistrate Brown severely censured Michas on the language he had used to the girl and on his behaviour throughout. There was, he said, far too much of this kind of thing going on in places where girls were employed. Only the fact that there was evidently a desire on the part of both parties to settle the case amicably, and that otherwise it might cause the loss of Miss Campbell's employment, prevented him from taking a much more serious view of the affair.

“The waiter and waitress' union”¹³¹ (Vancouver, 1923)

Sir – I have never been an enthusiast for labor organizations, but there is one union which I wish to compliment. It is the waiters' and waitress' union.

One has always felt that the high standards of pay and working conditions demanded by unions should be earned by an equally high standard of efficiency. In some unions that is certainly not the case. Organization is used to protect the inefficiency of individuals and to reduce the volume of production in many branches of labor.

But it has been brought home to me in the past year or two that the service in restaurants employing union waiters and waitresses is incomparably superior to that

¹³⁰ From STEAK FLIES IN HER FACE. (1923, August 17). *The Saskatoon Phoenix*, p. 5.

¹³¹ From S. N. C. (1923, June 1). Compliments Union Waiters on Uniformly Good Service. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 4.

in others. The young men and women who serve table seem to work harder and more efficiently than others.

There is something admirable in the deft way they keep one's water glass filled and an adequate supply of butter on hand, for instance, and they seem to do it all without getting in the way or forcing themselves unduly on one's notice.

So, I take off my hat to the waiters' and waitress' union.

“Reached Montreal penniless”¹³² (1923)

A tragic history was revealed recently when Mrs. Valentine Barisoff applied for help in securing employment for her husband, a former colonel in the Czar's army. The Bolsheviks had killed her father and mother and seized all the family property. Col. And Mrs. Barisoff, with the rest of the refugees, barely escaped to Turkey with their lives, while they reached Montreal penniless.

From living in affluence in Moscow with a residence and six or seven servants to wait on them, Mrs. Barisoff said she was now making her living as a waitress at the Royal Victoria College, while her husband and his two brothers were working in the Ontario lumber woods. Quite undaunted by her misfortunes, Mrs. Barisoff said she was glad they were all safe in Canada, and declared that she even enjoyed her employment.

“He didn't like the waitress”¹³³ (Windsor, 1923)

At a certain restaurant where we sometimes take our dinner by way of a spree, the Authorman always avoids the table near the window.

When I asked him why, he said he didn't like the waitress.

“But she is very capable,” I objected. I have been here at noon when they have a frightful crowd and I think she handles her work better than any girl in the place. And she's not bad looking either.”

“That may be,” admitted the Authorman, “I didn't say she wasn't a smart waitress. I just said I didn't like her, and I don't. I don't like the way she folds her mouth up. I don't like faces with folded up mouths in them any time, and especially when I'm eating and want to feel cheerful.”

The next time the waitress came in I looked at her more carefully and I saw what he meant. She wasn't at all bad looking, had a nice skin, and pretty hair, but most of the time her mouth was folded up tight, as if she were trying to have it take up as little room in her face as possible.

Of course it had to be opened when she talked, and once in a long while it relaxed into a smile for one of her most favored patrons, but most of the time it kept its folded tight line, and it certainly did give her face a forbidding, repellent look.

¹³² From ONCE WEALTHY RUSSIAN WOMAN NOW WAITRESS IN MONTREAL. (1923, November 14). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 6.

¹³³ From Side Talks. (1923, December 1). *The Border Cities Star (Windsor)*, p. 8.

I think it is more common among women than among men. Probably because the folded mouth is the result of some form of repression, and women are more given to repression than men. Where a man would rage, a woman will sulk or look aggrieved. As Kenneth Harris says: “When a woman buries the hatchet she most generally marks the place and keeps it in mind so she can pick up a shovel and go back to it with her eyes shut any old time.”

“Women give and forgive, men get and forget,” a very witty woman said once, but it isn’t always true. Men get and forget all right, but women don’t always give and forget. They give in and give up (the most common and most difficult form of giving) and then resent the fact that they have to.

And sometimes a woman’s resentment gets so bitter and prepossesses so much of her thoughts that it becomes a dominant factor in her life and etches for her a mouth that is always tightly folded up.

“Well, why shouldn’t it?” you ask. It isn’t strange, is it, when you think of some women’s lives?

No, not at all strange. Only unfortunate for them. For the folded up mouth drives away love. And love seems to be something we all crave next to food and drink – sometimes more.

Mouths begin to fold themselves up ever so gradually. A slight thinning out of the line of the lips, [or a] slight tightening of the corners are their first signs. They are good signs to watch for and to avoid.

“The girl was ordered to pay costs”¹³⁴ (Saskatoon, 1924)

When eight charges against Sing Fong Marr and Henry Lee, proprietors of the Sunrise Grocery and Restaurant, formerly at 523 20th St., west, were heard by Magistrate F. M. Brown in city police court today. Marr was found guilty on two counts, acquitted on another, one charge against him was withdrawn and all the charges against Lee were withdrawn.

Charged with failing to post up the regulations of the minimum wage board where female employees could easily see them, George A. Cruise, appearing for Marr, pleaded guilty. Counsel disputed the charge of similar nature placed against Lee, on grounds that the latter was not a partner in the restaurant business and only in the grocery, and had not employed anyone. Roy Hogarth, acting for the crown, withdrew the charge against Lee. The court ordered Marr to pay a fine of \$10 and costs and ordered Miss Irene Edighoffer, waitress and informant in all the cases, to pay the costs in the action which was withdrawn.

Magistrate Brown dismissed a charge against Marr that he had no register in which he kept details regarding female employees, costs of \$5 in this case and \$1.75 in a similar charge against Lee, which was also withdrawn, to be paid by the waitress.

¹³⁴ From 2 CONVICTIONS IN 8 WAGE ACT CASES TRIED. (1924, May 20). *The Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 3.

Marr admitted that the girl had worked more than the maximum 56 hours per week, through a misunderstanding of what the law required, and was fined \$10 and costs. Again the count against Lee was withdrawn and the costs assessed against the girl.

Lastly, charges against both defendants, that the waitress was employed for less than the minimum wage were withdrawn by Mr. Hogarth and the girl was ordered to pay costs of \$9.10.

The minimum wage cases resulted when the Edighoffer girl laid a charge of assault against Ross Tong, cook in the establishment. She said that without any provocation the cook had struck her on May 6. Last week a young man who was in the dining room of the café at the time said he had seen the cook swing his arm and he had heard a slap, but was not able to see or hear anything further.

Ross and Henry Lee, who was also present, said that when the girl had accused the former of assaulting her, it was news to them: The girl was discharged for some reason on May 8, and on May 9 she had come in to inform them that she intended to take action.

Mr. Cruise thought it strange that the charge had not been laid before. The Chinese swore positively that the girl had not been struck either in playfulness or otherwise and they said they knew nothing of the conversation she alleged took place.

Magistrate Brown believed the woman's story and imposed a fine of \$1 and costs of \$5.

“A waitress in breeches”¹³⁵ (Moose Jaw, 1925)

Moose Jaw sets the fashion in many things and leads the way in others. Some centers in Western Canada may deny this, but it is a fact. For example, one of Moose Jaw's leading hash houses boasts a waitress in breeches.

Oh, no, she didn't just come late in from a snowshoe party and had to get busy with the business of serving customers before she had time to change! Neither did she serve with the W.A.A.C. or W.R.E.N. contingents during “la grande guerre,” and decide, in the interests of economy, to make use in civil life of her erstwhile war raiment. She just thinks breeches are more suitable for women in business.

The name of the café? Ah, but that would be advertising.

“How do you remember so well”?¹³⁶ (Nanaimo, 1925)

Nanaimo, June 2 – What is generally believed will be the last day of the trial of Ross C. Watson, ex-Detective of Seattle, charged with robbery with violence of the Royal Bank here on December 12 last, opened this morning. [...]

¹³⁵ From Moose Jaw Keeps Leading the Way. (1925, January 28). *The Regina Leader*, p. 14.

¹³⁶ From WIFE OF R. C. WATSON AND OTHER WITNESSES HEARD IN NANAIMO. (1925, June 2). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 1.

Mrs. Nellie Dunbar, a waitress in the California Oyster House, proved a positive witness, and although a very short time previously the judge had rebuked persons in the gallery for levity, one or two flashes of repartee furnished by the witness caused not only the jury and spectators to laugh aloud, but His Lordship himself had to give way to merriment.

On another occasion he smiled and thanked the witness. It was when, in response to a question put by him, the witness turned to the bench and replied with "Yes, Your Majesty."

"Thank you," replied the judge with a smile, while the courtroom audibly tittered.

Mrs. Dunbar, who spoke rapidly, was very positive in her evidence. She distinctly remembered waiting on Ross Watson, his wife and Mr. and Mrs. Newman at about 5 o'clock on December 11. She remembered the date so well because it was a Thursday, the night she had a relief girl come on at 6 o'clock, and that night she was particularly busy. When she heard of Watson's arrest she had checked back and fixed the date definitely in her mind.

Witness told Mr. Johnson in cross-examination what each member of the party had ordered, and remembered Mrs. Watson particularly because she said she had a bad toothache and asked what was good for her to eat.

"How do you remember so well these various orders?" asked the prosecuting counsel.

"Well, the toothache helped some, as I remember telling Mrs. Watson what to eat," replied the waitress.

"Yes, but what about the others?" continued Mr. Johnson. "Supposing I went in there tonight and ordered a rare steak, do you mean to say you could tell me months afterwards what I ordered?"

"If you asked me twelve years afterwards," replied witness, "I could tell you. It's my business to remember orders. I cannot help it."

"What other orders did you serve that night?" asked Mr. Johnson.

"Well," replied witness, "I served the United States marshal with a plain steak. He's a favorite customer of mine and his name is Mr. Ben."

Witness was dismissed with a word of thanks from the bench.

Miss H. Alexander, relief waitress in the California Oyster House, said she remembered seeing the Watson party in the restaurant on Thursday night, December 11. She explained in detail her hours of work, which showed Thursday night was the only night in the week when she would be at work on or shortly before 6 o'clock. When she had seen the paper saying Watson had been arrested for robbery in Nanaimo on December 12, she said that could not be, and for her own satisfaction checked back and found positively Watson was in the restaurant on the night of December 12.

“She should repay this sum”¹³⁷ (Victoria, 1925)

Saying that she had been threatened with death unless she obeyed the wishes of members of her family, and refrained from taking employment in the Hongkong Chop Suey House, Lum Yoke, Chinese waitress, charged with selling liquor in a restaurant, told her story of an alleged ‘plant’ in the City Police court to-day. She denied having sold liquor to four Chinamen.

Dressed in black silk, in the conventional Oriental garb, Lum Yoke, dark-eyed and self-possessed, took the stand in her own defence to-day. She had worked in the restaurant for the last two months, the court was told through an interpreter. She sought work there about May 20, she said. At that time she had been back from China only a short time. Having borrowed money from friends in the Orient, it was her wish that she should repay this sum¹³⁸ as soon as possible. She owed \$700, Mex., she told the court.

A part of this loan has been paid through advance wages received from her employers, the girl said. Later she was given an extra advance of \$500. Her salary was a good one, \$35 weekly, with tips, and she did not wish to leave her work.

“Charge against waitress fails”¹³⁹ (Victoria, 1925)

Little Lum Yoke, waitress in the Hong Kong Restaurant who recently faced a charge of selling liquor on the premises where she was employed, appeared to hear the verdict of the court this morning, after a delay of some weeks, and without a smile or change of countenance listened while Magistrate George Jay reviewed lengthy evidence and eventually dismissed the charge against her. The prosecution, with this case having collapsed, immediately withdrew the charge against Lee Kim, for allowing the sale of liquor on his premises. Lee Kim is proprietor of the Hong Kong restaurant and employer of Lum Yoke.

“In view of the vast amount of conflicting evidence,” said Magistrate Jay, “and the fact that the four members of the Lum family who were the star witnesses of the prosecution apparently came to Victoria for no other reason than to manufacture a case against this restaurant, I shall dismiss this case.”

Stuart Henderson, who fought Lum Yoke’s defence, was in the court this morning. At no time, he said during the hearing, was he in any doubt of the outcome.

Magistrate Jay recalled that in the evidence Lum Yoke had told that she had been threatened with violence, and even death. He believed that she may have exaggerated the dangers, he said, but he did not doubt that the whole case was founded upon nothing but fiction.

¹³⁷ From GIRL TELLS OF DEATH THREATS. (1925, August 7). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 9.

¹³⁸ “Lum received an advance payment of \$300 for clothes from her employers and later an extra \$500.” Victoria Girl Claims to Be Victim of “Plant”. (1925, August 8). *The Province*, p. 20.

¹³⁹ From LIQUOR SELLING CHARGE AGAINST WAITRESS FAILS. (1925, August 26). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 2.

The evidence of another waitress in the establishment, who said that the marked bank note, on which the prosecution largely relied for a conviction, had come from another source than the four Lums, as they alleged, and that it had actually been received from the occupants of booth 6 and not from the Lums in booth 10, carried weight, said the magistrate.

Lum Yoke told the court during her hearing that it was because she worked as a waitress that her family connections, the Lums of Vancouver, had tried to bring a case against her. They wanted her to leave the restaurant, believing the work to be too menial. But she has been working there since the hearing began, and will work there in the future. She is working to support herself and her mother, and this is the one way it can be done, she says.

Stuart Henderson, her counsel, stated to-day that it was not probable that she would be molested again by the proud members of her family. Nor did he think it likely that because she continued to work in the restaurant that she would be “cut in two” and the two parts of her body thrown from her house, as she is alleged to have been threatened.

“I wouldn’t go with you”¹⁴⁰ (1925)

The fresh young traveling salesman put on his most seductive smile as the pretty waitress glided up to his table in the hotel dining-room to get his order, and remarked:

“Nice day, little one.”

“Yes, it is,” she replied. “And so was yesterday, and my name is Ella, and I know I’m a pretty girl and have lovely blue eyes, and I’ve been here quite a while, and I like the place, and don’t think I’m too nice a girl to be working here. My wages are satisfactory and I don’t think there’s a show or dance in town tonight, and if there was I wouldn’t go with you. I’m from the country and I’m a respectable girl, and my brother is the cook in this hotel and he was a college football player and weighs 300 pounds. Last week he pretty nearly ruined a \$25 a week traveling man who tried to make a date with me. Now, what’ll you have – roast beef, roast pork, Irish stew, hamburger or fried liver?”

“Excitement in Local Café”¹⁴¹ (Edmonton, 1926)

A shrill squeak of alarm from a waitress in a café on 101 street brought startled customers to their feet this Monday morning, their breakfasts forgotten. The waitress was young and good-looking and the chivalrous males seized their cutlery, ready to rush to the rescue of the damsel in distress.

¹⁴⁰ From The Pretty Waitress Broadcasts Her Special for Drummers. (1925, September 1). *The Province*, p. 10. This story is almost certainly apocryphal, and versions of it appeared in Canadian newspapers throughout the 1920s and 1930s. I’ve nonetheless included it, as it provides a useful summary of issues faced by waitresses, as generally perceived.

¹⁴¹ From Excitement in Local Café Today. (1926, May 17). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 9.

The girl was engaged in removing a pile of plates at the time, and the men were sure that it was a large and ferocious mouse which was the cause of the alarm. They were wrong. It was amazement, and not fear, which had prompted the startled cry. There, crouching behind the plates, was a little sparrow. The girl caught the bird and tried to put it out. The bird, however, eluded her, and tried to fly into the kitchen. Maybe it was hungry. It then dived under a table. Three men crawled under the table on their hands and knees.

The bird finally surrendered, and the tender-hearted waitress took it into the kitchen to give it a drink. The latest report was to the effect that the cook was busy frying up a monstrous platter of ham and eggs for the hungry bird.

“The fugitive attempted to kiss her”¹⁴² (Winnipeg, 1926)

[CONTENT WARNING – SEXUAL ASSAULT]

Winnipeg police today sought one Bill Watson, of no fixed abode, for an alleged assault of Miss Doris Simpson, a waitress in the White Lunch, Portage Ave. Miss Simpson suffered a fractured nose and is in General hospital with her injuries and from shock.

Watson escaped before eye-witnesses could interfere. The assault occurred at 2 o'clock Sunday morning.

Police say the victim resisted when the fugitive attempted to kiss her and succeeded in breaking away after slapping his face. The man then, it is said, chased her to the kitchen, grabbing [her] by the hair and punching her in the face several times. He then fled.

He is stated to have been under the influence of liquor.

“Wheat cakes”¹⁴³ (Winnipeg, 1926)

Here a restaurant, and behind the plate glass window a waitress is preparing an order of wheat cakes. It is tempting to stand and watch her as she turns the crisp, brown cakes over on the iron. Soon they are smothered in clear, golden maple syrup and are carried away to some hungry customer. Hash and wheat cakes, wheat cakes and hash; how wearisome the life of a waitress must be! But the world must eat, and tastes are fickle things.

¹⁴² From POLICE HUNTING MAN WHO HIT CAFÉ WAITRESS. (1926, March 22). *The Winnipeg Evening Tribune*, p. 8.

¹⁴³ From C. G. S. (1926, November 27). Saturday Night. *The Winnipeg Evening Tribune*, p. 4.

“Nancy Curl explains why she used iodine”¹⁴⁴ (Saskatoon, 1926)

[CONTENT WARNING – (POSSIBLE) ATTEMPTED SUICIDE]

“I was ashamed of myself for being locked up because I was drunk the day before.” This is the explanation Nancy Curl, 19 years old, petite and pretty, gave the city police regarding her alleged attempt at suicide by drinking iodine in a rooming house on November 13.

Charged before Magistrate F. M. Brown in city police court Wednesday afternoon with attempting suicide, the girl declared that she had not meant to attempt to end her life, and that she had spilled some of the iodine on a towel, placed a little in her mouth and spilled the rest on the bed, all, she declared, in order to “fool” her friends, two other girls staying at the same place.

Dr. A. E. Ross, called by the police to attend the girl, declared on the witness stand that he had found no trace of iodine in her mouth, and after using a stomach pump had found none in her stomach.

The girl’s written statement to the police, in which she said she had taken a bottle of iodine from one of her friend’s rooms, and drunk the contents in another room, was denied by Nancy, who admitted, however, that the concluding statement, in which she said she had been ashamed of being locked up for being drunk, was true.

She explained her admission of the suicide attempt as due to the fact that she didn’t think it mattered what she said when she was not under oath. Also, added the girl, at that time she had no idea that suicide or attempted suicide was a criminal offence.

Nancy Curl, according to witnesses, was found in a room in the Caswell Hill Rooms¹⁴⁵, lying on the bed, with an iodine-soaked towel close by, and a few drops of the liquid in a small bottle on the bed beside her.

After the doctor had treated her, she had been removed to hospital. Speaking of the incident, Dr. Ross said he thought that it was a question of doubt as to whether or not the girl was ill, so had ordered her admission to hospital. “At no time was the girl sick,” he declared.

When evidence had concluded Wednesday afternoon, the magistrate said he would reserve judgment until Monday morning, and that if he found the girl guilty, he would at any rate suspend sentence, so she would not appear again in court.

Two women, of the same religious denomination as the girl, appeared in court, having been interested in the girl’s case by Police Chief G. M. Donald, and, through the chief expressed their willingness to look after the girl. They thought that if she were sent to a religious home for girls¹⁴⁶, in Edmonton, she might change her outlook

¹⁴⁴ From NO SUICIDE, BUT WAS ASHAMED. (1926, December 9). *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

¹⁴⁵ Address listed as “212 Twenty-fifth Street, west” by the *Saskatoon Daily Star* for Dec. 6, 1926.

¹⁴⁶ According to the *Saskatoon Daily Star* for Dec. 13, 1926, this was “the Home of the Good Shepherd, Edmonton. The magistrate reserved his decision, suggesting that the girl accept the offer. Police Chief G. M. Donald stated this morning that the girl had been placed in the Edmonton institution.” ATTEMPTED SUICIDE CASE IS DISMISSED. (1926, December 13). *The Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 3.

on life and become a useful citizen. The magistrate suggested that Nancy accept the offer, and the girl stated that she was willing to accompany the women.

The girl, on the witness stand, made just one statement in her own behalf. "I did not try to commit suicide." Under cross examination by the chief, she said she had been born at Norquay, Sask., and had lived in this province all her life¹⁴⁷. She had no home.

While in Saskatoon she had worked as a waitress in several restaurants. She emphatically denied that she had discussed suicide with her girl chums. "You have no home?" asked the chief. "No," replied the girl. "And no work," continued Chief Donald. "No." Replying to a question from the chief as to whether or not she had been out of funds, the girl replied that she had some money at the time of her alleged attempt.

At any rate, Nancy Curl has found two good friends. The two women who sat within the railing in police court Wednesday afternoon, occasionally cheering the somewhat frightened girl with smiles, have promised to care for her if she will entrust herself to their charge, and Nancy left the court room smiling, with a motherly-looking woman on each side.

"Widowed waitress stoutly defended"¹⁴⁸ (Toronto, 1926)

A statement, said to have been made by a woman investigator in the employ of the Mothers' Allowances Commission during the course of her duties, that "waitresses were the lowest types of girls that walked," has aroused the local Labor movement, whose representative stated on Saturday that they proposed to ask the Provincial Government for an official explanation of the remark.

The report of the investigator, labor officials say, caused the Commission to cut off the allowance of the widowed waitress to whom the remark was addressed by the Commission's investigator.

The case illustrates, according to officials of the Labor movement, what Bert Merson, former Vice-Chairman of the Toronto Board of the Commission, meant when he charged that the Mothers' Allowances Commission of Ontario would, in reaching its decision, accept the gossip of neighbors, which frequently reflected on a widow's character.

A number of widows in Toronto recommended for pensions by the local board had been turned aside, Mr. Merson claims, on account of uncorroborated statements.

"This woman's husband died four years ago," said a trade union official. "Without warning, the pension she was receiving was cut off. She was compelled to struggle for a year without it.

¹⁴⁷ Nancy appears in the 1926 census of the Prairie Provinces. According to that census, Nancy lived at a boarding house at 739 Avenue H South, Saskatoon, run by Charles W. and Jane Allen. Contrary to her testimony, the census lists her place of birth, and that of her parents, as Manitoba. Nancy's "Racial or tribal origin" (in the words of the census) was listed as "Austrian".

¹⁴⁸ From WIDOWED WAITRESS STOUTLY DEFENDED BY LOCAL LABORITES. (1926, December 13). *The Globe*, p. 12.

“She was told that a letter had been received by the board stating she was running around with men and had been brought home intoxicated in a taxicab. She could not learn who sent the letter, and was given no opportunity to deny the allegations. The woman had never been in trouble, and had never been mentioned in newspapers until the present time.

“The story of her being brought home in a taxi was started when she was carried home suffering from burns which she received in the course of her work at a local hotel. Her visitors happened to be her brothers and the officers of a service club, whose sympathy was aroused when she was burned at a noon-hour luncheon by scalding coffee knocked from her tray by a member of the club.”

“Alas, the waitress was no admirer”¹⁴⁹ (Edmonton, 1927)

Keeping up to their schedule of one good deed per diem, Jack Freeman and T. M. Bennett, Scoutmasters in charge of the 32 Boy Scouts stationed at the forest service cabin to hunt up wandering and lost children, will be more careful about work done during the lunch hour.

On Tuesday, while waiting for the waitress in one of the booths to bring on the platter of ham and eggs necessary to fortify their systems, a young lady suddenly fainted and collapsed in a heap on the floor.

Leaping to her aid, the two Scoutmasters took her to the Red Cross first aid post.

With the consciousness of duty nobly done, they staggered back to the booth to down the ham and eggs.

Alas, the waitress was no admirer of knight errants.

Instead of being kept warm for them, the lunch had vanished, while the waitress was cool and frosty when requested to produce the lunch. It was a dinnerless day.

“Café strike”¹⁵⁰ (Saskatoon, 1927)

The strike of the waiters and waitresses of the Elite and Paris cafes which started Friday evening at 5 o'clock is continuing today.

Pickets were stationed in front of both of the Second Avenue eating places during the day and every effort was being put forth by them to dissuade persons from eating in these establishments.

One city café has agreed to recognize the union, according to Gerald Dealtry, secretary of the Trades and Labor council.

Waitresses in the Silver Grey Café have been notified that starting August 1 they will work a six-day week, nine hours per day, and their salary will be \$50 per month and meals. Signed statements were given waitresses to this effect.

¹⁴⁹ From DESERT DINNER TO ASSIST GIRL. (1927, July 20). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 9.

¹⁵⁰ From CAFÉ STRIKE IS CONTINUED. (1927, July 23). *The Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 3.

The proprietors of the Elite and Paris cafes, when interviewed this morning, said they had no comments to make.

Waitresses in none of the other Saskatoon cafes will likely be called out on strike for a while, at any rate, according to the secretary of the Trades and Labor Council.

“Third café is placed on strike list”¹⁵¹ (Saskatoon, 1927)

Three city cafes are now on the waiters and waitresses’ union’s unfair list. At noon today union employees at the Savoy were called out and pickets armed with hand bills immediately went on duty. Last Friday union employees at the Elite and Paris cafes went out.

Union employees in other city cafes will in all probability be called out within the next day or so, according to strike officials. This morning employees of the Silver Grey expected to be called out at noon, but the strike orders were not issued to them.

The strikers demand recognition of the union on the part of café proprietors. The proprietors, on the other hand, say they are prepared to meet the demands as concerning the six day week and hours per day, but will not recognize the union. This was the contention expressed by a number of café proprietors at an informal meeting held in the Zenith hall today.

As far as can be determined, none of the cafes have agreed to recognize the union. Enquiries were made at fifteen cafes today. In one case the proprietor was not in. The others stated that they had not joined up with the union. Some said they had not been asked to do so.

Eleven of the strikers, including the employees from the Elite and Paris cafes, laid information this morning against their employers for a full month’s pay. The period in question includes the month not completed when they went on strike.

Gerald Dealtry, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, who supplied this information, said that the action was being taken against the employers on the grounds that the girls were being forced to work under a contract in direct violation of the minimum wage act.

“Café strike is settled”¹⁵² (Saskatoon, 1927)

The strike of employees of the three cafes, the Elite, Savoy and the Paris, was quietly settled with a compromise on Monday night, when the employees went to work at 11 o’clock, under the agreement that they would work nine hours a day, six days a week, for a wage of \$50 a month. The restaurant keepers are not recognizing the union, but have agreed to the demands of their staff.

Mrs. R. W. Gamble, head of the Local Council of Women, stated this morning that the restaurant keepers were now being fair to their employees, in accordance

¹⁵¹ From THIRD CAFÉ IS PLACED ON STRIKE LIST. (1927, July 25). *Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 3.

¹⁵² From CAFÉ STRIKE IS SETTLED. (1927, July 26). *The Saskatoon Daily Star*, p. 3.

with the Minimum Wage Act, and that the girls would work nine hours a day. The proprietors of the cafes stated their satisfaction at the results and had no other comment to make on the situation.

“Painted waitresses”¹⁵³ (Windsor, 1927)

Stephen’s Inn, on East Sandwich Street, Windsor, dubbed a “tough joint” by one of the witnesses at the Windsor police probe, bears a worse character than similar places on the notorious Barbary Coast, San Francisco’s illicit resort section. So William Walton, cabinet maker, told Judge J. J. Coughlin at Tuesday afternoon’s hearing.

Mr. Walton’s testimony was one of the high lights of the day’s probe as he charged that the Inn ran the gamut of everything in the way of entertainment, from “women to wine.” Painted waitresses at the Inn were referred to by him, and he said that he was solicited by one of them when he went into the Inn to repair some furniture on one occasion.

“I don’t understand why a place like that is allowed to run,” he stated.

The Walton testimony was part of a day crammed full of evidence. [...] Mr. Walton, the witness, is employed at the Teahan Furniture Company, West Sandwich street. His remark that the waitresses at the Inn were painted led Judge Coughlin to remark, sagely: “But a great many girls paint nowadays, and they’re perfectly virtuous girls.”

“Yes,” replied Mr. Walton, “but they don’t paint like that. These girls couldn’t hide their dissipation.” [...]

Mr. Walton, the cabinet maker, first was examined by Mr. Roach as to what he knew of conditions prevailing along West Sandwich street. [...] Queried by Mr. Roach, the witness next mentioned Stephens’ Inn, East Sandwich street.

“What is its reputation?”

“Well,” and the witness hesitated, “as everything.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Everything that’s bad.”

“How long has it had this reputation?”

“Since three years ago, to my knowledge.”

“Were you ever in there?”

“Once, to my sorrow.”

Mr. Walton, at this point, declared that he paid the place a visit to get some furniture for repair work, and found evidence, he said, of “everything from women to wine.”

Mr. Roach – “How many women?”

“Seven.”

“Any evidence that they were there for an improper purpose?”

¹⁵³ From SAYS BARBARY COAST NEVER WORSE THAN IN WINDSOR DEN. (1927, November 2). *The Border Cities Star*, p. 8.

“One tried to broach the subject.”

“You mean solicited you?”

“Yes, it was while I was working there.”

“What were the women doing?”

“Acting as waitresses.”

Mr. Walton, upon more questioning, explained how the interior of the inn was laid out into rooms.

Mr. Roach – “Was the proprietor around when you were solicited?”

“Yes, in another room.”

“Did you tell him about it?”

“No, I didn’t mention it.”

Mr. Roach – “The other six girls. Was there any indication that they were there for improper purposes?”

“By their attitude.”

“How do you mean?”

“They were flippant and painted.”

“You assume, then, that they were there for improper purposes.”

Then Mr. Walton “opened up.”

“Yes, Mr. Roach,” he said. “I’ve been in some tough places in my time. I’ve been in places on the Barbary Coast. But there’s not a place in the Barbary Coast to compare with Stephens’ Inn. It’s a tough joint.”

The crowd buzzed with interest at this opinion.

Mr. Walton said that anyone who was at all observant would see that the girls were there for that purpose.

Mr. Roach – “See beer there?”

“I had a drink. I saw some being sold, over the tables in the dining room. Waitresses waited on the tables¹⁵⁴.”

“To what extent was beer sold?”

“Everybody was drinking.”

Mr. Walton observed that he couldn’t understand how a place like Stephens’ Inn was allowed to run.

Witness was queried about the language used by the girls in the Inn and asked other questions along the same line.

He again repeated that the girls were heavily painted.

Judge Coughlin – “But a great many girls nowadays paint, and they’re perfectly virtuous girls.”

Mr. Walton – “Yes, but they don’t paint like that, sir. These girls couldn’t hide their dissipation.” [...]

Mr. Rodd then took up the cross-examination [...] [and] turned to the Stephens’ Inn testimony.

¹⁵⁴ The Stephens’ Inn waitresses had gone on strike in 1913: “The dining room girls at Stephens’ Inn walked out on strike Monday night and Mr. Stephens immediately telegraphed to Montreal for Chinese servants, who will be on the job to take the vacant places.” City Briefs. (1913, January 22). *The Border Cities Star*, p. 7.

“Have you anything against Charlie Stephens that you should lambast him like that?” he asked.

“Well,” replied the witness, “when a man gets that low—”

“Never mind that,” interrupted Mr. Rodd. “Had Mr. Stephens done anything to you that you resented?”

“No.”

Mr. Walton said he was in the place twice, the first time for fifteen minutes.

“Did you know at the time about what you said of it being such a place?”

“I had heard about it but couldn’t credit it.”

Mr. Walton told about the girls in the place, beer, and drinking. “Everything was wide open,” he testified.

“You were shocked?” asked Mr. Rodd.

“Yes, I was.”

Mr. Walton recalled that the signs of dissipation under the paint worn by the girls shocked him.

Mr. Rodd – “Yet you weren’t so much shocked that you didn’t go back?”

“I had to go back,” replied the witness, intimating that it was because of his business as a furniture repair man that he did so.

Mr. Rodd – “You went back to take another look at the painted girls?”

Mr. Walton – “No, sir. I have two of my own, and I went home and prayed they’d never be like that.”

“Course for waitresses”¹⁵⁵ (Montreal, 1927)

In order to fill an urgent need in the community, and to overcome a handicap against which every employment agency has to struggle, the Y.W.C.A. is opening a new “waitress” course, beginning Tuesday, November 8, to be held once a week on Mondays thereafter for six weeks. A certificate will be granted to those successfully meeting the requirements. This course qualifies a girl for efficient waitress service in a home or restaurant, combines theory with useful practice, and is directed by a trained dietitian.

The duties of a waitress, as outlined in this course, will involve care of the dining-room, answering bells, different customs of service, general directions for laying table, and arrangement of covers, preparations for serving, order of serving, clearing the table, etc. Directions are given in detail in connection with home breakfast and dinner, formal and informal teas, buffet luncheons, evening suppers, formal luncheons and formal dinners. Added instruction covering tray service, care of silver, preparation of butter, care of fruit, salads, etc., is also included.

Any suggestions advanced by mistresses will receive special attention, as the Y.W.C.A. hopes by this course to relieve them of the necessity to train a maid for dining-room service, after she has secured one, and to facilitate employers in selecting a new waitress.

¹⁵⁵ From COURSE FOR WAITRESSES. (1927, November 3). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 9.

“Restaurant philosophy”¹⁵⁶ (1928)

My Dear:

We had luncheon downtown yesterday – the girls, I mean – and Phylis asked the waitress if she could have coffee without cream, and the girl went away for a little while and came back and said, “We haven’t any cream, but would without milk do just as well?” Can you imagine? I don’t know whether she was kidding us or just naturally dumb.

Lots of waitresses are quite clever, and most of them are pretty, too, and isn’t it funny that when the boy friend takes you in after the show they always seem to know him quite well? Once I spoke to a man about high hatting the waiters at the restaurant, and I wasn’t so sure afterwards, but I think he must have mentioned it, because the next time we went in the head waiter sat down with us and got awfully chummy with our olives.

Waiting on table must be sort of a strategic – is that what they call it? – position to be in, because you always know when people are stepping out, whether they should or not – I mean if somebody happens to meet somebody else’s girl friend downtown and asks her to drop in for a bite of something, I suppose the waitress just smiles to herself and knows that somebody’s cheating. But then the B. F. eventually turns up with somebody else, so she really feels that things get evened up.

Being a waitress must give a girl a great philosophy – I mean, she has such a good chance to watch people eat, and you can get the low down on a lot of the higher ups when they sit in conference with a club sandwich or a lobster salad. Besides, you could tell whether a man was going to be fat when he got old, by the kind of things he ordered, and if he would be too fussy for comfort, such as complaining about sawdust in the soup or seeds in the apple pie. Somebody said that beautiful women should never eat in public because they shatter illusions or something, but almost any waitress could tell you, I bet, that it wasn’t shattered illusions the boy friend was worried about when he began to look unhappy around the fourth or fifth course.

Of course, the man has his innings, too. Can’t you see him looking ahead into regular pools of whipped cream and over hills of chocolate eclairs, if the girl friend leans towards the souffles and pastries? And the waitress can take it all in. Sometimes when she clears away the things and hardly anything has been touched, she shakes her head and says, “Poor things.” I mean, she hasn’t been waiting all her life for nothing, my dear.

¹⁵⁶ From Restaurant Philosophy. (1928, March 30). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 8.

“Chinese restaurant owners”¹⁵⁷ (Saskatoon, 1928)

A. M. Eddy, appearing before the Minimum Wage Board of Saskatchewan, meeting in the council chambers on Wednesday evening, asked that Miss G. Halbert, provincial inspector, be given assistance so that the regulations of the board might be enforced. He asked that the board petition the government to raise the penalty for offenders in regard to employment of girls in restaurants at wages below the minimum scale. He asserted that as long as employers could make \$100 a month by defying these regulations they would not mind a small penalty. Mr. Eddy asked that the seven-day week regulations be discarded and a six-day week system be put in its place.

BLAMES CHINESE

He termed the actions of the Chinese restaurant men in the city the chief obstacle to obtaining better conditions for restaurant employees. Mr. Eddy said that the majority of hotel and café men in Saskatoon were favorable to giving their employees fairly decent working conditions, but that to do so and meet the competition of the Chinese was impossible. He termed the minimum wage regulations a joke as far as the Chinese in Saskatoon were concerned, and said that it could not be expected that the white café men in the city could give fair working conditions in the face of such opposition. He said that some of the Chinese restaurant owners in Saskatoon were paying as low as nine and ten dollars a week. Mr. Eddy also asked that some provision be made by the department at Regina to allow the inspectors under the department of labor to secure legal advice to prosecute offenders.

A. Peters, a restaurant owner in the city, also gave evidence to the board. He supported Mr. Eddy and said that if anything conditions in Saskatoon were worse than outlined. He said that Chinese restaurants were serving 25c meals, because most of the girls that were working for them were only doing so for protection from the police and were working for ridiculously low wages.

J. Withey, Regina, secretary of the board, said that the only way to stop collusion between the Chinese and white girls would be to forbid the employment of white girls by the Chinese.

MAY REFUSE LICENSES

He said that he thought that this state of affairs could best be controlled by the city. He pointed out that the city was empowered to refuse licenses to such offenders.

Mr. Peters said that a health inspector who was really strict should be appointed, and said that if the health regulations were really enforced half of the Chinese restaurants in the city would be closed up. He said that inspections by health officers were carelessly done, and that many of these places were “positively filthy.”

Mrs. F. M. Eddie, Regina, a member of the board, said that the city should be more diligent, as much of the matter complained of came under the city’s regulations.

¹⁵⁷ From Minimum Wage Board Addressed by A. M. Eddy. (1928, April 19). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

Mrs. W. Allan, Moose Jaw, said that it was not sufficient to have a health inspector. She advised the appointment of a woman inspector by the city or province who would be empowered to carry on a real inspection. She pointed out that women are particularly fitted for this kind of position, and would make a sharper scrutiny in an inspection than a man.

Mr. Collier stated that in his opinion the whole trouble lay in the fact that the aldermen were so keen for votes that they did not care to enforce the regulations. R. J. Williams, Regina, said that he thought that the trouble was caused by neglect on the part of city officials.

In regard to the matter of girls working for wages below the minimum wage scale, Mrs. Eddie asked Mr. Eddy if he thought it would be possible to get these girls to give evidence that would insure convictions. Mr. Eddy replied that he thought the chances would be very slim, owing to the fact that it would be difficult for any employee who gave evidence to secure another job.

“Chinese restaurants were clean”¹⁵⁸ (Saskatoon, 1928)

Protesting against certain criticisms leveled at Chinese restaurants by speakers before the Minimum Wage Board at its session here last week, the members of the Chinese Restaurant Association met at the Chinese Nationalist League headquarters on Sunday. The chief speakers were Peter Lem Chu, Lu Mon and George Wong. About 35 members attended.

The speakers expressed the opinion that Chinese restaurants are, for the most part, as clean and up-to-date as any in the city. The kitchens, they said, are run in a sanitary manner, the waitresses are paid fair wages and the managers conform to the regulations governing all restaurants. Peter Lem Chu stated that the speaker who said that Chinese restaurants are “filthy” and that the girls employed in them were only seeking protection from the police had no right to make such remarks and should be called upon to specify his charges or retract them. George Wong, speaking along similar lines, said that the Chinese proprietors of them should continue to keep them so in future. The members of the association expressed their agreement with the general tendency of these remarks by a unanimous show of hands.

“Waitresses urge action”¹⁵⁹ (Toronto, 1928)

War of Chinese café proprietors against the Ontario statute which prohibits them from employing white women was again carried to Queen’s Park yesterday, when a half-dozen waitresses, backed by counsel, and claiming to represent 150 other women, waited on Attorney-General Price urging that the Government take prompt action to adjust the situation complained of.

¹⁵⁸ RESTAURANT CRITICISMS PROTESTED BY CHINESE. (1928, April 24). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

¹⁵⁹ From Waitresses Urge Action (1928, September 28). *The Globe*, p. 23.

Colonel Price told the deputation that the Province had the matter under consideration, and was discussing it with the authorities at Ottawa to see if anything could be done about it, but further than that he was non-committal. In the meantime Police Court cases against Chinese employers stand adjourned.

“Restaurants were the worst offenders”¹⁶⁰ (Winnipeg, 1929)

Violations of the minimum wage law in Winnipeg are being reported by the hundreds, said James Winning, member of the minimum wage board, at a meeting of the Trades and Labor council, Tuesday night.

“I went over 300 reports of wage act violations,” he said, speaking on a motion asking that the council appoint a special committee to investigate wages being paid many city workers. Restaurants were the worst offenders in the matter of paying less than the lawful minimum, he stated. More than 50 orders had been issued calling for a reduction of hours worked by waitresses. One girl recently collected \$125 covering underpayment for a period of 13 months.

“An affray in the Victoria Café”¹⁶¹ (Edmonton, 1929)

[CONTENT WARNING – VIOLENCE]

Beefsteaks, well done and smothered in onions, glasses of water, human teeth used for taking out an uncooked bit of meat from one of the participant’s hands, and general threats to “clean up the joint,” figured in an affray in the Victoria Café last Monday night, according to evidence given in court Tuesday morning when Albert and George Robbins were found guilty on a charge of assaulting Chris. Saaks, proprietor of the establishment.

Things were peaceful and quiet at the café until George Robbins came in and ordered a steak smothered in onions, Chris. Saaks told Magistrate Primrose.

Mrs. Joan Smith, waitress, testified that she took the steak to Robbins, and that the latter objected, saying that he had ordered a small steak. Saaks, according to his own evidence, took the steak away and ordered Robbins from the café, and Robbins struck at him, while Albert Robbins joined the party and added a few lusty swings. Then the police arrived and the battle was over.

George Robbins had a different story. He said that the waitress started to abuse him and that he had objected, and that she had picked up a glass of water and emptied the contents in his face. Then Saaks and someone else, he said, jumped in and manhandled him and his brother Albert.

Albert exhibited a well-bitten hand in court as an exhibit for the defence.

“Somebody took a good bite out of it,” he told the court. “Look at it.”

¹⁶⁰ From MINIMUM WAGE LAW VIOLATED, LABOR MEN SAY. (1929, February 6). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 7.

¹⁶¹ From More of Night Life in Edmonton Now Disclosed. (1929, April 2). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 9.

The court looked at the hand, which although covered with cotton, was bleeding merrily.

“Did you bite him?” S. T. Bigelow asked Mr. Saaks.

“No, I didn’t have time to,” the proprietor answered.

Charlie Robbins, brother of the two accused, entered the witness box and took up the story on behalf of the family.

“George was just sitting there quiet as a lamb when I saw him, and he was waiting for the police,” he said.

“But it seems that he had ordered steak,” Mr. Bigelow commented.

Magistrate Primrose fined George \$1 and costs, and Albert \$2 and costs.

“Use a little more judgment next time,” he ordered.

“Waitress scalded”¹⁶² (Edmonton, 1929)

Falling off a small box on which she was standing while pouring boiling water from a coffee urn in the Zenith Café, early Thursday morning, Kathleen Tuiko, waitress in the restaurant, was scalded severely about the head, face, shoulders and chest. She was taken to the General hospital.

The box on which the waitress was standing tipped to one side and she fell to the floor, the boiling water falling on her.

“I guess she paints them”¹⁶³ (Edmonton, 1930)

[CONTENT WARNING – ASSAULT, RACIST SLUR]

Andrew Hrycak ordered a meal at a 101 St. café Wednesday night and shortly afterward discovered it was bargain day. The bargain was an opportunity to punch the waitress in the eye and he took advantage of it. However, it cost him \$10 and costs when he appeared before Magistrate George B. McLeod in the city police court Saturday morning.

Andrew was charged with assaulting Mary Kwas. Mary said that Andrew bothered her so she called him a “bohunk” and in return got a punch in the eye. Andrew denied the punch.

Mary exhibited a “shiner” in court.

“Were you ever in jail?” Gordon Winkler, appearing for the accused, asked her.

“Who told you I was in jail?” Mary sparred.

“Then you were in jail?”

“No.”

“Were you ever convicted?”

“I don’t know.”

Magistrate McLeod: “Go on; tell him.”

¹⁶² From Waitress Scalded Taken to Hospital. (1929, August 15). The Edmonton Journal, p. 7.

¹⁶³ From Accused Pays \$10 For Giving ‘Shiner’ to Café Waitress. (1930, April 19). The Edmonton Journal, p. 23.

“In 1921 I was up for being drunk.”

“You were pretty young then?”

“Sure, just a kid.”

“You smoke pretty heavily, don’t you?”

“Yes, have you any objections?”

“Yes, when you walked into my office the other day the first thing you did was to pull out a cigarette and light it.”

“Well, you were smoking a cigar.”

“Mary’s eyes are black every morning, aren’t they?” Mr. Winkler asked Gee Tick, the Chinese cook.

“Sure, black,” Gee answered.

Magistrate McLeod: “How does she fix them up every night then?”

“I guess she paints them,” Mr. Winkler explained.

Andrew experienced difficulty in speaking the English language when he testified on his behalf.

“I think that we had better get an interpreter,” Mr. Winkler suggested.

“We must teach these people to speak English,” Magistrate MacLeod answered. “He’s been in the country for six years and it’s about time he learned.”

“You can’t hit women in this country,” the court warned the accused after conviction. “There are too many people who think they can go into cafes and chide the waitresses, and get away with hit. I could send you to jail for a month, but let this be a lesson.”

“Three waitresses worked too long”¹⁶⁴ (Saskatoon, 1930)

The first case laid by Agnes M. McGachen, recently appointed provincial inspector under the Minimum Wage Board, resulted in the conviction this morning of Harry and Walter Mark, operators of a café at 110 Twentieth Street, West, on charges of allowing three waitresses to work more than 56 hours a week. On the first charge, involving Nellie Worobec, the penalty inflicted by Magistrate F. M. Brown was \$10 and \$5.60 costs, the costs only being assessed in the cases of Ethel Rome and Pauline Lowasky.

The Marks, whose place is known as the Central Chop Suey and Café, were also fined \$10 and \$2.50 costs for failing to have the Minimum Wage Board Bulletin on pay schedule and working hours posted in a place where employees could read it. Pleas of guilty were entered by Gilbert Yule, K.C.

¹⁶⁴ From *Three Waitresses Worked Too Long*. (1930, May 8). *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

“Two convictions at Moose Jaw”¹⁶⁵ (Moose Jaw, 1930)

The initial prosecutions and convictions under the provisions of the One Day Rest in Seven Act in the province were registered before Magistrate F. W. Torney, K.C., in city police court this morning.

Richard Harwood, proprietor of the Harwood hotel, and Suey Sang, proprietor of the Venice café, were both found guilty of violating the act by failing to give employees 24 consecutive hours rest last week and both were fined the minimum of \$5 and costs or 10 days in jail with hard labor. Charges against three waitresses for failing to avail themselves of the privileges of the act, were withdrawn.

Harwood, represented by W. F. Dunn, K.C., submitted the defence that Miss Constance McGeary was employed in a supervisory capacity as head waitress. Magistrate Torney declared that the girl was also waiting on patrons, even though she were head waitress, and consequently came under the act. He held the opinion that a head waiter who only directed the activities of other waiters and waitresses, [and] did not personally wait on table, could be classified as being in the supervisory capacity. He expressed the opinion that it would be better to have the definition of “supervisor, managerial, or confidential capacity” named in an exemption clause interpreted by a higher court, and set the costs of appeal at \$25, as the cases today were in the nature of test cases. Mr. Dunn said he would consider the matter of the appeal.

Suey Sang, represented by G. N. Broatch, said that he had no knowledge of the new act, but Magistrate Torney told him that ignorance was no excuse.

J. H. Williams, inspector, provincial department of railways, labor and industries, conducted the investigations and laid the charges.

In the Suey Sang case, two waitresses, Mrs. Annie Fleming and Miss Betty Warner, gave evidence that they worked ten hours a day with time off for meals, and have not been allowed a rest of 24 consecutive hours each week. They said Suey Sang was a good employer. Mr. Williams told of questioning the girls and speaking to Suey Sang.

The proprietor went into the box and said that while he had received notification of previous acts, he had not been notified of the new act. The girls were each paid \$45 a month and meals.

In finding Suey Sang guilty, Magistrate Torney said he understood that there had been many complaints regarding violations of the act. It had been passed to provide employment for more people, and as it had been violated, he had no alternative but to find Suey Sang guilty and impose the minimum penalty. This was a warning to others, being the first case, and subsequent offenders would be dealt with more severely. He said that he was pleased to learn that the girls considered their employer a good one.

Richard Harwood pleaded not guilty. Miss Constance McGeary said that she worked ten hours a day with one and a half hours off duty for meals. She had worked

¹⁶⁵ From Two Convictions at Moose Jaw Under “One Day’s Rest” Act. (1930, June 14). *The Regina Leader-Post*, p. 1.

every day during the six weeks she had been employed, and had never had 24 consecutive hours' rest in any one week. She said that she was head waitress, and believed that she was exempted from the rest, although she would like a rest as well as anyone else. Miss McGeary said that the staff consisted of herself and another girl, and for four weeks witness had been head waitress.

Mr. Williams said that he called at the Harwood hotel on June 10. Harwood the proprietor had been rather hostile and refused to give his Christian name or talk to the inspector. He had, however, given Mr. Williams permission to speak to the waitresses. Miss McGeary had told him that she was employed as a waitress and worked from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. each day, and had not been given the 24 consecutive hours' rest each week.

No defence was put in, but Mr. Dunn argued that the girl was employed in a supervisory capacity and consequently did not come under the provision of the Act. Magistrate Torney pointed out that the girl was working extra long hours, far longer than those employed by Suey Sang. She had also said that she would like the rest.

In finding Harwood guilty, Magistrate Torney suggested to Mr. Williams that it would be advisable to withdraw the charge against Miss McGeary and treat all three waitresses alike. Under the act it was necessary to charge both employer and employee.

“He hit waitress; she slapped him”¹⁶⁶ (Saskatoon, 1930)

Found guilty of an assault on Ida Johnson, waitress at the Union Café, Louis Loomans, 417 Avenue H South, was fined \$10 and costs or 20 days in jail.

Miss Johnson said that on the afternoon of June 23 the defendant had come to the café and used insulting language to her. He repeated his remarks, she said, and [she] slapped his face. Loomans hit her, knocking her down, she declared.

Similar evidence was given by Robert Ward, 1224 First Avenue N, who was in the restaurant at the time.

The defendant denied that he had used insulting language, but admitted that after Miss Johnson had slapped his face he hit her.

In passing sentence His Worship said he did not know what manner of man the defendant was, that he should go to the restaurant and use abusive language to the complainant. He said that it was only a pity that she had not been able to knock him down when she slapped him.

¹⁶⁶ From HE HIT WAITRESS; SHE SLAPPED HIM. (1930, June 26). *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

“Waitress hurls glass”¹⁶⁷ (Edmonton, 1930)

Details of a scrap in the Olympic Café, 97 St. and Jasper, in which a glass was hurled by a waitress, were aired before Police Magistrate George B. McLeod in city police court Thursday morning when Dan Munro was charged with assault.

Munro was fined \$10 and costs.

“I didn’t like him talking to me,” the waitress told the court, “so I threw a glass at him.”

“Yes, she threw a glass and I held her so she couldn’t throw any more,” Munro explained.

“He didn’t,” James Lasky objected. “I held him from hitting the waitress and he hit me instead.”

“Ten dollars and costs,” Magistrate McLeod decided.

“His advances had been refused”¹⁶⁸ (Edmonton, 1930)

Brandishing a loaded German automatic, Joe Stokl, 30, Hungarian immigrant, terrorized the staff of a Chinese café at 10358 97 street, at midnight Wednesday because his advances had been refused by a white waitress in the café.

He chased Henry Mah, proprietor, and the staff of four Chinese out of the café and down a lane at the back, allegedly firing one shot at the fleeing men, when police responded to the alarm turned in at headquarters and rounded up the alleged desperado after he had been pointed out to them by one of the waiters.

Mah told the officers that Stokl had been there at about 11:30 p.m. and there had been some trouble because a girl employed in the café had resented his attentions, and Mah had ordered him out.

At midnight, Stokl returned plucked the loaded pistol from his pocket and herded the proprietor into the kitchen, threatening him all the time with the weapon. Then the alleged gunman had terrorized the staff and chased them all out into the lane. The staff say he fired at them while they fled in the darkness.

Sergt. Geo. Edwards and Detectives A. Riddell, M. Munro and O’Brien responded to the alarm and had Stokl pointed out to them as he was about to enter another café one block away from the scene of the excitement. A loaded automatic with 10 shells in it was found in his right hand coat pocket. He is charged with pointing a weapon, and being in possession of a firearm while an alien.

¹⁶⁷ From Waitress Hurls Glass; Talkative Man Pays Fine. (1930, October 17). *Edmonton Journal*, p. 16.

¹⁶⁸ From CAFÉ WORKERS ARE FIRED AT THEY DECLARE. (1930, October 30). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 13.

“Waitresses strike”¹⁶⁹ (Vancouver, 1931)

Union waitresses in several city cafes went out on strike Tuesday, according to a report made at the Trades and Labor Council meeting last night, and it was also stated the strike would extend to kitchen help in some of the hotels.

A 20 per cent cut in wages is the cause of the walkout. During the day the Good Eats and Boston cafes were visited by heads of the union to try and effect a settlement, but the management declared they were going to reduce wages and the union card was withdrawn.

Waitresses were receiving \$15 per week and the new scale has been set at \$12.

“Requires no technical skill”¹⁷⁰ (Vancouver, 1931)

Sir – Last night I bought a copy of “The Labor Statesman,” and I was surprised to learn that girls in 12 restaurants have gone on a strike, because the proprietors cannot pay them more than \$50 to \$61.66 a month of 23 days. If you add 60 cents a day for meals to these amounts the wages these damsels refuse to work for is \$65 and \$76.66 a month.

There are hundreds of idle men and boys in Vancouver who would make just as good waiters as these girls; and if they could get \$50 a month there would be no unemployment in this city.

The business of waiting in restaurants requires no technical skill. All that is required is good lungs and a voice strong enough to shout “Three in the water,” “Stack of buckwheat,” “Corned beef hash.”

COMMON SENSE.

“Ridiculous”¹⁷¹ (Vancouver, 1931)

Sir – If the party who used the nom-de-plume of “Common Sense” in his or her reference to the waitresses’ strike, would use a little themselves, it would be unnecessary for me to have to write this.

In the first place, he can find no reference in the Labor Statesman that girls in twelve (12) restaurants have gone on strike. This clearly shows that he can’t even read English, or else he is endeavoring to create a false impression in the mind of the public. The Labor Statesman distinctly states that only two (2) cafes were affected.

He also advocates that \$50 per month would be befitting wages for the unemployed to receive as waiters. Surely this individual overlooks the fact that even unemployed workers are entitled to compensation for their labor. And the most

¹⁶⁹ From Waitresses Strike; Kitchen Help Next. (1931, February 4). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 8.

¹⁷⁰ From COMMON SENSE. (1931, February 11). Sees No Reason for Waitresses in Restaurants Going on Strike. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 6.

¹⁷¹ From WAITRESS. (1931, February 12). ‘Waitress’ Calls ‘Common Sense’ Remarks ‘Ridiculous’. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 6.

ludicrous part of his ridiculous remarks is that all the necessary requirements for the business of a waiter are good lungs and a strong voice to shout out the orders. And then Common Sense leaves you to presume that the orders will walk in to you. Well, they may do in some cafes, probably where Common Sense eats, but they don't do that in union restaurants.

WAITRESS.

“A little more sense”¹⁷² (Vancouver, 1931)

Sir – I read in your wonderful newspaper a letter to the editor headed, “See no reason for waitresses in restaurants going on strike,” and only hope that you will be kind enough to publish my answer to the party called “Common Sense.”

In the first place, there were only two restaurants [that] went on strike, not 12, as he states.

I would like to ask “Common Sense” where he eats that it requires no technical skill to serve him. Maybe he eats in some cheap hash joint or carries his lunch.

I don't know whether the author of that letter is a waiter or not, but I sure would love to see him handle anywhere from 12 to 20 chairs during a busy meal in a first-class restaurant and see if he knows what he is talking about. It is like everything else – every man to his own trade.

“Common Sense” didn't add that the waitresses paid for their own clean linen, union dues and other so-called collections that take place in any line of business.

Also remember that there are over 200 waiters' families in this town that I know of who sent their children to school and pay taxes in this city.

“A LITTLE MORE SENSE.”

“Strike of waitresses unwise”¹⁷³ (Vancouver, 1931)

Sir – Regarding an item in Friday's Sun re a waitress's strike, it should be stated in fairness that the wages before reduction, of which two weeks' notice was given, were \$15, \$16.50, \$17 and \$18.50 per week, according to classification, for a strictly eight-hour day and meals included.

Thus the lowest wage, as stated in The Un, is \$12, with \$14.80 as the maximum, for a strictly eight-hour day plus meals.

In considering these reductions, which must perforce continue in every industry until the depression is over (and it may take a long while), we have to consider, what union officials stubbornly refuse to consider, the enormous slump in commodity prices.

¹⁷² From “A LITTLE MORE SENSE”. (1931, February 13). Declares Waitresses Must Have Technical Skill. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 6.

¹⁷³ From Foster, W. (1931, February 13). Believes Strike of Waitresses Unwise. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 6. Written by Walter Milligan Foster (1871 – 1944).

This slump is quite equivalent to an increase of \$3 a week to any workers who is regularly employed.

Thus the waitresses have not suffered an actual reduction in purchasing power, and have been very ill-advised to give up a steady job.

As an instance of slumped prices, a poultry man near here, who has by long and hard work accumulated a flock of 2,000 birds is receiving exactly twelve and a half cents per dozen for eggs. It is just a question as to how long he can fend off the bailiff.

We paid 60 cents a dozen not many months ago, and there was just a fair profit at that. Let us hope there will be no ridiculous exhibitions of picketing. The girls have quit. Let others have the work.

WALTER FOSTER, Colquitz, B.C.

“Anything but common sense”¹⁷⁴ (Vancouver, 1931)

Sir – There appeared in *The Sun* a letter signed “Common Sense,” which, in my humble opinion, was anything but common sense.

I say more power to those girls who are out on strike. They are entitled to a decent living wage. They earn all that is coming to them.

I want to tell “Common Sense” that when he makes the statement that all that is required of a waitress is a pair of lungs to shout “Three in the water,” etc., he is all “wet.” To be a first-class waitress a girl must have, [(1)] first and foremost, a good and pleasing personality. She must meet all types of customers with a smile, whether she feels like it or not.

(2) She must have a good, clean appearance – she must be spotlessly clean at all times – and laundry costs money.

(3) She must have a thorough knowledge of her business, and let me say to “Common Sense” that knowledge is not acquired in a day or week. It takes years of practice to become an efficient waitress.

(4) She must have a good memory.

There are lots of second-rate “hashers” who are not worth more than \$12 a week, but I can assure “Common Sense” that those girls who are out on strike do not belong in that class.

Furthermore, just put some of those unemployed men and boys that “Common Sense” speaks of in the girls’ places, and see how long those restaurants will stay open for business.

A WAITRESS.

¹⁷⁴ From A WAITRESS. (1931, February 16). “Common Sense’s” Criticism of City Waitresses Called “All Wet”. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 6.

“Meals were included with wages”¹⁷⁵ (Vancouver, 1931)

Sir – I have carefully read all remarks concerning the waitresses’ strike and only hope mine will be published. I wish to give Mr. Foster my opinion of his letter to the Vancouver Sun. He stated that the individual waitress will not suffer a reduction in purchasing power by consenting to the cut in wages. (Waiters are excepted as the strike did not directly include them.) You forget, Mr. Foster, that meals were included with wages, therefore the majority of the waitresses will not buy eggs or other farm products, the price of which has decreased.

Again, the slump in commodity prices cannot be related to the cut in wages. By the slump in prices restaurant owners must have felt a decrease in the cost of the different foods they buy. The price of food in restaurants has not been reduced. Then why should restaurant owners take advantage of the present depression and reduce wages?

In striking, I believe, the girls are hoping not to help themselves but others who will come when they have traveled on. It is not the present they count on, but the future. I really think that the people should give them a helping hand by patronizing “Union Restaurants,” which are doing their best for the girls of the city.

MAN ABOUT TOWN.

“Nourishing food is scorned by union waitresses”¹⁷⁶ (Vancouver, 1931)

Sir – In your issue of February 17, “Man About Town” makes a remarkable statement equivalent to saying that a girl who gets so many meals, more less free, is not better off financially. If the girl lives at home, she need pay just that much less to her parents for board; and just that much less if she boards out.

As one of the waitresses has made a disparaging remark concerning the far-famed “hash,” it may be assumed that such nourishing food is scorned by union waitresses in general. Briefly, these striking waitresses were allowed food to the value of 90 cents daily. Thus the lowest paid waitresses are on strike against a weekly wage equivalent to \$17.40, and the higher-paid ones are scorning a wage equivalent to \$20.20.

These waitresses have been entirely spoiled if they have not saved a large part of their wages, which for years have been equivalent to \$20.40 for the lowest paid, and \$23.90 for the higher paid. There are thousands of heads of families in Canada who have been forced to manage on less than the above.

What B.C. needs right now is a moratorium, so to speak, as regards further increases in wages. Every increase from now on increases the cost of living to the other fellow – every other fellow who didn’t get an increase. If we all get an increase,

¹⁷⁵ From MAN ABOUT TOWN. (1931, February 17). Commodities Cheaper; No Grounds for Restaurant Wage Cut? *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 6.

¹⁷⁶ From Foster, W. (1931, March 12). Moratorium to Prevent Further Wage Increases Suggested. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 6. Written by Walter Milligan Foster (1871 – 1944).

we are exactly as we were before, as regards Canada; but much, much worse off when trying to export those commodities produced at the higher wages.

WALTER FOSTER.

“The difference in pay”¹⁷⁷ (Vancouver, 1931)

Sir – Re a letter in your editorial page by one who signs himself “Common Sense,” it appears that he cannot read very good English or is trying to mislead the readers of your paper with false statements, because there are only two restaurants on strike at present.

However, it is plain to see what class he belongs to by the way he has expressed himself, and it appears that he would be in favor of seeing the working class back in the old days of slavery, when the bosses used whips and the worker got nothing but abuse. We are to be thankful that Canada is a free country and most of its citizens are free minded and stand for what is right, and also believe in a high standard of living for the everyday worker.

I would suggest that if the honorable gentleman or lady investigate thoroughly before writing and find out what is really going on, and really use common sense as well as facts, they would accomplish something.

In the first place, why is it that at one time all cafes employed nothing but men, and today in the city of Vancouver there are only three which do not employ girls? The reason girls were employed and the men left out was that the difference in pay ranged from eight to ten dollars a week less. This was the method used to reduce wages before, and now we find that they are not satisfied and wish to make further reductions. Had the last proposal of a cut been successful they would eventually expect their help to work free gratis, as is the custom in some places in Europe. Of course some of these café owners (and most of them not even Canadian citizens) need not think we are going to endorse their European ideas, as we are still in Canada and they had better abide by Canadian styles and customs, which do stand for a high standard of living.

One thing is certain, if we went to their land we would be expected to follow their customs, and I am sure we would not be allowed to dictate to them.

I might point out to Common Sense that waitresses are required to pay for their own uniforms, costing three dollars each, and a girl must own at least two, and must have them laundered daily at the cost of twenty-five cents per suit, and I would like to point out further that in one popular café in eight months waitresses have had to purchase three different sets of uniforms. Is this not a reduction of their wages in itself?

Regarding the meals, they are only entitled to same when on shift, and in many cafes the food allowed the help is not fit to eat.

¹⁷⁷ From PLAIN FACTS. (1931, February 19). Restaurant Owners Would Have Waitresses Pay for Lost Trade, Says Writer. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 6.

The restaurant business has been nothing but a cut-throat proposition, and after much waste in opening new cafes and hit by the trade depression, they ask the employees to foot the bill. Some of the owners requesting the cut have interest in two or more cafes.

Were I Common Sense I would try to work and help to uphold a living wage, for it has been found by higher authorities that the purchasing power of a nation is backed by the majority of working people, and taking into consideration the enormous profits derived from the restaurant business, fifteen dollars a week is not too much for a girl.

Now, as a union worker I would ask all workers to help the good cause and stand united, and support all cafes displaying a union card, as it is a symbol of better wages, conditions, and a high standard of living for the workers and the country as a whole. The more money received in wages the more is put in circulation.

PLAIN FACTS.

“Tips could not be included in wages”¹⁷⁸ (Saskatoon, 1931)

Found guilty of employing a waitress, Mary Juba¹⁷⁹, at a rate of wages less than \$14 per week of seven days, Wong Tong and James C. Mack, proprietors of the New England Café, 312 Second Avenue South, were fined, jointly, \$10 and costs in police court today and ordered to pay \$19.25 in back wages to the complainant, Miss Juba.

The waitress testified that she worked eight weeks at \$7 a week and seven weeks at \$8. Twenty-one meals a week were supplied in addition, valued at \$5.25, bringing the total wages to \$12.25 and \$13.25. Over the 15 weeks, the magistrate found that the girl had been underpaid by \$19.25.

The magistrate ruled that tips could not be included in wages under the meaning of the Minimum Wage Act, when this suggestion was made by defense counsel, Henry Rees. An appeal may be made.

“Shot to death in Vancouver café”¹⁸⁰ (Vancouver, 1931)

[CONTENT WARNING – MURDER-SUICIDE]

Vancouver, Dec. 21 – Mary Shaw, pretty 19-year-old white waitress, was shot dead in the Pender Café, 168 East Pender Street, by an unidentified Chinese, who then ended his own life, at 11:30 p.m. Sunday.

The girl had just entered the restaurant and was powdering her face at a glass near the centre of the place, prior to going on duty, when she was slain.

¹⁷⁸ From CHINESE MUST PAY FINE AND WAGES. (1931, July 3). *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

¹⁷⁹ Mary Juba married Frederick Stark in 1932. As of February, 1944, she was living in Winnipeg at 170 Higgins Ave.

¹⁸⁰ From WHITE WAITRESS IS SHOT TO DEATH IN VANCOUVER CAFÉ. (1931, December 21). *The Nanaimo Daily News*, p. 1.

Grace Leslie, a waitress in the restaurant, told police she had taken the man's order for supper and was walking to the rear of the café to order it when she looked behind her and saw him step from the booth and pull two guns from his pockets.

He fired several shots into the girl's back and then taking two steps towards Miss Leslie, put a gun to his head and fired twice, both shots taking effect.

The girl was killed instantly, falling to the floor at one side of the glass.

Police were told the murderer was a regular customer of the café.

Earlier in the evening he had asked one of the waitresses what she would like for a Christmas present. The girl told him she would like a box of powder and he had brought this with him and given it to her shortly before the double murder and suicide.

The guns used by the murderer were a .38 calibre revolver and a .32 calibre automatic. A piece of red tape had been wound around the butt of each gun.

Nine bullets were fired from the guns, five from the revolver and four from the automatic. In the man's pocket an additional eight bullets were found in a paper bag.

The man's pockets revealed several letters, written in Chinese.

The police were unable to learn any motive for the act.

At the time of the shooting there were several patrons, the head chef, two white and one Chinese waitresses in the restaurant.

The girl lived with her mother at 1918 Dundas Street.

Waitresses stated the girl muttered a faint "Oh" when she was shot and they thought for a minute she had merely fainted from the explosions.

"The act went too far"¹⁸¹ (Saskatoon, 1932)

Two provincial enactments, the Minimum Wage Act and Masters' and Servants' Act, came under fire in police court here yesterday. Magistrate F. M. Brown was disposing of cases against two restaurant owners, Mrs. Phoebe DeLorme, of the Criterion Café, and H. C. Washburn, of Washburn's Restaurant. They were hauled into court by underpaid and unpaid waitresses.

It was the magistrate who found objectionable features in the Minimum Wage Act. While he agreed that it was quite right that employees should have protection, he thought the act went too far. It set a minimum of \$13 a week for an experienced waitress. When an employer was forced to reduce expenses, he could not cut salaries below that figure, even provided the employees were willing, but must either pay the full rate or dismiss some help.

He was obliged to convict Mrs. DeLorme for underpaying a waitress, Mia Rovenich, and ordered payment of wages due, \$22.91, and a fine of \$10 and costs, or in default of payment a total of 30 days in jail.

Magistrate Brown suggested an appeal to the higher courts. The act, he found, was something the same as bylaws of some cities which fixed a minimum rate for taxi

¹⁸¹ From CAFÉ PROPRIETORS IN POLICE COURT. (1932, January 15). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 7.

rides under which services could not be sold under such and such an amount. "It is time lawyers got a deal through that they can't draw a deed for less than \$10," he added, to which counsel in the case, H. A. Doraty, for the defense, and J. M. Goldenberg, for the prosecution, nodded and smiled agreement.

H. A. Ebbels, counsel for Stella Warren and Alice Nelson, waitresses who lodged complaints against H. C. Washburn, objected that the teeth had been taken out of the Masters' and Servants' Act by the legislature. He said he had been informed that the case of a local employer, whom he did not name, was responsible for the extraction of the act's teeth. As the act stood at present, only a fine, payment of wages due and distress and sale in default could be ordered. Imposition of a prison term had been done away with.

Here the magistrate commented that he had "had the pleasure" only once, of imposing a jail term under the old terms of the act.

Mr. Ebbels said he had been informed by Mr. Washburn that bailiffs had made a seizure at the restaurant for non-payment of rent. In spite of that he continued to employ girls when he was unable to pay them.

Magistrate Brown interjected that the girls were free to leave.

The bench, in the charge laid by Stella Warren, ordered payment of \$50.50 wages due, costs of the court amounting to \$2.50 and in default of payment distress and sale. Mr. Washburn indicated that he was unable to pay, but that he had every intention to do so if and when possible.

In the case of Alice Nelson, payment of \$39.30 wages due, costs of the court and in default of payment distress and sale was ordered. Mr. Washburn had admitted both complaints to be correct.

"We were only fooling"¹⁸² (Edmonton, 1932)

[CONTENT WARNING – HARRASSMENT, ASSAULT WITH BOILING LIQUID]

"We were only fooling," explained Frank Prpck (sneeze to pronounce the name) when he pleaded not guilty in police court Saturday morning to a charge of assault by throwing a cup of coffee at a pretty blonde waitress. "Three dollars and costs or 10 days," countered Magistrate Col. George B. McLeod, "the girl did not think it was fooling."

Blonde Annie Kowpatanki, pretty waitress who works at the Commercial Café, was the complainant. She told the court that Prpck had come into the café at midnight Friday and started slapping her. He slapped her, she said, every time she passed along the aisle. On the last trip along the aisle he slapped her on the back and the water she was carrying spilled on him.

"Then he ups and tosses acuppa-cowfee down my neck," smiled Annie.

"Was it hot?" asked crown prosecutor Becker.

"It was boiling," shivered Annie.

¹⁸² From He Slapped Her: She Slapped Him: Judge Slaps Fine. (1932, February 27). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 9.

Malcolm Beeton substantiated this evidence. He added that he and three other fellows had chased Prpck out into the street and brought him back to the Commercial to await the Black Maria.

“All I saw,” he said, “was the coffee shooting out of the booth down the girl’s neck.”

When it came his turn, Prpck made a stirring plea of “just friends, lovers no more.” He explained that he was simply indulging in a light flirtation. “I slapped her and she slapped me, just like that,” he claimed.

Prpck has not worked for three years because of stomach trouble.

“And yet you eat pie and coffee at night,” remarked the bench. “You have to learn to leave café waitresses alone. It was no joke to her.”

“Ultra vires”¹⁸³ (Olds, 1932)

OLDS, [ALBERTA,] May 3 – Charged with having failed to pay wages to Kathleen Brielsman¹⁸⁴, a waitress, equal to the minimum wage applicable to restaurants, Wong Pond, proprietor of the Olds Public lunch, was dismissed by Magistrate J. I. Welsh at Olds Saturday. Notice of appeal has been given by Inspector Lewis, enforcement officer under the minimum wage act, who laid the charge.

A. Clarke Bury, counsel for the accused, claimed the portion of the act, as it applied in this case, was *ultra vires*, having been created by the minimum wage board, which has no authority to make law.

The magistrate ruled that the wages paid to the complainant were reasonable under present-day conditions, and while the wage specified by the act, \$41.50 per month and board, while it may have been reasonable when the act was passed in 1925, was not so now.

“Alex made four visits per diem”¹⁸⁵ (Edmonton, 1932)

[CONTENT WARNING – SEXUAL HARASSMENT, XENOPHOBIA]

The fresh blonde beauty of Violet Smellquist, 9935 105A avenue, brought out all that was best in Alex Brzczowic, 10544 100 street, according to his story, so he popped the question. But so many times did he propose and such were the methods he used when he wooed the lady of his choice in the Safeway Bakery at the corner of 95 street and 108 avenue, where she was employed, that the police were called in. Brzczowic, arrested, was charged with threatening his own life, but the count was reduced to vagrancy on which he was sentenced to a three month jail term by Magistrate Col. George M. McLeod in police court Thursday morning.

¹⁸³ From Cadi Overrules Minimum Wage Act. (1932, May 3). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 7.

¹⁸⁴ Possibly the same Kathleen Brielsman who passed their Grade VIII examinations in Calgary in August, 1926.

¹⁸⁵ From Police Court. (1932, June 30). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 9.

Miss Smellquist, waitress in the Safeway Bakery, took the stand and told the court that Alex for the past two weeks had been haunting the bakery. He would come in, buy an ice cream cone and stand gazing at her until the men in the place ordered him out. During the past week Alex made four visits per diem.

"Yesterday," testified the pretty blonde waitress, "he came in and asked me to marry him, and when I refused he asked for poison, saying that if I didn't marry him or get him the poison he would get some himself."

"I ran to the back of the shop," she continued, "and he followed. I asked him what he wanted and he replied that he merely wanted to touch me."

"What else did he say?" asked the court.

"He kept saying 'I want you – I love you'," concluded the witness.

Graham Cococh, manager of the bakery, testified that Brzczowic had stayed around the place daily for the past two weeks. Wednesday when he followed Miss Smellquist to the back of the shop, the men employees had thrown him out.

"Any questions to witness?" asked the court of Brzczowic.

"Yes," replied Alex. "I want to ask him if the girl isn't my sweetheart?"

"It's none of your business anyway," ruled Prosecutor Becker.

"Then I ask the court's permission to marry her now," volunteered the blonde-struck Alex.

"You have already asked her and been turned down," decreed the bench.

Accused, who had to have his questions and answers interpreted, came from Poland four years ago, according to evidence of Detective William McDonald. Brzczowic will be recommended for deportation at the conclusion of his term.

"We have to afford protection from these foreigners for our young girls," observed the court on passing sentence. Sympathy for Miss Smellquist, a Canadian girl, was voiced by Prosecutor Becker.

"Employed women organize society"¹⁸⁶ (Saskatoon, 1932)

Strong protest against alleged violations of the Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Act in Saskatoon restaurants and shops was expressed at a meeting of waitresses and shop assistants held in the Trades and Labor Hall, Stratford Block, last evening when the Waitresses and Shop Assistants Benevolent and Protective Association was formed. Miss M. Glassgate was in the chair.

A resolution containing the grievances of the young women present was passed for submission at next Tuesday's meeting of the minimum wage board in Regina when representations will be made and action requested to prevent a continuation of the alleged illegal actions of Saskatoon shop and restaurant keepers.

The resolution reads: "Whereas many flagrant violations of the Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Act are continually taking place in Saskatoon, this meeting

¹⁸⁶ From EMPLOYED WOMEN ORGANIZE SOCIETY. (1932, September 16). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

unanimously calls on the minimum wage board to investigate the existing conditions and take the necessary steps to correct them.”

A copy was sent to the board together with statements detailing the alleged violations. Many of these were discussed at the meeting with considerable indignation. Those young women who were employed were loath, however, to say anything for publication for fear of losing their jobs. Miss Glassgate alone, being unemployed, was willing to have her name mentioned.

“Ask for stiffer wage act penalty”¹⁸⁷ (Saskatoon, 1932)

Urgent need for amendment of the Saskatchewan Minimum Wage Act to impose heavier penalties on violations and provide for some method whereby the rights of employees might be protected without jeopardizing positions, was emphasized by members of the Saskatoon Trades and Labor Council last evening when a resolution of a recently formed organization of waitresses and shop girls calling for action by the minimum wage board was submitted to the executive of the council with instructions to forward it to the chairman and labor member of the board if approved.

The main difficulty presently attending the administration of the act was that of obtaining evidence from employees, W. S. Harrison pointed out. Numerous violations of the act were known, but the wronged employees did not dare give public testimony before the board for fear of losing their jobs, and some system of affidavit evidence might solve the problem, he said.

Alderman A. M. Eddy referred to recent convictions in Moose Jaw where employees had jeopardized their positions to lay informations under the act, where convictions had been made, and where fines of only \$10 had been imposed. Under such circumstances it paid employers to under pay their help, he declared, and the only solution he could think of was a system of “spotters”.

G. E. Dealtry contended the act had “no teeth” and that heavy penalties involving gaol sentences might have the desired effect of causing conformity to the act by employers.

Other members expressed their abhorrence of a condition where merchants and restaurant keepers were allowed to underpay their employees and escape punishment simply by the threat of dismissal.

“The girls are paid nothing”¹⁸⁸ (Montreal, 1933)

New wage schedules fixed by the Quebec Minimum Wage Commission regarding female employees in the food industry go into effect on May 11th next, and in anticipation of that event the Commission has sent out circulars to all industries

¹⁸⁷ From ASK FOR STIFFER WAGE ACT PENALTY. (1932, September 29). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

¹⁸⁸ COMMISSION SETS NEW PAY SCHEDULE. (1933, April 28). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

affected, informing them of the situation, copies of which circulars must be posted in each establishment.

The next problem awaiting the attention of the Commission is in regard to waitresses in restaurants, and there has been a thorough investigation into that matter, and it may be expected that in the course of the present spring, or early summer, that a conference under the Act will be summoned, and the rates for such restaurants will be announced. The problem in regard to this class of female employee has proven to be very intricate, but the investigation, which has been under way for more than six months, shows the need for some such regulations.

The difficulties arise in some instances because the conditions under which waitresses work are different in one place to what they are in other establishments, as for example, where restaurants are located in hotels, the girls in some cases are provided with sleeping accommodation, in other cases they eat all three meals in the restaurant without charge, and in other cases they eat only one or two meals, or perhaps none at all. The problem consequently as regards waitresses becomes very complicated, and will be largely a matter of interpretation as to enforcement, and the further fact will have to be taken into consideration that in some instances waitresses are also chamber maids, this specially so in the rural sections of the province.

Investigation has shown that in some establishments in Montreal, though in none of the best places, the girls are paid nothing, but merely given permission to work for what "tips" they can get, and the inspectors investigating matters make it clear that in these days "tips" form a very precarious means of livelihood.

It is being hoped that once the Commission makes its award, the better disposed class of restaurants will have signs in their establishments to the effect that they have conformed to the award of the Commission, since the disposition generally encountered has been to do what is possible to better the lot of the waitresses, and once a sufficient number of establishments use this form of advertising, the others will have to follow suit, and thus a moral pressure for enforcement will be secured better than any possible through fear of penalties.

"Tips must not count as wages"¹⁸⁹ (Vancouver, 1933)

The tips given to waitresses do not form part of remuneration to be computed in the Minimum Wage Act, Judge Ellis holds. Two waitresses at the Wishing Well Barbecue, Ann Furrie and Ruth Olson, were awarded the balance due to them by Cooked Foods, Ltd., the proprietor. It was said that such perquisites were worth \$4 per week, and in addition laundry was done, making the total beyond the wage award. However, His Honor held that such amounts could not be applied to make up the difference between wages paid and wages due.

¹⁸⁹ From TIPS MUST NOT COUNT AS WAGES. (1933, May 19). *Vancouver News-Herald*, p. 2.

“Tips are few, and not large”¹⁹⁰ (Montreal, 1933)

The basic principle of the Minimum Wage law is to improve the status of women workers, but in the case of waitresses the fear is strong that the holding of a conference to fix minimum wages to be followed by an award by the Commission, may mean that the objective of the law will not be achieved, but rather tend to harm the class of employees which it is desired to aid.

Investigation shows, first, that many girls working in restaurants do so without wages and merely in the hope of obtaining what tips are going, and in these days tips are few, and not large. To put in a minimum wage award, it is feared by the Commission, would mean that restaurant keepers, and especially a certain class of the fraternity, would replace girls by waiters, numbers of whom are out of work, and many of whom, it is at least claimed by the restaurant keepers, are willing to work for what tips they can obtain. The Commission has no jurisdiction whatever as regards male employees. Representations have been even made to the Commission by some of the waitresses consulted discreetly by the inspectors of the Commission that it would be better to allow matters to remain as they are at present than risk loss of employment to many girls. Such representations, coming from a class which the Commission is constituted to benefit, has naturally considerable weight.

Secondly, the problem of fixing a minimum scale for waitresses is involved because many waitresses are employed the whole day, that is, serving three meals; others serve three meals and also do kitchen and cleaning work; others, again, work only for two hours during the luncheon period, and do no other work, and still another category work only during the dinner period, and so on. In the rural sections, too, there is the further complication that the girl who waits on the tables in the dining room may also be a chamber maid, and “sleeps in.” There is also the question as to who pays for the uniforms the girls wear, whether they are fed one, two or three meals, or not given any meals whatever.

“What constitutes a waitress?”¹⁹¹ (Vancouver, 1933)

What constitutes a waitress?

How long should her period of apprenticeship continue?

Mrs. Helen Gregory MacGill, a member of the Minimum Wage Board, said she had some experience years ago of the occupation, and she added whimsically that it was not as easy as some people seem to think, at the Monday night sitting of the board here.

One young woman in the audience said it all depended on what conditions of waiting were. It was no trouble to set a table for a working man with a knife and fork, but what about suiting the “petty bourgeois class in Victoria? That would take five years at least,” she remarked amid the laughter of the audience.

¹⁹⁰ From WAITRESSES WAGE DELICATE MATTER. (1933, May 31). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

¹⁹¹ From BLACKLISTING WAITRESSES IS CHARGED HERE. (1933, June 6). *News-Herald*, p. 2.

The board heard a number of complaints that waitresses who protested against their wages to the board had been black-listed, and were now no longer able to get work.

The question of hours, which under the present order has a limit of a 48-hour week, with emergency allowance of four hours more, occupied much attention. It was explained that the proviso was inserted at the time of the order to take care of the broken hours in the small towns, where train, bus and other traffic was irregular, and it was impossible to say precisely when a waitress was wanted.

The board was asked, in issuing an amending order, to make some distinction between conditions for waitresses in the large urban centres, and in the country districts.

Chairman Adam Bell said the record of enforcement showed many prosecutions for working waitresses excessive hours.

Allegations were made that 50 per cent of the waitresses in Vancouver and district were paid less than the minimum wage, and that it was a frequent policy for a girl, in order to be employed at all, to sign for twice as much as she actually received.

“Room for exploitation”¹⁹² (Vancouver, 1933)

Girls employed in some restaurants today are being served the same class of meals for \$5.25 a week for which unemployed on relief pay only \$2.88, the Minimum Wage Board was informed Monday by Mr. Colin McDonald, president of [the] Trades and Labor Council and representative of restaurant employees, at the continuation of the board’s public hearings here.

He also told the board that government tax on meals has affected restaurant employees as regards former side-money, or tips, which, he declared, had been reduced 50 per cent. Consequently waitresses, he added, may be said to be bearing a large share of this tax.

Except for the criticism offered by Mr. McDonald, no other complaints were presented. No employer was present.

Monday’s session of the board was devoted to the order governing public housekeeping occupations under which head are classified waitresses, attendants, housekeepers, janitresses, cooks, kitchen help in restaurants, hotels, tea rooms, ice cream parlors, light lunch stands and chambermaids in hotels, lodging houses and apartments where lodging is provided.

It was explained by Chairman Adam Bell that the board had set a lodging allowance at \$3 a week, and meals for one week at \$5.25, on a minimum of \$14 a week for employees 18 years of age and over, and \$12 a week under 18 – the latter figure also being the minimum for apprentices whose period, as such, was placed at three months.

Mrs. Helen Gregory MacGill, board member, stated that these figures had been decided on after a long investigation during which it had been found that some girls

¹⁹² From WAITRESSES HIT BY TAX. (1933, June 6). *The Province*, p. 10.

were being charged for a room in which they “did not even hang their hats and where the meals were rather sketchy.”

Mr. McDonald said he considered the charge of \$5.25 a week against the girls’ wages in restaurants was unfair on account of the times, and urged that the minimum wage be raised, or the amount chargeable for meals lowered.

Mr. Eric Geddes, member of the board, stated that girls were not under obligation to board where they worked.

Mr. McDonald replied that while he appreciated the fact that under the act there was no obligation, it was a condition under which they were hired. The alternative was, he stated, a girl would not get the work. There were other deductions, such as for aprons, uniforms, [and] laundry, he added.

On the subject of tips, the chairman said it was illegal to compute tips as deductions from the wages of waitresses.

Another speaker said the act, as it relates to waitresses, left room for exploitation of helpless girls.

“Cafes evade women’s wage laws”¹⁹³ (Vancouver, 1933)

That many restaurant proprietors in the city were deducting the \$8.25 allowed by the Minimum Wage Act for the meals and lodging of helpers who lived on the premises and were providing the meals from “left-overs” and indifferent lodging, was the complaint made to the Women’s Minimum Wage Board, Monday afternoon and evening, at the court house.

Colin McDonald, president of the Vancouver and New Westminster Trades and Labor Council, appeared as agent for the restaurant workers.

The hearing dealt with public housekeeping and included besides waitresses, janitresses, cooks, kitchen help, chambermaids, attendants in hotels, restaurants and boarding houses, and female elevator operators.

The minimum wage for experienced workers in this class is \$14 for a 48-hour week, and for inexperienced workers, \$12 a week.

Herbert Geddes, member of the board, pointed out that restaurant workers were neither obliged to eat or live on the premises and could demand their \$14 a week and board elsewhere.

Mr. McDonald admitted that the Minimum Wage Act made such a provision, but contended that employers, nevertheless, often made it a condition of hire that workers eat and lodge on the premises.

The question of tipping was introduced and Mrs. Helen Gregory MacGill, board member, stated that what the employee earns in tips is over and above and has nothing to do with wages. Mr. McDonald claimed that the recent tax on meals had practically eliminated tips or reduced them to such a small amount that they were a negligible factor.

¹⁹³ From CAFES EVADE WOMEN’S WAGE LAWS. (1933, June 6). *Vancouver Sun*, p. 3.

It was suggested that one minimum wage inspector was not sufficient to check up on infractions of the act, as a great deal of time had to be spent by this official in giving evidence in the cases that were brought to the attention of the law. Adam Bell, chairman of the board, pointed out that an employee or any interested person may lay information against evaders of the act on behalf of the inspector.

A protest against the low wages and hours of work required of domestic workers in private homes was made, but it was revealed that the act does not cover domestic servants and that legislation would have to be enacted before the board might act in their behalf.

No one appeared for the employers this session.

A representative of the Women's Labor League and the Working Women and Girls' Club complained that employees intimidated and discharged employees who appeared before the Women's Minimum Wage Board and that consequently the board did not get a complete account of existing conditions among the workers.

The chairman replied that section 12 of the Minimum Wage Act provided for fines to be levied against employers who discriminated against or fired workers who testified to infractions of the act, and that the board maintained a permanent office where employees were enabled to appear in private and give confidential testimony.

Further complaint was made that employers often compelled workers to sign as to receiving a wage in excess of that which they were actually paid.

Mrs. MacGill stated that such an employee was an accessory in evading the act and that in such a case the board was powerless to help those that refused to avail themselves of the act's protection.

“Was not aware”¹⁹⁴ (Saskatoon, 1933)

Finding that the accused, Wong Yeu, Chinese café proprietor, was not aware that he was hiring an experienced waitress, Magistrate F. M. Brown in city police court this morning dismissed the charge of violating the Minimum Wage Act brought against Yeu by Katie Annaka, waitress.

Previous evidence indicated that the girl had agreed to work for \$5 a week. There was nothing in the evidence, according to Magistrate Brown, to indicate that the employer knew that the girl was experienced, and therefore in setting a rate of \$5 he had not violated the act. The costs of the court, \$2.50, are against the complainant, who must spend a day in jail if they are not paid.

“Tossed him out on the sidewalk”¹⁹⁵ (Edmonton, 1933)

Harry Fedora, a “smart guy” who walked into the Star Café Saturday night, ordered a glass of water and a toothpick, and then insulted the waitress, was

¹⁹⁴ From DISMISSES COUNT UNDER WAGE LAW. (1933, September 12). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

¹⁹⁵ From Police Court. (1933, October 10). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 9

sentenced to serve two months at hard labor on a conviction of intoxication by Magistrate Col. George B. McLeod in police court Tuesday morning.

An option of a \$25 and cost fine didn't do Fedora much good, as he is on the city relief list. Evidence of three witnesses disclosed that Fedora got "tough" with the waitress, who tossed a glass of water in his face. He countered with a catsup bottle, which missed its mark. At this juncture the husband of the waitress entered the café, blacked out Fedora's eye and tossed him out on the sidewalk.

"Worked 24 weeks and received only \$17.50"¹⁹⁶ (Saskatoon, 1934)

Exposing the plight of a café waitress who worked 24 weeks and received only \$17.50, her meals and unfulfilled promises of more pay, J. H. Williams, government inspector, today prosecuted in city police court Lee Soon, proprietor of the Canton Chop Suey Café, 325 Second Avenue, south.

The girl complainant was Alice Wince, Progress Block, who was awarded \$150.50 in back wages by Magistrate F. M. Brown, K.C. Lee Soon was ordered to pay this amount and to contribute a fine of \$10 and costs of \$9.70.

Mr. Williams made it clear that the government was determined to insist on a "decent square wage" for employees protected by the Minimum Wage Act. Saying that he hoped the present case would serve as a warning to other employers, Mr. Williams revealed that a number of other violations would be checked up shortly.

In addition to the prosecution for short pay, Soon also is appearing this afternoon in police court for employing the Wince girl a longer period than 49 hours a week as provided by the Minimum Wage Act. Evidence indicated that the girl had worked 59½ hours and sometimes more a week, being employed on the seven days rather than six.

According to Mr. Williams, the government will insist that employees be given 24 hours consecutive rest each week except in a few special positions. At a time of unemployment, it was important that present employees be not overworked.

Alice Wince originally was engaged last June at a salary of \$3 per week and meals. In September this was reduced to \$1.50 and in November the pay was cut to \$1. Since November 10, however, the girl had received no pay except for \$1 just before Christmas.

Mr. Williams told the court that wage schedules had been reduced 15 per cent under the Minimum Wage Act and it was the intention of the Minimum Wage Board to see to it that these reduced wages were paid. Waitresses such as Alice Wince and others would be protected.

¹⁹⁶ From Waitress Paid \$1 since Nov. 10; Café Man Fined. (1934, January 11). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

“Working conditions of city waitresses”¹⁹⁷ (Edmonton, 1934)

Working conditions of city waitresses were exposed Wednesday morning when H. M. Bishop, Chief Factory Inspector, brought the management of the Plaza café before Magistrate Col. P. C. H. Primrose for breach of the minimum wage act. At the conclusion of the case, which lasted till 1 p.m., decision was reserved to Saturday.

Pleas of not guilty to the charges dating from October 15, 1933 to March 24, 1933, were entered by the manager of the café.

Waitress Anne Rubish, 11141 Jasper avenue, employed for 17 weeks swore she worked nine hours a day, seven days a week for \$7.50 each week with no time off. Her meals were supplied by the café. She had previous experience of seven years working at various restaurants in Edmonton.

Lily Hawkins, waitress, with eight years previous experience, testified she worked for \$7.50 for a nine hour day, seven day week. During part of her time, an hour per day was cut off her time, and she received \$7 per week.

Martha Boub, 10023 106 street, with six years experience, worked a seven day week of nine hours per day at \$5. When she protested, she swore she was told if “she didn’t like it there were others to take her place.”

Elsie Kuplay, 9560 102A avenue, got \$6.50 per week for seven days, nine hours each day with previous experience, while Nora Miscus of the kitchen staff got \$7 for a week’s work under similar conditions. Each girl got meals at the café free. They swore Lasky had hired them knowing of their experience.

Col. Primrose asked why the girls had continued to stay at the café under such wage conditions and was told by Prosecutor Charles Becker, “That they were between the devil and the deep blue sea, wanting to hold their jobs and trusting to fate to give them enough to live on.”

The minimum wage act sets out that a 48 hour week calls for \$12.50 with \$5 deducted if meals are supplied; a 56 hour work week requires \$14.50 with the same deduction for meals.

Jessie Dunn, 302 Gibson block, head waitress of the café, claimed the wage act had not been broken as the girls were paid on a 16 cent per hour basis with no set hours. She admitted the minimum wages had not been paid but claimed the girls had never worked full time. She quoted from her time book but could not explain how the 16 cent per hour rate was reached.

Hugh Calais Macdonald, defence counsel, in summing up argued that the Café during the depression had attempted to hire as many girls as possible and thereby spread the work. Prosecutor Becker pointed only to the breach of the act. Decision will be handed down Saturday.

¹⁹⁷ From Police Court. (1934, March 28). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 11.

“Thrown out of court”¹⁹⁸ (Edmonton, 1934)

Clashing in police court this morning shortly after court opened, Magistrate Col. P. C. H. Primrose and Crown Prosecutor C. E. Becker engaged in verbal fireworks which ended in the prosecutor leaving the courtroom while the magistrate, after delivering his verdict in the case under discussion, left the bench, being replaced by Col. George B. McLeod, following which Mr. Becker returned to court.

The verbal tilt came when Magistrate Primrose was delivering judgment in a case against the Plaza café, which had been charged with working waitresses long hours at under the minimum wage scale.

Taking the bench Magistrate Primrose began to sum up, declaring at the onset that there had not been enough preparation or investigation in the case.

“The theory that you were working the girls on an hourly basis and thus giving more girls a chance to get work instead of hiring them by the day, is more tenable than the story told by the girls. That you were splitting up the work sounds reasonable. The evidence of the girl witnesses against you, I did not consider reliable. They laughed and giggled when on the stand and—“

At this stage Prosecutor Becker rose to protest.

“That cannot be blamed on the crown,” he said, and was ordered not to interrupt.

“I only want to show, Your Worship—“ he began again, and this time was peremptorily ordered to “sit down”.

He again protested, and Magistrate Primrose heatedly asked, “Will you sit down?”

“No, sir, I won’t sit down,” replied Mr. Becker.

“Are you going to disobey the court’s order?” asked the magistrate, and the prosecutor replied that he would leave the court.

“Very well, leave it,” snapped back the magistrate, and in a dead silence Prosecutor Becker walked out.

Magistrate Primrose then discharged James Lasky, manager of the café, and after a short interval left the bench, his place being taken by Magistrate McLeod, when Prosecutor Becker returned and went on with the court list.

“Handwriting experts were ordered called in”¹⁹⁹ (Edmonton, 1934)

Handwriting experts were ordered called in to examine the payroll of the Club Café, 101 street, when the Chinese proprietor, Jim Yen, fighting a charge of breach of the Minimum Wage Act, denied evidence of Crown witnesses that his waitresses were paid \$4 per week and entered his pay book showing wages of \$9.50 per week as

¹⁹⁸ From CASE AGAINST CAFÉ THROWN OUT OF COURT. (1934, March 31). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 3.

¹⁹⁹ From CAFÉ OWNER FACES WAGE ACT CHARGE. (1934, April 24). *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 9.

an exhibit. The crown contended that Yen had placed the \$9.50 figure in the book after it had been signed and the \$4 wage paid. The case was adjourned for one week.

Helen Lehman, 10272 117 street, waitress in the Club Café, first witness called before Magistrate Col. George B. McLeod Tuesday morning, swore she had previous experience when she went to work in the café last January.

“What were you paid?” asked Prosecutor Charles Becker.

“Four dollars per week,” she replied.

“Ever any more than that?”

“No, and I asked for more several times.”

“What hours did you put in?”

“Ten hours a day, seven days a week.”

“Did you sign a wage book?”

“Yes.”

“What did it say?”

“Where I signed were the words ‘paid in full.’”

“Did you see the figures \$9.50?”

“The last two weeks they were there and I refused to sign.”

“Did you give an order to your cousin, Richard Schmidt, for your wages the last two weeks you were there?”

“Yes.”

“What did he get?”

“He got \$8.00.”

Schmidt, called to the stand, substantiated the evidence.

On the stand Jim Yen swore he paid the minimum wage to the girl, \$9.50 per week with three meals each day included. Questioned, he stated that the figures \$9.50 had been in the book each time Miss Lehman signed.

Mrs. Ella Coombes, of the minimum wage board, told of inspecting the café and being delayed 15 minutes by Yen when she asked to see the pay roll.

Prosecutor Becker in his argument stated that it was common practice for proprietors of cheap cafes to make the girls sign a blank book for wages and then fill in the minimum wage figures after.

“Examination of the wage book will show that different colored ink was used to put the figures \$9.50 [in], and in many cases there was no room on the line for it,” he declared.

Magistrate McLeod then ordered the book turned over to the handwriting experts for examination, saying, “if café proprietors cannot afford to pay the minimum wages to girls they should dispose of their services and do the work themselves.”

“For the second time”²⁰⁰ (Edmonton, 1934)

For the second time in the past month, a minimum wage case was thrown out of police court when the presiding magistrate doubted the honesty of waitresses who testified that café management had “sweated” them.

Jim Yen, Chinese proprietor of the Club café, 101 street, was given the benefit of a doubt Saturday morning and Magistrate Col. George B. McLeod dismissed him from a count of breach of the Minimum Wage Act. Evidence heard was that Yen had paid a waitress \$4 for a seven-day week over a period of several months.

Yen’s payroll, upon which the prosecutor threw doubt by charging it had been tampered with, was examined microscopically. Collusion in fraud was suggested by Col. McLeod against the waitress.

“It looks like circumlocution”²⁰¹ (1934)

A picture of women and girls working for \$10 and \$11 a week in factories owned by the Robert Simpson Company Limited, making coats on which the Toronto retail store reaped profits of 100 and 125 per cent., was painted today before the parliamentary mass buying committee.

It prompted Chairman H. H. Stevens to wonder why wages should not be increased and profits cut a fraction. [...]

Minimum wage laws first were considered when records of the store’s biggest restaurant were touched. It was found that waitresses working 5 and 5½ days a week and others on a regular schedule of 33 hours and three hours overtime were not paid minimum wages, but store officials considered these classes did not come within the wording of the Ontario law. [...]

The number of waitresses in the store’s largest restaurant was 490 in 1930 and 389 in 1934, with a big increase in the number on part time. Full-time waitresses receive \$9 a week and a meal allowance of \$3.50, which adheres to the Ontario minimum wage law.

“It looks like circumlocution (of the minimum wage laws)” said Chairman H. H. Stevens, when the auditor told him of the company calling in waitresses for 5½ hours a day, or 33 hours a week, and paying them an hourly rate. It was estimated that the 85 waitresses lost \$2 or \$3 a week.

“Pay waitress or be jailed”²⁰² (Windsor, 1934)

One thing Sisco Rossini doesn’t want to do, and that is pay \$9.73 to his ex-waitress, Miss Margaret Garrick.

²⁰⁰ From Police Court. (1934, May 5). *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 2.

²⁰¹ From CHEAP LABOR HELPED STORE MAKE PROFITS. (1934, June 9). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

²⁰² From Pay Waitress Or Be Jailed. (1934, September 21). *The Windsor Star*, p. 12.

“I have no money in my pocket,” Sisco declared in Windsor court this morning, adding something to the effect that the quick lunch business is not so good and that he might be able to pay the girl 50 cents per week.

“No 50 cents a week,” declared Magistrate Brodie, “none of that. You’ll pay her by next week or go to jail. And you’ll pay her the \$9.73.”

Sisco’s restaurant is at 301 Wyandotte street east. Away back last March he hired Miss Garrick, agreeing to pay her \$4 per week. Miss Garrick didn’t stay quite one week and in the payoff she was given \$3.

“I took a dollar off because she got mad and broke a dozen dishes,” Sisco explained.

Miss Garrick denied breaking the dishes.

“I never broke a single dish all the time I was there,” she declared.

S. J. Mallion, inspector of factories and health under the minimum wage law, was the first witness.

The minimum wage for a waitress per week of 50 hours is \$12, he said, the employer getting a drawback of 25 cents for each meal consumed on the premises. Miss Garrick didn’t work the full week, yet she put in 64 1-2 hours, he declared, stating that Mr. Rossini’s debt to her was \$9.73, figuring 11 meals she ate there at the 25 cents rate.

“I was to work from nine in the morning until eight at night every day and get my meals when I had time,” Miss Garrick said. “I quite before the week was up and he paid me \$3. He took off one dollar for half a day.”

“She left Saturday noon when there were a bunch of people in,” Sisco said, “and smashed about a dozen dishes.”

“How much did you value the dishes at?” asked Magistrate Brodie.

“Fifty cents each.”

“Those are pretty expensive dishes. What were they, Sheffield Plate or Crown Derby?”

“No. I bought them in Toronto. She smashed the dishes because she was mad.”

“It’s not true. I didn’t break any at all,” Miss Garrick declared when recalled to the stand to answer that charge. “And I didn’t quit Saturday. I quit Friday.”

“If it’s a question of credibility I believe the girl,” said Magistrate Brodie, recording judgment.

“Banker banquets bunk”²⁰³ (Edmonton, 1935)

When local representatives of a goodly portion of Canada’s billions, the bankers, ring around the banquet board and kick principal and interest under the table while one of their number tells the inevitable convention jokes, waitresses are unable even to find a plugged cent on the floor when the big money-minions depart.

²⁰³ From Banker Banquets Bunk. (1935, February 25). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 9.

Such is the unanimous report of a half dozen waitresses who pass out the cakes and coffee in the dining rooms where the majority of Edmonton's banquets and convention suppers are held.

With an eye to learning the comparative tightness (or otherwise) of the purse strings of the various groups of men and women who absorb pep-talks and edibles around the annual banquet table, a reporter walked in on the waitresses when they were folding napkins in preparation for a 5:00 p.m. rush.

In short order, the girls who wait table would rather pass out the soup-to-nuts menu to one gathering of motor car men than 50 banker conventions.

The motor car men, claim the girls, have "floating power" on the small change when the tip plate circulates.

On the other hand, the waitresses are frank to say, the bankers may be all for "sound" money, but their "tip coin" is practically silent – it drops so seldom, the lack of noise is painful.

Following the generous motor men, come the insurance men who always bury the bottom of the tip plate with a pleasing thickness of coin.

Civil servants are "fair" in their remuneration to the girls, service clubs are "not so good," and college and university gatherings are "just so-so."

The girls should know, as they've done the work and taken the tips for each group in the past few weeks.

"Women are good, better than men, most of the time," agreed Sally, Milly, Betty and the head waitress.

The girls added that bankers, for whom better is expected, hit an all time low (low spirits for the waitress and low money mark on the tip plate) when they banquet.

"Three cheers for the motor men, long may they prosper," is the wish of the girls in white.

"Took up prostitution"²⁰⁴ (Vancouver, 1935)

Vancouver, March 29 – Mrs. Ellen Joyce, charged with Joe Celona and Clarence Bancroft with procuring two girls to become prostitutes, made a complete denial of the charge in Assize court today.

Mrs. Joyce stated she was married in December, 1925 at Fernie, had one girl, a girl now aged seven, and lived with her husband until 1929 when he deserted her. She said she kept the child and worked as a waitress in Vancouver until near the end of 1930 and on failing to get further work, took up prostitution. In the meantime, according to her evidence, she applied for, and was refused the mother's pension.

She testified she met Bancroft in 1932 and lived with him until October 1934, when they quarreled because as she said, he had other girls.

While living with Bancroft she worked, and her earnings went for their living expenses, she said. Bancroft was not working, she declared.

²⁰⁴ From CELONA, MRS. JOYCE DENY GRAVE CHARGE. (1935, March 29). *The Nanaimo Daily News*, p. 1.

The elder of the two girls, whom accused had charged with procuring, came to the house where Bancroft lived with Mrs. Joyce early in June, witness testified. She declared she herself was not present at any of the champagne parties. Mrs. Joyce testified the two girls whom the Crown charges were victims of the accused told her they were going to “work” and that she had said it was a silly idea, especially for the older girl, whose health was bad.

At the request of the two girls she later accompanied them to the hotel where the girls met Chinamen, she stated. A couple of days later she went with the girls to another hotel to cook for them, she added. She stated she never saw Celona in this hotel. She denied doing anything to procure the girls.

“A flat denial”²⁰⁵ (Vancouver, 1935)

A flat denial that she has ever counseled two young girls to lead a life of shame was uttered today from the witness-stand in the Assize Court by Ellen “Marcelle” Joyce, accused, with Joe Celona and Clarence Bancroft, of procuring.

Indeed, said “Marcelle,” who was testifying in her own defense, it was the girls themselves who had suggested “going to work,” and she had strongly advised against it. The peroxide-blond defendant, alleged by Crown witnesses to be the manageress of a Chinese-favored brothel on the fourth floor of the Maple Hotel, 177 East Hastings Street, also applied a coat of whitewash to Joe Celona insofar as his connection with the Maple establishment was confirmed.

BANCROFT GOT MONEY

She did not ever see Celona in any of the girls’ rooms, she said; did not know that he lived on the fourth floor, and had no contact with him in the operation of the establishment.

“Marcelle” said that she was simply employed to cook for the girls on the fourth floor. She knew that they were prostituting themselves, but never saw any prostitution in the three months she worked on that floor. The witness admitted, however, that the girls made money and that the money was handed to her, and that she gave it to Bancroft.

Dugald Donaghy, K.C., special prosecutor, conducted a sizzling cross-examination. One of his last questions was:

“Is that as true as everything else you have said here today?”

“Yes, sir,” the witness demurely replied.

MAY REACH JURY TONIGHT

Throughout her direct examination and cross-examination “Marcelle” did not flick an eyelash. Her pale blue eyes never blinked as she came out with categorical denials of major portions of prosecution testimony.

The defence opened its case shortly before noon and rested at the luncheon adjournment. Bancroft presented no defence. This afternoon Defence Counsel Stuart

²⁰⁵ From Bouchette, B. (1935, March 29). FLAT DENIALS OF GIRLS’ VICE CHARGES. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 10. Written by Bob Bouchette (d. 1938).

Henderson is calling witnesses on behalf of Celona. The case may go to the jury tonight.

CELONA NOT SMILING

Celona was not his usual smiling self as he sat beside Ellen "Marcelle" Joyce, waiting for court to open. The woman, who has displayed no emotion since the beginning of the trial, looked worried. Bancroft and "Marcelle" did not glance at each other when Bancroft entered in charge of a provincial policeman.

Oscar Orr, city prosecutor, cross-examined by Stuart Henderson, counsel for Celona, said that the charge against Bancroft was laid November 17; against Joyce on December 10, and against Celona on December 14.

After Orr stepped down the Crown closed its case.

Mr. Justice McDonald told Bancroft that if he wished he could enter the witness-box and give evidence, or he could address the jury from where he stood.

"THANK YOU;" SITS DOWN

Bancroft: "Which would be more beneficial to me?"

The Court: "I cannot advise you."

Bancroft muttered "Thank you," and sat down.

Angelo Branca, counsel for Joyce, opened the defense by calling James H. McVety, superintendent of employment service for British Columbia. McVety swore that the employment card which one of the two allegedly procured girls says was given to her on June 15, had been handed to the "ghost girl" on June 4. This was an attack on the credibility of the witness who three times collapsed Tuesday.

McVety produced official records to support his statement. He said that the girl had been offered two vacancies, one at the "Joyce" home on Point Grey Road, which she accepted.

REFUSED PERMIT

Staff Sergeant William Keir, of the Provincial Police, called by Branca, testified that he had refused the barrister a permit to see Bancroft with Ellen Joyce.

Her blondined hair freshly waved, Ellen "Marcelle" Joyce took the stand.

In answer to Branca's questions, "Marcelle" said that she was married at Vernon in 1925, [and] had one child now seven years old. Her husband deserted her in 1929, and she came to Vancouver to work as a waitress. She had her child with her.

WAS REFUSED PENSION

In the latter part of 1930 she applied for a deserted mother's pension, but was refused, so she decided to become a prostitute. She went to a certain house of ill fame, was refused a job, but applied again. She was in the place three nights before she could bring herself to entertain a man. She had been a prostitute ever since, up to the time of her arrest. (The Joyce woman is free on bail.)

MET BANCROFT IN 1932

She met Bancroft in July, 1932, and went to live with him. Her reason for this was that "I thought a lot of him." Bancroft, sitting near the witness box, smirked as she said this.

She supported herself by "working."

Bancroft never worked, she said.

She left him in August, 1934, when they quarreled over Bancroft's attention to other girls.

The "ghost girl" came to the Point Grey Road house²⁰⁶ around June 1, she said.

The girl said she was from the Employment Bureau, and "Marcelle" took her to the back lawn, where Bancroft was talking to another man.

It was Bancroft who made all the hiring arrangements, she said.

A "SURPRISE PARTY"

"Marcelle" swore that on June 9 there was a surprise party arranged for her by Bancroft at White Rock.

It was her birthday.

At the party were the "ghost girl," Bancroft, herself and two other men. (This was another contradiction of the "ghost girl's" testimony.)

Witness said that she was at none of the champagne parties in the Point Grey Road home.

On the night of July 8, she said, she was in bed at home, having recently come back from the hospital, when the two girls (the alleged procuror's victims) entered her room, and the "ghost girl" said: "What do you think of our going to work?"

"I told them it was a silly idea," said the witness, "especially for —, as she was in very bad health."

GIRLS WOKE HER UP

She remembered no conversation between herself and the girls and Bancroft relative to prostitution on the afternoon of July 8. Nor did she remember seeing Celona at the house that evening.

She denied, as was testified by another girl witness, that she had ever "worked" in a house of ill-repute at 513 Main Street.

"Marcelle" swore that on the night of July 8 the two girls woke her up and asked her to come down to the Windsor Hotel with them.

She went and there they entertained Chinese.

AT MAPLE HOTEL

The next day she went to the Maple Hotel with the two girls.

She did the cooking there and was paid \$1 a day for it by the girls.

She had no contact with Celona at the Maple, never heard him mention a place at 244 East Hastings Street, [and] handled no tickets allegedly used by the girls to keep check of their activities.

Examined by Stuart Henderson, the witness said that Celona was never in the girls' room at the Maple. She did not know if Celona stayed there.

Dugald Donaghy, K.C., special prosecutor, cross-examined.

He drew from the witness the fact that she was a street walker, accosting men on the highways and in beer parlors. She mentioned several hotels and rooming houses where she took men, but, pressed by Donaghy, she could not remember the appearance of any of the clerks in these hotels.

²⁰⁶ At 3334 Point Grey road, according to *The Province* of Marh 26, 1935.

Again she flatly denied that she had ever worked in 513 Main Street with a girl witness for the Crown.

PAID HOUSE EXPENSES

Witness said she paid the rent, domestics' wages and other expenses of the Point Grey Road house out of her earnings as a prostitute but that she did not attend to any of the business of the house personally.

Mr. Donaghy: Who is Lou Barrack, who was a dinner guest at your home?

She had heard of him before that and heard that he ran the Windsor Hotel, but never saw him there and knew nothing about him.

Tod McNeil drove her car, Clarence having told him he would give him his board and pocket money for driving him around. Sometimes McNeil ate at the Maple Hotel, where she cooked the meals on the fourth floor.

Crown counsel could get only: "They weren't obliged to mix with my company" when he described to "Marcelle" the "nest" into which two young maid servants were brought. She never mentioned prostitution to them, she maintained.

WINDSOR HOTEL VISIT

The Crown quizzed the witness at length about the occasion on July 8, when she was in bed convalescing after an illness.

She admitted that at 11 p.m. she went to the Windsor Hotel with the two complaining witnesses and there showed them the procedure connected with entertaining Chinamen. She waited in the hall until 2.30 p.m. at the girls' request, and accompanied them back to Point Grey Road.

"You took the money?"

"They gave me the money."

Apparently, they were expected at the Windsor, as they were met at the back entrance when Ted McNeil "drove the three of us" there that night.

"No," she said, the two "innocent young things" did not induce her to go to the Windsor; they all went there together.

"GAVE ME THE MONEY"

"Marcelle" thought it was a couple of days later that they went to the Maple Hotel, and she started cooking there about four days later. The girls paid her \$1 a day for their board, having breakfast at Point Grey Road, dinner and midnight supper at the Maple.

"Did you take the prostitution money that these girls earned?"

At first the witness said: "I guess that's the way they got the money," and then answered "yes," but it was not part of her duty to collect it. It wasn't exactly gifts, but money they gave her to take home, and she handed it to Bancroft. She did not know what arrangements the girls had with him.

She would not say that happened every night, but it was the general practice.

"Marcelle" denied seeing any tickets on the fourth floor of the Maple, nor did she ever see any prostitution during the three months she worked there.

"JUST THE COOK"

Mr. Donaghy – Are you serious in that, witness?

"Yes, sir," she answered.

“Is that as true as anything else you have said here?”

“Yes, sir.”

“You have already told the court that you took the prostitution money from these two girls almost as a daily practice. It is my duty to warn you, witness. Are you serious when you say you never saw any prostitution on the fourth floor?”

“Yes. I know that the girls were working, but did not know whether it was on that floor or where.”

“You were the landlady, or manageress?”

“I did not have any managing to do.”

“You just cooked the meals and took the money. You don’t call that being landlady or manageress?”

“No.”

The only Chinaman she ever saw on the fourth floor, “Marcelle” swore, was the Chinese porter who cleaned the halls.

“Where did you think these two girls got the money from prostitution that they handed to you every night?”

“It was none of my business.”

On the question of her acquaintance with Celona, “Marcelle” maintained that she never saw him either on that floor of the Maple Hotel.

On re-examination, “Marcelle” told Branca that the girls asked her to give their money to Bancroft. She said the girls owed her between \$30 and \$40 for their board while they were at Leo Bancroft’s house. Leo Bancroft is now serving four years for white slavery.

Branca said he had no more witnesses to call, and closed his case for Ellen Joyce²⁰⁷.

“Underpaying women”²⁰⁸ (Saskatoon, 1935)

Two café operators stood in the city police court this morning before Magistrate Brown and pleaded guilty to offenses under the Minimum Wage Act. The charges were laid by John H. Williams, Regina, inspector for the Provincial Government. Fines were imposed, and orders were issued that the managements in both cases pay back wages which would bring the amounts up to the figures set forth under the law.

Tony Mack, manager of the Alberta Café, 214 First Avenue, was charged with employing Katie Nikoruk, an experienced waitress, at a rate lower than those fixed by the Minimum Wage Board. The offense was committed between November 1, 1934 and January 17, 1935.

Katie Nikoruk stated that she worked nine hours a day, seven days a week and received \$4 per week. She received no other remuneration except three meals a day.

²⁰⁷ Mrs. Ellen Joyce, age 27, would eventually be convicted of procurement and sentenced to two years less one day in Oakalla Jail. Joe Celona would get 22 years, and Clarence Bancroft, 20 years, for a collection of related offences.

²⁰⁸ From Two Café Men Penalized For Underpaying Women. (1935, April 29). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

Mr. Williams said that under the Minimum Wage Act the girl should have received \$7.75 per week of 49 hours, and he asked that she be awarded \$35.75 which was due her. He added that there was also the rate of 26½ cents per hour overtime, which would amount to \$20.35. The total owing the woman amounted to \$56.10.

The defendant blamed hard times for the low wages he paid. Mr. Williams gave Mack credit for the way he had treated the investigators. The inspector said that the Chinese had been honest about the whole matter. A fine of \$10 and costs was imposed. The café will pay the amount due the girl.

The second case was just the opposite.

Wong Toy, proprietor of the Star Café, 127 Second Avenue, north, stood up. Wong Toy is middle aged, surly of manner, and he flatly refused to give answers to the court. The evidence showed that he swore he would go to jail rather than comply with the law.

There were three charges against him: That he failed to keep a register of names, addresses and wages paid his employees; that he employed female help at less than the Minimum Wage Act called for; that he employed female help more than 49 hours per week.

Mr. Williams said that when asked to show his register, Toy produced a book showing one name of an employee. There were no addresses in the book. The book showed one girl getting \$6 per week.

“Toy is antagonistic toward the officers,” continued the inspector. “We have had a lot of trouble with him. He absolutely refuses to obey the law. He has lied to us repeatedly. We have given him a number of chances to straighten up. He underpays his help. He owes girls money; and we can’t find their addresses. He has intimidated his employees. He has tried to settle with them for small amounts. I ask the bench to take a very serious view of this, and would like a penalty that will stop him from repeating his offenses.”

Mr. Williams said he believed the man should be sent to jail.

Magistrate Brown, however, felt that such a course might ruin the Chinaman’s business.

“I would prefer that he settle up his affairs rather than go to jail,” said the bench.

“I would consider it a good day’s work if I could put this man out of business,” replied the inspector.

Toy was fined \$20 and costs or in default 30 days in jail.

Wong Toy was then charged with having Jessie Federation, experienced waitress, work more than 49 hours a week. She had been working nine hours on week days and seven hours on Sunday. A fine of \$10 and costs or 20 days in jail was imposed.

On the third count, Toy was found guilty of paying less than the minimum wage to Jessie Federation. She received \$5 for a seven day week, working nine hours per week day and seven on Sundays. She swore that her employer advised her to tell the inspector she was making \$8 per week. She was not paid yesterday for last week’s work. She stated that Toy told her he had no money.

Mr. Williams figured that Toy owed \$89.21 for overtime and portion of back wages to bring her earnings up to the amount prescribed by law.

In this case Magistrate Brown imposed a fine of \$10 and costs or 10 days in jail, and ordered the money to be paid the girl.

In default of payment of money owing Miss Federation a distress proceeding will take place, and if such sale does not bring sufficient to wipe out the debt, the accused will serve two months in jail.

“Twenty-four hours of striking”²⁰⁹ (Edmonton, 1935)

Twenty-four hours of striking has done more to aid café and kitchen help than months of effort on the part of the provincial wage board, said officials of the Restaurant Workers’ Association late Tuesday night, after the management of sixteen out of 18 cafes approached, had signed agreements setting forth that wages of waitresses in future will be \$9.50 per week, with three meals per day.

Two cafes, one on 96 street and the other on 101 street, locked their doors shortly after 8 p.m. following three hours of picketing by waitresses aided by the Unemployed Married Men’s Association. The management of these two eating houses said they refused to be coerced into signing any agreements, claiming that minimum wages were already in force in their establishments.

In the 101 street café, all but three girls walked out.

Those who struck claimed they signed wage cheques each week for \$9.50, but were forced by their employers, on threats of dismissal, to turn back all but \$1.50 from each pay.

The three girls who remained on the job said they received the \$9.50 and did not turn any of it back to the bosses. The management claimed it paid the minimum wage and that the café would remain closed until police gave it adequate protection.

Police on the job could do nothing, as the picketers were peaceful and kept the pedestrian traffic moving along the sidewalks.

“We’re going to stay right here, even if it takes a month,” said Olga Shipkum, a striking waitress, secretary of the Restaurant Workers’ Association, “and we won’t move until this agreement is signed.”

With sixteen of 18 cafes picketed having signed the agreement, the strikers will tackle any restaurant which they believe does not pay a legal wage to the hired help.

Trouble has been brewing for some months. Managers of reputable eating houses made several attempts to get a working agreement for all cafes to pay the minimum wage, but a few hold-outs thwarted the efforts.

Minimum wage board officials knew of the trouble, but because the girls signed for the correct wage, making everything appear legal on the surface, and then “kicked back” more than half of their pay, it has been next to impossible to enforce the law through prosecution.

²⁰⁹ From 2 CITY CAFES CLOSE DOORS TO BUSINESS. (1935, May 8). *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1.

Officials of the wage board were negotiating Tuesday night with the hold-outs, and café employers who do observe the law were displaying cards in their windows to the effect that minimum wages were paid by them.

“Government will probe café wages”²¹⁰ (Edmonton, 1935)

Immediate investigation into working conditions in city restaurants, particularly with regard to wages, will be undertaken by the provincial government following [the] action of single unemployed picketers in forcing several downtown cafes to close, according to an announcement made Wednesday by Walter Smitten, provincial labor commissioner.

Admitting that several restaurant proprietors were evading the Minimum Wage Act by subterfuge, Mr. Smitten said that the province had been successful in securing prosecutions in many cases.

His department made periodical inspection of restaurants, Mr. Smitten declared, adding that considerable difficulty faced the two provincial inspectors working in the city in this connection. Waitresses in many cases were willing to work for less than the Act called for, and would not admit to inspectors that this was the case. In some instances employees signed a wage form for a higher amount than they actually received.

Commenting on the situation Wednesday, Mayor J. A. Clarke declared [that] single unemployed men were giving the city more trouble than anyone else during the prevailing strike. “And yet these men are not a civic responsibility. They come under provincial administration, and strong steps should be taken by that body to prevent the trouble these men are now giving us,” he stated.

Referring to the closing of several eating places by picketers, the mayor said he had promised the proprietors police protection so they might re-open their businesses.

Continuing their drive against allegedly “unfair” restaurants, [a] heavy force of unemployed picketers at noon Wednesday had forced six cafes in various parts of the city to close.

[The] staff of waitresses in the International Café on 101 street left their jobs and walked out after strong pressure had been brought to bear by the picketers.

Except for one arrest Tuesday, when a picketer faced a charge of assault for allegedly attempting to prevent a customer entering the Union Café on 97 street, there have been no disorders to date.

“Local cafes picketed by unemployed”²¹¹ (Edmonton, 1935)

With peaceful picketing occasionally nearing the borderline of more forceful tactics, some 500 single unemployed spent the day Tuesday picketing local

²¹⁰ From GOVERNMENT WILL PROBE CAFÉ WAGES. (1935, May 8). *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 1.

²¹¹ From LOCAL CAFÉS PICKETED BY UNEMPLOYED. (1935, May 8). *Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 3.

restaurants, urging customers to eat elsewhere while they made loud claims that the wages paid to waitresses and kitchen employees were below the minimum.

On a number of cases where crowds of picketers lined sidewalks in such density as to obstruct pedestrians and traffic, the city police were called out. They went about their work quietly, keeping a passage clear along the sidewalks, and no disorders broke out.

A single arrest marked the day's demonstrations when one man was booked into the cells Tuesday evening on an assault charge when his method of dissuading a would-be restaurant customer became a bit too rugged.

Girls numbering about a dozen who worked with the picketers entered cafes and in numbers of instances persuaded members of the help to walk out. An agreement with the "Local Union of Restaurant and Hotel Employees," an association newly-formed and with the backing of [an] admitted Communist organization, that in future they pay minimum wages, was tendered to proprietors, who were reported to have signed in many instances.

When the picketing was called off late Tuesday night, it was reported in the Restaurant Workers' headquarters that 17 cafes had signed the agreement, while three of them had closed their doors when all customers had been turned away from their doors and the waitresses had left.

Through the day the picketing had been featured by orderliness and good humor, but slight tinges of temper were shown as the day wore on.

Resulting in the day's one arrest, slight scuffles broke out at the Adelphi café on 101 street between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., when some 400 collected in front of the door.

Half the girls of the restaurant were persuaded to leave and, when some refused, attempts were made to pull them out. The management locked the door and, although further attempts were made to block persons from entering, the efforts were unnecessary as the door remained locked. The pickets remained until a late hour, but the café owners were adamant.

Picket lines numbering some 400 which later split into smaller groups to cover a number of eating establishments, took up a position in front of the Union café on 97 street around 2 p.m. A number of girls entered and persuaded the two waitresses to leave, but the two girls working in the kitchen remained at work.

The agreement to pay minimum wages calls for re-instatement of waitresses who struck for the regulation scale. The minimum wage calls for \$9.50 a week, and officials of the Restaurant Workers' Association state that the wages being paid by all the concerns picketed range from \$1.50 to \$5 a week. Girls who are persuaded to walk out are provided for during the term of the strike, it is stated.

This Local Union of Restaurant and Hotel Employees, is a recent organization. Asked how long it had been in existence, a Communist organizer's reply was, "A few weeks, I guess." He added, "It should have been organized a few years ago." The union is applying for affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, it is stated.

With the late night cessation of strike activities, it was announced that pickets would again begin their work at 7 a.m. Wednesday.

“Waitresses claim victory”²¹² (Edmonton, 1935)

Edmonton’s relief strike entered its third week Monday with strike supporters standing pat on demands for increased allowances, and with apparent victory in a side-issue – attempts to cause certain city cafes to live up to the minimum wage act in payments to waitresses, dish washers and other restaurant employees.

Meanwhile, leaders of the move to force café owners “into line” said they would press their efforts to certain North Edmonton and south side cafes.

Mis Olga Shpihun [sic.], business manager of the Restaurant Workers’ Union, and Miss Marion Lewko, president, said Monday that 34 centre-city cafes have signed agreements to pay the minimum required under the Alberta minimum wage acts. They declared that they had picketed 36 cafes, and that while 34 had signed agreements, the other two had closed up because the proprietors felt that they could not pay the minimum wages and still stay in business.

“And our next move,” Miss Shpihun said, “is to go to the south side and North Edmonton. When we get ready, we will go out.” She said that she had no information as to just how many North Edmonton or south side cafes are breaking the minimum wage act by underpaying waitresses or dishwashers, “but we’ll find them and make sure that they do pay right.”

She said that now there actually are just six waitresses on strike. Two of them worked at one of the closed cafes, and four at the other.

As a result of the signed agreements, she added, most of the 34 cafes, two-thirds of which, she said, were run by Chinese, had raised the prices of their meals by five cents.

“They found,” Miss Shpihun said, “that a five-cent increase in the price of each meal will allow them to get enough money to pay the minimum wages.”

A police official said Monday that he had been given information, “direct from the proprietor,” that a café had been employing several girls for four hours a day, six days a week, and paying them \$1.25 each per week and their meals. Miss Shpihun confirmed the information, but added “that won’t be in effect now, since the agreements have been signed.”

She explained that under the arrangements with cafes, girls are always two weeks behind in their pay cheques. This is a common practice, and is to take care of possible “quitting” by girls without giving a week’s notice.

“When the first of the larger pay envelopes are due,” the union business manager said, “we will be there to make sure they are paid, and that none of the girls is required to sign for full pay and then hand back some of it.”

Miss Shpihun also was somewhat incensed because last week, when 10 waitresses interviewed Mayor Clarke, the chief magistrate, after having all but three girls leave the room, gave a dollar among the three so that they could get something to eat.

²¹² From *Aid Strike in Third Week; Jobless Firm In Demands, Waitresses Claim Victory*. (1935, May 13). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 1.

“I thought I was doing them a favor,” Mayor Clarke explained. “This was at 1:00 p.m. and they said they hadn’t eaten yet that day. I thought that I was helping out. And I gave it to them privately so I wouldn’t embarrass them before the others.”

“11 hours per day for seven days”²¹³ (Edmonton, 1935)

Decision will be given Thursday in the case of Charles Wong, Henry Café proprietor, charged with under-paying a waitress, Katie Barlott²¹⁴.

She testified that she worked 11 hours per day for seven days a week and was paid \$4 per week for the first nine weeks, and \$5 for the tenth, her last. She testified also that she was forced to sign a register indicating that she had received \$9.50 per week in cash.

“How did you know you had to sign?” Charles Becker, crown counsel, asked.

“If I didn’t, I would be laid off,” she said.

“And eventually you were laid off?”

“Yes.”

“And tried to get your job back?”

“Yes.”

Magistrate Primrose: “If you had got your job back at \$4 per week, it would have suited you?”

“No. The \$4 wouldn’t have suited me, but I would have taken it.”

The defendant swore that he paid \$9.50 per week to the girl, and that she worked nine hours per day.

The court put the case over for a day to weigh the evidence.

“Waitresses to get 24 cents an hour”²¹⁵ (Montreal, 1935)

Waitresses in Montreal will receive wages of 24 cents an hour, according to the decision of the Joint Conference which met yesterday at the Government offices under the auspices of the Women’s Minimum Wage Commission. The decision of the Conference will be submitted to the Commission, and when ratified by the latter, as appears probable, will come into effect after the usual notices published in the Quebec Official Gazette, altogether a matter of some 60 days, or more, which will make the increase for the girls much in the nature of a Christmas present.

The rate of pay for girls in cities of over 25,000 – Quebec, Three Rivers, Hull and Sherbrooke – will be 21 cents per hour.

Rates in municipalities of less than 25,000 population will be left to the Commission itself, the Conference decided, and, following the precedent set by the

²¹³ From Conviction List Long, But It Grows. (1935, July 3). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 9.

²¹⁴ Katie Barlott still worked at a café in 1945. “LOST – Considerable sum of money in Adelphi Café under counter. Finder keep \$30, please return balance to Katie Barlott, Gen. Del., Edmonton. Urgently needed.” Lost and Found. (1945, February 13). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 14.

²¹⁵ From WAITRESSES TO GET 24 CENTS AN HOUR. (1935, September 25). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 5.

Commission in other cases, especially as regards shopgirls, the Act itself will not apply in municipalities of less than 5,000 population. [...]

The provincial labor code stipulates a maximum of 60 working hours per week. In Montreal, especially, waitresses work in shifts, and the complaint is often that not sufficient hours' work is given. Girls who work at breakfast time do not generally, or continuously through long periods of time, work at dinner. In any event the payment is by the hour of attendance.

There will be an advisory committee to work with the Minimum Wage Commission as to the interpretation of the ruling which the Commission will issue, since it is expected many knotty points will arise in application, and decisions have to be given which will apply only to almost individual cases, this being due to the fact that in the smaller towns, [the] work of waitresses and chambermaids becomes involved with work of an almost domestic nature. In many instances, also, the waitress is a chambermaid. [...]

One of the matters which will have to be decided in this connection, it is pointed out, is that of determining what is female work, normally, and what is male work. Once this is done the fixed minimum rates for female work apply to male workers when the latter are substituted for females in work normally considered, and decided upon, as being that of a feminine nature. A recent amendment to the Act provided for this, since it was found that in other lines of industry some employers tried to evade the minimum wage rates by substituting boys and men for girls.

“Employers pay fines”²¹⁶ (Saskatoon, 1935)

Fines and costs totaling \$55.80 were leveled against three Saskatoon employers who appeared in city police court this morning. Two men, Steve Horbatiuk of the De Luxe Café, 236 Twentieth Street, west, and Foster Harris of the Auto Clinic, 415 Second Avenue, north, pleaded guilty to breaches of the One Day's Rest in Seven Act and drew \$5 fines with costs of \$3.60 in each case. Andrew Peters, proprietor of the Savoy Café, 221 Second Avenue, south, was found guilty of a one day's rest offense as well as one under the Minimum Wage Act and drew fines and costs amounting to \$38.60.

Complainant in each case against Peters was Sarah Johnson, formerly employed as a waitress in the Savoy Café. In the first case she told the court she had been employed full time on each day from December 10 to 17, inclusive. Peters claimed he had asked her to work a couple of hours on her day off since one of the other waitresses could not get down and she had volunteered to work the rest of the day. Magistrate Brown found that constituted a breach of the statute, since the employer had permitted her to work contrary to the Day's Rest Act. He imposed the minimum fine of \$5 and costs of \$5.10.

²¹⁶ From Employers Pay Fines. (1935, December 27). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

In the second case Miss Johnson claimed she had worked for Peters from November 1 to December 17 at the rate of \$5 a week or 85 cents a day. She maintained she had been hired as an experienced waitress and was entitled to \$30 a month.

Peters claimed he had only paid her the \$5 a week on account and had undertaken to pay her the balance when he was financially able. He also claimed she had started with him as an inexperienced waitress and only entitled to \$6 a week. He admitted, however, he had not kept a register, as required by the Minimum Wage Act, showing the basis of payment, and the magistrate took the view he had been in fault in that failure and accordingly the complainant's testimony must be taken.

Long arguments between J. A. Williams, minimum wage inspector, and C. Ferguson, defense counsel, over the complainant's claim for overtime. She had worked nine and a half hours a day, she claimed, but the accused told the court part of that had been for meals and that she was entitled only to five hours' overtime for the entire time she had worked.

The magistrate accepted the statement of the accused despite strong protest from Mr. Williams. He pointed out the matter of back wages was one involving the liberty of the accused. A jail term might have to be served unless the back wages were paid. He suggested the case might be appealed by the girl.

Mr. Williams claimed the total amount owing Miss Johnson, including overtime, was \$32.79. The magistrate accepted the latter amount and gave Peters 10 days in which to pay it. He also imposed the minimum fine of \$25 and costs of \$3.50 or 10 days in jail.

“Makes employees sign for wages”²¹⁷ (Edmonton, 1936)

Precaution of requiring a written receipt from each waitress employee on each pay-day was taken by Mah Tong, Chinese café proprietor at 10354 101 St., it was revealed before Magistrate Gibson in police court Friday. The man appeared on five charges of breach of the minimum wage act. Decision was reserved to Monday on two charges, and the remaining three were dismissed.

Alleged to have paid his waitresses only five or six dollars a week instead of the \$9.50 minimum required by law, Mah Tong was able to produce in court written copies of receipts on which each of the girls acknowledged receiving the \$9.50.

“I only received five dollars each week, but signed a receipt for \$9.50 so I could hang on to my job,” said Mary Jerrick, one of the complainants. Her evidence was similar to that given by Annie Zebryk, another complainant.

Charges involving Louise McKenzie and Edith Suffern were dismissed when both testified they received the full amount of \$9.50 in cash each week. Crown Prosecutor C. Becker showed surprise at this evidence, indicating to the court it was contrary to previous statements by the girls. Both still are employed by Mah Tong. [A] fifth charge brought on by Martha Riddell was dismissed on agreement that accused would make up a difference of \$13 in salary owing, between an apprentice

²¹⁷ From *Makes Employes Sign for Wages*. (1936, January 3). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 9.

wage and the full pay. He claimed he did not know she was an experienced waitress while being paid by him on [the] apprentice scale.

“Compelled to sign receipts”²¹⁸ (Edmonton, 1936)

Compelled to sign receipts for \$9.50 per week but paid only \$6, Annie Zabrick and Mary Jerrick, waitresses at the Star Café, sued Mah Tong, proprietor of the café, for arrears of wages and were awarded \$78 and \$73 respectively by Judge Crawford in district court Tuesday.

Plaintiffs were engaged, they told the court, at a weekly wage of \$14.50, of which \$5 was to be taken in board. They signed receipts for the balance each week, for fear of losing their jobs, but actual payments to them, they testified, were only \$6 and for a time \$5 per week. They worked from July 15 to the end of October.

Judge Crawford, in giving judgment, observed that the claims could be dismissed only on the ground that the plaintiffs had deliberately perjured themselves, which he could not accept, and judgment was therefore given in their favor, with costs.

“She always refused”²¹⁹ (Edmonton, 1936)

Convicted of assaulting a waitress in a local café because she refused to go out with him after work, Mike Glubish was sentenced to two months' hard labor at Fort Saskatchewan by Magistrate James Ritchie in police court Thursday.

Glubish, a married man, is alleged to have accosted the waitress on several occasions, asking her to go out with him, but she always refused. Becoming somewhat peeved at her continued refusals, Glubish struck her.

“Anything but sportsman-like”²²⁰ (Edmonton, 1936)

Termining the conduct of two young Edmontonians, who pleaded guilty to charges of creating a disturbance and causing wilful damage to property of a waitress in a North Edmonton café, “anything but sportsman-like,” Magistrate James Ritchie fined the accused \$5.00 and costs or 30 days when they appeared before him in police court Tuesday. He also ordered that they make restitution for the damage. Two others facing the same charge had their cases withdrawn by the crown.

The court was told that all four youths had just secured a job and when they received their “pay envelope” decided to consume a few beers to celebrate the occasion. Having done this they then went to a restaurant in the neighborhood. By this time, however, the “spirits” had worked wonders with them and they became playful.

²¹⁸ From Waitresses Win Award on Wages. (1936, February 11). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 9.

²¹⁹ From Police Court. (1936, April 16). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 9.

²²⁰ From Police Court. (1936, April 28). *The Edmonton Bulletin*, p. 9.

A pretty, young waitress took the stand and told the court how she had confronted the four in a booth and asked them what they desired to eat. “They acted rather smart and refused to give me the order,” she testified. “Then they took my hat and kicked it around. They also walked out with pepper and salt shakers.”

“Tips cannot be retained by employers”²²¹ (Quebec, 1936)

Tips given to females in Quebec hotels and restaurants are the property of employees, a notice in the official gazette announced today. The notice states that the tips cannot be retained by employers or included as part of salaries, even with the employees’ consent.

The notice outlines wage regulations for hotel and restaurant employees issued by the Quebec Minimum Wage Board.

Waitresses and chambermaids in Hull hotels must receive not less than \$15 per month and kitchen help and other employees not less than \$20 per month, room and board included. If the employee is not lodged she will be entitled to an additional eight dollars per month; if she receives neither lodging nor board she will be entitled to an additional \$18 per month. Female employees in Hull are to receive 15 cents an hour, meals included.

“Waitresses get fan mail too”²²² (Vancouver, 1936)

Movie stars get fan mail, and so do novelists. But perhaps it’s a new idea to find out that waitresses have their full share of admiration from the epistle writers as well.

Those friendly young ladies who serve you your morning coffee and remind you that you haven’t taken a daily yeast cake are appreciated and thanked through the medium of the postman for the many times they have shown unusual thoughtfulness.

Travelers especially seem to take delight in remembering a girl’s name who has served them. From New York and Toronto come personal, friendly letters of former visitors, asking in general, “How is business?” and then enquiring after the health of each individual, from the manager to the cashier.

A query about the trend of business is just a way of getting down to more interesting subjects. One manager who governs the course of a coffee shop on Georgia street had the highest praise for his many “fans.” A number of the correspondents from Seattle and other parts of the States often invite him to their homes in the event of his ever arriving, a stranger in their city.

Some letter writers prefer to show their appreciation at Christmas time. They shower greeting cards on waitresses and owner alike, in a veritable deluge of good

²²¹ From Retain Tips. (1936, June 1). *Windsor Daily Star*, p. 13.

²²² From Sapera, M. (1936, June 13). Waitresses Get Fan Mail Too. *Province Sunday Magazine*, p. 2. Written by Mollie Lavone Sapera (1916 – 1950).

cheer. Others present small gifts of handkerchiefs or perfume in humble gratitude to those who hold control over the dictates of the stomach.

Then there is the regular “fan.” He or she appears on a certain day of each week carrying a bouquet of flowers and presents them as faithful tribute to the creator of his favorite salad.

Still another dutiful admirer sends monthly notes of encouragement. Whether or not the letters are answered, they arrive punctually on a set date. Many of this type come from old people who have received some small kindness from waitresses. One such lady comes to Vancouver and her special café every year. She never fails to make at least one visit.

Paris or Berlin are not at all too distant places from which Vancouver cookery artists hear mention of their delicacies. French and German sailors who have visited here send pleasant words from their homeland. If the proprietor happens to be from the Old Country, he gets an effusive letter in his own language. It ends by asking the café’s employees, if any of them ever happen to take a jaunt across the ocean, to call on the sender.

Even stage performers come under the admiration complex where restaurants are concerned. Vaudeville actors are supposed to be hardened against the contagious habit of putting their appraisal of any particular thing into writing. But one theatrical company went a step farther than that. The members wrote an open letter and hung it up in the theatre so that others could see what they as “fans” considered stars of the catering profession.

“Fan” letters have become the symbol of a successful singer or actress, and now the employees of cafes and restaurants can count up their morning mail with a sigh of satisfaction. If they get a postcard from a business man in Chicago, they know he thinks the coffee has a real American flavor to it. If a note arrives from the lady who liked salads so much, the cook may be sure that he has formed a lasting friendship.

Because its waitresses make such a lasting impression, Vancouver gets a great deal of publicity. The “fans” can tell when they have found “a good thing.”

“Guilty of keeping false records”²²³ (Windsor, 1936)

Three girls testified in Windsor Court this morning that, as waitresses for the Majestic Lunch, 1509 Ottawa street, they were paid by weekly cheques of \$8.50, but after cashing their cheques they returned \$1.50 to the restaurant proprietor, John Kristianovitch. Found guilty of keeping false records, Kristianovitch was fined \$100 and costs, \$115.50 in all, with the option of three months in jail offered by Magistrate Hanrahan. In addition to the charge on which he was convicted, Kristianovitch faces three separate charges of failure to pay the minimum wage to each of three waitresses employed by him. [...]

The three waitresses, Mary Wesloski, Margaret Garrick and Hedwick Kusmerchak, presented evidence that was similar in most respects. They stated they

²²³ From 3 Waitresses Kicked Back. (1936, July 10). *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 3.

worked about nine hours daily, including Sundays, with time allowed them for their meals. They admitted receiving the \$8.50 cheques, but continued to relate the arrangement by which they returned a portion of the money after they had cashed their cheques.

They were shown a time book which listed their pay, the total number of hours worked each week and bore their signatures, one of the girls, Miss Garrick, informing the court that when she wrote her signature on the sheet it did not contain a record of the hours she had worked.

“The books were not kept correctly,” stated Inspector Needham.

“And is that an offence under the Minimum Wage Act?” interrupted Crown Attorney Allan.

“It is,” said the inspector. “He should have a record of the hours worked by each employee per day, the total hours per week and the wages paid each employee.”

Mr. Needham explained that under the Minimum Wage Act an employee is entitled to 25 cents per hour with a deduction of \$4.50 per week for meals served by [sic.] the employee, on a basis of three meals per day.

“The first witness, Miss Wesloski, was fired two hours after I had questioned her in front of her employer,” Mr. Needham continued. “That also is an offence under a provision of the act.”

The inspector stated he had warned Kristianovitch previously and had instructed him in the proper method of keeping books.

Kristianovitch entered a straight denial. He claimed he had never asked the girls for refunds of their pay and never received any. Nor had the inspector, he said, ever told him to keep a daily record of the hours worked by his employees.

“I paid \$7.50 per week and a dollar extra for Sundays,” he said.

“So everybody’s lying but you,” commented Mr. Allan. “These girls are lying and the inspector is lying and you are the only one telling the truth.”

The cook appeared as a defence witness. He said he had seen the cheques given to the girls and testified as to the hours they worked.

“You don’t seem to know very much about it,” said Mr. Allan. “You’re a pretty good witness.”

“I’m the best witness,” said the cook. “I tell the truth.”

The last witness offered by the defence was also a former waitress. She said she had never been asked to refund any portion of her pay.

“I have no hesitation in accepting the evidence of the three girls and that of the inspector,” Magistrate Hanrahan said as the case was closed. “I must find the accused guilty.”

“Had he come here and pleaded guilty and not tried to evade,” said Mr. Allan, “I would have been content to ask for the minimum penalty, but having seen his attitude in this matter I am now going to ask for the maximum.”

“One thousand dollars?” asked Magistrate Hanrahan with lifted brows.

“That wouldn’t be too much,” said Mr. Allan. “A man like this has no place in the community. The best thing that could happen would be to drive him out of business.”

Magistrate Hanrahan decided to compromise on the \$100 fine.

“Union recognition and union wages”²²⁴ (Vancouver, 1936)

Twelve girls and two men are carrying out peaceful picketing in front of the Trocadero Café premises, 156 West Hastings Street, following calling of a strike by the Cooks and Waiters’ Union, No. 28, of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees’ Union, Saturday. According to the statement of the striking employees, they ask union recognition and union wages. Union wages are \$14 for a counter girl; \$12 for a floor girl.

They claim that Thomas Stamatis, manager of the café, was notified a week ago of their wish to negotiate for improvement in working conditions, including arrangements of shifts and union wages, but that he refused to recognize the union.

Mr. Stamatis states that girls are at present being paid \$12. The prevailing rate, he states, is \$14, with meals deducted.

Experienced waitresses working 40 hours or more are paid 25 cents an hour, and their meals; those working less than 40 hours, are paid 37½ cents, with meals deducted, Mr. Stamatis says. [The] prevailing working shift is eight hours.

Mr. Stamatis claims 19 girls are still working, out of 32 employed by the café in the class of work affected. He says 65 per cent of the girls employed receive more than minimum wage requirements.

Picketing was continued Saturday, Sunday and today.

“Threaten city-wide restaurant strike”²²⁵ (Vancouver, 1936)

The possibility of a widespread restaurant strike in Vancouver was discussed Thursday night in [the] Labor Temple when members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees’ Union rejected by unanimous vote a proposal from the Restaurant Owners’ Association to lower wages of waitresses and hotel employees from the union scale of \$12 and \$14 per week to \$10 and \$12.

The proposal set forth by the Restaurant Owners’ Association stated that thirty cafes would apply for membership in the union if the present scale of wages were lowered.

“If we can’t get a decent living wage, we are prepared to boycott every restaurant in Vancouver not paying employees a sufficient salary,” said W. Stewart, secretary of the union. “A person can’t live on a \$10-a-week wage, especially if from that amount expenses for breakages, uniforms and lunch are deducted.”

Speaking of the recent strike at the Trocadero Café, he suggested that many restaurant owners offered to pay half the losses of the café in order to defeat the strikers.

²²⁴ From WAITRESSES PICKET CAFÉ. (1936, August 31). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 20.

²²⁵ From THREATEN CITY-WIDE RESTAURANT STRIKE. (1936, September 11). *Province*, p. 6.

The meeting agreed that waitresses who had refused to stop work during the strike should be allowed to continue in their jobs if they become members of the union.

It was also proposed that union waitresses unemployed since the recent strike would, if possible, be given positions in other cafes or be reinstated in their former jobs when business increased.

“Café owners issue statement on strike”²²⁶ (Vancouver, 1936)

In reply to an article in last Friday’s press headed “Threaten City-wide [Restaurant] Strike,” the Restaurant Owners’ Association of Vancouver deplores the misstatements in the article mentioned and which are wholly misleading, and which stand corrected as follows:

The minimum wage for waitresses and all female employees in public eating houses is \$14 per week of forty-eight hours, or 37½ cents per hour with a minimum of not less than four hours per day – the weekly rate of deduction is eighteen meals at 25 cents each, equaling \$4.50, leaving a net balance of \$9.50 per week. While complaints have been made of other charges concerning breakage and laundry being deducted, it is not the general practice, and where such complaints might have been legitimate, the Restaurant Owners’ Association has caused the elimination of any such deductions, retroactive to last Wednesday.

Many owners pay to experienced waitresses more than the minimum wage, and are glad to do so. Therefore, on close tabulation, the waitresses’ wages on an average would be between \$10.50 and \$11.00, together with meals. In view of the illegal licensing of premises and persons for restaurant purposes within the last two years, Vancouver is confronted with over 500 restaurants, a restaurant for every 400 men, women and children of the population, thus encouraging and placing a premium on all irregularities and “chiseling” of wages. For verification [see] the recent press reports of the cancellation of restaurant licenses for operating gambling, bootlegging and unspeakable things under the guise of a restaurant license. Indeed, many have operated without licenses at all, and 50 per cent operated at the present time are licensed illegally, according to the present by-law or [sic.] the City of Vancouver.

We consider the public will be fair-minded and contrast the pay and allowances of waitresses in a legally operated, up-to-date, sanitary restaurant (as they should be) with those of the sales girls in merchandising establishments of every description; they are paid \$12.75 per week without any food allowance – they have to be correctly dressed, indeed well-dressed, have a high-school education, with good appearance and personality, together with a wide knowledge and understanding of merchandising, and with general ability.

When customers arrive in a restaurant they are seated with one objective – to refresh themselves with the necessities of life, amid the surroundings they desire. They order their food – they are served and the transaction is finished. Indeed, every

²²⁶ From Ritchie, G. (1936, September 14). Café Owners Issue Statement on Strike [Advertisement]. *The Province*, p. 3. Written by George Ritchie (d. 1946).

sale is contemplated, and the waitress receives, as stated, an average of \$10.50 and \$11 per week, with her food provided for her.

We feel that while some complaints are justifiable which have immediately, as stated, been rectified by this association, we can not understand why these complaints were not brought to the Minimum Wage Board of Vancouver, a very up-to-date and efficient organization of the government, to rectify and adjust any differences between labor and employers. Without a labor movement to compel by coercion, boycott and picketing, the restaurant owners of today do [sic.] comply with demands which are not only a moral but a physical impossibility. At this juncture we point out that our business at this season of the year and for the next seven or eight months ensuing will drop 45 per cent, and commodities have already increased in price with a further increase in many others in sight. This is generally known.

It is true this association, through its accredited officers, offered the waitresses' organization an increase in wages to \$10 for dining-room girls and \$12 for counter girls, including meals, making the offer actually \$14.50 and \$16.50 respectively, and as evident in the press report to which this statement refers, this offer was flatly refused. Again we say the wage offered is a striking contrast to that paid to sales girls, as enumerated.

We think the public appreciate [that] while during the last twelve months prices of commodities and wages in our industry have increased considerably, our selling price has remained exactly the same, and this, as a body of restaurant men, we have never complained of to the Department of Labor for the increase in wages – but even welcomed it.

We also most emphatically state that although a few restaurants purport to be union houses with union cards in their windows, it is a sham and mockery of the most unmitigated type, as some of them do not pay the union scale of wages as demanded by their advertised American Federation of Labor card, but they have paid less than the minimum wage and have defied the statutes of the province in the Hours of Work Act, and this can be proven by the police court records in recent prosecutions of some of these restaurants who have had the audacity to show this union card in the window. Thus, we present our case for the time being, assuring the public that we are out for a fair and square deal. We cordially invite any person working in this industry with any complaints to send in a written report to George Ritchie, secretary, 916 Yorkshire Building, Vancouver, B.C., and [the] same will be investigated and action taken with the Department of Labor and those affected – a reply will also be forwarded without prejudice to the sender thereof and [the] same will be considered in strict confidence.

“Now that the girls have won their strike”²²⁷ (Vancouver, 1936)

Why is it the waitresses have to go on strike before they can receive their minimum wage when the government has paid men to inquire into the wages paid to employees?

And now that the girls have won their strike, the Minimum Wage Board should make a clean sweep of the restaurants in Vancouver and make the said owners pay the proper wages to their employees.

“They must obey the law”²²⁸ (Montreal, 1936)

Gustave Francq, chairman of the Women’s Minimum Wage Board, yesterday warned restaurant owners that they must obey the law as it applies to them. His statement followed the conviction of one owner for failure to pay the minimum and announcement that several other cases are to be pressed.

The Sabinah Restaurant, 5 Marie Anne street east, was fined \$200 and costs by Chief Judge Perrault yesterday. This restaurant employed only one girl, and she was paid \$3 a week, and required to work 70 hours a week. When the case first came before the court, the proprietor, a woman, claimed she was not the proprietor, with the result that the Commission was forced to delve into the matter, and ascertained from the revenue department of the province, that the restaurant license was issued in her name. Defendant then admitted she had been in error when stating she was not the proprietor.

When the department of the Attorney-General ruled that “commercial” establishments included restaurants, the Commission turned its attention to wages of waitresses, but did so very cautiously, recognizing, as the Commission announced at the time, that the problem was a very intricate one in view of the fact that so many waitresses work only part time, some only serving at one meal, whereas full-time girls often slept in, and there was the problem as to the meals. The Commission, after moving cautiously, made an award, but it was delayed at Quebec because of strenuous opposition on the part of various associations, and only reluctantly accepted by the restaurant trade when the award became law.

The Commission means the restaurant proprietors will obey the law in letter and in spirit.

²²⁷ From J.J. (1936, September 22). Wages. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 4.

²²⁸ From BOARD TO ENFORCE RESTAURANT ORDER. (1936, November 28). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

“Good waitresses must know their psychology”²²⁹ (Vancouver, 1936)

Good waitresses must know their psychology. The “power of suggestion” is just as important an attribute to them in helping make up the mind of a hesitant customer as it is to a business tycoon who wants to “cinch” a big deal.

This is just one of the few important topics for the training of professional waitresses that will be dealt with in the free course to be sponsored by the Women’s Building in January.

Seating the customer, the correct person to give the menu to; from whom to receive the order; not asking “Is that all?” but suggesting some special dish, meats or dessert; where to place the bill for payment to avoid embarrassing the customer... these and hundreds of other interesting and pertinent points will be revealed in the course of lectures which are to be given by prominent professionally trained women.

The lecturers are Miss Anne Masmaster [sic.], convener of the Trades and Professions for the Local Council of Women, a home economics graduate and herself the operator of a well-known tea room; Miss Tough, who will lecture on legal requirements, practical care of equipment, service hints and rules; Maxine, who operates the beauty culture school of that name and who will talk on personal appearance, dress uniforms, caps and aprons and other requirements of the waitress.

The lectures will include talks on food combinations, setting tables and changing them during busy hours.

Costs in buying, serving and storing will also be taken up, as well as the department for taking, filling, serving and finishing orders. Employee and employer contracts will be another topic.

A medical inspection has been arranged for each member of the class, to be taken under qualified physicians.

“Training Waitresses”²³⁰ (Vancouver, 1936)

The committee of women who are leading the project to establish classes for the training of waitresses will earn the gratitude of every diner-out in Vancouver.

The committee will start work with the girls on the first Wednesday in January at the Vancouver Women’s Building. Girls will be selected according to physical fitness, personality and other attributes, so that applicants who are not naturally adapted to the profession of waitress would not be encouraged to lose their time in training for a position which they might never be able to hold.

Those accepted will be given training in the various types of serving, in the art of committing orders to memory, and in computation of accounts.

²²⁹ From Psychology Lectures Part Of Free Course for Waitresses. (1936, December 17). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 8.

²³⁰ From Training Waitresses. (1936, December 21). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 6.

It is hoped that this training will provide trained girls for a profession which always appears to have openings, and at the same time save catering establishments the difficult task of training waitresses “on the job.”

The caterers themselves will probably welcome the class as well as the public, for they must be rather painfully aware of business and patrons they have lost because of well-meant but inefficient service which often results from the present “trial-and-error” method of selecting girls.

And the dining public, with memories of coffee spilled in saucers, of overdone steak which they ordered rare, and of jumbled orders, will not be sorry at the prospect of assured service.

A pretty girl is a joy in any dining room. But personality, comportment, proper coiffure and dress and, above all, the ability to “wait,” are the factors that bring patrons and keep them.

Training of waitresses will raise the status of the serving profession and will enable many young girls to get jobs and pay-cheques which might otherwise, through no fault of their own, pass them by.

“Propose school for waitresses”²³¹ (Vancouver, 1937)

A course of instruction for would-be waitresses is planned by officials of Vancouver’s Women’s Building following success of a similar enterprise at Portland, Ore. Judge Helen McGill of the juvenile court said the service is not intended to supply domestic training, but will give ground-work in methods used by the professional waitress. Instructors have been recruited from hotels and restaurants. Part of the course will consist of sending the girls to restaurants as student waitresses, in charge of teachers. The course will extend over six weeks and it is expected three lessons will be given each week.

“City holds up waitress ban”²³² (Vancouver, 1937)

Police action to force operators of Chinese restaurants to dismiss all white waitresses will be withheld temporarily at least, it is announced by Mayor George C. Miller. This decision has been occasioned by a letter to the mayor from Chunhow H. Pao, consul-general for China here. Mr. Pao has given the mayor his assurance that he will keep a close watch on all Chinese restaurants and particularly on any irregularities regarding white waitresses in such establishments.

Due to Mr. Pao’s undertaking, no further action will be taken at once. If further complaints are received, however, Mayor Miller makes it plain that license cancellation in the cases concerned will be the city’s answer to the situation.

Chinese restaurant proprietors, acting under orders from the police department, had notified their white waitresses that they were to leave on Saturday.

²³¹ From Propose School For Waitresses. (1937, January 20). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 6.

²³² From CITY HOLDS UP WAITRESS BAN. (1937, February 5). *The Province*, p. 10.

Early this week a delegation of twenty-five waitresses visited Mayor Miller and complained vigorously against loss of their positions. They declared that they would be unable to obtain employment elsewhere and might become charges on the city.

“Chinese not to hire white waitresses”²³³ (Vancouver, 1937)

During the next six months proprietors of Chinese restaurants in Vancouver will be unable to employ any additional white waitresses. [A] decision to this effect was reached at a conference between Mayor George C. Miller, Chief of Police W. W. Foster and Ald. H. D. Wilson today. The six month period will be in the nature of a trial of the new regulations. If any proprietor violates the order his license will be canceled. [...] At present there are twenty-eight white girls employed in eight Chinatown cafes.

“They would share in the profits”²³⁴ (Vancouver, 1937)

Seven waitresses employed by the Crescent Café, 251 East Hastings, went on strike on Friday. They are demanding union wages.

The management stated this morning that the girls are paid the minimum wage. They were offered a proposition whereby they would share in the profits, but this was declined.

The Provincial Government office for industrial disputes has received no notification of the strike. The minimum wage for experienced waitresses working forty hours a week or more is \$14 a week. For inexperienced help the wage is \$12.

“82 hours at \$3.50 a week”²³⁵ (Winnipeg, 1937)

Oppressive and unfair working conditions for female employees of a Winnipeg café were revealed to Magistrate A. C. Campbell who, in provincial police court today, registered convictions against Bill Berdej and Steve Chadzak, proprietors of the Chicago café, under the Minimum Wage act.

The partnership must pay fines of \$25 on each of three counts. If the fines are not paid, both partners must serve two months in jail. The warrant of committal will be held until Saturday, and in the meantime Magistrate Campbell will compute the amount of back wages due each of three girls whose cases were prosecuted by E. McGrath, secretary of the bureau of labor.

Annie Popodynec, a waitress who worked for the defendants for three years, told a typical story of how the employees were systematically victimized.

²³³ From CHINESE NOT TO HIRE WHITE WAITRESSES. (1937, February 10). *The Province*, p. 1.

²³⁴ From Waitresses On Strike In Hastings St. Café. (1937, February 13). *The Province*, p. 29.

²³⁵ From Café Owners, Working Girls 82 Hours at \$3.50 A Week, Are Convicted. (1937, February 24). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 1.

She started to work for \$2 a week, later paid \$3, and finally \$3.50 per week. For each week's work she was given a cheque for \$8.50, being instructed to endorse it and cash it at the bank, but to return to the café with the \$8.50. When she brought the money back she was paid out of it the actual amount of wages, never more than \$3.50 a week.

Her hours were from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., with three hours off every second day, or a seven-day week of 82 hours for a top wage of \$3.50.

When the proprietors learned she had taken up the matter with the bureau of labor she was discharged, because it was said she had stolen a wrist watch, lipstick and 50 cents, which one of the proprietors claimed he found in her purse. She was not present when her purse was opened and denied all knowledge of the articles being there.

On the witness stand, under questioning by the magistrate, Berdej became confused in his story about finding the supposed stolen articles. The court expressed flat disbelief in the charge of theft.

Teenie Pinuta, a waitress, and Jessie Kobolo, a cook, were the other two complainants. The department of labor estimates Annie Popodynec has \$259.87 back wages coming to her; Jessie Kobolo, \$120.06, and Teenie Pinuta, \$64.

The defendants denied that they accepted rebates from the cashed cheques. Mary Popodynec, sister of Annie, and Mary Trybel, a former employee of the café, testified they had received \$8 a week. Mary is still employed at the café, but the court decided there was a personal bias in her evidence, and found that Mary Trybel's testimony was contradictory.

T. W. Laidlaw represented the Crown, with B. A. Shuckett defending.

“Waitresses want increase in wages”²³⁶ (Moose Jaw, 1937)

A strike of waitresses, in an effort to force higher wages, threatens in Moose Jaw. Although no definite action has been taken as yet, it is known an organizer from Regina is in the city and is asking the girls to stage a walkout today. Waitresses have been approached with a strike declaration which they are being asked to sign.

According to reports the strike will be for wages of \$10.50 a week and meals. The present rate of pay for waitresses is \$7.50 a week and meals.

“Chinese café protest fails”²³⁷ (Vancouver, 1937)

Heated charges and counter-charges flew back and forth at a meeting of the civic social services this morning when thirty white waitresses recently dismissed from six Chinese cafes appeared to demand reinstatement. They were supported by Garfield King, barrister.

²³⁶ From *Waitresses Want Increase in Wages*. (1937, April 29). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 4.

²³⁷ From *CHINESE CAFÉ PROTEST FAILS*. (1937, October 12). *The Province*, p. 1.

Aldermen, however, refused to alter their policy. Only Ald. Alfred Hurry voted against Mayor G. C. Miller's motion that no action be taken on the protest.

"It is ridiculous to suggest there was racial discrimination," declared Mayor Miller, in reply to charges by Mr. King. "Other Chinese cafes in the city are conducted properly and they were left alone. We had repeated protests about these places. Conditions in them were intolerable."

Most of the dismissed waitresses sat in the gallery during discussions. Mr. King said the loss of income suffered by the girls would amount to \$25,470 per year. Six were married and all had dependents, he said.

He reminded aldermen that Japanese and Greek restaurants were not affected, and other Chinese cafes were also exempt.

Ald. Hurry charged that the city fathers are overlooking vice in other parts of the city.

"If we are going into the question of morality, I suggest we start with the police department," he said. "That \$1500 in bail money is still missing. Conditions in beer parlors are seriously immoral. God knows, there are rotten spots in the city, but let us be honest and do the job thoroughly."

Mayor Miller replied that "as long as I am mayor, there will be no return to former conditions in those restaurants."

His worship told the girls that they should not have much trouble in getting other jobs. He noted that the present group of girls was different from a delegation which came to see him a few months ago.

"The turnover seems to be very fast in Chinatown," he said. "Those other girls must have got jobs by now."

Mrs. R. K. Lusk and Mrs. Jennie Pelton, representing [the] Vancouver Mothers' Council, and Mrs. C. S. McMillan, waitresses' delegate, spoke on behalf of the girls.

"Bus boys and waitresses walked out"²³⁸ (Vancouver, 1937)

Pickets lined the streets outside downtown Hotel Georgia today after 26 bus boys and waitresses walked out last night when the hotel management refused to negotiate with the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, seeking higher wages for waitresses and bus boys.

The strike showed signs of spreading to other unions as members of the Musician's Union, scheduled to play at a banquet last night, refused to pass the pickets. Members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union followed their example. More than 70 workers are affected, but E. W. Hudson, hotel manager, said the hotel would "carry on as usual."

W. Gateman, secretary of the union, said the union sought [a] \$2.50 weekly wage increase for waitresses, bringing their wages to \$12 a week; overtime pay for waitresses at banquets, and a wage increase for bus boys from the present 22 cents

²³⁸ From Hotel Employees Ask Higher Pay. (1937, July 3). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 6.

to 35 cents an hour. Gateman said the strike followed four unsuccessful attempts to negotiate with the management for “union recognition and union wages and conditions.”

“Pay her back wages”²³⁹ (Edmonton, 1937)

Pretty, dark-haired Jane Zarich’s story of being forced to pay back nearly half of the wages she received as waitress in the England Café convinced the court Tuesday that Joe Pane and Sam F. Yee, proprietors, should pay her back wages to conform with the minimum wage act.

“I started doing work in January in the café and continued to get a check for \$9.50 weekly until late in October. But during that time Yee told me to repay him amounts varying from \$3.50 to \$4.50 every week, so that I was actually making only between \$5 and \$6,” Miss Zarich said.

“I was an experienced waitress too,” she said, “and I worked there for nine hours a day, seven days a week.”

Miss Zarich hired Private Detective C. J. Griffiths to witness the process of paying back part of her wages. He in turn notified the minimum wage board.

“I don’t see how anyone could help but believe this girl’s story,” said the cad. “Arrangement for payment of back wages will have to be made.”

“Not to employ white waitresses”²⁴⁰ (Vancouver, 1937)

“Man’s inhumanity to man” in the Western world received a deft rebuke from Foon Sien, secretary of the Chinese Benevolent Association, when he persuaded the City Council Tuesday to restore licenses to two Chinese cafes.

The proprietor’s only offense, said Foon, was to adhere to the tenets of Confucius in not refusing a meal to the hungry.

Denying that Harry Lee, operator of the Gee Kong café, 168 East Pender Street, and Charlie Ting, proprietor, Hong Kong café, 126 East Pender, had violated an agreement not to employ white waitresses after Oct. 1, he said that they had merely given meals to girls who formerly worked for them.

Although the girls are jobless and ineligible for relief, he undertook that “we will learn the lesson of man’s inhumanity to man and turn them away from our doors” in exchange for return of the license.

Mayor Miller told him that followers of Confucius were also expected to live up to their word. “The next time I’ll fight to the last ditch for cancellation of the licenses,” he asserted.

George E. McCrossan appeared for Lee and Ting. He told council that the girls, failing to get employment or relief, appealed to their former employers. Not wishing to accept charity, they did three or four hours’ work, two or three days a week.

²³⁹ From Cafe Men Ordered To Pay Girl Wages. (1937, November 9). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 8.

²⁴⁰ From City Restores Licenses To Two Chinese Cafes. (1937, November 24). *Vancouver Sun*, p. 4.

He explained that the girls had been unable to get the signature of a taxpayer on a relief department application to certify that they had resided in Vancouver at least one year, although one girl has been here a year and one-half.

“With the greatest respect,” he said, “I make this proposition, that if you waive this technicality and put these women on relief, this will not occur again.”

The Mayor declared that “the city can’t become a happy hunting ground for the whole of Saskatchewan.”

Ald. J. W. Cornett, who declared that “there are a lot of good men in the Chinese community,” moved the resolution that the licenses be not revoked. It carried unanimously.

“White waitresses have always been employed”²⁴¹ (Vancouver, 1938)

Chinatown is girding itself for a court fight with the city over the cancellation Monday of the café license of Charlie Ting, president of the Chinese Benevolent Association.

In the face of an ultimatum by License Inspector H. A. Urquhart that he will prosecute if the café is opened today, C.B.A. secretary Foon Sien announced that doors will be opened as usual.

Employment of white waitresses is the cause of the impending litigation, but the C.B.A. is now raising the larger question of alleged unfair treatment of its countrymen.

“We should at least be given a ‘Chinaman’s chance,’” quipped Foon Sien. “In every license case concerning white men the city gives a warning. In every case of a Chinaman the city cancels first and talks later.”

The C.B.A. has placed the case in the hands of its solicitor, Denis Murphy, with the intention of going into court unless the issue is settled amicably. Mr. Murphy has an appointment with Mayor Miller later today to discuss the case.

A delegation may first seek a hearing before the City Council, Foon Sien said, pointing out that a right of appeal to Aldermen is guaranteed by the city charter.

License Inspector Urquhart, however, wrote today to Chief Constable W. W. Foster asking him to “keep under observation” the restaurant in question, C.K. Chop Suey Parlor, 123B East Pender.

“I will prosecute unless it is closed today,” he said.

The café was open Monday night, although [the] cancellation notice was served at noon.

“Mr. Ting was thunderstruck,” declared Foon Sien. “White waitresses have always been employed in this café. The agreement affecting seven cafes was reached last September, but this café was not covered by it,” he continued.

He said that the chop suey house had been thought to be exempt from Mayor G. C. Miller’s ban on white female help.

²⁴¹ Chinese to Defy Café License Cancellation. (1938, August 16). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 9.

Chinese say that it is impossible to obtain Chinese waitresses. Inability to hire white girls has forced two cafes out of business, declared Foon Sien, naming the New Moon, 1 East Pender, and [the] Pacific Café, 96 East Pender.

Mr. Murphy conferred with Mr. Ting today and was told that the operator had discharged his two white waitresses as soon as the cancellation notice was received.

Ting told him, he said, that he would have fired the girls at any time that the city had requested, but that he had not known that the ban applied to his premises.

“We are staying open until this thing is settled,” declared Ting. “We received no warning and we think we should have time to negotiate. If necessary, we will take it to court.”

“Unpaid road café waitresses”²⁴² (Quebec, 1938)

An investigation carried on for some time has reached the point where the Quebec Fair Wage Board has adopted drastic action in the case of at least 20 curb service roadside establishments purveying food to motorists, it was learned yesterday.

According to these sources, instructions have been given the Board’s attorneys to demand the payment of large sums of back pay for employees dating back to such time as Ordinance No. 4 came into force.

The investigation has revealed that these establishments have been employing varying numbers of girls to wait on the automobile trade, but that no salary has been paid. The waitresses had to depend for their remuneration on the gratuities received from the motorists they served with the food, and [the] hours they worked averaged much beyond those permitted for retail establishments in the general ordinance.

At present, the Government body is at work drafting a specific ordinance for the restaurant trade, but it was stated that in the meantime all such enterprises come under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4. Roadside curb service establishments, moreover, are considered restaurants by the Board, whose definition of restaurant is “a place where food and drink are served.”

Accordingly, the Board is insisting that the women employees be paid at the rates specified in the general order, and that the working hours be 54 a week as in all retail stores. The instructions for back pay collection, therefore, call for pay of 20 cents an hour for the first 54 hours weekly and 30 cents an hour for all overtime beyond that limit. A certain allowance is made, however, in such cases where the waitresses get their meals free where they work.

Although it is asserted that the girls have no complaint as to the amount of money they earn by tips, the Board will not consider such tips as making up part of [their] salary. It has ruled that the gratuities are the sole property of the persons receiving them, and not of the employers.

²⁴² From Pay, Not Tips, Wage Body Decrees For Unpaid Road Café Waitresses. (1938, July 26). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

Application was made to the Government body by the operators of the curb service “drive-in” establishments for exemption from Ordinance No. 4, on the grounds that an agreement was being negotiated with employees. This exemption was refused, however, the employers being told they could proceed with their negotiations in the regular way, but that the ordinance would rule in the interim.

In this week’s issue of the Quebec Official Gazette, meantime, notice is carried that the Provincial Secretary on July 20 approved the formation of an association under the name of The Drive In Curb Service Employees Association of the City and District of Montreal for the “study, defence and promotion of the economical, social and moral interests of the profession.”

It is understood the negotiations for an agreement are being carried on with members of this association. It was pointed out, however, that the Fair Wage Act, which applies to employees not governed by a collective labor agreement, provides that “it shall be unlawful” to stipulate, in any labor agreement, a lower wage than that fixed by an ordinance of the Board.

Last night, spokesmen for the operators declared that if forced to pay the 20-cent-an-hour rate they would have to consider putting on a 10 per cent service charge on all curb meals, out of which the wage will be taken.

Speaking for the newly-formed employees’ association, of which he is president, Wilfrid Brosseau said the waitresses would prefer to continue working for tips only. It was stated that in most establishments, the girls are guaranteed a wage of 25 cents an hour, the employer making up the difference if the tips do not average that amount. There is also an allowance made the girls of 20 cents for each of three meals daily.

“Attempting to procure”²⁴³ (Prince Rupert, 1938)

William Fernchuck, 42-year-old Austrian miner, logger and bridge worker, was sentenced to three years’ imprisonment in New Westminster penitentiary by Judge Harper in County Court on Thursday for attempting to procure a 21-year-old Vancouver waitress to enter a house of ill fame at Prince Rupert.

“A crime of this kind is one of the most detestable,” declared his honor.

Lola Collins, the alleged proprietress of the Prince Rupert establishment, was acquitted of the same charge at the close of the crown’s case. Her counsel was T. F. Hurley.

Miss Collins and the waitress were arrested by Detectives A. S. Rae and George Monger on February 1, when the women were preparing to board the S.S. Venture for the North.

The girl admitted that she objected to the officers’ interference with her plans. “I’m 21,” she told them. “Do I have to have a license to live?”

When invited to give an explanation, Miss Collins at first told the detectives that she operated a restaurant in Prince Rupert and that her companion was to be

²⁴³ From WHITE SLAVER GETS THREE YEARS. (1938, March 4). *The Province*, p. 5.

employed as a waitress; but changed this a few minutes later and admitted the real purpose of the trip.

The judge observed that Fernchuck's statements were the inducement which caused the girl to decide to enter a life of shame. The girl had decided to go to Prince Rupert after the man "painted the picture of \$50 a week," his honor pointed out, and this was before she met Miss Collins.

"Alice had to quit"²⁴⁴ (Sudbury, 1939)

[CONTENT WARNING – MURDER AND SEXUAL HARRASSMENT]

Sudbury, Ont., January 10 – John Ungurian, 38-year-old proprietor of a Sudbury restaurant, was charged by police with murder tonight an hour after 18-year-old Alice Kroitor, waitress from Yorkton, Sask., was shot and killed in her rooming-house²⁴⁵.

Ungurian was taken into custody by police at Garson, 12 miles from here, as the taxi-cab in which he was riding entered the village. He was identified by Miss Kroitor's roommate, Edna Swerhuin, and two friends, Eddie Seehegar and Henry Charlebois, who were eating supper with the victim a few minutes before the shooting.

Miss Kroitor came here a month ago from her home at Yorkton and Miss Swerhuin followed a week later. Both were employed until recently at Ungurian's restaurant, the Yankee Grill on Borgia Street.

Miss Swerhuin told Chief of Police David Loudon and Coroner Dr. P. E. LaFlamme she left Ungurian's employ "because Alice had to quit."

"Both of us were working at the Yankee Grill," Miss Swerhuin said. "Alice started a week before I came here from Yorkton. I quit when she first quit, a couple of weeks ago, but he asked me to go back and I did, until a couple of days ago."

Ungurian was "always trying to make love to Alice," Miss Swerhuin declared.

Miss Swerhuin said she answered the telephone tonight when a man called and turned the call over to Miss Kroitor, who had been eating in Seehegar's room with her, Charlebois and Seehegar.

"A few minutes after the telephone call there was a knock at the door," the girl recounted. "Alice went to the door and then went down to the hall to the living room. I could hear them talking in Ukrainian."

Miss Swerhuin said she heard Miss Kroitor ask a man why she was being given so much money.

"He said part was for her and part for me," Miss Swerhuin declared. "Then I heard two shots and rushed out and saw Alice lying there."

On the lawn before the rooming-house police found a cheque for \$10 signed in Ungurian's name and made out to the dead girl.

²⁴⁴ From GIRL'S MURDER LAID TO WONER OF CAFE. (1939, January 11). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 12.

²⁴⁵ John Ungurian was sentenced to death. This was later commuted to life imprisonment.

“He owed me one dollar and he owed Alice five,” Miss Swerhuin said.

Eddie Lower, Sudbury taxi driver, told police Ungurian asked to be driven to the rooming-house and “told me he would pay me well for the trip.” When Ungurian came from the rooming-house, he ordered the driver to go to Garson, police were told. On the limits of Garson the taxi stalled.

Miss Swerhuin and Miss Kroitor were born on farms near Yorkton. Miss Kroitor’s mother, Mrs. Tani Kroitor, is believed to be in Winnipeg.

Ungurian’s wife lives at Garson.

“Unwarranted, unfair and uncharitable”²⁴⁶ (Vancouver, 1939)

Sir: At a public meeting recently, the chief government medical speaker in a very able address re social diseases, with their implication and contributory causes stated: The low wage evil in economics caused the scramble to keep up a standard of living and style that the wage could not afford, specifically mentioning waitresses with another classification that are as far apart as the poles as far as wages are concerned.

To our mind it was unwarranted, unfair and uncharitable toward our industrious calling, and certainly not edifying to the trade; and as far as we are concerned will be met with a vigorous challenge as from a she-bear deprived of its cubs.

Firstly: Waitresses receive, under the law, a much higher wage percentage and food privileges than other avocations, especially store clerks.

Secondly: On a general average we receive, with everything considered, easily 40 per cent more wages than most avocations, even male.

Whilst we respect the learned gentleman in his important work, we believe he made general statements that will not stand up logically to the implications of the subject matter.

However, if his object was to have the searchlight turned onto this very important business that deals in health and actual life itself, then we could generously forgive him.

Most restaurants are honestly operated, [and] employees have been medically inspected. (It is not compulsory). For the last three years unfavorable criticisms have been made about restaurants from within and without.

Proprietors and various organizations have endeavored to have law enforcement in the regulations and conditions of eating-houses. The department of labor and Alderman Helen Gutteridge have asked for investigations; each time being refused. The general conditions are undoubtedly deplorable, but the last episode should break the camel’s back.

Copy of this open letter goes to Hon. G. M. Weir and G. Pearson, ministers of health and labor, respectively, and His Worship J. Lyle Telford. We respectfully ask

²⁴⁶ From TWENTY-THREE WAITRESSES. (1939, February 18). Waitresses Ask Law Enforcement. *The Province*, p. 6.

for an impartial investigation in the open so that the public and visitors may be properly protected and the whole industry placed, like Caesar's wife, beyond reproach.

TWENTY-THREE WAITRESSES.

“White waitresses seeking old jobs”²⁴⁷ (Vancouver, 1939)

An attempt to break down the agreement between the city and Chinatown restaurant operators prohibiting the employment of white girls in the cafes, is being made by a number of former waitresses in the eating houses, who declare they have been unable to obtain other employment since losing their old positions.

A petition of fourteen former waitresses in Chinatown cafes, urging sanction for re-employment in the establishments, was placed before the City Council this afternoon. Strenuous aldermanic objection is anticipated, however, and it is believed the petition will be rejected.

In their presentation the waitresses based their arguments on the following points:

1. That as individuals they have a basic right to earn a living through legitimate employment, and that such right has been denied by the agreement.
2. That Chinatown cafes are under direct police supervision, are licensed premises and conform to all sanitation and health regulations.
3. That those of the waitresses who are single and on city relief do not obtain enough assistance from that source to maintain themselves properly, and that they have failed to find employment anywhere since their discharge.
4. That the Chinatown restaurant proprietors are willing to re-employ them with the sanction of Mayor Telford and the City Council.

“Sizing up a bad matrimonial risk”²⁴⁸ (Montreal, 1939)

Manicurists of Salt Lake City may be right when they warn girls to beware the nail-chewing man, but Montreal waitresses insist that their methods of sizing up a bad matrimonial risk are a lot better.

The surest way of telling whether a man will make a good husband, they say, is to have a meal with him in a restaurant and watch the way he treats the waitress.

“If he treats the waitress like he was Mussolini, don't have nothing more to do with him,” counselled one yesterday. “He'll treat you the same way after the wedding.”

Types of men not worth the risk, according to the waitresses, are:

The dictatorial one who talks to the waitress in a loud and hectoring tone.

²⁴⁷ From *White Waitresses Seeking Old Jobs in Chinese Cafes*. (1939, March 7). *The Province*, p. 1.

²⁴⁸ From *Waitresses Say Restaurant Manners Are Best Test for Husband or Wife*. (1939, March 15). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 7.

The boy who refuses his food; who orders a dish then says “Take it away, that’s not what I ordered,” when he did order it. He’ll grumble about your cooking, too.

The food faddist, who worries about his digestion all through the meal. A perfect pest about the house.

The great big egotist who expects the waitress to stand by and listen to his life story. This one will expect his wife and family to play audience to him at every meal.

Stingy tippers. They’ll be mean about money at home.

Safe matrimonial risks are the men who are polite to the waitress, eat their food without complaining and leave a reasonable tip under the plate, according to the waitresses. Generous tippers, too, they say, ought to make good providers and not fuss much about the price of the wife’s new hat.

About women:

Beware of the girl who complains of the service and insists on having the manager called. She’s got a nasty disposition.

Don’t marry the one who is on a reducing diet. She’ll cost you a fortune in doctor’s bills.

Avoid the one who plays with her food and chatters all through the meal. She’ll talk you to death.

The woman who boasts that she never leaves a tip is the selfish kind.

“You bet I look at them”²⁴⁹ (Ottawa, 1939)

Shapely limbs and smooth hands count in these parts when you’re looking for a job as a waitress, the Chief of the Parliamentary restaurant told the Canadian Press. For nine years this major-domo, Charles Ruggles, has been employing serving girls to assist in the eating house for Parliamentarians, but this year he has an extra assignment in lining them up to serve sandwiches, small cakes and tea to the 5,000 guests who will attend the Royal Garden Party, May 20, at Government House to honor the King and Queen.

Blondes don’t capture the eye of Mr. Ruggles; in fact he rather prefers brunettes. “I like them all, really, but I think the dark ones will look better in the Royal red broadcloth outfits with blue accents I’ve chosen for the Garden Party.”

As for legs – “You bet I look at them, legs and hands, especially hands. Many a worthy recruit has missed the mark through ill-kept hands.”

The choice of feminine servitors at a Government function establishes a precedent in Canada, Mr. Ruggles believes. “We have always had men servitors until now.” He plans to keep the new uniforms spick and span after the Garden Party is over for future occasions, when he hopes his trim little red and blue band of femininity will be called into action again.

An immaculate figure in his grey striped trousers and black cutaway coat, he demands cleanliness, neatness, a trim figure and a sharp wit in his waitresses. The

²⁴⁹ From *Prefers Brunettes As Waitresses For Royal Garden Party*. (1939, April 13). *The Ottawa Journal*, p. 24.

girls are all under 25 when they are employed, but a few of them have seen Parliamentarians come and go through 18 sessions since they first took up their duties.

Hundreds of applications for Garden Party duty have been received by Mr. Ruggles during the last few weeks, from persons who would like a close-up of Their Majesties in the informal atmosphere of Rideau Hall grounds, but the restaurant manager has plenty of “steady extras” on a reserve list in his office. He will choose 18 of these extras to add to the seven waitresses steadily employed in the Parliamentary building room.

Fifty additional waitresses employed by a local catering firm, which is sharing in the massive preparations for the Royal Garden Party, will make up the army of 75 maids to care for the guests’ wants.

Probably the girls will not see the Royal guests, but it is “just likely the King or Queen will peek into one of the three large marquees and stop long enough for a cup of tea,” Mr. Ruggles said hopefully.

A special feature of the Garden Party will be the distribution of the three large birthday cakes among the guests. The waitresses will hand out thousands of cellophane envelopes stamped with a gold crest containing a small section of the elaborately iced cakes.

“A city in Saskatchewan”²⁵⁰ (Regina, 1939)

Upholding the contention of the defence that the prosecution had not proved Regina was a city in the province of Saskatchewan, Magistrate W. B. Scott, K.C., in city police court Friday dismissed a charge under the Minimum Wage Act brought by Violet St. Amand, waitress, against Larry O’Donnell, proprietor of the Hottentot café.

Magistrate Scott, however, upheld wage claims, under the Masters and Servants Act, and ordered O’Donnell to pay Violet St. Amand, Edna Fisher and Daisy St. Amand, all former waitresses at the restaurant, a total of \$66.75 in wages.

POINT ABOUT REGINA

During the hearing of the minimum wage case, F. J. G. Cunningham, defence counsel, raised the objection that prosecution witnesses had not brought out the information that Regina was a city in the province of Saskatchewan, the Minimum Wage Act applying only to such cities.

Magistrate Scott said the action was brought under a comparatively recent statute and one which provided a minimum penalty of \$25 and costs.

“The requirements of such a statute should be fulfilled strictly,” the magistrate said, holding that defence counsel had a right to raise the objection, even if it were based on a technicality.

In connection with the claims for back wages, Magistrate Scott said he found the evidence conflicting. The three girls had told of signing slips, saying wages had been paid in full, following a visit from J. H. Williams, minimum wage board

²⁵⁰ From Case Is Lost On Strange Technicality. (1939, April 14). *Regina Leader-Post*, p. 3.

inspector. They claimed that O'Donnell, in asking them to sign the slips, had promised to pay them wages due within a few days, but when they asked for the money he had laughed at them.

TO SATISFY BOARD

"It seems obvious at least part of the purpose of these receipts was to satisfy Mr. Williams of the minimum wage board," Magistrate Scott said. Ordinarily signed documents would speak for themselves, but the defence had brought forward no evidence to show that any wage settlement had been made at the time O'Donnell prepared the slips.

O'Donnell had claimed that he had turned the business over to the girls to operate during the latter part of their employment, but Magistrate Scott found that O'Donnell had continued to exercise a certain amount of supervision over the affairs of the restaurant.

In view of the circumstances under which the girls left O'Donnell's employment, Magistrate Scott ruled that Violet St. Amand was not entitled to \$5 notice.

The prosecution was conducted by W. J. Mars.

"They were not experienced"²⁵¹ (Saskatoon, 1939)

Peter Boshuck, local cafeman, appeared before the [minimum wage] board and stated that the minimum wage laws had "killed good waitresses." He charged that many girls represented themselves as experienced and demanded pay rates for experienced help although they were not experienced. He thought that the board should find some system by which waitresses would be qualified. Most of the board members thought that this could be done easily by the employer.

"She had thrown the three glasses"²⁵² (St. Thomas, 1939)

ST. THOMAS, [ONTARIO,] Oct. 14 – Wallace Symonds, proprietor of the Glens, a roadhouse north of St. Thomas, and Laura Gagen, waitress, were convicted in county court yesterday on charges of obstruction of police. Symonds was convicted of an additional charge of having liquor in a place other than a private dwelling. Sentence was adjourned for one week on the obstruction charge and a fine of \$100 and costs of \$15.60 was imposed on the L.C.A. charge.

The case resulted from a raid on the roadhouse on September 24, shortly before midnight. Provincial Constables Kelly, Niles and Marsland entered the premises with the proprietor. Kelly advanced into the middle of the dance floor in the general direction of the wicket that is cut in the partition separating the kitchen from the dance floor and through which Mrs. Gagen was serving three tumblers containing

²⁵¹ From Some Legal Stenos Get As Little as \$5 Monthly. (1939, May 3). *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 5.

²⁵² From Two Convicted Of Obstruction. (1939, October 14). *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 12.

fluid which resembled whisky. Three customers stood in front of the wicket to receive the glasses.

The officer was within 10 feet of the wicket when Symonds allegedly gave a shout and waved his hands as a signal to the waitress. Kelly tossed his weight against the door in the partition, breaking the glass and splintering the door facing where the bolt was fastened and reaching the dishpan used for rinsing glasses just as Mrs. Gagen was about to dump the water. She had thrown the three glasses and contents into the rinse water.

The officers took a sample of the water and found it tested four per cent. alcohol. The defendant, Symonds, declared the alcoholic content of the water must have been the result of patrons bringing their own flask to the roadhouse and using the establishment's glasses to drink from. The court found the percentage of alcohol in water could not come from the source Symonds indicated.

J. N. Lindsay, defence counsel, argued Symonds' warning shout was a signal to the waitress to open the door rather than have the officer break it down.

“Orders waitresses to leave”²⁵³ (Victoria, 1940)

Rosita Forbes, who on Tuesday afternoon walked out of a Women's Canadian Club meeting because the musical program kept her waiting too long when she was keyed up to speak, again surprised Victorians when she asked the waitresses at the Rotary Club luncheon in the Empress Hotel yesterday “to remove their presence from the tables” while she delivered an address on “The Dictator” to the club members.

There were over 300 Rotarians and their guests at the luncheon. Club business and a prearranged musical program were canceled in order that the speaker might have no distractions before delivering her address.

Mrs. Forbes, after she had been introduced by Major Cuthbert Holmes, rose and asked the waitresses to serve the food from the heads of the tables. In an effort to please both the speaker and the guests, the waitresses proceeded to serve as quietly as possible, so that the guests might give their undivided attention to the speaker.

Distracted by the waitresses once again as she started her lecture, Mrs. Forbes stopped after her opening sentences.

“If you want to hear what I have to say, it will be necessary for the waiters and waitresses to remove their presence entirely from the tables,” she said. “This is a bad room in which to speak, and unnecessary noise will make it impossible to hear this lecture.”

Persons in the audience looked at one another, as Mrs. Forbes, with a wave of her hand, dismissed the waitresses from the tables. Some did not get their dessert.

After the lecture Mrs. Forbes was besieged by admirers as she hurried to catch the 1.55 boat for Vancouver, where she will fulfil lecture engagements.

²⁵³ From Rosita Orders Waitresses to Leave. (1940, February 23). *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 2.

“You have to have oomph”²⁵⁴ (Vancouver, 1940)

You have to have “oomph” with a good measure of intelligence tossed in to rate as a waitress these days.

Around 80 girls applied for a place in the classes for waitresses being conducted by the Dominion-provincial youth training plan in co-operation with the Vancouver Restaurant Owners’ Association. Of these, 12 were accepted.

Mrs. B. N. Stafford, guidance and placement officer of the Dominion-provincial youth training program, did the first weeding. Those who seemed definitely not the type for this kind of work were dictated immediately.

Standards set up by Mrs. Stafford include good complexion, good appearance of face and hair, pleasing manner, poise and good carriage. Girls must have at least grade 8 schooling and a good family background, must have initiative and ambition, good health and cheerful disposition.

Forty girls she considered eligible were brought before a selection committee of restaurant men, headed by Henri Feddersen, schoolmaster for the prospective waitresses.

When the candidate comes before the selection committee she is placed in a situation that would be usual in a restaurant. She must show alertness, intelligence, ability to meet people, and a charming personality.

Of the 40 graduates since classes began in 1938, all those who showed ability have now good jobs. Many became regular waitresses, but some started as apprentices under six-month contracts.

Under the latter condition, a girl is paid progressively \$9, \$10.50 and \$12 a week until her time is up. Then she receives the minimum of \$14 or probably more for an eight-hour, six-day week. But at least half of the graduates start at \$14.

Waitresses get three meals a day where they work, but are charged 20c a meal. Uniforms must be supplied and laundry done. There is no minimum wage, and no deductions are made for breakage.

The girls get 12 weeks [of] quite rigorous training before they are eligible for employment. For the first two weeks at the school Mr. Feddersen lectures them for three hours daily on food, personal hygiene, table setting, deportment, cleanliness, neatness, giving and taking orders.

There are lectures on café administration and management, as well as food costs, personnel management and menu planning.

At the end of a fortnight each girl is assigned to a restaurant for a week’s practical experience, three hours a day. Twelve restaurants co-operate and at the end of the course each girl will have experience in hotel, department store, drugstore, lunch counter and tea room [service].

Besides giving the girls training, it gives restaurant owners the opportunity of meeting girls and determining whom they might employ if they have a vacancy.

About one third of the girls are offered jobs before the class is over.

²⁵⁴ From WAITRESSES NEED “OOMPH,” INTELLIGENCE. (1940, October 19). *The Province*, p. 10.

There are also extra-curricular lectures on personal appearance, make-up, hair as well as on physical fitness and voice production.

Each member of the class is given two free uniforms, a pair of good walking shoes, and two pairs of stockings with which to start her job hunt. Uniforms are kept laundered while they are training.

The school keeps in touch with its graduates, and if a girl loses her first job, the matter is investigated and she is assisted to find another.

“Perm or starve”²⁵⁵ (1940)

It’s not so easy getting and holding a waitress job as a lot of people think, Alberta’s board of industrial relations was told at the courthouse Monday by Carl Berg, spokesman for café and restaurant employees seeking higher pay.

For one thing, a waitress nowadays is expected to have a permanent wave in her hair, Mr. Berg said.

And for another, she has to wear silk stockings to keep up appearances, and usually goes through two pairs a week – all of which costs money, Mr. Berg told the board.

“Training school waitresses”²⁵⁶ (Vancouver, 1941)

All the average girl needs to be the perfect waitress is personality, intelligence, good health and a well-proportioned physique. If she has these and a spot of training, restaurant owners will welcome her services. That’s why the Dominion Provincial Youth Training Plan will continue its school for waitresses throughout the summer.

Henry Hill, supervisor of the movement for Vancouver, announces that the next class will open June 6. Enrolment will be expanded from 12 to 16 to try to supply the demand for waitresses.

Given health and a pleasing personality, any girl can be a successful waitress, says Henri Fedderson, who directs the 12-weeks’ training course. Girls over 5 feet 4 inches are preferable. Thin waitresses seldom stand the strain of the work; heavy-set girls find it difficult to move quickly in restricted space. A ready smile with a good disposition behind [it] is an essential, says Mr. Fedderson.

Anybody can shout “Ham and” out of one corner of her mouth, but to be one of Mr. Fedderson’s finishing school waitresses the girl must have a pleasant voice and a good education – at least Grade 10.

During the past year more than 125 of the school’s graduates have been employed by the province’s leading restaurants and a lot more could have been found good jobs. The girls have gone to all parts of British Columbia.

The girls are taught table waiting technique as well as personal hygiene and good grooming. They are given practical work in hotels, restaurants and soda

²⁵⁵ From Perm or Starve, Waitress’ Plight. (1940, April 30). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 10.

²⁵⁶ From Training School Waitresses Are Preferred by Employers. (1941, May 30). *The Province*, p. 9.

fountains. Practically every girl graduate has found a job, and 75 per cent. started at minimum wages or higher.

Girls interested in the course may communicate with Mrs. B. N. Stafford, government placement officer, Room 120, Government Employment Office, Dunsmuir street.

“Girl pickets”²⁵⁷ (Port Arthur, 1941)

PORT ARTHUR, July 22 – Striking waitresses in seven restaurants here continued to picket the affected establishments today, six of which are operated by Chinese – and there appeared to be little hope of immediate settlement of the dispute, which began last Thursday. Thirty-two waitresses are involved.

A statement issued by the strike-bound cafes said the waitresses had made no direct demands to their employers, and that their wages prior to the walkout were up to the minimum standard. A spokesman for the restaurants claimed that the increase asked by the girls would necessitate an increase in meal prices beyond all reason.

“\$3 per week wage increase for waitresses”²⁵⁸ (Vancouver, 1941)

Union restaurants in Vancouver have agreed to grant members of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Local No. 28, a wage increase of \$3 a week, it was announced today by Miss Elo Allen, union business manager. She said the employees also were awarded one week holiday with pay annually.

The increase brings wages of counter waitresses to \$17 and of dining room waitresses to \$15 per week, with no deduction for meals.

Miss Allen said that 32 restaurants have granted the increase to about 300 waitresses.

“Sitdown strikes by waitresses”²⁵⁹ (Vancouver, 1941)

Backing the gesture with threat of strike action, waitresses in five city restaurants staged brief sit-downs at the dinner hour Thursday to compel proprietors to fulfill terms of recently signed union agreements.

Miss Flo Allen, secretary of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union, Local No. 28, which negotiated contracts with some 30 eating houses, said the action was not authorized by the union.

Waitresses in one Hastings street café refused to serve customers for an hour until the proprietor agreed to include a \$3 wage increase in their pay envelopes Saturday, and \$3 back pay for the week [of] August 9 to 16.

²⁵⁷ From Girl Pickets. (1941, July 22). *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 9.

²⁵⁸ From \$3 PER WEEK WAGE INCREASES FOR WAITRESSES. (1941, August 15). *Nanaimo Daily Free Press*, p. 6.

²⁵⁹ From SITDOWN STRIKES BY WAITRESSES. (1941, August 29). *The Province*, p. 9.

According to the girls, the union contracts signed August 9 provided for an increase in the weekly wage rate from \$12 to \$15 for dining-room service, and from \$14 to \$17 for counter service.

Proprietors, they said, claimed that the agreements had been signed under duress, and had not lived up to them.

“May chefs be amorous?”²⁶⁰ (Saskatoon, 1941)

Whether or not café chefs may, with impunity, kiss the kitchen help, or make dates with the girls, is something that must be decided once and for all, Judge J. F. Bryant declared in District Court today when the case of George Chow came before him.

His honor heard Thomas Kortés, one of the proprietors of the Paragon Café, on Second Avenue, describe [the] nature of [the] complaints as given to him by waitresses, which moved him last October to discharge his chef, George Chow, a Chinese [person]. Mr. Chow is suing the café proprietors for alleged wrongful dismissal, recovery of one month’s wages in lieu of notice, and costs of action.

When questioned by D. C. Kyle, his counsel, as to [the] nature of [the] complaints, Mr. Kortés said that three waitresses had on different occasions stated the chef had made improper advances toward them, and they had refused to work under such conditions. Mr. Kortés added that according to the contract drawn up between him and the chef, it was agreed [that] waitresses were not to be interfered with in this manner.

“What did the girls tell you?” asked his honor.

“One said she was going to quit,” replied Mr. Kortés. “She said, ‘I will not stand this George Chow any longer.’” She had said, he asserted, that Chow would often show his interest during the late hours, after he was off duty, and that the chef had attempted to kiss her. On another occasion she had been followed home “and Chow made improper advances to her on the doorstep.”

J. M. Stevenson, K.C., plaintiff’s counsel, objected at this point to hearing of further statements from the defendant, on the grounds that he was not prepared to contest such statements as were being adduced.

“I want to see this thing through now,” said Mr. Kyle. “These three waitresses are very shy and backward about talking. I’ve had trouble enough already.”

Mr. Stevenson said he had not, in his experience, found waitresses shy, or reticent about speaking out.

Mr. Kortés said he had discharged the chef on the basis of what the waitresses had told him. “I believed them,” he said. “They would come to me, crying.”

The case was adjourned until December 29.

²⁶⁰ From *May Chefs Be Amorous?* (1941, December 9). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

“Things can be carried too far”²⁶¹ (Saskatoon, 1942)

[CONTENT WARNING – HARASSMENT, STALKING]

Judge J. F. Bryant indicated in a written judgment handed down today [that] he has a sympathetic feeling for young men who are far away from the girls of their native land, and [are] therefore disposed to look with more than passing interest at attractive Canadian lasses.

But things can be carried too far, he thought, so he dismissed with costs the action of George Chow, a Chinese chef, brought against Thomas Kortés, one of the proprietors of the Paragon Café, for \$100 for wrongful dismissal. Chow had been summarily fired last October²⁶², on the grounds he had dallied with the female help in the kitchen, against the wishes of the girls, and in violation of [an] express warning of Mr. Kortés.

The case hinged upon the question of what constitutes wrongful dismissal. His honor considered the fact that the girls concerned “had come crying” to Mr. Kortés, telling him that the amorous cook “tried to kiss them, to date them up, to make love to them, to follow them home.” Mr. Kortés felt justified to discharge the young man without notice.

Mr. Kortés had said in evidence previously given that he had no trouble with other cooks, and to prevent similar recurrences had posted a notice warning that only business matters could be discussed with female employees in the kitchen.

Chow had contended he could not read, and anyway, he was a great joker, and enjoyed a bit of harmless fun. “I used to say hello to the girls,” said Chow. “I was joking with the girls all the time.”

“I never talked to her about love,” he asserted, when asked if the allegations of one of the girls, Bessie Wolovetz, were true. “I never suggested kissing. I knew it would be a bad thing.”

Another comely maiden, Mabel Caron, had, according to further evidence given by Mr. Kortés, on occasions had brushes with the cook. He had invited her to get a room on the west side, she had asserted. She had refused, since she “was scared to go near Avenue G.”

His honor was inclined to take a broad view of the whole situation. “Having regard to the fact that Chow was a stranger in a strange land, far from the women of his own race, and being daily in contact with white girls, some of whom were not unattractive, it is not unreasonable to assume that, to say the least, his mind was not always on cooking.”

²⁶¹ From Judge Says Chef’s Mind Can’t Always Be on Cooking, But Dismissal Over Interest in Waitresses Upheld. (1942, January 10). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

²⁶² He was looking for work as early as October 7, as evidenced in this classified ad from p. 15 of the *Star Phoenix* of that date: “EXPERIENCED CHINESE CHEF – NINE-ty [sic.] dollars or any reasonable wage. 420 Avenue C, south. George Chow.”

“Less waitress service in the future”²⁶³ (Ottawa, 1942)

Ottawa restaurant patrons may expect slower and less waitress service in the future. On top of already existing labor shortages, a first-class waitress shortage has developed in this area, it was revealed Tuesday.

Many restaurants scattered through the uptown district are unsuccessfully trying to get experienced help to replace staff lost to the Civil Service and munitions plants.

“We are so short-handed,” said one lunch-room proprietor, “that we’ve had to bring cooks in from the kitchen to serve the customers.”

A similar story was told by other restaurant owners. They indicated that there will be less waitresses to go round, meaning a longer wait between courses. It will also mean an extension of the cafeteria principle of self-service, they say.

One owner complained he lost four of his best girls last week to a munitions plant seventy miles from Ottawa.

No solution to the problem was held out by the local unemployment insurance office, where there are no unemployed waitresses on the roll.

“The waitresses walked out”²⁶⁴ (Dawson Creek, 1942)

After reaching a new wage agreement with their employers, 20 waitresses at the Royal Café, Empress Hotel and Wing’s Cabaret here [in Dawson Creek] returned to work Thursday after being on strike for about 24 hours.

The waitresses walked out of the café, hotel, and cabaret leaving patrons without service, and paraded up and down the streets with placards. They were granted a wage increase “to a minimum of \$8 per week with room and board, extra pay for overtime.”

“Waitresses desert cafes for more lucrative posts”²⁶⁵ (Vancouver, 1942)

Ladies who may be considering a change in occupation will find a ready welcome at almost any of Vancouver’s several hundred restaurants if they wish to take up a career as waitress.

The frequency with which “waitress wanted” signs are appearing in restaurant windows indicates how acute the situation is becoming.

The Vancouver Waitresses’ Union, which represents about 15 per cent. of girls so employed, blames the situation on the fact that waitresses generally are not receiving all cost-of-living bonuses. Resultant salaries are not attractive enough to

²⁶³ From Shortage of Waitresses Now Being Felt by Restaurants. (1942, May 27). *The Ottawa Journal*, p. 22.

²⁶⁴ From Waitresses Get Wage Increases. (1942, July 24). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 5.

²⁶⁵ From Waitresses Desert Cafes For More Lucrative Posts. (1942, August 15). *The Province*, p. 3.

compete with other occupations in which there is a plentiful demand for girls at present.

The owner of a popular chain of eating places claimed the shortage was “just an optical illusion.”

“We’ve found no shortage, just an annoyingly large turnover,” he said. “The girls quit one café and move on to another. Some of them try wartime or aircraft factory jobs, but can’t make the grade and are back at their old work in a week or two.”

Nevertheless a very real shortage confronts most proprietors. Waitresses, like many other classes of workers, have found a hitherto unknown independence with the increase in employment, and are exercising their freedom to the limit.

“They’re so independent we can’t do anything with some of them,” said the managers of a “serve-yourself” establishment. “We just don’t know what to do about it.”

A Granville street café owner, apparently unaware of the labor shortage, broke the general design of signs by putting “experienced” before the words “waitress wanted.” Next day he had crossed out the first word with a card reading: “Take anybody.”

“Calgary faces shortage of waitresses”²⁶⁶ (Calgary, 1943)

Even if every girl who fancies herself as a waitress because she hasn’t [the] training for a higher paid type of job were to be employed in local restaurants, there would still be at least 30 vacancies in Calgary, according to figures released this morning by the National Selective Service office.

At the present time they have 60 orders from restaurants asking for waitresses. They have sent out 30 girls to apply for these positions, J. J. Smith, assistant manager, said, and at the present time they have no more registered for such positions.

There is also the possibility that some of the girls sent out to apply for jobs will be so inexperienced, [that for this] or for other reasons, [they may] be unable to get the position they seek.

He hoped to be able to alleviate the situation somewhat when school was dismissed on June 30, because some of the high school girls have signified their willingness to work in lunch counters and restaurants during the long vacation.

During the month of May, according to selective service figures, there were 357 women placed as domestics, hotel and restaurant workers, and at the end of May there were 279 waitresses, domestic and hotel workers wanted.

Restaurant managers complain about the girls applying for jobs as waitresses, that they not only have no training, but they make no effort to advance themselves, usually quitting the job within a few days.

²⁶⁶ From Calgary Faces Shortage Of Waitresses. (1943, June 26). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 9.

One man declared, “they have absolutely no ambition, and refuse to see that there is any future in their jobs. Many of them don’t seem to even know how to wash dishes or sweep a floor.”

On the other hand, another restaurant man claimed he preferred inexperienced girls because they were more amenable to teaching and criticism, while the experienced girl would not take advice.

Two Calgary restaurants are closing one day a week so that the help may have that one day off, instead of staggering the off days.

“Miners to strike in backing waitresses”²⁶⁷ (Glace Bay, 1943)

Glace Bay, N.S., June 27 – A mass meeting of miners voted today to halt production for one day at five Glace Bay collieries employing about 4,000 men, in sympathy with 12 waitresses who have been on strike from a café here for four weeks.

Mines affected are Nos. 2, 4, 11, 24 and 1B, all in and around Glace Bay. Indications in mine-workers’ circles tonight were that employees of these pits would abide by the vote of the meeting to tie them up tomorrow morning.

The meeting recommended also that, if the café dispute is not settled this week, the mines should be tied up for two days next week, three days the week after if there is still no settlement, and so forth.

The mass meeting voted the tie-up after a committee of miners had rejected a conciliation board set up to investigate the dispute at the Glory Café, where the girls went on strike four weeks ago today because they claimed a male café employee had struck one of the waitresses.

Since the start of the strike, the waitresses have been picketing the restaurant, which is operated by Chinese. Some picketing also has been carried on by members of the United Mine Workers of America.

“A new low in wartime strikes”²⁶⁸ (Glace Bay, 1943)

Because some waitresses have a bone to pick with their boss in a Chinese café in Glace Bay, N.S., Canada has already lost 8,000 tons of badly needed coal and may lose more. Six Glace Bay collieries were shut yesterday, their 4,000 workers on a one-day strike in sympathy with the Glory Café waitresses. Unless the girls get their way, moreover, the pits will be shut two days next week, three days the next, and so on.

A more fantastically frivolous walk-out would be hard to imagine. Of the dozen or so girls who worked at the Glory Café on Senator’s Corner, Glace Bay’s focal point, three or four were late to work a week or so ago. When the first of the late comers turned up, she refused to start work until the others arrived, so the restaurateur fired her. The other girls struck. The café owner went to Selective Service and got four or five new waitresses, while their predecessors picketed the place. Then the

²⁶⁷ From N.S. Miners to Strike In Backing Waitresses. (1943, June 28). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 1.

²⁶⁸ From A NEW LOW IN WARTIME STRIKES. (1943, June 29). *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 8.

United Mine Workers entered the picture. After a number of preliminary resolutions, a mass meeting was held on Sunday by the notorious “Tri-Sub-District Convention” – the old slowdown faction of 1941 – which resolved on the sympathy strike.

Of the nine collieries in the district, six were down yesterday – roughly two-thirds of the 12,000 tons coming out daily didn’t come out. If the waitresses remain out and the plan for next week is carried through, another 16,000 tons will be lost, and 24,000 the following week, and so on. All because a waitress came late to work, and was fired for defying her boss.

So far as the Glory Café is concerned, it is a provincial matter and a trivial one at that. But the United Mine Workers have magnified this teapot tempest into one of national concern. If ever the federal Labor Department was justified in prompt, stern action, it is now.

“Settle labor trouble of the Glory Café”²⁶⁹ (Glace Bay, 1943)

The labor trouble of the Glory Café, which precipitated a strike of 7,000 miners and reached the floor of the House of Commons²⁷⁰, apparently were settled today.

H. R. Pettigrove, federal conciliation officer for the Maritimes, handed down a ruling that the café, where 12 waitresses were on strike more than a month ago, is to re-hire five of the girls, but may retain the help it has taken on since the dispute opened.

Before the finding was given, both parties to the dispute had agreed in writing to abide by it. Mr. Pettigrove acted as a commissioner under the Nova Scotia Conciliation Act.

“Cafes open drive for waitresses”²⁷¹ (Vancouver, 1943)

To encourage married women with previous experience as waitresses to volunteer for part-time work in Vancouver’s hard-pressed restaurants, the Restaurant Owners’ Association will make a special appeal by newspaper display advertising. Selective Service will, if necessary, set up a separate employment desk to speed service to those who respond, Henri Feddersen, association president, announced today, following a meeting Wednesday night attended by Horace Keech and Eleanor S. Morley, local employment officers.

“We are highly gratified with [the] efforts of Selective Service officers to help us with our labor shortage,” Mr. Feddersen commented. “We hope there will be a generous response from ex-waitresses, of which there are a large number in the city. Our present staffs are seriously overworked, especially during the rush hours.”

²⁶⁹ From Settle Labor Trouble of the Glory Café. (1943, July 9).

²⁷⁰ Briefly, on June 21. Gordon Graydon, Leader of the Opposition, asked about the dispute, and Humphrey Mitchell, Minister of Labour, said it was the responsibility of the provincial government. This exchange may be found on p. 3827 of the House of Commons Debates for the 19th Parliament, 4th session.

²⁷¹ From Cafes Open Drive for Waitresses. (1943, July 2). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 4.

Immediate efforts are to be centred on getting married women to come in for a few hours each day, he explained. This would not solve the problem entirely, as the restaurants are short of help in all departments, the association president added, but he hoped enough volunteers would come forward to relieve the rush hours, [the] worst difficulty at present.

The scheme being launched here has already been used successfully in Montreal and Toronto, according to Selective Service reports.

“Principal sources of venereal disease”²⁷² (Calgary, 1944)

Calgary restaurant owners today sharply protested the statement made in an address here Wednesday that “the principal sources of venereal diseases in Calgary, now that most houses of prostitution have been closed, are waitresses and the little girls who walk the streets with nothing to do.”

The statement was made by Major Fred Pilcher, head of the army venereal disease board of M.D. 13, in an address to the Lions Club in connection with the Junior Chamber of Commerce V.D. prevention campaign. Following the protest, chamber officials said their representatives and Major Pilcher would meet with the restaurant men this afternoon.

Roy Beavers, president of the Alberta Restaurant Association, said he felt there was a misunderstanding which would be cleared up at the meeting. He expected that a joint statement would be issued, dealing with the apparent slur cast upon waitresses in general.

Joseph Commesotti, chairman of the chamber’s venereal disease control committee, said he believed the attitude of the chamber was that no particular class of workers could be singled out as a source of venereal disease infection.

Mr. Beavers said that waitresses in Calgary were an excellent class of girls. They came from good homes and were of good character.

“We certainly resent being classed in a group as a source of venereal disease,” one waitress said. “There are good and bad girls in every profession, and waitresses should not be singled out any more than office girls.”

Jerry A. Puckett, secretary of the Alberta Restaurant Association, said that Major Pilcher would have to “either retract or prove his statement as it applied to regular waitress staffs in Calgary restaurants.”

“Many restaurants voluntarily enforce examination of their staffs,” he said. “The girls who work regularly as waitresses, as a class, probably come before doctors more than any other single group because they are always getting minor hurts which need attention.”

Jack Irvine, another restaurant operator, said that many prostitutes picked up by the police listed their occupation as “waitresses,” although they had never worked more than a day or so in a restaurant.

²⁷² From *Waitresses And Their Employers Resent Charge*. (1944, June 2). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 9.

Waitresses pointed out that their waitresses' union, in existence a year ago, was now dormant and they had no organization to present their case for them except their employers.

One waitress said: "Maybe there are a few waitresses like Mr. Pilcher says, but that isn't a good reason for lumping us all together in his statement."

"Protest attack on waitresses"²⁷³ (Calgary, 1944)

Declaring that "no one, not even army health officials, has the right to make such statements," the Calgary Trades and Labor Council strongly protested the statement by Maj. Fred Pilcher, head of the army venereal disease board of M.D. 13, made before a service club luncheon Wednesday noon, that waitresses are one of the main sources of venereal diseases in Calgary.

Major Pilcher today explained that his statement had been misinterpreted.

The council recorded its protest at its regular meeting Friday evening at the Labor Temple. G. G. Cushing, secretary, who brought the matter to the attention of the meeting, said that the council should "speak on behalf of restaurant employees" because some of the workers are affiliated with the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' local, although the waitresses' union, in existence a year ago, is now dormant.

"Pilcher says statement was misinterpreted"²⁷⁴ (Calgary, 1944)

The vast majority of waitresses in Calgary are respectable, reputable women who are performing an essential service to the community, according to a statement issued by Major Dr. Fred Pilcher, officer of the army venereal diseases board, Friday afternoon.

Objection had been taken by restaurant operators and waitresses to an assertion by Dr. Pilcher in an address to a local service club that waitresses were one of the principal sources of venereal disease in Calgary.

The following statement was issued by Dr. Pilcher as a result of these protests:

"In the address which I gave to the Lions' Club last Wednesday, I stated that waitresses, among others, were one of the principal sources of venereal infection in Calgary. It is indeed unfortunate that the meaning of this statement has been misinterpreted by many people, including the majority of waitresses themselves and the restaurant proprietors.

"The majority of the restaurants in the city are conducted in a very reputable fashion. The vast majority of the waitresses in Calgary are respectable, reputable women who are performing an essential service to the community.

"There are, however, a small number of women who are of loose character and who are responsible for a good deal of venereal infection in the city. Unfortunately, some of these women are employed as waitresses, but they form a very small

²⁷³ From Trades, Labor Protest Attack On Waitresses. (1944, June 3). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 13.

²⁷⁴ From Pilcher Says Statement Was Misinterpreted. (1944, June 3). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 13.

proportion of the larger group of women who are employed as waitresses in the eating places of this city.”

“Mashing the waitress”²⁷⁵ (Vancouver, 1945)

It was Ida’s first day at the ----- Café. She moved fearfully out into the main dining room.

“You’ll do,” the supervisor encouraged. “Take the six booths on the left and don’t offend the customers.”

Ah, there was the same warning the manager had given the day he hired her. “Don’t offend the customers.” How could she offend them if she did her best to serve them? But this was Ida’s first experience as a waitress.

The day passed without event and Ida’s nervousness began to vanish. Then late in the afternoon a bald, stout man wheezed into one of her booths. She stood patiently while he scanned the menu. He had a broad, flat face like a half-baked loaf of bread. His small eyes were like two raisins stuck in dough. Then he looked up suddenly:

“Well, baby! Fancy me readin’ this thing when you’re here!” He tossed away the menu card. “Guess you’re new, eh?”

“I’m just starting,” Ida said primly.

“What did I tell you!” He gurgled like a baby with a new rattle. “George J. can pick the new ones every time. Now, bring me something sweet and golden – just like yourself.” He smirked at Ida’s embarrassment.

“I’d sooner you ordered,” she said unhappily. “I wouldn’t know what to bring.”

“I promise to like it.” He concentrated his gaze until his eyes became pin-points of light. “And, furthermore, baby, anything you bring me’ll be good.” He paused a moment and finished in a confidential whisper: “And I’ll pay for it.”

Ida retreated in confusion at the man’s words and his vague way of ordering. When she explained, the supervisor said: “Oh, give him a big rare stake. Tell him you know he’s a red-blooded he-man. That line always pleases his kind.”

When Ida delivered the steak she said: “I thought you’d want a man-sized order.”

“At a baby! Say, you’re the only one understands me.” He touched her hand. “I know we’ll get on. Just call me George. What’s your name?”

“Ida.”

“That’s a swell name – Ida. Know what I’ve had ordered if you hadn’t brought me this?”

“I’m sure I couldn’t guess.” She tried to make herself smile.

“Frogs’ legs,” he chortled. “Once I asked a girl in a café if she had frogs’ legs and she said it was rheumatism made her walk that way.” He wheezed off and choked with the humor of this ancient quip. “By the way, Ida, I’m sure you haven’t frogs’ legs,

²⁷⁵ From Evans, A. R. (1945, January 13). Mashing the Waitress. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 32. Written by Allen Roy Evans (1885 - 1965).

have you? No, don't tell me! It ain't necessary. Now, I'm sure a phone number goes along with such a nice name as Ida?" He opened a little book and waited expectantly.

"I haven't a phone," Ida lied. Then she remembered the warning about offending customers. "Maybe I'll have a phone some time," she offered miserably.

"Sure you will, baby!" The fat man beamed. "You'll have one by tomorrow night. Say, just about this time tomorrow you might have one." He rambled on in complete satisfaction.

Thus Ida encountered her first experience of a bombardment that never ended as long as she served male customers in restaurants. In hundreds of restaurants throughout the city, every attractive waitress carries on under a ceaseless barrage of male importunity. A waitress with run-of-the-mill looks, averages eight invitations daily, while one with outstanding personality, easily doubles this number of propositions offered her. Honorable, dubious, expensive, drab, tentative, aggressive – all kinds from all manner of men.

Where is the commonplace girl who does not secretly mourn her lack of attractiveness? And yet, in the hard world of business, good looks can be an undoubted handicap.

Observe what happens in your favorite restaurant: The stout girl; the one with straight black hair; the flat-chested little wisp; the one with the sallow complexion; the thick ankler and the big red hands – all stay on year after year, apparently sure of their jobs and untroubled by customers' suggestions. But little bright-eyes with the fluffy hair and long lashes, is on duty for a few weeks and then some evening she is missing, and in a few days no one remembers her. No, she has not married the owner's son, nor secured some rich customer for a life-time provider.

Marriage with customers is so rare that the possibilities may be almost entirely discounted. In the first place, the male customers who try to date waitresses are not looking for any permanent connection. In the second place, at least half of them are already married. Not a very bright outlook for hopeful girls who have romantic dreams, probably originating from magazine fiction and screen glamour.

Attractive girls who work in restaurants, elevators, theatres, stores and offices, are under constant pressure, varying only by their appeal and responsiveness. In almost every instance this solicitation constitutes an annoyance. The annoyance, however, must be concealed because of the rule not to offend the customer.

The elderly male, as he makes his line of approach, seems to be singularly lacking in imagination. A little thought should convince him that the girl he is trying to date must have a boy friend approximately her own age, and whatever stepping out she has time and inclination to do, will be more congenially arranged.

The male aggressor has been represented as middle aged or elderly. Young men are not entirely exempt but by comparison, their dating attempts are both mild and sporadic. Why this should be the case might have a psychological explanation. Probably those who have reached the "spread-of-middle-age" and beyond are obsessed with a last desperate desire to make hay while the sun of possibility still shines, no matter how faintly.

Doubtless the “line” used by each potential stepper-out appears to him attractive and original. To the girl who has heard it several times during her daily shift, and countless times during the last month, it sounds like the most worn-out cliché one can well remember. A most colossal egoism must possess the addict of promiscuous dating. A composite picture of him would show a rather heavy, slightly bald figure between forty and fifty. He strives to give a man-about-town impression as he sits complacently puffing after a too generous dinner. As Ida or Jean or Nellie comes within ear-shot, he fires his wisecracks with (he hopes) devastating effect.

By what line of reasoning does he reach the conviction that his shop-worn propositions are interesting to Ida and Jean and Nellie? Their feminine charms are more than adequate to secure for them whatever masculine attention they desire and from those approximately their own age.

The manager of a restaurant employing six girls said: “After years in this business, I can tell by the way a man comes in whether he is interested in the food or the girls. If he becomes persistent, we have several methods of showing him that we would appreciate his absence. I’ll call a couple of the girls and you can talk to them.”

Here was a big restaurant, quiet, conservative, rather expensive, one of the top places in the city. It was hard to believe its high class clientele would include persistent “daters.”

Then Wilma and Irene came from their tables, a little reticent at first, perhaps wondering if this interview was a new “line” with which they were unfamiliar. They explain that their usual way of refusing is to claim they are on duty until late. If the “dater” discovers that they are not always on night shift, they bring out an explanation of previous engagements. After a few attempts, this discourages all but the real die-hards. If these become very annoying, they are reported to the management.

“If a customer starts heavy tipping,” explained Irene, “we know he has something on his mind. It’s no surprise when he springs his proposition.”

“What happens when the turn-down comes?”

“Sometimes he gets nasty and complains to the manager that the service is terrible. But they always know in the front office when a complaint is phoney.”

“What is the standard method of trying to date?”

“It’s a show. They start explaining about being strange in the city and ask where the good shows are. They pussyfoot around until they finally pop the invitation. It might as well be done at the start, because we always know what’s coming.”

“Suppose you did step out, what then?”

“Oh, I don’t believe we’d lose our jobs,” Irene said seriously. “But the management asks us not to go out with customers. It’s not worth taking a chance. Not so long as they back us up as well when the old boys get mean.”

So here was an unusually fine relationship between the employer and his staff. He selected his girls carefully after thorough investigation. Once on the staff, they were protected, as far as possible, against the assaults of the male masher. The girls appreciated their security. They remembered other restaurants where the policy of keeping the customers at all costs, had brought disastrous results. Here is one place

where the customer is not always right. In fact, if the customer is a gay old boy, it is not long until he is decidedly in [the] wrong. There are few restaurants of this type. Too few.

Girls who work in theatres, at the box office, and more particularly ushering in the aisles, are special targets for the male barrage. The purchase of a ticket seems to confer not only the right to a seat, but also the privilege of unlimited “kidding” with any attractive employee who might be approached.

Again, it is almost entirely the middle-aged and the elderly who are the chief offenders. Not only do they annoy the girls in uniform, but their unwelcome attentions are often forced on girl customers at the theatre. These professional old rounders spot a girl who is sitting comparatively alone. This is not difficult in the hours between eleven and two when movie houses have usually a scattered audience. The masher seats himself beside his “victim.” At first he appears to be absorbed in the picture. He shifts closer in his seat; he changes the position of the coat on his knees. Unobtrusively he leans and moves until suddenly the girl who has been absorbed in the screen drama, is aware that she is becoming the object of another drama.

How she meets the situation depends on her temperament, or temper. Usually she is averse to a scene. She quickly moves to a distant seat. Frequently she leaves the theatre without a word.

But occasionally she is of the kind to complain to an attendant. The house manager is notified and the offender is ordered to leave.

The girls ushering in the aisles are instructed to keep an eye open for these situations. Habitual offenders are to be known by sight and the girl in the box office is instructed not to sell them admission. As fast as the old [cad]s are debarred, others take their place and the girls are always alert to protect customers from annoying contacts.

In addition to all this, the girls have their own problems. In some theatres they are asked not to accept presents from men customers. This is a difficult rule to observe perfectly. A small box of chocolates, handkerchiefs, gloves, a [froc]k, flowers – these seem harmless enough when given by patrons who have been shown to good seats a number of times.

But the inexpensive gifts are usually followed by more and more valuable offerings. As [it is] a rare giver who does not, sooner or later, attempt to realize some return for his money. If his gifts have been accepted, the almost unvaried invitation “to step out after the show” is made just that much more difficult to refuse.

There seems to be no general rule among theatres restraining their girls from doing as they please when their shift is over. But they must always remember that theatres – especially in the last several years – are rather careful about their reputations. The atmosphere of the big theatres is almost cathedral-like in its dignity. Any breath of scandal, any rumor of irregularity in roadhouse or night-club, and the precious job is snuffed out like a candle.

The department store is also a hunting ground for the masher. Not so extensive as the theatre or restaurant, because contact usually necessitates a purchase –

perhaps a number of purchases, before a relationship is established. If the girl who is the masher's objective, happens to be selling rather expensive goods, she is fairly safe from annoyance. If she sells greeting cards, candles, pencils or hundreds of other small wares, she is on the front line of contact. So many stores have made almost a religion of the customer always being right, that it is easy for the customer to put a salesgirl on a bad spot. The crafty customer knows all this and makes despicable use of his position.

A sunny little blonde at the perfume counter recently had a unique rescue from the importunities of a Romeo. After a small daily purchase on several consecutive days, and an increasing insistence for a date, the man approached the counter, holding a very small child by the hand. The clerk did not really notice the child as she prepared to resist the attack. As the man coaxed, cajoled and argued, this small daughter who had been tugging his arm, piped up: "Come on Daddy; you have Mamma." The aura of romance died a sudden death and the man did not appear again.

Elevator girls are also on the front line of battle. One favorable aspect of their work is the fact that there are nearly always several passengers in the cages. The professional masher overcomes this handicap by continuous riding until he is finally the sole passenger. Then he speaks his line. It must be rapid and ardent because he is always subject to sudden interruptions.

An attractive girl may not last long on the elevator. This does not mean that she has married the son of the building manager. Usually the mashers have caused so much trouble and delay in schedules, sometimes revengeful complaints concerning service, that rather than enter the melee, the management lets the girl go. Occasionally one who is noticeably hard on the eyes takes her place, but usually, to be sure of no further trouble, an oldish man is put on. This is especially true of hotel elevators.

For years it had been a commonplace to watch the girls with the "oomph" disappear in a few weeks or months from restaurants, theatres, elevators and stores. The girls with no "it" at all, work on from year to year, apparently untroubled by their nearness to the battle line.

Girls without looks undoubtedly bewail their hard fate. But if necessity compels them to go out into the tough business world, their supposed liability is really a disguised blessing. Once the job is landed they will labor in comparative peace, while their sisters with the curls and eyelashes will be harried from pillar to post.

There seems to be little point in haranguing the mashers. The congenital kidders and daters are more firmly devoted to their obsession than a drug addict. Even the knowledge that their practices drive an army of girls from needed work, would have no effect. They are not sports enough to press their attentions on those they meet socially. On this plane of equality, they do not care to take their chances. They show their prowess in inveigling against girls who are in many instances, fearful for their jobs and are thus "nice" to customers through necessity rather than preference. The professional prowler is the kind of person who would go out against

a wounded duck with a machine gun. The odds must be all on his side or he won't play.

Suppose I were in a strange city and felt a surge of loneliness as I watched the evening couples passing by to their various pleasures. What would I do? Here is what I HOPE I should do. I would say to the waitress, elevator girl or clerk:

“You're a friendly appearing girl and I know I'm old enough to be your father (or grandfather as the case may be). I could not possibly have any attraction for you and you undoubtedly have several boy friends your own age, but I feel an urge to go to a show and it's no fun going alone. If you'd like to pick up a girl friend and come along, you can split a ten-spot between you for your time.”

If YOU really MUST have company, be straightforward. In fairness to the girl, ask two girls. They've been working all day. Why should they get any kick in going for a few more hours with an old chap they never saw before and hope never to see again? They are probably working for a minimum wages. The added hours of effort you are suggesting, might be made tolerable by offering to pay. They have something you want. You have money, and even if it does come hard, remember that is the only thing you have which they do want.

“Waitresses fired to make jobs for war veterans”²⁷⁶ (Windsor, 1945)

Windsor beverage room waitresses, numbering somewhere near 100, will all be out of work next Monday. The girls are already on their seven-days' notices as a result of action taken by the Ontario Liquor Control Board.

A few will be offered employment serving beer in hotel dining rooms, but since tips are not so plentiful there, it is expected that most of them will look for work elsewhere.

Men returning from overseas are looking for jobs as beer servers, the waitresses have been told, and since the manpower shortage is not as great as it has been, the jobs of waiting on tables in beverage rooms are needed for men.

Approximately 700 women are on National Selective Service's list of extra help in Windsor. Most of the waitresses probably will be added to that list. Some said today they could get jobs waiting dinner tables in road-houses near Windsor, but since most of them are married and their husbands are working, it is likely that most of them will return to keeping their homes.

The practice of having women wait on tables in men's beverage rooms is a wartime outgrowth and is among the first to go by the boards.

Indication was that this was only the beginning in the displacement of women by men as more and more men are released from the war.

²⁷⁶ From Waitresses Fired To Make Jobs For War Veterans. (1945, February 22). *Windsor Star*, p. 3.

“The ban on waitresses in beverage rooms”²⁷⁷ (Windsor, 1945)

The Ontario Liquor Control Board intends to enforce the ban on waitresses in beverage rooms, it was indicated yesterday when the beer and wine authorities of two Windsor hotels were suspended indefinitely for infraction of that rule.

The board announced at Toronto that licenses of Dominion and Bellevue hotels had been suspended for failure to comply with regulations requiring that they dispense with female help in the beverage rooms.

Hotelmen explained today that the ban on female help in beverage rooms has been part of the liquor control regulations since the beverage rooms were opened.

For an interval during the war, though, while the regulations were not changed, government authorities chose to overlook infractions of the rule. Hotelmen had protested regarding their inability to get male help, and when they proceeded to hire women as waitresses, inspectors did not report them for infractions of the rule.

Recently the liquor control board announced that, in view of the increasing supply of male help, use of female help in beverage rooms would not be tolerated longer. It was pointed out that in some cases women were holding jobs which might very well be handled by wounded veterans who were returning home.

The regulations allow waitresses to serve beer and wine in dining rooms, but only when these beverages are ordered with meals.

Proprietors of the Dominion and Bellevue hotels are scheduled to appear before the Ontario Liquor Control Board authorities at Toronto next Wednesday, at which time they will be given an opportunity to present their defences, it was learned today.

Windsor hotelmen are up in arms about the situation, it was also learned, and they are claiming that the two hotels suspended have been discriminated against. Other hotels are still employing women and, in one case, women are still at work behind the bar, it was said.

“Why waitresses weep”²⁷⁸ (1945)

I have never seen a waitress weep, but I must admit that I have often wondered why they didn't! So I read with much relish an article on the subject in a recent issue of a magazine which circulates in the hotel and restaurant trade, and is published in Toronto. It sums up the observations of a Dr. William F. Whyte, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, made in one of his series of lectures on human relations. Incidentally, although it deals with waitress-customer relations in the United States, it is also applicable to Canada.

Many Americans, by the way, have confirmed what I discovered for myself in the course of several extended business trips to the United States in the last few years. That is, that the help in Canadian hotels, restaurants and stores, is, on the

²⁷⁷ From Province Enforcing Law Prohibiting Girls Serving Beer. (1945, September 7). *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 5.

²⁷⁸ From Hodges, N. (1945, September 20). One Woman's Day. *The Victoria Daily Times*, p. 20. Written by Nancy Hodges (1888 – 1969), journalist and politician.

whole, much more obliging and courteous than its American counterpart. Their job hasn't been an easy one over the last few years, either, and my sympathies have gone out to them many a time. Not that I think the customer is always wrong, by any means. But neither do I think she – or he – is always right!

However, when eating out, don't be too surprised if your waitress begins to cry, warns the professor. According to him, they are a fairly common phenomenon in the United States these days, and he blames it on the nervous tension caused by wartime conditions. Shortage of labor has meant more work for the experienced help, and additional work caused by government regulations has aggravated the situation. On top of that, the record volume of consumer demand has been the last straw!

A high degree of social adaptability is required of a waitress, too. She has to adjust herself to a supervisor, cooks and pantry workers, and customers of varying types. And how these customers vary! But they all show common characteristics, in the professor's opinion:

“When customers come into a restaurant they are hungry, and hunger induces irritability. The digestive system is intimately tied up with the nervous system, so that frustrations experienced outside are readily taken out in griping about the food or the people who serve it.”

He declares, further, that a woman customer is likely to be the most troublesome. And he goes on to analyze the types with which we are all familiar – that is, those who patronize restaurants as much as I have during a business career.

There is the woman, for instance, who doesn't know what she wants, and refuses to accept the waitress's suggestions. She isn't ready to give her order, because she is chatting to her vis-à-vis when the waitress comes – but wants to give it when the waitress is looking after someone else. Having done that, she demands to know why this, that or the other isn't on the menu – which is probably a mile long, at that! Finally she changes her mind. But first she decides on boiled salmon. Then, when her friend's chicken salad comes along – together with her salmon – she decides the salad looks so good she'll have that, instead.

Another type which makes the waitress's job a difficult one, is the man – or woman – who holds the waitress personally responsible for certain food shortages. For instance, if there isn't beef on the menu, the customer “beefs” about it. Or when, owing to the sugar shortage, there isn't green apple pie or something else which needs a lot of sweetening, that's wrong!

As the professor puts it, there is no one cause why waitresses cry – and he insists they do, so I take his word for it. He blames it on a combination of pressures put upon the waitresses – and of which the customer is ignorant. It may have been a bad day in the coordination of production and service. Some of the kitchen staff may have been away, so that the food was not ready when the waitresses went for it.

On top of it all, there is the familiar sight of would-be eaters awaiting around for tables or seats, and of customers dallying long after they have finished their meal, smoking and chatting, quite oblivious of – or impervious to – the black look of the waiting, hungry hordes.

As I have said before, I don't think all waitresses are angels, either. But over a long experience of many years I have found that your own approach – as a customer – has a lot to do with the way in which you are served by any help.

“Things that need never be repeated”²⁷⁹ (1945)

Never again should Canadian women have to work under the conditions and for wages before the war, said Mrs. G. E. Winter of Winnipeg, regional employment advisor of the women's division, Unemployment Insurance Commission, on Thursday afternoon. She was in Regina at the Hotel Saskatchewan.

“There is no reason why women should be asked to go back to work under those conditions,” said Mrs. Winter. The long hours asked of domestics [and] waitresses, the conditions under which nurses often had to work, and the low wages paid to all of them were things that need never be repeated.

Many women found they could now get good jobs because of the war, and so the poorer paid and harder varieties of work went begging. “There was a time when an employer looked over several prospects, and picked the one he thought would be the most suitable. Now the employees choose the one for whom they would like to work.”

Mrs. Winter said this reversal had its good points in that it helped both employers and employees to understand the problems of the other better.

There was a serious shortage of nurses and attendants in hospitals, sanatoriums and mental hospitals across Canada, in spite of the fact that more girls were training for nurses than ever before. This shortage was becoming so acute that it was now planned to use Red Cross trainees and V.A.D. workers in the hospitals next summer.

The greatest need of all was for workers for the mental hospitals and sanatoriums. Many of those institutions were having difficulty carrying on.

Mrs. Winter said working conditions and wages had much improved in Canadian hospitals during the past few years.

The workers shortage extended to skilled waitresses, she said. Many girls, who had once done such work but who were trying to improve themselves, had taken up business courses. The result was a growing surplus of skilled clerical workers and copyists. An employer usually wanted a stenographer, said Mrs. Winter, and could only use a limited number of unskilled workers.

“Those girls are trying to do anything but go back to being waitresses or domestics,” said Mrs. Winter.

²⁷⁹ From Better work and wage conditions for women. (1945, March 16). *Regina Leader-Post*, p. 3.

The death of Olga Hawryluk²⁸⁰ (Vancouver, 1945)

[CONTENT WARNING – MURDER]

Olga Hawryluk and William J. Hainen, Vancouver soldier charged²⁸¹ with her murder, had a “friendly” conversation in [the] Good Eats Café May 2, an hour before the 23-year-old café waitress was brutally beaten to death and her body tossed into English Bay.

This was revealed at today’s session of Hainen’s murder trial when Mrs. Mary Chalmers, 2844 Main, waitress at the café, told how the murdered girl and Hainen conversed for about half an hour as they sat drinking coffee at the counter.

Olga came to the café by herself about 3 o’clock on the morning of her death and had a cup of coffee near the front door on a counter stool, Mrs. Chalmers said.

She told Mr. Justice Macfarlane and the jury that Olga was followed by a “gentleman she did not know,” whom she noticed was “slightly under the influence of liquor.”

ASKED TO LEAVE

He was a civilian dressed in a grey coat and hat.

“He tried to talk to her and sort of bothered her. He stayed only for a few minutes and I asked him to leave and he did. A soldier was sitting on the stool next to Olga. He was in battle dress. The soldier was eating and after I asked the civilian to leave the soldier started to talk to her. The soldier spoke first. They sat around for about half an hour. The conversation was quite friendly. He seemed jolly.”

Mrs. Chalmers identified Haine, in the dock, as the soldier in question.

Under cross-examination, she testified Hainen left about five or ten minutes before Olga. Mrs. Chalmers thought they were going to leave together, she said, so she suggested Olga have another cup of coffee.

WAITED OUTSIDE

Mrs. Chalmers said the accused went outside the café, where he waited around a few minutes.

Mrs. Rose Uren, 475 Renfrew, cashier at Good Eats Café, said she heard Hainen and the murdered girl talking in the café.

“I heard him say, ‘Will you go out with me?’ or ‘Will you come up to my room with me?’ I am not sure, and Olga answered, ‘No.’”

At the cashier’s desk, a few minutes later, she said, Hainen again asked Olga, “Will you go out with me?”

IN GOOD SPIRITS

Composed and seeming in good spirits, Hainen entered court a few minutes before it convened, sat down with a provincial policeman on duty, and chatted awhile. Quietly dressed, he watched the jury, locked up for the night, file into the courtroom. He smiled occasionally.

²⁸⁰ From Murder Suspect Identified as Man Who Talked to Girl Prior to Slaying. (1945, June 19). *The Province*, p. 2.

²⁸¹ Hainen was eventually convicted of murder, sentenced to death and executed.

Mrs. Lila Rogers, 3205 Clinton, Burnaby, on duty in the café, said she remembered seeing Olga and a soldier sitting at the counter that morning.

IDENTIFIES ACCUSED

Asked if she saw the soldier in court, Mrs. Rogers gazed around several minutes, then said: "I don't see him here right now."

Then she happened to look at the prisoner's box and, pointing, exclaimed: "Oh, he's right here."

Mrs. Rogers said she served Hainen in the café.

Mrs. Anne Rose Bohemier, 3751 East Pender, said she saw Hainen and his sister sitting at a nearby table in a Hastings street tavern the afternoon before the murder, and during that time and while with him later in the evening, Hainen drank "nothing but beer."

TOOK TAXI

In company with her sister, her sister's girl friend and Hainen and his sister, Mrs. Bohemier said she took a taxi to an eating-place at Boundary and Hastings, where they met up with "two gentlemen" she did not name.

Mrs. Bohemier said she and Hainen and his sister left the rest of the party in this café and went to Mrs. Bohemier's home, where they picked up two bottles of rye whisky.

Later they joined the party at the café and took a taxi to Burnaby to see some friends who were not at home when they arrived.

"DANCED AND DINED"

After that they went to a supper club on East Hastings, "where we danced and dined, Mrs. Bohemier said.

"The boys had the rye with them and I believe it was open, but I did not drink there, myself. Mr. Hainen and his sister left at 1:30 – you could see he had been drinking. I heard his sister ask him to leave."

Thomas Slattery, 1306 Bidwell, who was awakened by Mrs. Georgina Robinson the morning of the murder, identified two five-foot sticks of driftwood, one considerably charred, which were lying on either side of the body of Olga Hawryluk.

Under cross-examination he said when he came down the steps to the beach he could not see over logs on the beach. [...]

Hazel Robinson, Calgary radio writer, told how she dragged the battered, lifeless body of Olga Hawryluk from English Bay after she and her mother, Mrs. Georgina Robinson, were wakened by terrible cries from the beach near their residence at 1306 Bidwell.

When they ran outside, about "4:30 or 4:40 a.m.," they saw a man in army battledress, minus cap, appear from behind some logs on the shore and walk across the sand with "swinging gait."

Describing how she saw the dead woman, Miss Robinson said: "I saw a woman's body lying face downward in shallow water. Little waves splashed over it."

“Olga never went out with boys”²⁸² (Vancouver, 1945)

Dark-haired Olga Hawryluk [...] was planning to go home to her family for a summer vacation on their isolated farm in the Peace River country. The story of the 22-year-old waitress was told today by Bessie Johnson, of 849 Durward, a Beacon Theatre usherette, her best friend. [...]

The two girls had planned a shopping trip for Thursday afternoon, when Olga was going to buy some holiday clothes, and presents for her two younger sisters at home, Miss Johnson told *The Vancouver Sun*.

“I was going home with her this summer, too,” she said. “Only last Saturday Olga got a letter from her mother asking me to go with her.”

They had been close friends for two years.

“Olga never went out with boys,” the usherette said. “She never bothered with them at all. A soldier followed her out of the Good Eats Café on Granville when she left work at 2:30 a.m., Wednesday. And then this happened.”

Miss Johnson said the slain girl had become engaged to a U.S. soldier named Bill about three years ago, but lost track of him when she moved to Port Mellon. She had correspondence with the International Red Cross in an effort to find him, but was never able to find any trace of her fiancé.

In addition to her parents and two younger sisters, Olga had a brother at home, and a sister, Nellie, at Prince Rupert.

“Union urges café night shifts”²⁸³ (Vancouver, 1945)

[The] English Bay murder of Olga Hawryluk [...] gave new impetus to the campaign of [the] Hotel and Restaurant Employees’ Union (A.F.L.) for protection for girls on night shift. They want:

1. A shift that keeps girls in cafes in the dangerous (dark) hours – if they must work nights.

2. Provision for safe transportation of girls to their homes. Union officials described shift conditions in many Vancouver cafes as “terrible.”

Resentment choked the speech of Mrs. Emily Watts, union organizer, herself a waitress, when she explained the trials of fine girls who come off shift at 2:30 a.m. and have to brush off one man after another on their way home.

“I resent the inference that Olga was a party girl,” cried Mrs. Watts. “I know how easy it is for persons to jump to unwarranted conclusions. She lived in a residential district and she was murdered near her home at 1537 Nelson. She was not a member of our union. But we did know her to some extent. We have no personal interest in her, except the personal interest we take in all girls in the café industry.”

Mrs. May Ansell, business agent of the union and also an experienced waitress, said: “Olga worked from 7:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. just prior to her death. She usually

²⁸² From SLAIN GIRL HAD BEEN PLANNING TRIP HOME. (1945, May 4). *Vancouver Sun*, p. 13.

²⁸³ From UNION URGES CAFÉ NIGHT SHIFTS. (1945, May 3). *The Province*, p. 5.

worked at the Good Eats, but on that night the manager asked her to work at the Empire. She left the Empire shortly after 2:30 a.m., and, accompanied by a girl friend, went to Malcolm's Café. The girl entered Malcolm's and Olga went on to the Good Eats for a cup of coffee and a chat with a girl friend.

"Olga was seen in the Good Eats Café between 3:30 and 3:45 a.m. She was alone. I, too, resent the inference that she was a party girl. Waitresses who start home alone at that time of night are frequently accosted by men who are hanging around; and a girl has to talk fast and think fast to get away from them.

"One girl was murdered under similar circumstances in Toronto. The public became aroused. The union acted as a spearhead in the drive for protection. The result is that in Toronto the managements have to provide transportation."

"Waitresses restricted now in night work"²⁸⁴ (B.C., 1945)

An order which prohibits waitresses from working past midnight (unless they work until 6 a.m.) was passed in Victoria today just in time to save the Legislative Buildings from being "pushed over" by the 400 waitresses who belong to the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union.

"Only last week I told the Board of Industrial Relations that if they did not do something about stopping our waitresses from quitting work at 2, 3 and 4 a.m., we would go over and tackle them en masse," said Mrs. Emily Watts, president of the union.

"I told Adam Bell (chairman of the board) that we'd go over and push the Legislative Buildings over," she said.

Very pleased with the new order which decrees that waitresses' shifts must not finish, nor begin, between midnight and 6 a.m., Mrs. Watts said her organization had been pressing for it since March.

"When Olga Hawryluk was murdered at English Bay after she quit at 2:30 a.m., we started petitioning for this legislation," Mrs. Watts recalled.

She said there were waitresses in Vancouver who were on shifts that started at 7 p.m. and went on until 11:30 and then started again at 2:30 a.m. and lasted until 5 a.m.

"These girls have to brush off one man after another on their way to work and again on their way home," Mrs. Watts claimed.

She said the graveyard scale of wages was higher than other hours, and that employers tried many dodges to get around it.

The order comes into force Oct. 15 and provides that continuous employment may be called for between midnight and six, but no broken hours.

²⁸⁴ From *Waitresses Restricted Now in Night Work*. (1945, September 25). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 3.

“Café owners protest new hours”²⁸⁵ (B.C., 1945)

Vancouver restaurants and night clubs would lose “millions of dollars,” the city would get a “bad name” among tourists and many waitresses would lose their jobs if the Provincial Conciliation Board’s “shift control” order is put into effect.

This was the warning of Vancouver and Victoria restaurant owners who appeared en masse today before the board to oppose the order. The ruling, scheduled to be implemented at the end of this month, forbids the beginning and ending of shifts for waitresses between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.

Striking sharply at the order, which the owners contend is “no cure” for crimes against women during late hours, restaurant proprietors declared the board was approaching the matter from the wrong direction.

The proper steps, he argued, were “improved” police protection and better street car service to protect waitresses going home at late hours.

“The order would result in the loss of millions of dollars,” warned Frank Hunter, proprietor of Aristocratic Hamburger Shops. He estimated his business would lose more than \$100,000 a year through the order.

“It would give Vancouver a bad name among tourists,” contended Richard Baker of the Vancouver Tourist Association.

“It would put us all out of work,” argued a Cave Cabaret waitress.

Other owners claimed they would have to close their businesses.

Adam Bell, deputy minister of labor, is chairman of the board that heard the owners’ appeal against the order at a meeting in the Hall Building this morning.

Only one Vancouver restaurant owner spoke out in favor of the order.

“All women should be out of public places, such as restaurants, by 12 o’clock (midnight),” Percy Leavis, manager of the Zenith Café, declared flatly.

“I employ men (as waiters) and find them very satisfactory,” he declared. Waitresses in his café worked only until 11:30 p.m. and waiters carried on until 1 a.m., closing time.

Other proprietors of coffee shops, cafeterias, night clubs and grills protested they would have to pay waiters more money than waitresses and that they would not get any extra work out of them.

They felt also that women filled the job better.

[A] major argument of the owners is that since it takes some time after closing to clean up, they would have to close at 11 p.m. to permit “cleaning up” time. On this basis, many contended, it would not pay them to remain open after 7 or 8 p.m. since there was a slack period between this time and 11 p.m.

[The] owners argued they had distributed petitions to their waitresses and that the majority of them did not mind working late shifts.

²⁸⁵ From City Café Owners Protest New Hours for Waitresses. (1945, October 22). *The Province*, p. 2.

“The compromise suggestion”²⁸⁶ (Vancouver, 1945)

A 1 a.m. workshift closing for Vancouver waitresses is the compromise suggestion that emerged from a seven-hour hearing by the Board of Industrial Relations on Monday, on its proposal that no waitresses be permitted to begin or end a shift between midnight and 6 a.m.

Mrs. Emily Watts, organizer for the Hotel and Restaurant Workers’ Union, representing 400 of an estimated 3000 waitresses in Vancouver, agreed to discuss the 1 a.m. proposal with the restaurant owners. And A. G. Duncan Crux, counsel for the Vancouver Restaurant Owners’ Association, promised his co-operation.

Adam Bell, chairman of the board, who suggested the compromise as a last-minute attempt to reconcile the positions taken by the owners and the union on the question of waitresses’ hours, said both parties will be notified of the board’s decision before the end of the month.

Merits and demerits of the board’s original order, that no waitress be permitted to begin or end a shift between midnight and 6 a.m. were discussed at length during the day.

With only one dissenting voice, restaurant and cabaret operators warned that decreased employment, public dissatisfaction and reduced profit would follow in the wake of the order – that many shops would close their doors at 8:30 p.m. rather than stay open for only a portion of the evening theatre trade before 11 p.m.

[The] Hotel and Restaurant Employees’ Union (AFL), backed by religious leaders and the Canadian Legion, contended that the order was workable and in the interest of safety.

Other waitresses – particularly cabaret workers and part-time employees at Hotel Vancouver – divorced themselves from the union stand, and claimed that the order would affect them adversely.

“By their tips ye know them”²⁸⁷ (Saskatoon, 1946)

You are a “bum,” mister, or a “cad” or a “stiff” if you fail to tip the taxi driver, the bell-hop or the waitress for services rendered.

Many interesting comments on the subject of tipping were picked up this week from interviews with the people engaged in the above-mentioned occupations.

“Wages are not high enough to cover our cost of living,” said one hotel porter. “And unfortunately for us we must rely on tips for our livelihood.”

“Thanks don’t pay for a meal,” was another comment from a local bell hop.

The taxi driver’s reaction to the non-tipper was “Just a lot of subdued muttering.” The nature of the muttering was not clearly defined.

²⁸⁶ From 1 a.m. Shift Proposed For Cafes. (1945, October 23). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 11.

²⁸⁷ From By Their Tips Ye Know Them, Bell Hops Assert. (1946, February 25). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 4.

The Chinese are the best tippers of all, according to another hotel hand interviewed. Their tips are usually one dollar, he said, and seldom less than 50 cents.

Men are much more liberal than women and the transient traveler is more generous than the commercial traveler. The commercial traveler, however, was said to be by far the most reliable and could always be counted on for a tip ranging from ten to 25 cents. The bell boys say they can usually judge the traveler by his baggage. If the baggage is of high quality, he is sure to be a “two-bitter,” but if it is of the rundown variety he is more than likely in the “dime” class.

While these people look to the public to reward them for their extra services, they are resigned to the fact that some people are ignorant of the custom and they are prepared to accept the good with the bad.

Many people just tip to make themselves appear to be good fellows and big operators. This opinion is backed up by the fact that a number of people are known to leave large tips for the waitress when dining in company but when alone, they absolutely shun the practice.

For the most part, however, it is agreed that the tips are for special services rendered, and as one bell-hop put it, “If they look after us, we look after them.”

So it appears that the matter is entirely up to the public. You can tip your bell-hop, waitress or cabbie and be a good fellow, or would you rather be a “stiff”?

“C. N. R. Dining Car Women”²⁸⁸ (1946)

The question of adding a feminine touch to dining car service on Canadian railways has long been debated by veteran men of the rods here – at least since early 1944 when Canada’s first railroad waitresses went into action in Nova Scotia.

The consensus of old-timers who should know is that the women on the Halifax to Sydney, N.X., run of the Canadian National Railways have done a fine job since they were called into service two years ago to replace men entering the armed forces.

“I’ve never heard anything against them,” said C. A. Place, C.N.R. dining car agent in Montreal, who has overheard many a session on the subject in his office here, a gathering place for weathered dining car stewards from all parts of Eastern Canada. “The public likes them. They are clean and efficient. In fact, they’ve been doing a dandy job all round.”

Both [the] Canadian Pacific Railway Company and Canadian National officials said the possibility of using women as buffet car waitresses never arose before the war. During the war, only Canadian National began employing them as a wartime expediency.

Some white-clad young women are still working on the Halifax to Sydney run as cooks, pantry-girls and waitresses, but they are gradually returning their positions to servicemen eager to resume their old work, officials said.

[An] announcement by [the] Pere Marquette Railroad in the United States that specially-trained girls would be used in some of its dining cars brought the comment

²⁸⁸ From DINER WAITRESSES DEBATED QUESTION. (1946, March 11). *Montreal Gazette*, p. 4.

from Canadian railwaymen that there will be no room for women employees on trains here when all Canada's veterans are home again.

A Canadian National official said the wartime experiment in Nova Scotia was a complete success. The women were fully trained for the job and get full schedule rates of pay for the type of work they are doing. Waitresses wear neat white uniforms edged in maroon, and [an] apron and bandeau. Buffet-cooks and pantry-girls have all-white uniforms and chef's caps.

“Waitresses get weekly 75c raise”²⁸⁹ (Vancouver, 1946)

A 75-cent weekly raise has been granted 350 waitresses in 23 Vancouver restaurants in the agreement signed Wednesday night by the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union, local 28, and café operators.

Wages of table waitresses are now raised from \$18.50 to \$19.25 weekly, and counter waitresses from \$21 to \$21.75.

Kitchen employees in 12 cafes in which the union is certified will receive a raise of \$2 weekly. The section of the agreement covering kitchen workers has not yet been formally signed.

The contract also provides for a 44-hour work week with no reduction in pay from the 48-hour week; annual vacations with pay of one week after one year's service and two weeks after two years, and time and a half for four statutory holidays annually when worked.

“The shock absorber between the kitchen and the table”²⁹⁰ (1946)

Depending on what terms it uses, the public can either belittle or dignify the restaurant profession. George S. Hougham, managing director of the Canadian Restaurant Association, made this statement Thursday night as he spoke on his craft before 100 members at a banquet in [the] Hotel Vancouver.

Chefs were not mere handlers of food.

“They are,” he said, “skilled artisans with the temperament of prima-donnas.”

Neither were waitresses mere serving girls.

“Consider them as hostesses,” he said. “They estimate the sensitive prejudices of each customer and then act as the shock absorber between the kitchen and the table.”

He foresaw the day when the public would “banish the idea that the job of a waitress was less respectable than that of a stenographer.”

The profession is making tremendous strides, he said, and “by gazing into my crystal ball” he could see waitresses in 1950 serving meals which had all been pre-cooked, frozen and placed in a streamlined refrigerator behind the counter.

²⁸⁹ From Waitresses Get Weekly 75c Raise. (1946, July 11). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 13.

²⁹⁰ From Waitresses 'As Good as Stenographers'. (1946, September 27). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 13.

“Council supports Cafémén”²⁹¹ (Saskatoon, 1946)

John Cairns, secretary of the Saskatoon branch, Canadian Restaurant Association, received the assurance of [the] Council Standing Committee, Thursday night, that representations would be made to the Provincial Government for an extension of the 12.30 midnight time limit that has been imposed on female help employed in restaurants.

Mr. Cairns appeared with a delegation of local restaurant proprietors representing what was purported to be “95 per cent of the restaurant owners in the city.” He explained that the present difficulty was not a strike, nor was it a wage dispute nor a walkout.

“Restaurant owners decided it would be necessary to close at 1.30 each evening if they were to comply with the Government regulations and have female employees off the premises by 12.30 midnight. They tried this and it was not satisfactory, as customers knocked and banged at the doors²⁹² as soon as they were closed,” Mr. Cairns said.

“This city is midnight snack conscious, and if a restaurant closes at 11.30 it is about 11 o’clock before business starts, and shortly afterwards the doors must be closed in order to allow the waitresses to clean up the premises, serve the customers already inside and get ready to go home at 12.30,” the secretary stated.

“A further meeting was held at which it was agreed restaurants would close at 8.30. It meant a smaller staff, less wages and less cost to the proprietors. So far there have been no staff dismissals, but the proprietors assure me that this cannot continue much longer unless the situation is remedied. They will have to lay off help,” said Mr. Cairns.

[The] only dissenting voice was that of R. W. Pepper, proprietor of the Modern Del, who told the meeting that he was strongly opposed to the 8.30 o’clock closing and that he would continue to keep his establishment open until 11.30 each evening.

“I do not believe that the other proprietors have given the 11.30 o’clock closing a fair trial,” Mr. Pepper said. He added that 11.30 was hardly late enough and the public did suffer to some extent when restaurants closed that early, but they did not suffer as much as they are suffering now when they closed at 8.30 each night.

Jim Girgulis, proprietor of the Elite Café, stated that he had been in Saskatoon for 29 years and it had been his business to serve the public. “I believe that I am just as important to the city as is a doctor, and we should be allowed to serve the public,” he said. “Speaking for myself, I would be satisfied to keep open until 12.30, which

²⁹¹ From Council Supports Cafemen; Ask Government to Amend Wage Board Regulations. (1946, October 11). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

²⁹² “John Stewart, No. 4 Airport, paid \$5 and costs for kicking in a front window at the Marigold Shoppe when refused admittance at about 10.15 o’clock Thursday night. He was also ordered to pay \$20 towards replacing the plate of glass. [...] Stewart, along with a companion, tried to enter the Third Avenue café, but were told that the place was closed. Stewart and his friend turned to go, moved on a few paces, and then Stewart returned to kick the glass.” Kicked in Window In Downtown Café. (1946, October 11). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 3.

would mean that the girls could leave by 1.30 in the morning, and I will see to it that they are provided with transportation to their homes,” Mr. Girgulis said.

“On the prowl for innocent waitresses”²⁹³ (Calgary, 1946)

Male “wolves,” on the prowl for innocent waitresses, disperse early in Calgary, the Alberta Board of Industrial Relations heard yesterday.

Jerry Puckett, representative of the Calgary District Restaurant Association, told the board that the “wolves” cause waitresses more grief around midnight than at two or three o’clock in the morning. The board was hearing views of interested Calgary parties on minimum wages and hours of work.

A law now in force requires waitresses to stop work at 12:30 a.m. Mr. Puckett said the intention of the law was to protect them from undesirable male attention.

However, they run into more grief now than they used to, he said. The “wolves” were on the prowl just after midnight, knowing the girls would be coming out at a definite time. Numerous waitresses had to leave by rear exits. But before the law was enforced, waitresses could be kept at work until two or three o’clock when parties were over, the city quiet and the “wolves” had dispersed.

A board member suggested legislation for the “wolves” instead of the girls.

“Wolves divided”²⁹⁴ (Regina, 1946)

A survey Thursday of the degree of persistence of Regina male “wolves” revealed that these gentlemen vary to a considerable degree within their own ranks.

The reason for the survey was a statement in Calgary regarding the hours of work for waitresses. During an investigation into closing hours for restaurants it was claimed it was safer for the girls to work until three o’clock than to finish at 12:30. The reason given was that the “wolves” bothered the girls with their attentions when they left the restaurant premises at 12:30 but that the mendacious gentlemen rarely bothered to hang around until 3:00 a.m.

One Regina waitress pooh-poohed the suggestion. “If they’re going to hang around they’re going to hang around,” she said.

There had been wolves on her doorstep in the days when she left the restaurant at around three in the morning. Her problem had been solved, however, by the fact a stalwart policeman was usually in the vicinity at that time and he accompanied her home.

Said another waitress: “Closing hours don’t bother me. My husband meets me. He’s six feet tall.”

A survey at a restaurant usually frequented by the teen-age crowd indicated the wolves were not numerous in that area. The girls had not been bothered.

²⁹³ From Calgary “Wolves” Retire Early Alberta Wage Board Informed. (1946, December 17). *The Windsor Star*, p. 1.

²⁹⁴ From “Wolves” divided. (1946, December 20). *Regina Leader-Post*, p. 3.

Numerous suggestions have been advanced to cope with the situation. One is that there be legislation to curb the practice of “wolfing.” It has further been pointed out that there is a bounty on wolves.

“Wartime spending spree over”²⁹⁵ (Vancouver, 1946)

Easy money has all but vanished from the Vancouver scene and the results are tabulated in cold figures in the accounting departments of the city’s night clubs, restaurants and theatres.

They testify that the day of the lavish tip, the after-theatre snack, the crowded night club, and the perpetual movie queues may well be numbered.

Although the trend toward cautious spending doesn’t yet appear to have affected business in the two biggest luxury trades here – jewels and furs – as it has in New York, it has appreciably cut revenue in the entertainment and restaurant fields.

Here is the evidence:

NIGHT CLUBS – Business at one of the city’s leading cabarets has dropped 45 percent since the boom years of mid-war. People are beginning to be choosy about entertainment and club owners are casting around for superior quality floor shows.

THEATRES – People are starting to “shop” for movies. The day of the Grade B movie is dying. Saturday queues are still with us, but the week-day line-ups have dwindled.

RESTAURANTS – High-class restaurants report they are now getting a different class of customer – people who can always afford to pay high prices for meals. The wartime “easy money” customer has vanished – and with him considerable business. Medium price lunch counters still do big business on midday meals, but after-theatre snacks have fallen off badly.

The end of the ship-building boom, with a resulting exodus back to the prairies and an accompanying shift of women into lower income brackets is listed as the biggest factor in this new post-war era of cautious spending.

[The] biggest straw in the wind is the slump in tipping since 1944. Not only is there an increase in the people who don’t tip at all; there is a decrease in the amount of individual tips.

Two other indications: An announcement today by the Hotel and Restaurant Workers Union here that the “necessary arrangements for out-of-work stamps are being made,” and that for the first time in six years there was unemployment among hotel desk clerks.

Out-of-work stamps allow unemployed union members to maintain their union standing, despite inability to pay dues. They have not been necessary for six years.

²⁹⁵ From WARTIME SPENDING SPREE OVER HERE. (1946, December 11). *Vancouver Sun*, p. 26.

“A very old occupation”²⁹⁶ (Vancouver, 1946)

From Bible times and perhaps long before, members of the feminine population have been “ministering unto” guests and travelers.

The waitress belongs to a very old occupation. The history and fiction of old England contain plenty of inn characters – buxom lassies who bring in pigeon pies and boars’ heads to famishing travelers. There are always attractive bar-maids flitting about with foaming tankards and pewter mugs.

Although the background and duties of waitresses have changed with the times, their importance is greater than ever before. More people dine in public eating places than at any previous period in our history.

Grandpaw and Grandmaw Snodgrass, as they trekked westward in their covered wagon, brewed their tea and boiled their beans and buffalo stew wherever night caught them. Today eateries are strung along every highway. When a traveler’s car halts, a waitress appears clad in a- anyway, a waitress appears and food is brought out in the time it once took Grandmaw to climb down over the wagon wheel.

The tempo has changed but the traveler or diner-out depends more than ever on the ministrations of the waitress.

Having by tradition been so long connected with the preparation and serving of food, even from caveman days. It is natural that this occupation should be largely carried on by waitresses rather than by waiters. Large hotels and ritzy night clubs have their waiters, usually trained abroad – often in Switzerland, but the thousands of “average” places into which we rush every day are waitress-staffed.

At the moment it is extremely difficult for hotels, restaurants or even beaneries to keep their quotas of waitresses filled. This is partly due to the nature of the work. Few waitresses like the night shift. It is not pleasant to go home at one, two or three o’clock in the morning, and a number of restaurants are open all night. Also, the work is hard. Toting heavy loads of dishes hour after hour is anything but easy. Did you ever watch a frail-looking girl balance a lot of dishes from elbow to fingertips? Not a plate slips; not a drop is spilled.

If this seems easy, try it some time, but try it first with empty dishes, perhaps also the unbreakable kind.

In addition to the physical demands there is a mental strain. Remembering complicated orders for a party of six is no mean feat. To all this must be added the constant effort to please customers.

While this is not difficult with the majority who are easy-going, there are always a few crotchety individuals who seem to be born trouble-makers. They bark at some minor matter that is of no account. They have naturally bad dispositions and are perhaps unconscious of the trouble they make. Or they are putting on an act, believing that others will regard them as experienced epicures if they are hard to satisfy.

²⁹⁶ From Evans, A. R. (1946, December 28). THE WAITRESS. *The Vancouver Sun (Sunday Sun Magazine)*, p. 4. Written by Allen Roy Evans (1885 – 1965).

It usually turns out that the complainers are the least experienced and this is their method of covering their sense of inferiority.

Then there are the wolves, both casual and congenital, and these are worthy of separate treatment a little later.

Perhaps now it will be a little better understood why almost every restaurant has a "Help Wanted" sign in the window. The girl who slams down your coffee and doughnuts does not seem to have a care in the world. Or the waitress who deftly delivers your filet mignon and demi-tasse may seem to have a rather soft job. We never see the whole picture. If the work was easy there would be few vacancies. Next to domestic work, restaurant vacancies are the hardest to fill.

We, the public, might help to make the work of the waitress a bit lighter. After all these years it is still surprising the number of customers who complain bitterly about infinitesimal portions of butter and sugar. Meatless days are often the occasion for sarcastic remarks, as if the waitress herself is personally responsible for government regulations. Let us remember these things. A flare of temper only impairs digestion and confirms the waitress in her speculation about finding a pleasanter job.

Children in a well-ordered dining room are often a source of trouble to the waitress. If small, the chances are they will be a bit messy. If little Junior upsets his porridge, the waitress must smile and wipe it up, giving the beaming mother the impression that it is really a clever trick and boys will be boys!

Children a little older are inclined to be spoiled. They hear adults ordering and they gather the impression that the waitress is someone to be ordered about. Now is the chance for these precocious youngsters to be bossy – probably the first time such a chance has come their way and they take full advantage of it.

The sight of people eating hour after hour, and week after week, no doubt has a cumulative effect on impressionable natures. It must come to seem as if the human race is nothing, but a vast devouring animal.

Waitresses agree, at least those in the top restaurants, that Orientals make especially desirable customers. They are very polite, quiet and easy to please. There are occasional Hindus and the strange conglomerate that comes from Hawaii.

Cultured Chinese are perhaps the favorites. They manage to give the impression that the waitress is doing them a great favor and they are good tipplers.

A few years ago Oriental custom was refused, or at least not encouraged, but this prejudice is slowly breaking down.

As far as the waitress is concerned, Oriental guests are welcome. Travelers of the cosmopolitan type, are always friendly to follow guests regardless of color.

It is amazing how invariably the experienced waitress is able to spot the parvenu. This is something to remember. Every effort to appear impressive by a display of arrogance falls flat. People who have always been accustomed to service or at least for a long time, are almost always friendly and easy to serve. Service is an old thing to them; they know it will come without loud and insistent demands. Those who are new to dining rooms and restaurants make such a tremendous effort to

behave like cosmopolites that they achieve the very reverse. Behind the scenes, the waitresses are either laughing at them or cussing them.

Waitresses still talk about an international celebrity who touched Vancouver for two or three days. She carried on a pleasant repartee with the girls. Little incidents were regarded with humor. Whenever she forgot and lapsed into one of half a dozen languages more familiar than English, it was an occasion for hilarity. No arrogance, and on the other hand, no gushing; just a perfectly natural manner on the basis of everybody being equal. Such guests get de luxe service because they do not ask for it.

Equally well remembered, but not with the same satisfaction, is the Colonel and his eggs. He was not quite of the eye-glass type, but he had all the other accessories – cap and stick, loud tweeds and leggings and a roast-beef complexion. For a moment no one came to take his order. The beefy one beckoned imperiously:

“I say, me gal, approach!” his parade-ground voice boomed.

A waitress came reluctantly with her order pad: “Yes, sir?”

“Toast and marmalade. You have marmalade, what?”

“Oh, yes, sir!”

“Skiffington’s, I hope?”

“I don’t know what kind.”

“You don’t know? Come, come, gal! You must know.”

“We’re glad to have it.” The girl tried to soothe him. “But I don’t know whose it is.”

“Preposterous! Bring it anyway. If it’s not right I’ll send it back.”

“Yes, sir.”

“And another thing. No one comes to this table. Understand, no one!”

“In a few minutes there’ll be a crowd,” the girl explained.

“That’s what I hate. Crowds! Yokels staring at a man! Why, in the Officer’s Club in Hong Kong... But you wouldn’t understand. Don’t stand there. Proceed!”

When the toast and marmalade arrived he sniffed the latter. “Just what I feared! It’s not Skiffington’s. Whose is it?”

“Why, it’s yours now, sir.” The girl was becoming confused.

“Dunderhead! Who made it?”

“Why, I think it’s Malkin’s.”

“Never heard of the bounder. Take it away. Bring me eggs. Two minutes and a hawf. Not a second more. And I say, me girl, wash those shells.” He looked about and remarked generally. “Wretched service, what!”

When the eggs came there was a critical examination. “A three-minute egg, if I ever saw one! And that speck! See that, me gal? Not washed!”

“It’s part of the shell, sir,” the unhappy waitress explained.

“Preposterous! It’s a defect. Back with it. Two and a hawf minutes and time it yourself.”

“Yes, sir. Standard or daylight time?” The girl was now too reckless to care what happened.

“Insolent!” The Colonel rose in his rage. “I say, head-waiter! Call a Bobby! Get the Skipper!”

At length the storm blew itself out and comparative calm returned. But the waitresses remember such encounters for a long time. They agree that guests of this type are most difficult of all.

While there is not complete agreement on the controversial question of tipping, the waitresses are largely for it. They agree that extra service, quick service and friendly service requires a special effort, especially near the end of a long shift. There is a feeling that this special effort is as much a part of a dinner as an extra dessert or any other chargeable item. The question is debatable. It is a matter for each guest to use his own judgment.

The problem of the perpetual “wolf” gives little trouble today. In depression times when jobs were scarce and customers were not so plentiful as they are today, the problem could be troublesome. Restaurants did not like to lose customers and girls did not like to lose jobs.

It was policy to “be nice” to the wolf, but not too nice – a kind of delicate middle ground that was not always easy. Today the waitress is absolutely independent. She can and does tell the persistent “dater” just where he can get off. If he takes his custom elsewhere the restaurant does not worry, business is at capacity in any case. Nor does the waitress care. She can get just as good a job across the street, or an even better spot around the corner. For once in her life she is on top of the world.

“Waitresses sit idle four hours”²⁹⁷ (Calgary, 1947)

Alberta’s Industrial Relations regulations give two Calgary waitresses pay for four hours of idleness nightly. Regulations provide that no female employees shall go to or leave work between 12:30 a.m. and 6 a.m. The waitresses in question go on duty at midnight, to handle a rush of business from nearby dance halls. The rush is over by 2 a.m., and the restaurant closes then. The proprietors offered to send the girls home in taxis at that hour, but the Industrial Relations Board said no. Result, the waitresses sit in an empty restaurant until 6 a.m. Employers say no men are available for the night shift.

“Tipping can easily become a racket”²⁹⁸ (Windsor, 1947)

Sir: Things have come to a fine state of affairs when a person cannot slip into a coffee shop, order a cup of coffee, drink it with your fellow friends, pay ten cents for it and then depart without being expected to tip the waitress.

²⁹⁷ Cannot Go Home So Waitresses Sit Idle Four Hours. (1947, February 8). *Financial Post*, p. 3.

²⁹⁸ From COFFEE CLUBBER. (1947, May 22). Coffee Drinker Irked By Tip Grabbers. *The Windsor Star*, p. 22.

This habit of tipping can easily become a racket and if employers do nothing to check it employees may easily undermine an up and coming concern with their hungry cry for tips.

The waitresses of a local coffee shop are a good example of coffee clinging tip fiends. They will give you a pleasant smile the first morning they bring you a 10-cent cup of coffee, but if you fail to leave them at least a 10-cent tip you will be lucky to get a cup of coffee there the next day.

At least, this is what a number of steady customers, of which I am one, have found to be true. Since we sit at the same table every morning the girls know us as “Oh! those guys again.” They know we have united in the fight against tipping for delivery of a 10-cent cup of coffee and it seems to be a fight among themselves as to who will wait on us each day.

The situation as we see it is if you do not tip at this place your patronage is not wanted. By the hired hands, that is. If the management was aware of the situation perhaps there would be a little bit of house cleaning amongst the staff and less business turned away.

“The matter of tipping”²⁹⁹ (1947)

Summer-resort season always brings up the matter of tipping, and many a veranda conversation ranges around how much to give the bellhop or waitress. To get first-hand information, I talked to who spend their summers working as waitresses or bellhops to combine a holiday with money-making and here are some of the hints they give us:

Please, they say, be matter of fact about tipping. Hand over tips openly or place [them] beside [the] plate on [the] table or leave [them] at the desk in an envelope with the recipient’s name on it. But don’t try to “slip” tips to them when shaking hands. This makes them embarrassed – so much so, they would almost rather do without the money!

The first person you will tip will be the bellhop taking bags to your room. Give him 25 cents for carrying one or two bags and for carrying three or four he should receive 50 cents. This may seem high, as it equals city hotel rates, but the catch is that the bellhop at a summer resort usually has to carry your bags a long way, either from the boat down on the dock or from your motor car in the parking lot, a considerable distance from the hotel. By the time he has panted up a hill and up the stairs, without benefit of elevator, and got you settled in your room, he has earned his 25 or 50 cents! So, pay gracefully and get off to a good start.

For bringing a newspaper, telegram or letters to your room, the bellhop at a summer resort gets 10 cents. However, if he brings ice water, he should receive 25 cents because he probably has to chop the ice for you himself. His tip is 35 cents if he brings a set-up of ginger ale or soda water and glasses to your room.

²⁹⁹ From Wallace, C. (1947, August 2). Strictly Canadian. *The Montreal Gazette*, p. 7. Written by Claire Wallace (1900 – 1968).

For giving you service in the lounge – perhaps bringing bridge table and chairs – his tip is 25 cents.

You may, of course, leave all your tipping (with the exception of the bellhop who carried your bags to your room) until you depart. Then you will have to figure out how much service each one gave you and pay off. Another way is to give the bell captain a sum, depending on the service you have demanded, and ask him to divide it among the boys. Don't be like the titled couple who spent the whole summer in Muskoka, were waited on hand and foot, but postponed tipping until the last moment and then, as they stepped aboard the boat, handed 25 cents to the nearest bellhop! They apparently took it for granted that tipping was included in the bill, but that's not the way it is done in Canada.

The waitress will be your biggest tipping problem. You will probably have a certain table and the same waitress throughout your stay. It will simplify things for you, and she will probably prefer it, if you tip her halfway through your stay and when you are leaving. If you are staying at one of the more expensive places, you would tip your waitress five dollars a week. If you are staying at one of the many attractive Canadian summer resorts where the rate you are paying is \$25 or \$35 a week, your waitress should receive a weekly tip of 10 per cent – that means \$2.50 or \$3.50.

If there is a head waitress or waiter who gives you a table in a location you like and often shows you to it, he or she receives a tip, at the end of your stay, of one-fifth the tip paid your waitress.

Lots of young people spending a week or two as guests at summer resorts, cannot afford to tip much and shouldn't worry about it. They should put aside the sum they can afford to spend on tips, not be too demanding for service during their stay and then spread the money as far as it will go when leaving. Kindness and words of appreciation with a moderate tip are often as much appreciated as a big tip from a crank. Those who serve as waitresses or bellhops are quick and discerning. They soon size people up, and know how much guests can afford to pay.

“More Canadians who approve”³⁰⁰ (1947)

Here is the state of the nation with respect to that million dollar subject – tipping.

Contrary to some claims, there is no overwhelming demand in Canada for abolishing the custom, even though Canadians spend inestimable numbers of dollars every year in this form of gratuity.

Actually, there are more Canadians who approve [of] tipping than there are those who oppose it.

And the argument, advanced by some in a Gallup Poll on the subject, to the effect that tipping is “degrading to the receiver” is certainly not shared by waiters and waitresses, who were made the subject of a special poll by the Institute.

³⁰⁰ From Canadian Institute of Public Opinion. (1947, October 2). *The Winnipeg Tribune*, p. 5.

To a carefully balanced cross-section of Canadians, Gallup Poll reporters put this question:

“Some people say that tipping should be abolished, because it permits low wages. Others think it should not be abolished, because tipping is a way of rewarding good service. How do you feel about it?”

Almost half the sample wanted it continued:

Should NOT be abolished	48%
Should be abolished	41
Undecided	11
[Total]	100%

To get the views of those on the receiving end, Gallup Poll reporters sought out a sample of waiters and waitresses all across Canada. Their views were much more emphatic, and gave little evidence that they considered tipping degrading:

Views of Waiters and Waitresses	
Should NOT be abolished	81%
Should be abolished	15
Undecided	4
[Total]	100%

If, as tip-recipients claim, men are better tippers than women, it must be because more of them control the money, and not because of any inherent views about tipping. Because the poll found no difference between the views of the two sexes.

But, while men and women feel the same way about it, there is a marked difference in the way younger and older people feel. For example, while six in ten people between the ages of 21 and 29 years favored continuing the custom of tipping, only about three in ten of those over 50 years wanted it continued.

Chief comment of those who would abolish a custom which in some cities has grown to be a huge “industry”, was that everyone should be on a straight salary which should be adequate without tips. [The] second largest group of dissenters thought it “lowered the dignity” of the recipient. [The] third largest group put the emphasis on a personal basis, and said the cost of living was high enough without tipping.

But to the typical pro-tipper, judging from the comments received, it is merely a convenient way of rewarding good service.

It all adds up to the fact that “tippees” need have no fear of an uprising on the part of the long suffering “tipper,” – this year, anyway.

“A shadow of its former self”³⁰¹ (Vancouver, 1947)

The lush days of war spending may have ended, but most Vancouver people still sneak a tip under the saucer when they leave a restaurant. Today’s version of a tip, however, is a shadow of its former self.

A Vancouver Sun survey of downtown restaurants today shows that tips are less than half of what they used to be. And, of course, the non-tippers still aren’t tipping.

“But we have no complaints,” was the majority verdict of waitresses.

Girls look back with dreamy eyes to the days U.S. soldiers poured across the boundary, ate sumptuous repasts, and left 50 cents or \$1 for the waitress.

Total take is top secret stuff, but they don’t deny they realized \$8 to \$10 a day.

Now girls confess that diners usually leave a dime and a day’s collection ranges between \$1 and \$4.

During the war, tips used to range up to 25 percent, most waitresses agree. Now they collect 10 percent of the bill, even in the posh hotels.

Waitresses receive at least \$16.70 a week plus their meals, the legal minimum.

Here are some sidelights on tipping:

One person eating alone may leave a 10-cent tip. If he eats with a friend, and pays the bill, he may leave 25 cents.

Wives frequently prod their husbands to tip.

People attending banquets and private parties generally tip heavier than if they eat alone.

Steady customers usually tip. “Waitresses have an uncanny knack about remembering faces,” the girls point out.

You can’t judge a man’s income from his tip. “Millionaires tip no more than stenographers,” the girls say.

Tips left for counter meals are generally smaller than those left at tables. The size of the tip seems to depend on how long a diner loiters.

The prevailing attitude among diners seems to be that if they grab a quick lunch at a counter, and dash away, no tip is necessary.

These days, though, the complaint is not about the dearth of tips.

It’s about the scarcity of diners.

³⁰¹ From Waitresses Find Tips Today Not What They Used to Be. (1947, November 14). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 17.

“Tips in restaurants”³⁰² (Vancouver, 1947)

Editor, The Sun: Sir – Regarding your story in the issue of Nov. 14, 1947, on tipping in cafes.

There has been a complete misrepresentation of facts given to the reporter who wrote this article. It is unfortunate that your paper, fair as it always is, is put in the position of printing such a mistake.

I have been employed as a waitress for eight years in second class houses in Vancouver and first and second class houses in Victoria. I feel, therefore, that I can be accepted as somewhat of an authority on tips received by waitresses. In second class cafes girls are lucky to average \$8 a week in tips in the best of times. This, I say, is an average, taking into consideration such lush times as Christmas and New Year’s and the slack time in the fall and spring.

Both the above are wartime standards. Tips to waitresses have dropped with the drop in business in this industry, which has been considerable.

Your article left the impression that waitresses were getting their meals free. This, of course, is completely false. Meals are paid for at a rate of 20c a meal. I have worked in a number of houses; not once was I allowed to eat anything more than the cheapest meal on the menu without making up the difference.

For people who think that waitresses’ \$16.70 a week plus \$8 to \$14 tips is big money, they should first consider some of the hardships of the job. The major complaint with waitresses is washroom facilities, which are small, damp and not conducive to privacy even in the best places. This increases depreciation on street clothes which are constantly at the cleaners, or worse still flecked with cigarette burns due to cramped quarters. Shoes are also a heavy expense to a waitress.

Medical attention runs high among waitresses, including dentists and chiropodists. The dreaded “trench mouth” finds many victims owing to inadequate sanitation and dishwashing.

I deny completely that any of us realize \$8 to \$10 a day in tips. I speak of girls in cafes and dining rooms. In the case of girls working in cafeterias and lunch rooms, I marvel that they continue to exist.

M. SKELTON
910 Kingsway.

“A woman trying to get something to eat”³⁰³ (Windsor, 1947)

Sir: There’s something to be said for the old adage that it’s a man’s world – especially if you happen to be a woman trying to get something to eat in a Windsor restaurant. It can’t be done – not unless every other prospective diner happens to be a woman, too. The waitress can be seen looking over the line-up and picking out the

³⁰² From Skelton, M. (1947, November 20). Tips in Restaurants. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 4. Believed to be written by Mary Jane Waites Skelton (1879 - 1963).

³⁰³ From DOWNTOWN DINER. (1947, December 5). Ladies Eating Out Very Unhappy. *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 19.

fedoras and bowlers (which don't even have to be off to command service for their owners).

Having fed the men, the girls then turn their attention somewhat indifferently to the members of their own sex who are by that time very hungry, very unhappy and just about ready to take their business somewhere else ... which they would do, if they didn't know that the same procedure would be repeated all over again.

They talk about the manners of the general public, but it might be a good idea to apply a bit of correction to the manners of the girls behind the restaurant counters, too. Salesgirls and clerks in drug stores, home furnishing departments and other places of business seem to have recovered from the during-the-war feeling of "so what?" but the eating house ladies have yet to learn.

If classes can be given by the employment office for Christmas help, why not extend the policy and give them for waitresses too? They are sadly needed and would be appreciated by the large number of business people who have to eat lunch out.

DOWNTOWN DINER.

"Waitress finds women hard to please"³⁰⁴ (Windsor, 1947)

Sir: Will you grant me space in your valuable paper to answer a letter which appeared today, signed by Downtown Diner? We girls who have to work hard all day waiting on people who are very seldom even courteous to us would like to say something about you women we have to wait on.

The downtown men who eat in restaurants can be served quickly with little fuss and are never sarcastic, as some of you women diners are. Can you blame a girl for wanting to wait on them?

In our restaurant the girls who have been on the job the longest usually keep busy waiting on men, while the green, new girls are obliged to wait on the "fair sex."

And why shouldn't we do that? You girls come in twos, take up space for four, order coffee and expect us to bring you your order, a glass of water and the check immediately. When we were green in the business, we did this. We did it, that is, until we girls found out that you were going to sit there for a half an hour over one coffee, then crush a cigarette in the saucer.

Most of you girls are sarcastic, too, which the gentlemen diners never are. Can you blame us girls who are downtown waitresses for preferring gentlemen customers?

SOME DOWNTOWN WAITRESSES

³⁰⁴ From SOME DOWNTOWN WAITRESSES. (1947, December 8). Waitress Finds Women Hard to Please. *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 7.

“Waitresses plagued by ladies”³⁰⁵ (Windsor, 1947)

Sir: More power to waitresses in downtown eating establishments in their current dispute with lady diners who claim they can't get waited on because the waitresses prefer to serve male customers first.

As “Some Downtown Waitresses” said the other day in answer to a verbal attack by a lady diner, men are much easier to satisfy and treat their waitresses like human beings.

I am a male diner and have been eating out in Windsor restaurants for some time. Did it ever occur to some of these ladies who pop into a restaurant once a week, if that often, that the waitress should wait on regular customers first, [the] majority of whom are male?

The treatment which some women diners give waitresses is infuriating to watch. I have sat back and seen them bicker and complain because the salad was not properly seasoned (all women diners out appear to nibble at a salad.) Then they want this or that and change their minds so often the poor waitress would be justified in bringing them a nice piece of cream pie and dribbling it down their necks.

As far as being given preferential treatment is concerned, the ladies get that when they go to a store where there are male clerks. Just try and buy a handkerchief, tie or a pair of shoes while the male clerk can busy himself trying to please some sweet young thing who only wants to shop around.

WELLINGTON.

“Nerve-racking treatment”³⁰⁶ (Windsor, 1947)

Sir: As a member of the working world which rubs elbows with the public every day I should like to defend the waitresses in local restaurants who have been criticized on this page recently. The defence offered might also be applied to other groups who for eight hours a day have to put up with the foibles and fancies of a rather thoughtless public.

As an example of the nerve-racking treatment waitresses have to tolerate, or else risk losing their jobs, I might mention an incident which occurred Thursday at a well-known Windsor lunch bar. With the boredom which characterizes people who frequent restaurants, I was munching my way through a bacon sandwich when all of a sudden a plump matron flopped herself down on the stool beside me. Without warning the barrage began, for no sooner was she seated than she wailed: “Isn't it a miserable day, so damp and dirty?” I had no answer for this, for Thursday happened to be one of the nicest days Windsor has experienced this winter.

There was silence for a moment.

³⁰⁵ From WELLINGTON. (1947, December 11). Maintains Waitresses Plagued by Ladies. *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 15.

³⁰⁶ From A FEMALE OBSERVER. (1947, December 15). Adds Own Comment On Lady Diners-Out. *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 15.

Then madam started gloating about the letter which appeared in these columns the other day, blasting waitresses ... so loudly that all the waitresses, and everyone else interested, could hear her. A little blonde, blue-eyed waitress appeared and the woman ordered toast and tea. It took a few minutes to arrive, and madam started fuming ... she sounded just like a steam boiler. Finally she snapped at the waitress, who wasn't responsible for the delay: "Where's my toast?" And she wasn't finished yet. The girl had forgotten to give her a napkin, but wasn't kept in ignorance of her gross error for long. Madam couldn't find anything else to give the waitress jitters, so she started complaining about the mother across the way "who should have taken her little boy to a restaurant where he wouldn't have to perch on a stool."

And that is just a sample of the sort of treatment which makes waitresses, store clerks and bus drivers so nervous and irritable that they snap at people who have no intention of rubbing them the wrong way. Probably the woman mentioned above hadn't crawled out of bed until 11 o'clock, while the girls waiting on her had been up since seven o'clock.

While she was blissfully snoozing away, they were putting up with [the] same sort of treatment from spoiled women who probably have never worked anywhere except in the sheltered seclusion of their homes, where their husbands and children must lead dogs' lives.

Just had to get it out of my system.

A FEMALE OBSERVER.

"Who waits on whom?"³⁰⁷ (Ottawa, 1947)

Some of the girls who work in this building have asked me when I was going to write a theme called "who waits on whom?" Well, here it is. Now, don't get excited; this is not a shocker. What they really want me to complain about is the fact that men get waited on before women in our local restaurants.

In one place, say the girls, the men get a quick smile and quick service. The girls get neither.

I checked up and asked if they tipped. They explained that they did not tip in places where they carried their own food, any more than the men. But, they were quick to point out, they tipped in regular restaurants.

"But much good it does us," they answered, "we still do not get any service."

Of course, among the things that some girls who wait in restaurants have forgotten is this. The word "tip" does not come from the ordinary word "tip". It comes from "T.I.P."³⁰⁸ which means, "to insure promptness." But a tip nowadays is taken as a matter of course.

³⁰⁷ From Cross, A. F. (1947, December 26). All Things Come To Those Who Wait. *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 2. Written by Austin F. Cross (1898 – 1961).

³⁰⁸ This is a acronym after the fact. Using the word "tip" to mean a gratuity dates back to at least the early 18th century. According to the *Online Etymology Dictionary*, the "to insure promptness" tale appears to have originated in a 1909 book called "Inns, Ales and Drinking Customs of Old England," written by Frederick W. Hackwood. The passage in question: "The origin of the custom is said to be

Whether all waitresses slight all girls is a moot question. I have noticed that better class restaurant help waits on women as efficiently and as quickly as they do men. What's more, I notice the waitresses often make friends with their lady customers, a friendship based on something more solid than the hopes of a tip.

So in restaurants where the service is good, and the patrons sit on tables, I believe the waitresses are impartial as to the sexes.

But I do know that [at] these places where you line up at a counter, the waitresses seem sometimes to keep the women customers waiting. The trouble, of course, is that there is no front counter supervision. The argument of the management might be that they can't get the girls. My answer is: "Yes, you can, if you pay the money."

I once wrote an epic on tipping, as pertaining to ocean ships. In that sphere, tips can be very big. For instance, I have heard of a \$1,000 bill being split among the bell hops on a ship.

Tips run from \$200 to \$500 on a world cruise. So the stewards and others become acutely aware of tips. In a word, I got expert testimony. They all insisted that women were N.G. as tippers, as a general rule. Once in a while, they would get a good tipper, but for the most part, they didn't do too well. One girl, taking a Bermuda cruise, sized it up when she said:

"I thought of that six dollars I would have to tip the steward in Montreal, and I thought that it would buy me three pairs of hose. Heck, I said, the man gets paid anyway. I need the money more than he does. So I walked off the ship and bought myself three pairs of stockings."

There, it seems to me, is the whole story of women tipping, in a nutshell.

On the other hand, the men are quick to look after a lady at the counter. But only the very young and the very impressionable male waiters boycott the men to the exclusion of a pretty doll, and I have found that men waiters carry out their duties with considerable impartiality. Sometimes, here the shoe is on the other foot, since women, pleased with the service of a good man waiter, will tip very generously indeed.

Women as waitresses will usually hustle faster and if you get a good one, she is perfect. But when it comes to a real a la carte evening, when you are ordering something special, you can't beat a good male waiter. And if I have to make a choice, give me an Italian. A good Italian waiter, who really knows his stuff, is the best you can find. All in all, I think the worst service I ever got in the world was on Sparks street, and on the same street, some of the best.

Finally, a word about Chinamen. Go to a good Chinese restaurant, and while the service will never be gushing, it will be just what you want.

Now we are getting away from tips. Traditionally, they have been ten per cent. But across the line, the waitress now expects 25 cents for any meal over a dollar. Sooner or later, they'll kill the goose that lays the silver quarter.

traceable to the practice in old coaching inns of having a money-box displayed on the sideboard of the chief guest-room for customers to drop in their gratuities intended for the servants. This box was labelled "To Insure Promptitude," the initials of these three words being always painted in large capitals and forming the word TIP." (p. 195)

As to Ottawa, I suppose none of the bad waitresses will read this, and if they do, they will not think I mean them.

But I do.

“Nothing logical about tipping”³⁰⁹ (Vancouver, 1947)

There is bemoaning among waiters and waitresses that tips are not what they used to be in the lush war days when money was plentiful and it was quite usual to find half a dollar slipped under the plate after a dollar meal. Nowadays a dime is the modest gratuity. Often there is no tip at all.

Why should one tip a waitress and not a store clerk? Their earnings are about equal, and the clerk often works harder to please the customer than does the girl in a restaurant. But let a gay young blade try slipping the clerk a quarter and she'll pucker up her pretty lips and whistle for the floorwalker to give him the bum's rush.

There's nothing logical about tipping. It's a matter of custom, ostentation and gimme servility.

Tipping may not bring better service, but non-tipping had better not be repeated too often in the same classy dining room. There may not be anything wrong that you can exactly put your finger on, but there certainly won't be anything right to boast about, either.

In a swank hotel the tip is split several ways: head waiter, captain, waiter, and bus boy, the latter getting the mouse's share. No bus boy ever got rich, but many head waiters have bigger incomes than the guests for whom they reserve tables. [...]

In Toronto the hat check girls are out to organize themselves. They want pockets in their uniforms, an even split of all tips over twenty-five cents (at present the concessionaire gets all the tips and pays the girls a salary), and an end put to the custom of being frisked at the end of the shift by a matron looking for hidden coins.

Ten cents is the minimum expected for the checking of a hat. Even that runs into money. A \$10 hat, checked six times a week, will have cost the owner \$31.20 by the end of the year. Is it any wonder so many men go hatless?

“New minimum wage in New Brunswick”³¹⁰ (1947)

Under the first order of New Brunswick's Minimum Wage Act, 1945, waitresses, kitchen help, and chamber maids and all other women employees of hotels, restaurants and other places of public accommodation must be paid not less than 28c an hour for 48 hours and not less than 22c for all-time work in excess of 48 hours in any one week.

The order, which becomes effective Jan. 1, provides that all uniforms shall be furnished, repaired and laundered by the employer without charge. Not more than

³⁰⁹ From Luce, P. W. (1947, November 21). Nothing Logical About Tipping. *The Province*, p. 4. Written by Philippe William Luce (1882 - 1966).

³¹⁰ From New Minimum Wage In New Brunswick. (1947, November 22). *Financial Post*, p. 3.

\$1.50 a week may be deducted for lodging; \$4.50 a week for meals, or 25c for a single meal. All employees affected must be paid weekly.

The order was made after a survey of wages and hours in the New Brunswick hotel and restaurant business disclosed that 45% of the employees were receiving less than 28c an hour. Wages as low as 14c an hour were found.

“Tips still necessary”³¹¹ (Windsor, 1948)

Sir: In your As We See It column a few days ago³¹², W. L. Clark had an article on tipping in hotels and restaurants, in which he said tipping should be discontinued because of higher wages now being paid to these workers. In the restaurant where I work (considered one of the best in Windsor) I have been receiving 30 cents an hour, up till about three months ago when we requested an increase and our employers generously consented to give us an increase of one cent an hour.

We now receive 40 cents an hour, out of which we have to buy our uniform, pay for laundering, and pay for our meals at the restaurant. Mr. Clark, if you still think tipping should be abolished, just try living on this wage.

I think people have taken your tipping advice seriously, because tipping has been at a low level. Of course it may be due to the high cost of meals. In any case I don't think 40 cents an hour is high wages in view of the high cost of living.

“Pay up or do the dishes”³¹³ (Sarnia, 1948)

“Pay up or do the dishes” used to be a threatening demand reserved by restaurateurs for scroungers and fast-talking gents looking for a free meal, but while the same principle is in force in this industrial metropolis, it has become an appeal rather than a threat.

Yesterday lunch counter trenchermen were rocked by waitresses at one of the popular “main stem” eating emporiums with the same phrase couched in an appealing tone.

“If you can't pay, I hope you can do the dishes, please.”

The half-hopeful words came from behind a stack of dishes which not only covered the sink but spread over a goodly portion of the lunch counter. There was no “dish washer” in the establishment, because the wages asked are considered too high by the management. Waitresses take care of the job.

[The] result of an increase in business is that waitresses can't keep up with the dirty dishes, and they pile up. It even gets to the stage where they have to wash dishes before they can fill a customer's order.

³¹¹ From HIGH SALARIED WAITRESS. (1948, September 4). Waitress Finds Tips Still Necessary. *The Windsor Star*, p. 29.

³¹² On p. 2 of the August 28, 1948 edition of the *Windsor Star*. Not reproduced here because the author, W. L. Clark, died in 1974, and so the article is still in copyright as of 2021.

³¹³ From Dishwashers' Wages Too High; Waitresses Must Do the Job. (1948, October 28). *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 27.

“Restaurant help scarcity acute”³¹⁴ (Regina, 1948)

The problem of obtaining competent female restaurant help in Regina and district continues quite acute, according to employment officers in the National Employment Service office.

While this is an old problem, it has become more pressing in recent years because of full employment and the wider choice of jobs available to women and girls.

Restaurant occupations for women rank in about the same category as domestic service in their unattractiveness to women, placement officers say. Many of the objections raised by applicants towards restaurant work defy solution, they add, as they are consequences of social habits that are not likely to change.

Meal hours are, for most people, outside what are considered regular working hours. This means that restaurant workers are busy at times when workers in other industries are at leisure. Young women find irregularity in working hours particularly unattractive, since it prevents normal participation in social and recreational activities.

But this is only one of the objections generally raised towards restaurant work, as a recent survey conducted by N.E.S. clearly shows. Conducted at the request of the Canadian Restaurant association, the survey indicates the major reasons which recruitment of girls into restaurant work is so difficult.

As might be expected, the survey showed hours of work as the main objection raised in all of the three different groups of N.E.S. office.

“Loss of social prestige” and “low wages” were second or third in all three groups. “Poor working conditions” ranked fourth and fifth.

Long hours, irregular hours, shift work, Sunday work were all included in the “hours of work” category, but it was the aspect of irregularity that was mentioned most frequently by new entrants reluctant to enter restaurant occupations.

“Parental objections” and “hard work” were factors in two of the groups, while “no opportunity for advancement” appeared as a factor in one of the groups (offices serving smaller towns).

The loss of social prestige, as a factor, was most important in the small local office areas, less important in medium size office areas and least important in the larger centres.

This, perhaps, results from the fact that in small towns a worker’s occupation is known to all. A waitress, for example, would be serving patrons with whom she fraternized in the social life of the community.

In the larger hotels and chain restaurants of the city, however, this factor naturally loses weight and has practically no weight at all in the more fashionable eating places.

³¹⁴ From Henry, H. (1948, December 27). Restaurant help scarcity acute. *The Regina Leader-Post*, p. 3. Written by Heber Andrew Henry (1898 – 1965).

What can be done to offset the major objections raised by women against entering restaurant occupations as waitresses or kitchen help? Answering the question, the survey suggests that wages and working conditions are capable of improvement. There is room for much wider use of labor-saving devices, for example. There should be greater regard for restaurant workers as people; they should be given regular rest periods and adequate rest room facilities.

“Why pick on the waiters?”³¹⁵ (Calgary, 1949)

How many employed persons in Calgary receive gratuities in the course of their work? What is the proportion of these gratuities to their ordinary income? We don't know, and we doubt if anyone knows with certainty. But the Income Tax Branch of the federal government presumes to know. It has ordered men and women in certain occupations – waiters, bellhops, taxi drivers, etc. – to add 10 per cent to their taxable income to cover tips. Those who have refused to do so are having the additional tax deducted from their returnable compulsory savings.

This seems to us a high-handed, arbitrary and unfair proceeding. Tipping is, admittedly, an established practice. But the amount of the individual tip is entirely the choice of the individual. He may tip generously; he may tip modestly; he may not tip at all. In some occupations gratuities amount to nearly as much as the salary. In others, tips are rare. It is extremely doubtful if any person receiving tips keeps even a mental record of the day-to-day amount.

Why, then, should certain callings be singled out for this indemnity? Take beer parlor waiters as an example. In some beer parlors, tips may be frequent and of a considerable amount. In others, patronized by men of less income, tips may be infrequent. Assuming that the basic salary of waiters in both types of beer parlor is the same, one waiter is being taxed at the same rate as the other, while his income is smaller.

The arbitrary deduction from compulsory savings is equally unfair. No two individuals have been, of necessity, subjected to the same savings deductions. One man may have several hundreds of dollars returnable; another may have less than \$25 due to him. Yet both are mulcted.

We believe that tipping is an obsolete custom. In some instances, it is a means of forcing the public to augment inadequate salaries. But it is a custom which will not be dispensed with readily. The person paying the tip regards it as a reward for good service. He does not think of it as payment, in the sense of salary. Nor does the recipient. But the Income Tax Branch, by its ruling, makes tipping mandatory. The individual now feels that if he does not tip, he is depriving another person of money on which he must pay taxes, whether or not he receives it.

If this practice were carried to its ultimate conclusion, the Income Tax Branch could, quite logically, tax all sorts of individuals on all sorts of gifts. Gratuities are by no means restricted to certain callings and classes. They may be in cash; they may

³¹⁵ From *Why Pick on the Waiters?* (1949, January 12). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 4.

well be in kind. Does the elevator operator who receives a box of cigars form an office tenant at Christmas declare it in his tax returns? We doubt it. Yet he is receiving a tip, just as truly as the waiter who is told, "Buy one for yourself."

The particularly obnoxious nature of the department's ruling is that it hits persons in the low income brackets, to the exclusion of others who receive gratuities indirectly. Waiters and taxi drivers are, of course, easy to reach. They are less capable of making a legal issue of the department's ruling. But that does not, for an instant, make their treatment any less unjust.

"Call them hostesses"³¹⁶ (Ottawa, 1949)

Waitresses may not be waitresses in Toronto any more, but in some of Ottawa's more modern restaurants they haven't been waitresses for more than a year.

John B. O'Meara, personnel relations authority, has come up with the idea in Toronto that waitresses in future should be called food merchandisers. That's all right with Ottawa girls in the business, but most of them prefer their employer's alternative term, "hostess."

Some think "food merchandiser" has a fine, business-like sound to it and is specially appropriate to the girl who is able to sell a dollar dinner complete with dessert to a customer who sits down with the idea of ordering a sandwich and a cup of coffee. Others think the term is better applied to the purchaser of the large quantities of food sold in a restaurant.

Mrs. Karen McCann explained that in the Queen street restaurant where she works, supervisors are now known by that name instead of hostesses, and waitresses have now been hostesses for more than a year. She likes being a hostess. She added that, as a supervisor in a large Winnipeg restaurant where snowy tables-clothes and trays were part of the service, she was known as "head floor lady."

"I think hostess is much nicer than waitress," commented Miss Amelia Luck, who has been working in a restaurant for four years. She thought "waitress" was becoming more and more associated with second and third rate eating places.

"Restaurant 'slanguage' banned"³¹⁷ (Vancouver, 1949)

The day is nearly gone when waitresses call out "mistreat two," when they're ordering two scrambled eggs. No longer will they call out "dogs in the grass" when they want wieners and sauerkraut, or "another man wants to take a chance" when they ask for hash.

Not, at least, if John B. O'Meara, 50-year-old Irish-American, has his way. He's determined to turn this type of "hashing" in restaurants into the more refined "merchandising of food."

³¹⁶ Waitresses Not Waitresses Here Café Owners Call Them Hostesses. (1949, May 19). *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 22.

³¹⁷ From Restaurant 'Slanguage' Banned by Café Coach. (1949, May 30). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 7.

He's giving his course to a Vancouver restaurant chain for the first time in Canada. And "slanguage" is out in the O'Meara system.

Instead of "six in grease" he wants his waitresses to call out "six fried oysters." Instead of "graveyard" he wants them to order "milk toast".

Table-leaning is another "must not" in his course. Waitresses who rest their order book on the table and then rest themselves on an elbow beside it are out of style. O'Meara says waitresses must take the order standing upright, poised and showing a friendly smile.

They should know their menu – the items it contains and how the food is prepared. They should be able to describe each item appetizingly. For instance, questioned about chicken a la king, the waitress should not say: "Just chicken and stuff." She should say something like: "It is diced chicken, both white and brown meat, served in a tasty sauce on a ruffle of toast."

In O'Meara's rules there are several "don'ts". Among them:

Don't let your hair hang loosely. It should be neatly held in place with an almost invisible net.

Don't clutch fistfuls of cutlery and then handle them by the part the customer puts in his mouth.

Don't plunk pie and coffee any old way in front of your customer. The point of the wedge of the pie should face the customer.

Don't wear bright nail polish.

Waitresses with poise and pleasant personality, says O'Meara, who started his career as a bus boy, can get more tips than "tip-conscious" waitresses.

"Pleasant Waitresses"³¹⁸ (Windsor, 1949)

An expert has been in Windsor investigating waitresses, and instructing some of them as to how they can improve their service to customers. All of which may be helpful to waitresses and customers alike.

For our money, most waitresses are courteous and efficient, more so than waiters. The calibre of waitresses naturally varies from one eating place to another, with those who pay the best getting the best waitresses.

These girls and women are making an honest living at a job that has many disadvantages. They have to put up with some customers who are exceedingly rude; others who are equally crude. They have to deal with would-be wolves, with smart alics and often with persons who are intoxicated. It requires a combination of courtesy, tact, patience and firmness.

Further, their work often comes with a rush, especially during lunch hour. It is not easy for them to keep good-humored under such circumstances. That most of them can do so is a tribute to them. And, sometimes, they have to put up with difficult bosses as well as difficult customers.

³¹⁸ From Pleasant Waitresses. (1949, June 21). *The Windsor Star*, p. 4.

If a customer is courteous, with an understanding of the difficulties under which waitresses operate during rush hours, usually he will get as prompt, efficient and pleasant service as can be expected. Our quarrel is not so much with the manner in which waitresses serve, as, sometimes, with what they serve. But it's unfair to blame them if a cook has ruined good food, or if the proprietor hasn't provided the cook with good food in the first place.

“Dismissed from their work”³¹⁹ (Victoria, 1950)

Picketing of the Royal Dominion dining-room, 775 Yates Street, which began Saturday night, continued today. The picketing started Saturday evening at 5. On that day, the pickets stayed until the restaurant closed at midnight. Sunday, picketing resumed at 9 in the morning and lasted all day until midnight. This morning, picketing began at 7.

[The] reason given for the picketing is that two waitresses were dismissed from their work after they, along with others in the dining-room, took out membership in Local 459, Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Union.

The two, Mrs. Margaret Steele and Miss Olive Malin, were dismissed Feb. 23. Mrs. Steele was said to have been an employee for five years, and Miss Malin for 14 months. They said today the reason given for their dismissal was that work was falling off and that it was necessary to reduce staff. Union officials claim, however, that since the dismissal the restaurant management has taken on one full-time and two part-time waitresses.

When the two began picketing Saturday night, they were joined by four other union waitresses in the restaurant.

Paul Arsens, manager of the restaurant, said today the two waitresses were released for personal reasons. He said he was not opposed to the union. He said he once had been a union member, himself.

“Dining room must rehire waitresses”³²⁰ (Victoria, 1950)

A board of arbitration has ruled that two waitresses dismissed February 23 from the Royal Dominion Dining Room here were let out primarily because of union activities. The restaurant management and the waitresses' union had agreed previously the arbitration board's ruling would be binding. By agreement, the management must reinstate the two waitresses as permanent employees and pay them retroactively to the time of their discharge.

³¹⁹ From Picket Restaurant Over Dismissal of Waitresses. (1950, February 27). *Victoria Times*, p. 1.

³²⁰ From Dining Room Must Rehire Waitresses. (1950, March 16). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 5.

“No freedom of speech”³²¹ (Vancouver, 1951)

I am a waitress in a small restaurant where the trade is mostly teenagers. Because I stood up for them and told a dick on the juvenile squad to stop picking on them and to look to the parent for the cause of the trouble, my boss was told to fire me or the police service would stop, no matter what the trouble may be. So tomorrow I start a new job. Yet these same cops are getting coffee free, yet never say thank you or the like.

“A waitress scrubbing out garbage disposals”³²² (Windsor, 1951)

Sir: Can you top this? Have you ever heard of a waitress scrubbing out garbage disposals and garbage cupboards and the bathrooms of a restaurant? How can she properly clean her hands and wait on a customer in a minute’s time?

I am, or should say I was, a regular customer until I saw the way they do it at one city restaurant.

There have been at least 25 new girls in this place in the last while back, simply because too much is expected of them. a waitress’ job is cleaning her booths and keeping her customers satisfied. Also serving coffee one cup and saucer over the other. There is a certain amount of dust and handling of the saucers.

I will remain a former customer until I can get used to a waitress who isn’t going to be called to the side to clean out garbage and bathrooms.

DINER.

“I am one of the waitresses”³²³ (Windsor, 1951)

Sir: I read a letter in the Letter Box a short time ago about waitresses having to clean garbage disposals while waiting on the public.

I am one of the waitresses who have to do this kind of work. The management does not buy you a brush to clean out toilets (which a waitress should refuse to do) because business is poor and they can’t afford it. If we refuse to do this kind of work we lose our jobs. They even say they can’t afford to pay their staff more than \$18 or \$20 a week.

There are also such duties as cleaning freezers, pop coolers and refrigerators that have to be done weekly, besides the daily tasks like cleaning tables, chairs and mirrors. Other weekly chores are polishing the silver and chrome, and in some restaurants they expect you to wash floors, dishes, towels and sometimes cook.

We wouldn’t mind doing this work if we got respect and appreciation from the bosses and customers, and decent wages. Tips are something of the past in

³²¹ From A FELLOW TEEN-AGER. (1951, June 23). No Freedom of Speech. *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 4.

³²² From DINER. (1951, September 29). Café Client Protests Waitress’ Chore. *Windsor Star*, p. 35.

³²³ From A DISGUSTED WAITRESS. (1951, October 30). This Waitress Bares Woes of Calling. *Windsor Star*, p. 27.

restaurants that do not serve liquor. We don't mind not making tips if the customers respect us and if the boss pays us decent wages. We get about \$18 a week, and in most places you have to buy your own uniforms, and some girls have to pay to have them cleaned.

If we miss a last bus at night because some restaurants won't send you home in a cab after 12 o'clock, you either take a cab or walk, and nowadays that isn't safe. I know one restaurant that laid off waitresses who were getting \$17 a week to hire school girls who were on vacation for \$12 or \$14 a week.

Some people say we shouldn't complain about our wages because we get our meals. Well, most restaurants will only allow you one meal a day. I know of another place that will only allow you to eat 60 cents' worth, and another that has the nerve to only let you have 25 cents' worth a day.

There are men who think they can insult a waitress in any way they please. If there is something wrong with the food, the waitress gets the blame; if the prices are too high, the waitress gets the blame, and if we haven't got something they want, the waitress gets the blame.

Some restaurants are unionized and they get decent wages, work decent hours and get transportation home after midnight. But when the smaller places try to get the union in their restaurants they either don't have enough waitresses or a certain percentage won't join, and the ones who will, lose their chances. But if we all refused to work in restaurants that aren't unionized, they would certainly do something about it.

Don't be afraid, they can't fire all of us. If we ever get sick and have to be put in the hospital, what chance do we have? We can't even afford to have a bank account out of our wages.

Why can't we have medical and hospitalization benefits? We won't get these things unless we fight for them. All the factory workers have unions. To you customers: Couldn't we have a little more respect from you? That will help. I know there are some waitresses who could be a little more respectful and pleasant, but there are always a couple of bad apples in a basket.

Come on, let us have your views, waitresses, cooks, dishwashers and customers.

A DISGUSTED WAITRESS.

“This waitress finds conditions good”³²⁴ (Windsor, 1951)

Sir: After reading the woes of a waitress, I, too, should like to reach the public. I work in a very nice place in Windsor. Fortunately, they are very nice people to work for and with.

Contrary to what the public may think, we waitresses have our employers' interests at heart. It is better for all concerned to please the customers. The girls I

³²⁴ From ANOTHER WAITRESS. (1951, November 12). This Waitress Finds Conditions Good. *The Windsor Star*, p. 29.

work with feel this way, and I know myself that anything I wouldn't eat, I wouldn't serve. I have left more than one job for this reason alone.

As for tips, a compliment on the service and food gives me a nice feeling of having pleased someone. A tip is appreciated, but the compliment can make your whole day pleasant.

Thankfully, I would say 75 percent of the public are considerate, patient and thoughtful. As for the others, well, I'm glad that I'm just the waitress, only having to associate with them no longer than it takes to serve a meal.

ANOTHER WAITRESS

“Who gets the tips?”³²⁵ (1951)

Tipping is an evil at the best. At its worst it is a form of blackmail. Either the customer must pay extra for the service he is buying, or he doesn't get good service.

The Superior Court in Montreal has been asked to adjudicate on one of the most despicable practices in the handling of tips. It is alleged in a hotel the check-room attendants were compelled to put the tips they received in a tin can, the money being collected by someone else. At the end of the week they got \$2 each in addition to their pay, presumably in lieu of the tips they weren't allowed to retain.

It would be a poor sort of check-room attendant, in a poor sort of hotel, who wouldn't gross much more than \$2 weekly in tips. Thus some other party was putting its sticky fingers into the pot, and sucking off the honey.

Customers assume when they tip a waiter or waitress, the recipient gets the money. That, of course, is true in many, perhaps most, establishments. But, in other instances, this is put in a pool and later divided. Some functionary who had nothing to do with waiting upon you will get a large share of the plunder. It's a genteel form of hijacking.

The tipping system often is used as an excuse for low wages. Thus the employee must bow and scrape and smile and demean himself or herself because it is necessary to wheedle good tips out of customers in an effort to get a decent income.

In other cases, as in hotels catering to the carriage trade, bellhops or others may have large annual incomes in good times, quite out of proportion to the service they render. And, indeed, sometimes considerably larger than the incomes of unfortunates who have to do the tipping to get service.

“We blush for them!”³²⁶ (1951)

Every so often we hear would-be jokers pass remarks that literally make us squirm with embarrassment. In this particular instance we refer to that special type of mankind who try to vent their so-called humor on waitresses – a cowardly act in

³²⁵ From Who Gets The Tips? (1951, November 22). *The Windsor Daily Star*, p. 4.

³²⁶ From We Blush for Them! (1951, November 28). *The Windsor Star*, p. 4.

the first place, as the busy girl must mask her true feelings on the subject with a smile, or else run the risk of losing her job.

We all know these fellows – sometimes they are close personal friends, or even members of our own families – but we still squirm when we see them acting in such an asinine way. They apparently think it is smart to match wits or outwit a waitress. The busier the waitress, the better they like it. It is then that they will ask a number of questions with obvious answers, or they will suddenly unveil their “wolfish” character. Sometimes it is their utter disregard for moral standards that comes out on them.

“Western Waitresses”³²⁷ (1952)

This is my first visit to Western Canada. I have traveled slowly by car from Victoria and Vancouver to the Banff region via the Okanagan valley, and am now about to re-enter the United States.

There is much about Western Canada that I could extol. I will confine myself to one subject – Western Canadian waitresses. I have traveled pretty widely and I give your waitresses the palm over all others in five respects.

1. Beauty: Not mere prettiness, but real beauty of face and figure.
2. Good humor: Roguish rather than smart-alec.
3. Good carriage and gait.
4. Charming manners.
5. Speech: Modulated, gentle voices, rarely shrill or metallic.

In short, Western Canadian waitresses seem to me to make poor food tolerable and good food perfect. Bless them.

“We want the right to serve liquor”³²⁸ (Victoria, 1953)

Attorney-General Robert Bonner’s office was invaded this morning by five pretty Vancouver waitresses, shepherded by Fernie’s veteran member Tom Uphill. They were representing a large meeting held on Sunday of waitresses who had been studying the new liquor bill and were anxious to have it explained.

The main demand of the girls was that they want the right, as waitresses, to serve liquor with meals.

“It is this way,” said Miss Lee Holland, 4287 Killarney, Vancouver: “We don’t want to be barmaids. We are waitresses and want to remain as such, but we want the right to serve liquor ordered by a customer just the same as if he ordered tea or coffee.”

“Yes,” interjected Nora McIntyre, 1075 Burnaby street, “we don’t want to have a man running behind us carrying the liquor while we serve the rest of the meal.”

Other members of the delegation were Dorothy Potts, White Rock; Bertha Leslie, 2449 Arbroth, Burnaby, and Stella Carter.

³²⁷ From ENGLISHMAN. (1952, July 4). Western Waitresses. *Calgary Herald*, p. 4.

³²⁸ From Waitresses Want To Know If They’ll Be Barmaids. (1953, October 7). *The Province*, p. 1.

They said they were very pleased by the reception given them by the attorney-general.

“Certified food sales clerks”³²⁹ (Edmonton, 1954)

Approximately 140 city waitresses were to receive certificates Friday at the conclusion of a three-week course sponsored by the Edmonton branch of the Canadian Restaurant Association.

Ralph R. Moore, Alberta’s deputy minister, presented certificates Friday afternoon to about 70 of the waitresses. He was to make presentations to another group at 8 p.m. Friday in the Wauneita room of the university Students’ Union Building.

The course ended Friday with the final class of about 45 women writing examinations to become “certified food sales clerks.”

Some 200 girls have attended classes since the course opened three weeks ago, but not all of them have stayed to write examinations. The girls represented 33 city restaurants, and even some restaurant managers attended.

The chief instructor was Mrs. Ripley Denny, director of the food handling and restaurant management course at the Institute of Technology and Art in Calgary.

The waitresses were instructed in proper handling of food, courtesy, personal appearance and other subjects. The provincial government assisted by providing instruction in supplying information to tourists.

Mrs. Denny lectured to six different classes, and she reports enthusiastic response.

She said she is “very satisfied” with the results of the course, and added that “the turnout was double the number I had expected.”

The classes were held in the Medical building on the University of Alberta campus.

“Waitresses win first 40-hour week”³³⁰ (New Westminster, 1954)

[The] first 40-hour week for New Westminster waitresses has been won in a new contract negotiated by Local 835, Beverage Dispensers and Culinary Workers Union with [the] Pacific Café.

Union organizer Jim Morrison said the new deal also gives the women an average wage increase of \$8.72 weekly. He also said the union has been certified as [a] bargaining agent for [the] Royal City Café, employing about 300 waitresses, and that a bid will be made to obtain the same contract there.

[The] average work week for Royal City waitresses is 44 hours. A number of Vancouver cafes have the 40-hour week.

³²⁹ From 140 City Waitresses Graduate From Course. (1954, June 25). *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 30.

³³⁰ From Waitresses Win First 40-Hour Week. (1954, August 13). *The Province*, p. 27.

“Union bid pondered”³³¹ (Windsor, 1955)

Certification of a union at the Tunnel-Bar-B-Q restaurant is now in the hands of the Ontario Labor Relations Board. Decision is being reserved.

In one of the most bitterly contested applications the board has had to deal with, the Windsor restaurant owners were charged yesterday by union legal counsel with threatening to post a no-tipping sign if employees signed with the union.

David Lewis, counsel for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (C.I.O.-C.C.L.), told board members that Harry Racovitis, co-owner of the restaurant, told waitresses they would have to pay for all broken dishes and would no longer be able to eat on the premises if a union came into organization.

Opal Tracey, head waitress, Mr. Lewis said, told several waitresses to sign an anti-union petition or a no-tipping sign would be posted in the restaurant. The union lawyer contended this was a clear case of management interference in the organization of the union. The board was presented with a petition signed by 30 of the 39 waitresses objecting to a union.

“Small wages compensated by big tips”³³² (Vancouver, 1957)

Any campaign to abolish tipping in Vancouver would not be welcomed by many. Waitresses, café owners and the union commented on a suggestion by W. Gordon Wood, president of the Canadian Tourist Association, that the custom should be wiped out.

A manager of one of those eateries with “atmosphere” said: “If customers didn’t tip, we’d have to cover this cost by raising the price of food.”

A cashier with a decade of waitress experience said, “Waitresses would sooner work for tips than get a better salary. Those here (a downtown hotel dining room) make as much in tips as I do in salary.”

However, waitresses working in small restaurants vying for the coffee break trade would prefer the higher wage and not tips, she said, because tips aren’t as large.

A spokesman for Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union local 28: “It’s a very contentious point. Wage increases gained are greater in non-tipping jobs. I think waitresses would give just as good service if they got a living wage and no tips.”

“Only for exceptional service”³³³ (Windsor, 1957)

Coffee should be sold for 15 cents a cup, says R. C. Brown, president of the Canadian Restaurant Association. Betty Vukobratich, waitress at the Norton Palmer Hotel, would be just as happy if her customers added the extra nickel to her tips. But

³³¹ From Union Bid Pondered. (1955, February 18). *The Windsor Star*, p. 3.

³³² From Small wages compensated by big tips. (1957, October 25). *The Province*, p. 37.

³³³ From Eating Costs on Rise! (1957, November 20). *The Windsor Star*, p. 3

Mr. Brown is unhappy about tips, too – he says they should be left only for exceptional service, friendliness, courtesy, efficiency, “things that don’t cost a cent.”

Restaurant patrons should tip only for exceptional service. You should be paying 15 cents for a cup of coffee. Any restaurant that fails to maintain minimum standards should be closed, and food outlets should be as closely supervised as liquor outlets. Those are the beliefs of Ross Cameron Brown, national president of the Canadian Restaurant Association. He’s in town today, to speak to the local branch of his association.

Tipping is a thorn in the side of the restaurant industry, he admits. The staff of the swanky joint with a liquor license are paid next to nothing, because they are assured of lots of tips. In the “more modest establishment,” where tipping is low or non-existent, salaries must be high.

In any case, salaries are pretty low. The average, across Canada, is 60 cents an hour. That’s one standard the C.R.A. is trying to raise. If food handlers were paid more, the employment turnover of 500 [sic.] percent would be lowered and the type of worker would improve. Raising wages in other industries has not resulted in either better workers or better quality of work; but Mr. Brown believes restaurants are different.

Naturally, this would mean higher prices. But prices in restaurants are already too low, Mr. Brown insists. “We use the cup of coffee as an example – because that’s something that everybody can easily grasp – but it’s true of everything for less than a dollar. Our industry is a nickel-and-dimes one that grosses \$700,000,000 a year. But the return on investment in restaurants of Canada is about two percent.”

Most tourists in Canada don’t complain about the cost of meals or the tipping problem – they’re worried about the quality of the food and service.

Here, members of the C.R.A. can provide assistance in the improvement of service (such as setting up training schools), establishment of fair prices (in keeping with what other local restaurants are charging and what they’re paying for food and help), and enlistment of local agencies for stricter supervision.

“People will always tip”³³⁴ (Toronto, 1958)

The [Toronto] Star says a proposal by Chester MacRae, Conservataive Member of Parliament, to ban tipping to prop up Canada’s sagging tourist industry has caused little consternation among Toronto’s waitresses and bellhops.

It says a poll taken in the city showed most tip recipients would readily go along with the suggestion if wages in the restaurant and hotel business were brought in line with other industries.

Mr. MacRae, a Fredericton school teacher who represents York-Sunbury, said in the House of Commons Monday that tipping was degrading. He later called it a vicious practice.

³³⁴ From Ready to See Tipping Die If Their Wages Raised. (1958, July 30). *The Ottawa Journal*, p. 5.

The Sun says tipping in Toronto now is at an all-time low. Steve Syderis, a waiter, said a bill for \$7 or \$8 now often brings only a 25-cent tip. He said he would like to see the practice of charging a flat 15 percent tip introduced.

A waitress, Georgina Lebracos, says her tips often do not exceed \$1 and seldom go beyond \$3 a day. She says the answer is organization by labor unions.

A bellhop said: "There'll never be an end to tipping, as people will always tip for a special favor."

Mr. MacRae made his comments during debate on a private member's bill. He said he agreed with Gordon Wood, president of the Canadian Tourist Association, that abolition of tipping would offset Canada's tourist deficit which last year totaled \$361,000,000.

"Tipping was not expected"³³⁵ (Vancouver, 1958)

A Maritime member of parliament who blasted tipping is "all wet," according to people who serve the Vancouver public.

The Vancouver Sun polled taxi drivers, waitresses, hotel porters, bellhops, doormen and bar waiters after Conservative MP Chester MacRae told Parliament that people serving the Canadian public often expected tips, even for inferior service.

Those polled were asked what they thought of MacRae's statement; did they expect a tip and thus offer better service to known tippers?; and was tipping a general practice in Vancouver?

"Mr. MacRae's statement is crude criticism of a gesture that has little influence on quality of service," said Alcazar Hotel waitress Margaret Chapman.

A hotel doorman summed up the general opinion: "Mr. MacRae's remark is the ill-considered statement of one who has had little contact with those who make a career of serving the public," he said.

"If there is a distinction in service," he continued, "it is on a personality basis. Constant guests are perhaps accorded a higher degree of service than others."

"At least 50 percent of the fares tip, even if it is just a few cents change," said taxi driver Wilfred Penny.

All those polled agreed that tipping was not expected and the standard of service was constant, despite the tip.

"Should be adequately paid"³³⁶ (1958)

The president of the Canadian Restaurant Association, John E. Coles of Toronto, thinks restaurant tipping is overdone and overrated.

³³⁵ From MP 'All Wet' on Tips, Say Workers. (1958, July 30). *The Vancouver Sun*, p. 47.

³³⁶ From Restaurant owner doesn't like indiscriminate tipping. (1958, September 20). *The Leader-Post*, p. 14.

“A waitress shouldn’t be tipped unless she has given you good service,” he said in Regina Friday, during his first western inspection trip of provincial restaurant groups.

“A customer who gives a tip to a gum-chewing, sloppy waitress who obviously couldn’t care less because he has a vague notion it’s the thing to do, does no one a favor. She’d be a better waitress if he withheld his money until he gets better service.”

Mr. Coles says restaurant operators shouldn’t expect tips to be a major part of employees’ salaries. Help should be adequately paid in spite of tips, if possible by some kind of bonus or profit-sharing system, he says.

“Union dues are too high”³³⁷ (1958)

Union dues are too high in proportion to [the] weekly pay check, some Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders’ Union waitress members said here today. This is one reason the petition for decertification of the union has been circulated, the other being that waitresses feel the men talk them down at union meetings when they offer objections to the way things are run. “Therefore all we can do is go to press with our story.”

Waitresses contend that \$2.50 monthly dues, which are going [up] to \$3 in July, are too high considering the \$30 weekly salary waitresses receive. In the U.S., waitresses get double that amount, and it is believed that the dues are the same.

“Most of the money collected goes to Cincinnati,” one waitress contended.

Waitresses also believe that not enough is being done to sign up new members. “It’s not for us to tattle on our fellow employees, but it is easy enough for the executive to check on who are members and who are not, and then take steps to sign them up.”

“Trying to make a decent living”³³⁸ (Windsor, 1959)

Sir: For 16 years I have been a waitress both in Windsor and Toronto, and would like to give a few facts to John Lindblad³³⁹ of the “Now” column in your paper, and also to the gentleman from Sarnia³⁴⁰ who wrote to your Letter Box about waiters, waitresses and tipping.

To begin with, do they realize that we, the restaurant employees, are not scraping for tips but are trying to make a decent living? They will find in the higher class restaurants that tipping is expected and may even be taken as a percentage of the check. But in the smaller places the average waitress or waiter gives his or her

³³⁷ From Some Waitresses Feel Union Dues Much Too High. (1958, November 25). *Nanaimo Daily News*, p. 5.

³³⁸ From WITH OR WITHOUT A TIP. (1959, December 5). Waitress Gives Views On Tipping. *The Windsor Star*, p. 39.

³³⁹ John Lindblad died in 2011, so their work is not yet in the public domain.

³⁴⁰ Carman Radey, possibly an alias, in the Windsor Star of November 12, 1959. Not transcribed due to possible copyright issues, but it was a complaint that servers tend to have nomadic careers, and after counting tips are overpaid relative to other professions in which tips are not customary.

services gladly to the customer, regardless of remuneration, as we know our wages depend on whether our boss has a small clientele or large. We also realize without customers these businesses cannot stay open if they are not patronized. We know our wages depend on “you the public,” not our boss.

When I was in Toronto I was offered a job in a hotel for \$16 a week and told that if I couldn't supplement my wages by getting enough tips to keep me, I wasn't a good waitress. So blame management for the greediness, not the employee.

On the whole, the average waiter or waitress does his or her job in a friendly and courteous manner and, if tipped, is quite happy to find that he or she had a well satisfied customer. Believe me, this can make a bad day for a waitress or waiter into a good day, knowing that he or she made someone's day a little more pleasant in some small way.

We also understand, the majority of us, that there are people in occupations and circumstances who do not make any more wages than we do and have to eat out regularly and cannot afford to tip, and we understand only too well. But there are exceptions where you find a greedy waitress or waiter, but very few were bred in this country. I know and so does the average waiter or waitress born here. These people we have no use for and quickly ignore.

As the gentleman from Sarnia wrote a few weeks ago, shoe salesmen and women do not receive tips for their services, but I'll bet they receive more wages than the average waiter or waitress with only one thing to do – sell shoes. They may not receive tips but the majority receive commissions.

Compare a waitress' day to these clerks and see. We clean, scrub, shine, polish, sweep, fill refrigerators, make juices, and in between wait on customers for eight and a half hours. We stand on our feet all this time. We are also a general information booth. We're supposed to know the mileage between here and any place else, the weather forecast and the latest news.

Also remember we do not have any holidays off except Christmas, no sick benefit or hospitalization paid for us.

I suggest to the people who think we are such “vultures,” with palms that forever itch, that they try our jobs for a week. Taking insults from customers and listening to everyone's troubles with a sympathetic ear, whether right or wrong, all day. And go home at the end of a day so tired and with aching back and feet and fall into bed and see if it's worth while to exist. Also try living on \$100 a month without tips, almost the average man's take home pay for a week.

All in all, I like being a waitress and seeing a satisfied customer. I wouldn't trade it for a boring office job, ever.

“Eligible for unemployment insurance”³⁴¹ (Ottawa, 1961)

Three waitresses dismissed from a Sparks Street restaurant after a dispute with the manager have been ruled eligible for unemployment insurance.

³⁴¹ From WAITRESS DISPUTE. (1961, March 6). *The Ottawa Citizen*, p. 7.

A federal labor department spokesman said a fourth dismissed waitress did not apply for unemployment insurance. A spokesman for the waitresses said one hostess and five waitresses have been fired for complaining about working conditions and alleged embarrassments.

According to the federal labor department's information, the dispute with the manager followed a hostess quitting her job, which made her ineligible to apply for unemployment insurance for three weeks, because she was not dismissed.

The department said no formal complaints have been made to the Unemployment Insurance Commission concerning alleged ungentlemanly conduct of the manager.

In applying to the UIC for benefits, three girls alleged poor working conditions but made no other complaints.

Management claimed the hostess returned to the restaurant after a layoff for personal reasons. When she returned she was given a different job at a lower salary. She quit because of the salary cut, and with other waitresses made a protest to the manager, and all were fired.

The local Ontario Labor Department inspector said the case was fully investigated last week, and a report sent out to Toronto Friday.

“Snobbery and waitresses”³⁴² (1962)

Social snobbery, not poor pay, keeps girls from becoming waitresses.

Karl Severson, tourist consultant for the Canadian Restaurant Association, said some fathers prevent their daughters from becoming waitresses even when the girls might earn \$100 a week.

The reason?

Social snobbery.

However, more than half of a group finishing emergency training programs for waitresses in Vancouver and Victoria have had university training, he told the CRA's B.C. convention.

“Cut-rate women taking jobs of male waiters”³⁴³ (Winnipeg, 1963)

A union official complained Thursday [that] beverage room waitresses hired at cut rates are putting male waiters out of work. Harry Duhamel, business agent to the beer waiters union, said he approves of women serving in hotel beverage rooms, but at the same pay as men. He told an interviewer that waitresses are generally paid 80 cents to \$1 an hour, compared to the union scale of \$1.42.

Many of the girls are “moonlighters,” holding one job during the day and working as waitresses at night. Hotels are hiring the girls, he said, to tempt the male customer into the hotel to have a drink.

³⁴² From Snobbery and Waitresses. (1962, November 7). *Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 6.

³⁴³ From Cut-Rate Women Taking Jobs Of Male Waiters. (1963, November 8). *Victoria Times*, p. 2.

“At the same time, the government is spending large sums of money trying to find more jobs for men. The female is throwing men out of work because she is an attraction and costs the employer less.”

“Slappers and pinchers”³⁴⁴ (Winnipeg, 1964)

The Manitoba Liquor Control Commission has ordered bars to provide more space to help scantily clad waitresses evade “the slappers and pinchers.”

Beverage rooms and cocktail bars employing bunny-type waitresses must raise seating space for each customer to 14 square feet after March 1.

The present requirement is 12 square feet. This standard will be kept for premises using waitresses dressed in normal clothes.

A commission spokesman said:

“We feel that 12 square feet is pretty congested space for a girl in an abbreviated costume. The girls can hardly get through the aisles in some of these places without being manhandled. That’s why we want to give them more room – to escape the slappers and the pinchers.”

More than half-a-dozen Winnipeg drinking places have switched to waitresses wearing high heels and brief, form-fitting costumes in the last few years.

With the official viewpoint, Commission Chairman N. E. Rodger said the space move was prompted by a number of complaints about “congestion” in Winnipeg bars.

He said “girls rushing around with practically no clothes on give rise to trouble.”

“Strange Quandary”³⁴⁵ (Winnipeg, 1964)

Three Winnipeg night spots, although one only partially, have sacrificed thighs for size. Rather than cut back on the number of seats in their cocktail bars and mixed beverage rooms, they have covered up the scantily clad girls who had to run a gauntlet of pats and pinches as they squeezed by the tables.

However, two other night spots have decided the eye-appeal of the waitresses in short, short costumes outweighed the loss of business resulting from reducing the number of seats.

The owners were put into this strange quandary by a Manitoba Liquor Control Commission ruling, which took effect [in] March, that places where waitresses wore abbreviated costumes must increase floor space to 14 sq. ft. per patron from the previous minimum of 12 sq. ft.

This edict was the result of complaints that some waitresses were getting a little too much familiar attention from male customers as they squirmed through narrow aisles. The trouble came to a head at New Year’s when a patron in one downtown spot set fire to a bunny’s tail.

³⁴⁴ From Slappers And Pinchers Bothering Bunny Girls. (1964, February 24). *The Brandon Sun*, p. 1.

³⁴⁵ From Thighs give way to size in three Winnipeg clubs. (1964, March 21). *Financial Post*, p. 54.

[The] lounges that decided to dress their waitresses more sedately are:

The Airline Motor Hotel, where the figure-hugging green Robin Hood costumes of the girls have been replaced by sedate skirts and blouses.

The Vendome Hotel, where the high-above-the-knee skirts of the girls have been covered to reach well below the knees.

The Towers at the Town & Country, where the Bunnies with dome-fastened tails have been replaced by flapper-type costumes. In the same establishment's Gold Coach Lounge, however, the Bunnies are still hopping – amid a thinned-out set of tables.

Holding the line for a little bit of alluring exposure, however, are:

The Bon Vivant, where the very abbreviated costumes have resulted in the owner reducing the number of seats from 67 to 58. The owner plans to try and pick up the difference in business by featuring noon meals.

The City Centre also has cut back its seating, to keep the same leggy costumes that always seem to be a big attraction.

“It takes training”³⁴⁶ (1965)

If you stop and analyze this job, you soon realize it requires the abilities of a psychologist, the techniques of a super-salesman, the professional attitude of a nurse plus the charm of a society hostess.

Waitress employment can be profitable and a good waitress can attain advancement with the right training and experience.

It takes training, development of skill and a certain standard before a waitress can serve the public. Study, lectures, know-how, plus thousands of dollars are spent on qualified instructors to teach interested women in this vocation.

During the last 10 years, the food industry has undergone a drastic change.

More people are eating out than ever before. The service is the most important part of the restaurant. Serving is the final process of selling.

Mr. and Mrs. Public are demanding better service.

There are six qualities which employers look for in a good waitress: Appearance, hair, make-up, hands, shoes and stockings.

Breaking these down – appearance is the first requirement of a waitress. Cleanliness is vitally important.

Hair should be kept in a simple style and one color. Hair nets are a must.

Light make-up should be worn at all times. Eye make-up should not be used except with a light touch.

Since the hands are on display at all times, they must be clean. Nails must be filed and only natural polish should be used. Rings, except for wedding rings, should not be worn.

Three-quarters of a waitress's life is spent on her feet, therefore shoes should be comfortable. A waitress should have a pair of well-fitted shoes. Shoes are to be

³⁴⁶ From Good Personal Hygiene 'Must' in Waitress Work. (1965, May 21). *The Windsor Star*, p. 34.

kept well-polished with clean laces. Heels are to be repaired at all times. Stockings should be in soft shades and free of runs. Absolutely no bare legs for waitress work is stipulated.

Personal cleanliness is also a big factor for waitress work. Bathing daily is number one on the list. A good deodorant and good foundation garments should also be used. Uniforms should be well-fitted, not tight and not sloppy. Length is very important. If you feel good, it's because you look good.

An employer will expect interest, initiative, obedience, capability, loyalty, honesty and dependability.

Good service involves courtesy and helpfulness. A waitress must be able to describe what is on the menu and answer all the questions the customer might have. She must learn to set the table properly, place the dishes when serving and remove them in the right order.

With the proper training and the right interest and effort, a waitress can make a dollar an hour. In the better places, she can double this, plus her tips. Hours are reasonable as the regular time is an eight- or nine-hour day.

The Canadian Vocational Training Program will hold another waitress class starting in September. The course is 10 weeks long and placement is provided.

Alicia Mason Junior Vocational School at 284 Cameron Ave. is also holding a waitress training class for girls.

Waitress work can be profitable and offers said employment if the right effort and enthusiasm is given.

“Bare-bosom waitresses must go”³⁴⁷ (Vancouver, 1966)

City council decided Tuesday night that bare-bosomed waitresses at a downtown restaurant must go. If they don't, council said, operator Les Stork will be called upon to appear at city hall – without his waitresses – to show cause why his license shouldn't be revoked.

The topless lunch started two weeks ago, and has been playing to full houses ever since. Aldermen said they imposed the bosom ban because they consider waitresses in topless uniforms in poor taste and offensive to the community.

Mr. Stork said he expects a visit today from the city's license inspector. He added he expects to cease serving topless lunches, but plans to hire a lawyer to present some alternatives to the council.

“I'm going to ask council to let me open up as a private club, or allow the girls to wear ‘pasties,’” he said.

³⁴⁷³⁴⁷ From BARE-BOSOM WAITRESSES MUST GO SAYS COUNCIL. (1966, October 5). *The Nanaimo Daily News*, p. 2.

“Business would go with the busts”³⁴⁸ (Vancouver, 1966)

Les Stork, who ordered his bare-bosomed waitresses to cover up Wednesday, said he feared his booming lunchtime business would go with the busts.

Mr. Stork said he ordered waitresses at his Bunk House Restaurant to raise their necklines after licensing inspector Milt Harrell delivered a cover-up ultimatum³⁴⁹ from city hall. But he said later he will fight the decision of aldermen who ruled Tuesday that the topless trend was in poor taste and offensive.

Mr. Stork said his restaurant was filled to capacity ever since he introduced waitresses with plunging necklines two weeks ago. He said he hoped the bare bosoms would be back on view if aldermen accept a suggestion that the girls wear pasties.

Jackie Green, 23, who was one of the topless waitresses, said she thought the alderman’s comments were ridiculous.

“We are not offensive to the public,” she said. “We don’t go out to the public. They come in here. They know what they are coming to see, and they wouldn’t come if they thought they were going to be offended, or if what they were going to see was in poor taste.”

“Tips and service”³⁵⁰ (Edmonton, 1967)

It is the spending habits of the customers that determine the quality of the waiters in any given city.

The average dining room waiter makes about \$1.25 per hour and he works a 40-hour week. That is \$50 per week. Now subtract UIC, Canada Pension, income tax, medical, meals and whatever other deductions are required by the hotel in which he is employed. He must also supply his own uniform or tuxedo, along with a good supply of white shirts and a daily shoeshine.

The waiter pays for his own uniform maintenance, his own dry cleaning, his own laundry and, as it is usually after the last bus has left before he finishes work, he must ride home in a taxi. This does not leave very much take-home pay. So the waiter must rely on tips to make a living.

If all the customers of our dining rooms tipped a minimum of 10 per cent the waiter could make a reasonable living. But, in Edmonton they do not. As a result the good waiters soon leave for the larger centres where they can make a reasonable income.

The 10 per cent tip is minimum. The proper rule to follow is 15 per cent before 6 p.m. and 20 per cent after 6 p.m.

³⁴⁸ From BOOMING LUNCH BUSINESS LIKELY “GO WITH BUSTS”. (1966, October 6). *The Nanaimo Daily News*, p. 10.

³⁴⁹ The Bunk House’s license was briefly suspended, but was reinstated by October 19 after Les Stork complied with city hall’s demands.

³⁵⁰ From A Head Waiter. (1967, March 23). Tips and service. *The Edmonton Journal*, p. 4. The original article notes that ‘A Head Waiter’ is located on Jasper Avenue.

The customer, in effect, has two bills to pay when he dines out. The first one is fixed and determined by the menu prices. The second bill is variable and determined by the customer according to the type of service he received.

If the service on the part of the waiter was bad, call the maître d' and complain, and do not leave a tip. But if the service was good and if the waiter was responsible for you enjoying your meal and your evening out, then pay him his due.

If Edmontonians want better waiters and better dining rooms, they must be prepared to pay for them. If they are content to continue in their present way they should forget about dining out as it won't be long until all the professional waiters will have left town. You will have to be content with house waitresses and inexperienced bus boys.

“Mini-skirted waitresses”³⁵¹ (Regina, 1967)

Mini-skirts may be alright elsewhere, but the Saskatchewan Liquor Licensing Commission has put its foot down when it comes to waitresses in beverage rooms.

R. J. Matovich, president of a downtown hotel, said today he's been informed the commission wants his six mini-skirted waitresses to start wearing skirts “at least knee length.”

The commission said in a letter its policy regarding women working in licensed outlets is that they must be “modestly attired.” Blouses or dresses must have “reasonable high necklines” and skirts must be at least knee length.

Mr. Matovich said business in the beverage room has been “increasing steadily” since the waitresses began wearing mini-skirts May 1.

“I really can't argue with the commission,” he said, “but it seems strange that patrons of a beverage room can be told it's perfectly alright to see girls in mini-skirts on the streets but not in a place of business.”

“Wage hike for barmaids opposed”³⁵² (Calgary, 1968)

Union insistence on equal wages for men and women working in Calgary taverns would likely mean one thing: all these women would lose their jobs, several hotel managers said today.

There are three reasons the women are usually paid less, one manager said.

Firstly, the women are unable to carry heavily laden trays, lift kegs, or do the more strenuous tasks carried out by waiters.

Second, regulations prohibit a waitress from working alone in a bar, thus effectively banning them from afternoon work. A waiter and waitress could not handle the bar alone because the waiter could not leave the tavern for a moment.

Thirdly, raising tavern waitresses' wages would cause a revolt among other women workers in the hotel, such as coffee shop waitresses.

³⁵¹ Sorry, mini-skirts out – govt. agency rules. (1967, May 26). *The Saskatoon Star-Phoenix*, p. 4.

³⁵² From Wage Hike For Barmaids Opposed. (1968, February 24). *The Calgary Herald*, p. 28.

The managers were commenting on a complaint, made Friday by a spokesman for Local 265 of the Beverage Dispensers Union about the difference between the wages of tavern waiters and waitresses.

“Waitress a waiter in practice”³⁵³ (Windsor, 1968)

A recent Ontario Supreme Court ruling decided that there is no difference between men and women – at least where waiters are concerned.

Mr. Justice Alexander Stark ruled that Marina Trepanier, a lounge waitress in a Sault Ste. Marie hotel, was not a waitress but a female waiter and should be paid accordingly.

Appendix

Diary of an Amateur Waitress³⁵⁴ (New York, 1907)

New York, May 6th.

It was a great surprise to me to find how hard it is to “get a job.” I always supposed that any one who was willing and able to work could get one. We have so many ideas about things we have never tried. But for three days I walked along street after street and went without success into every restaurant and lunch-room I saw. Sometimes the manager asked me if I were experienced. Of course, I was not, and so he did not want me. Sometimes he looked me over as though I were a horse, while I stood by, boiling with rage. He would ask a few exploratory questions with a manner which made me answer curtly, and then I would go out into the street, trying hard to keep back the tears. It is not pleasant to have a stranger doubt whether you are respectable.

If it is disappointing to be refused, it is much more so to be promised a job and not get it. Twice I had that experience. On Wednesday I went into a restaurant on upper Sixth Avenue. The manager was a blond man of medium height, with the sharp eyes and the smooth speech of a salesman. He gave one an impression of shrewd alertness. I tried to think of something businesslike to say. A working-girl once said to me, “If you want anything from a boss, you’ve got to talk up to him. You can’t get things any other way.” But I could not talk up. Waitresses, as I found out later, usually dress smartly; and I had made the mistake of donning borrowed, ill-fitting clothes.

³⁵³ From Court rules waitress a waiter in practice. (1968, August 28). *The Windsor Star*, p. 4.

³⁵⁴ From Younger, M. (1907). *The Diary of an Amateur Waitress*. *McClure’s Magazine*, 28(5), 543-552 and 28(6), 665-677. Written by Maud Younger (1870 – 1936).

Clothes make such a difference in one's feelings. My spirits seemed shabby and forlorn. However, that manager wanted a shabby and forlorn girl – one without any spirit – and he said that he would give me a half-time job. I did not know what a half-time job was, but he explained that it was one where I worked from eleven to two. That sounded nice – only three hours. Trying to assume an experienced air, I asked, "What wages?" He was standing idly by the door, but he said, "I haven't time to talk about it now. Come back at three o'clock."

"But suppose I don't get the job? If I don't, I want to look for something else."

"Oh, you'll get the job all right," he said, and so I went away delighted.

At three I was back. The manager, who was still at the front door, recognized me immediately.

"Oh, about that job. You work here from eleven to two; and from five-thirty until one at night, you work in our branch around the corner. Six dollars a week."

"Sundays, too?" I asked.

He hesitated. He had not meant to tell me that part until Sunday.

"Yes, Sundays, too," he said at length.

"Well, I only want the noon-hour job. How much is that?"

"You can't have one without the other. They go together," he said, turning away indifferently.

"But you told me I could have the half-time job. If you had not, I might have found something else by this time."

He smiled, "It's all one job, six dollars a week."

This was my first chance, and I could not let it go.

"All right," I said, "I'll come back tomorrow."

"No, you must begin to-day, this afternoon."

I looked at him, hesitating. I had not expected to go on until the next day, and I had an engagement for dinner. Somehow the thought of that dinner, and of the dress that had come home before I left, made me straighten up and say: "Well, I won't take it"; to his surprise I walked out, with my head as high as it will go. He counted on the fact that it was four o'clock – too late to get anything else that afternoon – and on his conjecture that I needed the money. Girls are usually taken on before noon, so that it is a waste of time, I am told, to look for anything later than that. He thought that I might have to choose between his job and no supper.

Again, yesterday, I met with the same disappointment. A corpulent head-waitress, with bleached hair and gold in her front teeth, agreed to take me. She promised me three dollars a week. I was to work six hours a day.

"But you must work Sundays, too," she said, "for there is only another girl and me here, on Sundays, and we can't do the work alone. You're sure you'll come Sundays?"

"Yes, I'll come."

"Well, then, you can begin to-morrow. Be here at half-past nine."

At 9:30 the next morning I was there, ready to begin. She looked troubled when I went in, and said that the manager had decided not to take me on. I suppose I looked as disappointed as I felt. Nobody knows, until she has tried it, how disintegrating to

the spirit is the experience of looking unsuccessfully for work. She must have thought me completely disheartened, for she said very gently, "Do you need work so bad? Well, come next week, dear, and perhaps he'll take you then."

I have always had a prejudice against stout bleached blondes, but I cast it to the winds at that moment. I have been told to-day that this restaurant is one that does not employ enough girls. A girl who has been a waitress for three years says that when she worked there last fall, she could not get on her shoes, and that when she went to give up her job, the manager would not pay her for the work she had done. He made the excuse that she had not given notice.

This morning, in the fifth place to which I went, a tall man in a cutaway coat was standing by the door. His air of graceful ease stamped him as the manager. He glanced at me, then looked away up the street while I asked for work. I think I have learned to ask for work very naturally now. With his eyes on a passing car, he said, "Yes, we need a girl at supper-time, but just for to-day."

"All right, I'll come," I said. I was so excited that I forgot to ask about wages. His eyes were still roving along the street. He did not look at me again. There seemed to be nothing to do but go.

Promptly at four I was back. I was really there at a quarter to four, but I was afraid it might not be the proper thing to get in ahead of time, so I walked up and down till the stroke of the hour. There were no customers when I went in. The manager stood near the door. He glanced at me with a look of recognition, and then his eyes shifted. Never once again, until he threw fifty cents on the counter at the end of the day's work, did he meet my eyes. Thumbing a paper on the counter, he told me to go to the dressing-room and put on my apron.

When I came out, he was busy, and I had time to look about me. The room was low-ceilinged, and in the basement, several steps below the sidewalk. The back part was partitioned off for a kitchen. In the window were various eatables of the variety which attracts customers without attracting flies. Such delicacies as would appeal to the latter had been put under glass on the counter, which ran along one side of the room. Another girl was moving about at work. As soon as she saw me, she came over to where I stood with a pile of dishes, which were to be used to serve the figs and prunes displayed on the counter.

"You must only give six with an order," she said to me, "or you'll get fined."

When I asked what I could do to help her, she said that we must first get the dishes ready for dinner. Together we carried them from a slide to a table at the end of the room, wiping each one carefully before we set it down.

"The boss is very particular about having them wiped," she said; and when I said that I was, too, she stared.

Her name is Mabel. The first thing I noticed about Mabel was the bows in her hair – and perhaps these are the most remarkable thing about her – overtopping a brown pompadour and an ordinary face with neither expression nor color. But she is a kind-hearted girl, and when I told her that I had never worked in a restaurant before, she showed me what to do and how to do it. There were a great many things to remember. The dinner plates were kept in an oven. The dishes and silver, the

things to eat – each had their especial place. There was one kind of milk for tea, a richer kind for coffee, and a mixture of milk and cream for strawberries; but it was all called cream, Mabel warned me. When I took an order, I was to leave a glass of water with a customer. This glass of water was a signal to her that the order was taken.

“After you give the order to the kitchen, you must give him his set-up. You cut two slices of bread with this machine – so. Now you put them on a plate with one biscuit. Then you take a piece of butter like this,” and she took it up with her fingers, “and put it on a butter plate. Then you take a knife and fork and three spoons, and one of these dishes of radishes, and you’ve got your set-up.”

She told me laughingly not to wait on her regular customers.

“There are some boys I like that sit at the last table; and a lady in black with a gentleman. You can take anybody else but them,” she said.

When she had finished my lesson, we stood leaning against a table, talking. Mabel was telling me about the boys at the last table, and I showed her a bag I had pinned under my apron for tips.

“Don’t you think that’s a good plan?” I asked.

“Yes, if you get any,” said Mabel skeptically.

Our work was done; we stood about waiting for customers.

The manager in the front of the room was talking to the blonde bookkeeper. They seemed very confidential, and I asked Mabel if they were married.

“Oh, no,” she said, “he has a wife his own age.”

After a while the bookkeeper looked at us and seemed to remember something. She came out from behind her desk and brought me a puncher with a roll of checks, fastened to a belt. All my life I have wanted to punch checks, and now I could hardly wait for a customer. After a time a seedy-looking man appeared in the doorway. I wondered if I should have the privilege of waiting on him, or if he were one of Mabel’s own, so I looked over at her, and she said: “That’s the dish-washer, I guess.”

The manager had gone back into the kitchen, and the blonde bookkeeper was reading a copy of the *Journal*. So the man in the doorway came down the room to where we stood.

“Did you see the ad in the paper?” Mabel asked him.

“Yes,” he said eagerly.

Mabel disappeared. He looked very down on his luck.

“Yes, I’ve washed dishes all the way from Maine to San Francisco,” he said to me, “but I’ve been out of work six weeks now.”

His eyes roved eagerly over the food displayed on the counter. I longed to give him a meal, but there did not seem to be any way to manage it.

When Mabel came back, she said that some one else had been engaged, and the poor fellow went off crestfallen. I knew just how he felt. Mabel told me that six men had come in for that same job.

At last, about five o’clock, in steamed a small man, mopping his face, and drew up a stool at the counter. The boss called over. My first customer! Here was a great event which should be attended by impressive accessories and honored by a hero.

Well, this was my hero, a little stout man, stuffed into a speckled brown suit and a brown derby hat. His beard was brown, his face was brown, his greatest circumference was below the waist. He looked like a huge cigar.

“Roast-beef sandwich,” he puffed, as he sat down.

“Where are they?” I asked, looking first at the counter and then at the bill-of-fare.

“Make one,” said the boss, moving nearer to superintend proceedings. My hands began to tremble. He is the kind of man who does not care so much to remedy your mistakes as to emphasize the fact that you have made them.

He watched me closely as I spread the two pieces of bread.

“Pepper!” he ejaculated suddenly, and I seized the pepper-box at a jump. An avalanche of pepper descended on the sandwich. Luckily, the boss and the customer were engaged with the Nan Patterson case. The latter did not want to eat the sandwich then – he wanted it to take away.

“Wrap it up,” said the boss, turning his attention to me again. Under the counter I found some paper, and in this I wrapped the sandwich, the boss and the human cigar looking on. The latter grunted at the appearance of the package, but he deposited five cents on the counter.

I was hurrying to punch a check for that amount, but the boss said, “Never mind,” and putting the nickel in his pocket, he sauntered off. If he had known how much I wanted to punch that check, perhaps he would have let me.

Soon another man came in. He considered the prices of things for several moments before he gave his order; and then he took a sandwich for five cents and coffee for five cents. That was all. And when he had finished, I knew that he was still hungry. It seemed so easy to give him something more; but there were the boss and my job, and I refrained.

Presently came two young men in light clothes and soft felt hats, carrying canes, of which they were very conscious. They lacked the assurance which comes from contact with a big city, and I put them down as provincial beaux. The drooping carnations in their buttonholes suggested that this was their second day of sight-seeing. Mabel was busy sorting dishes, and she told me to take the order. I brought the glasses of water, gave the orders through the window to the kitchen, and brought the set-up. One of the men kept looking at me so closely that I felt uncomfortable. It was worse than the brown little German and the roast-beef sandwich. Finally he said, “Ain’t you Miss Lewis?”

“I’m Miss Johnson,” I said, my heart palpitating thickly.

“You ain’t playin’ any game on me?” he asked, “because I’d feel awful bad if you was.”

“No,” I assured him.

“I went all the way to Massachusetts once to see Miss Lewis,” he said.

“I wish I were Miss Lewis,” said I, taking courage.

“Well, Miss Johnson’s just as good,” he said genially, and I retired in haste to arrange the bows in my hair at a distant mirror.

When the cook rang the bell, I knew that my customers' orders were ready. The man who had gone all the way to Massachusetts to see Miss Lewis told me that he and his friend had been in New York for two or three days, and were going away the next morning. In the meantime, he would like to have me show him the city. I was just going to tell him that I had an engagement, when Mabel called me.

"You watch the floor," she said. "I'm going to do my hair."

It did not seem to be a floor that needed watching, so, after a few moments, I decided that she must have said, "You wash the floor." When I hunted her up to ask where to get some soap and the scrubbing-brush, she began to laugh, with her mouth full of hairpins.

"Well, you're a greenie," she said. "Watch it, and if any customers come in, call me."

About a quarter to six the customers began to come very fast. I was afraid I could never learn to keep their orders straight. I would say an order over and over to myself as I hurried to the long, slit-like window opening into the kitchen. Then, when the things were cooked, I could not tell to whom they belonged. Sometimes, when the cook rang the bell to let me know that something was ready, I would be so busy that I would not hear, and then she would scold. When you are a waitress, the people are so much more interesting than what they eat. Once, when I was looking over a man's shoulder at his newspaper – I can never get by large print – I suddenly heard some one back of me colling, "Here, Miss, where's the tools to eat them with?" I had forgotten the set-up!

Once, when I had filled a man's order for lamb, potatoes, and onions, and was drifting toward the newspaper again, he stopped me and said: "Say, where's them onions?"

"There," I said, pointing to something that was floating around in the gravy.

"Onions!" he cried. "Them's beans!"

They were beans, and I was about to remove them, when he said, Hold on! Them goes with the meat."

Hastily I scanned the bill-of-fare. Yes, "lamb with beans, twenty cents." I went, with a healthy humility, for those nice, green, sliced onions.

Finally the last customer went, and Mabel called me to the back of the room where two plates of ham and eggs had been put out for us.

"Say, ain't there any beans?" she said, with a quiet little air of fun, as she looked over the repast. She told me to help myself to tea or coffee as I liked. We did not talk very much. Our supper eaten, we changed our clothes while the boss was turning down the lights. I went to the counter where the blonde bookkeeper was locking up, and the boss paid me fifty cents; so ended my first day as a waitress.

I walked home to-night with a sense of elation that would have kept me going on to the Battery. I could have walked and walked. As I went along the crowded thoroughfare, I was only dimly conscious of the lights and of hurrying people and clanging cars. Once a fire-engine dashed by, drawn by three white horses which I had always before stopped to admire. But I passed on unheeding. I had done four hours of manual labor. My hand clutched my bag to make sure that my fifty cents was safe.

I am going to keep that fifty cents always. Oh, now that I am home, and the excitement is wearing off, I am so tired, so tired!

New York, May 12th.

At last I am going to have experience. For four days I looked for a new position. I grew so tired of hearing every one say that I must have experience before I could get work, when it should be plain to the most ordinary intelligence that I must have work before I can get experience. So yesterday when the tenth manager had turned his back on me and walked away, I followed him up and waited respectfully while he stood talking to a man who was repairing the electric lights. When the electrician went away, I burst forth, "See here. How am I ever going to get experience if every one tells me that I must have it before I begin?"

He turned, looked at me a moment, and then said with a smile, "Well, perhaps I'll give you some."

I nearly danced for joy.

"But," he added, "you must work for nothing for a while."

As a matter of fact, I was ready to pay him a royalty for a chance to work. He called a girl and asked her to tell me what I needed in the way of a uniform. Then he told me to come at ten this morning. When I went in this morning, he was standing at the desk looking over some accounts. He told me to sit down, and while I waited for him, I looked about me.

The place is very different from the one in which I worked before. It is under the management of a firm which has branch restaurants all over the city and the country. The girls speak of them as "the greenhouses". This one spreads over two floors and an annex. The room in which I sat was high and light. Parts of it, which daylight did not penetrate, were lighted by large Argan burners. There was an air of bustle and efficient management about the place. The waitresses moved quickly and noiselessly among the tables, and the scrub-woman receded in an even swath, leaving a blanket of white on the marble floor in front of her. I watched this woman with fascinated eyes. A shudder comes over me whenever I think of her, always squirming, squirming backwards, her tentacles swaying from side to side, like the horrible slugs that come out in California after a heavy dew. I have seen women scrubbing floors before, but I never really watched one. There was something hideous about these human being squirming at our feet, as we all sat there calmly indifferent, and a feeling of resentment rose in me – I don't know why, for floors must be scrubbed, of course.

After a time the superintendent sent me up-stairs with a girl who had just come. We walked through to the back of the store – as the girls all call the restaurant – and up three flights of narrow, dark stairs. As we neared the top, we could hear the voices and laughter of other girls. They made me think of boarding-school days; but at the top of the stairs was a sign which was not like any I had ever seen in a boarding-school: "The use of profanity is greatly deprecated. The management must request the resignation of any one who is guilty of a second offense."

We walked along a narrow hall, through the front room where the waiters were sitting idly around, and into a long room behind it full of girls and lockers. Two benches ran down the center of it. Everything seemed very gay. The girls were changing their waists and skirts and getting into their uniforms – white shirt-waists and black shirts, white aprons with broad bows at the back, white lace caps with black bows on top, stiff white collars and black neckties. Some one found an empty locker for me. It had no padlock, and the girls told me that, when I had a station, I had better buy a padlock and keep my clothes locked up. When I get a station means, when I am given a certain table and begin to draw a salary. The girls around me were very kind and told me how to wear my clothes. One of them took off her own belt to give me and tied on the bow at the back of her own apron with a piece of string.

To our mutual surprise, the second locker from mine belonged to a Miss Topton, whom I had met at a girl's club at the Settlement. I knew that she was a waitress, but did not know where she worked. We exchanged a few low words, and I explained what I was doing. There was such a hubbub that no one would have paid any attention if we had shouted aloud. When we were ready, she took me down-stairs. We went to the counter, and each of us had a cup of coffee, bread with beans, or rhubarb, or any other dish which did not have to be ordered from the kitchen. Meat, fish, and eggs are kitchen orders; the other things are kept hot in heaters on the counter and are known as side dishes. We took our plates into the dining-room and ate our luncheon there. We were late, so we ate rapidly, for all have to be on the floor at 10:30. Miss Topton told me that it was best to get to the restaurant at 9:50 if possible.

We "cleared up," as the girls say, after ourselves. Then I followed the line of girls who went to the counter, and tore off two pieces of wrapping paper from the roller. Miss Topton showed me how to fold the paper and pin it on my sleeves as a protection for my cuffs. Then each of us pinned a long towel across the front of her apron and folded another lengthwise to hang from her waist. The latter was to be used to wipe the tables when clearing up after customers.

At 10:30 the head-waitress called the roll by numbers, and each girl answered with the word, "right." They all seemed to know what to do and went at once about their work. A girl who was near me gave me a bowl of water and two rags and told me to go to the head-waitress and say, "Which tables shall I wash?"

The head-waitress pointed out two. After I had washed them, and while I stood admiring my work, she came by and said coldly, "Wash everything on the tables."

I applied myself to the task. Then a girl came by and said, "Wash the table legs," and I did so. Then another girl came by and said, "Wash the chairs." I washed the chairs. There was nothing left to wash, and I looked about for some untried branch of industry.

In a moment another nice girl showed me, as she went by, where to get the ice-water, napkins, silver, dishes, and butter plates; where to order coffee, sandwiches, and side dishes; where the desserts were kept, and where things were cooked to order; where to put dirty dishes, cups, glasses, butter plates, silver, and napkins –

everything has its special place in a restaurant. Of course, I could not remember all her directions and felt as if somebody had suddenly poured a restaurant into my head.

When the rush hour began, one of the girls told me to take the order of three ladies, while she stood by to see how I did it. I found out later that every beginner works under some old girl. The orders were spoken rapidly: "One ham rye" (a ham sandwich with rye bread), "apple-pie"; "one beef graham, custard-pie"; "one butter cakes and cream puffs." I could not repeat it correctly, but my preceptress straightened me out, and I took several other orders. What an ordeal! I had to get the dishes and silver, and I always forgot something.

The head-waitress came up as I was taking one order and said scornfully to the girl beside me – the scorn was meant for me – "Don't let *her* take any orders in the rush hour." I felt as meek as a caterpillar, and asked with deference if I might clear the tables.

"Yes," she deigned to say, and went off.

There did not seem to be much to clear just then. I had been put in the back part of the room because fewer customers came back there, and those who did were for the most part young girls who ordered sandwiches or chowder or some other single dish. They sat a long time over their luncheons, and when they had finished, there was only one dish to clear. I felt as if I ought to be doing something all the time. Whenever the head-waitress went by, I seemed to be standing still. At last I hit upon a plan of making two trips where one would have been done, just to look busy. Once, when I was in line at the counter, or rather, a little out of line, she came by and gave me a shove, saying, "Git into line." I do not like to be shoved, but I did not shove back.

After a time she told me to go to the front of the room and clear way dishes. I was as busy then as I could wish. The trip was a long one, and the dishes were heavy and many in number. One of the girls showed me how to balance the load on my left arm by gathering the silver up in the third finger and making a foundation of three dishes on my palm and forearm. I covered this with a napkin and piled on as many dishes as I could, with napkins between them to keep them from slipping. In the right hand I carried the water glasses. My arms ache now as I write. The left arm is lamer, because it had to bear the weight of the dishes. Sometimes I had to brace the left arm with the right. I was not very expert, but the girls would occasionally say in passing, "You're doing very well, dear," or "You'll learn quick," or "I was new, myself, once."

There seemed to me to be a great waste of food, for we did not scrape any of the dishes, but threw away even crackers and butter and milk, a practice very different from that in my last job, where we saved everything. I thought our time must be valuable until I learned the wages – four dollars a week for five hours a day, sixty-seven cents a day; six dollars a week for eight and a half hours, one dollar a day. We have to pay for our own laundry and must put on clean linen Mondays and Thursdays.

At 3:30, Number 27, under whom I worked, told me to get my dinner, and we helped ourselves at the counter as in the morning. Beside the beans and bread and butter, we were allowed to order for this meal ham and eggs from the kitchen. We ate in the back dining-room; some of the girls chatted gaily, and some of them sat silent, completely fagged out.

As we climbed the stairs to the dressing-room, I noticed at the head of the stairs a room with rows of benches and with a reading-desk at one end.

"It's the chapel," said 27. "The girls who come at seven have prayer before they go to work."

"Must they go to prayers?"

"They're fined if they don't, and they're fined if they're late, and they're fined if they don't pay attention while the manager is reading."

I considered this state of affairs with inquiry.

"Are there many fines?" I asked.

"Many!" she exclaimed. "You're fined if you break anything; you're fined if the ice melts on the butter so that water runs on the table; you're fined if the spoon ain't in the sugar-bowl. There's mighty few girls that gets full wages here. The firm sometimes makes a dollar a week off a girl." She went on, and I stopped to read a sign that was conspicuously displayed on an easel: "Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercises *lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness*, in the earth. — Jeremiah, ix, 23, 24."

While I was reading, a girl came up the stairs and stopped behind me.

"So now you know that four dollars a week is right, and kind, and just," she said.

I smiled and turned toward her. "Well, I suppose the tips will help me out."

"Tips!" she laughed. "It's a long time you'll be here before you see the sign of a tip. Why, in all New York, it's half the girls and more that makes nothing on the side."

"Can they live on their wages?" I asked.

She gave me a scrutinizing glance.

"What did you work at before?" she asked, eyeing me with a level gaze.

"I never worked in a restaurant," I answered noncommittally.

"I thought not," she said, "or you'd know that a girl can't live long on four dollars a week, or even five, without some other means of support."

She started on, I walking beside her. "I wonder as some of them millionaires that gives to charity homes don't give their own employees enough to live on."

Then she looked at me again. "I suppose you used to work in an office?"

Before I could answer her, we were in the dressing-room, and there stood a pretty girl with unnatural golden hair, walking slowly up and down in front of an admiring group, to display a new gown of a fashionable white and black check, made over a silk slip. Other girls about the room were watching her as they went on changing their clothes. She was swishing her hips a little to exaggerate the swish of the silk. "I'm going to a show to-night, too," she was saying as Number 12 and I went in.

"Who with?" inquired one of the girls on the bench.

"Did you notice the one near the end of the table, that wore a big solitaire diamond ring?" said the girl in black and white; and when she had waited for their assent, she went on proudly, "Well, it's him."

I saw Number 12's keen glance upon me, and I turned away. As quickly as I could, I changed my clothes and went home.

New York, May 17th.

To-day I was allowed to take orders and to dispense the "surpassing coffee" which the firm advertises. I am learning the restaurant vernacular, too. When I want a cup of coffee, I say, "draw one." An order of butter cakes is "three off"; two ham sandwiches on one plate, "two ham, on one." The men at the counter complain that I do not call loud enough. There is such a noise all the time that I wonder they hear the loudest orders. Five men stand behind the counter. One hands over the coffee, tea, etc. another the side dishes, another the sandwiches, another dessert; another removes the boxes of dirty dishes to the dumb-waiter which goes down-stairs. These men, and three or four more who are called "buses," and who carry trays of dirty dishes, are the only men employed about the place. All the table service is by girls.

My work began this morning the same as it did yesterday. I washed the tables, all that thereon was, and all that thereunder was; and then the head-waitress sent me down-stairs to work. There I took out the butter, putting two plates on each table, a square slice on each plate, a block of ice on each slice. Later in the day, when they sent me back up-stairs, I had to take a bowl and empty the water from the melted ice, for if the water runs over the table, the waitress at that table is fined. Each girl must also keep the pickle jars on her tables filled. There is a bucket behind the counter, and we are supposed to fill the glass jars with a fork. I am very much impressed by the system with which everything is done here; I scarcely see how it could be more perfect.

But the number of fines is appalling. A girl told me this morning that I would be fined if I put butter on the table with my hands, though I see that most of the girls do use their hands in the back room, where the public and the head-waitress do not see. She told me, too, that we are fined if there is a spot on our aprons; we are fined if we wipe a table with a napkin; and, of course, we are fined for breakage. Where there are so many chances of accidents and mistakes, it seems as if the firm should take some of the risks. I am told that the fines go to a sick fund, but a girl must have worked in a restaurant a year before she can get the benefit of this fund.

I think I must have done my work better to-day than yesterday, because this afternoon the head-waitress told me to go to the front of the room. A different girl, Number 23, took me in charge. She had a toothache, and so she graciously allowed me to take the orders. I am very grateful. It was a case of Tom Sawyering, and everybody was pleased. She stood by to see that I repeated the orders correctly, sometimes telling me to follow her, watch what she did, and carry some of the dishes. She cut all the checks, for I have no belt, as yet. Once, when we were not busy, she said to me, "What did you work at before?"

I said that I had done some housework.

“Same as me,” she said. “But I gave it up because I like a home life, and I’d rather live with my folks than have all the French cookin’ and plush furniture in the world. Besides, it’s lonesome doin’ housework.”

“The nun in the kitchen!” I quoted.

She looked puzzled for a moment, and then she appeared pleased with the idea.

“Do you live with your folks, or board?”

“With a friend.”

Then I asked her how the other girls lived. It seems that many of them live in furnished rooms. They come to the city from farms, or from the “old country,” and waiting is the “easiest thing to take up.” Many of the half-time girls are married and do their work at home before and after the restaurant work. Sometimes their husbands are waiters. Many have worked in restaurants, on and off, for years. The work is hard, but there is a certain excitement about it. It is more attractive, too, than some other trades, because a girl can come and go; in a factory or department store she would not be taken on for a few weeks. Then there are a good many perquisites, I find. A girl with a pleasing personality, who stays a long time in a place and gets a good station up in front where the men are, sometimes makes two dollars a day in tips. They were telling me about such a girl to-day. Of course, only about one girl in twenty-five has such an income as this, and the girls say the wages of the other twenty-four are decided by the tips of this one. Perhaps it is the uncertainty of the income which gives waiters and waitresses the speculative impulse. A great many of them bet on the races. Well, I suppose races are better for them than bridge whist. At least, they are out-of-doors. Then, sometimes the men customers take the girls to the theater or Coney Island. All the girls who stay long in one place have regular customers.

Yesterday, when we were dressing, one of the girls told me about a restaurant where the customers paid the funeral expenses of a waitress who had no relatives.

“She got muscular rheumatism from standing,” said Number 3, “and she died in the hospital. The firm sent her a grand floral piece with a star and a heart and a crescent.”

“Well, that was good of them,” said Number 25, and the others seemed to think so, too.

“They’d better have paid her decent wages while she was alive,” said Number 12. “She worked steadily at that house for five years, and she worked thirteen hours a day, every day in the week. Sundays, too. And all she got was six dollars a week. I used to work there myself.”

It is not according to the rules of the game to take another girl’s customer, especially a man, for it is the men who give the tips. Once to-day I started to clear a table, and the girl whose table it was said, “Don’t touch those things. Number 36 waited on that man. He was my customer. And she can clear the dishes herself.”

Soon after, I noticed that the dishes were gone, and I said, “Did she take them away?”

“No,” the girl answered; “I piled them up on her table.”

The girls look completely fagged out as the end of the day approaches. They get ravenously hungry, too. Of course, they are not allowed to eat during working hours; but they do when they can. Yesterday Number 27 offered me some graham crackers.

“Are we allowed to eat?” I asked.

“Only what we can steal.”

I was so hungry by 3:30 that I could not think. I shall have to carry chocolate in my pocket and eat it on the sly.

I noticed to-day that waitresses have a special gift. The shoulders are kept solid, and the upper part of the body steady, while the lower part swings from side to side to balance the dishes. There gets to be a kind of fascination in seeing how far one can swing the dishes and still keep them balanced.

I like to hear the girls talk. They talk about the races, and clothes, and the customers, and sometimes about wakes. They are not allowed to talk about unions. Once to-day Miss Topton said to me; “The head-waitress is looking at us. She has watched us talking together two or three times. They don’t like the girls to talk. They are afraid of unions.”

One girl said such a funny thing to-day. Her sister, she said, was too nervous to go to the races. “She can’t stand anything exciting – not even dead people.”

Most of them are Irish girls – sprightly, full of life, and good-hearted. Number 12 is the cleverest of them. She is the girl who talked to me about that sign yesterday. To-day was pay-day, and the girls came into the dining-room at 3:30 with their envelopes, each one looking anxiously to see how much had been deducted from her wages in fines.

“Fifteen cents, inattention at prayer service, and ten cents, spot on apron,” said 5 indignantly.

“It’s a wonder they’d stoop to make money off a poor girl after she’s worked so hard for it,” said a rich Irish brogue.

“How do you know what it’s for?” [I] inquired.

“I asked,” said 5.

“Who does the fining?” I asked the girl next to me.

“The head-waitress.”

“Then couldn’t you speak to the boss about it?”

She laughed. “What can one girl do against a firm?”

“Couldn’t you all go together?”

“You mean we should have a union?”

“Oh, no, not that,” I said hastily.

“Well, then, how can we make him stick to what he says?”

“You can’t,” said 12, who was leaning against the wall, listening, “unless you’ve got a union. That’s your only guarantee.”

“Oh, your husband’s a union man. That’s the reason you talk that way,” said [Number] 5.

Number 5 is rather a superior being. She told me that she did not associate with the girls in the restaurant. She belongs to a club at a Settlement and is going to

give up waiting as soon as she can to get something better. She tells her friends at the club that she's a telephone girl.

"Well, then, I know what I'm talking about," said 12, "and you'd ought to have learned a lesson from that strike we had two years ago in the Brooklyn Branch."

"Why, did the girls ever strike?" I asked, surprised.

"I guess we did. We wanted the same wages for the same work as the girls at Childs'. Well, they agreed to raise us all a dollar a week, and we went back. But pretty soon they began to discharge a few girls at a time and take them on again at the old rate. If we'd have a union, they couldn't of done that. But the girls were all scattered, and there was no way of holding them together."

"Unions do more harm than good," said 5. "They may be all right theoretically, but they don't live up to their ideals."

"Well," said 12, "Christianity doesn't live up to its ideals, either. But you don't say it's no good for that reason. You can't expect labor unions to be any better than the churches."

"But Miss Morgan says that labor unions are never satisfied. They always want more."

"Who's Miss Morgan?" asked 12.

"She's the directress of our club, and her father's president of a railroad."

"Well," said 12, "doesn't Miss Morgan's father want more, too? When he had a salary of a thousand dollars a week, was he satisfied?"

The girls in our corner laughed. Number 5 seemed discomfited, but she persisted.

"Well, unions are always striking."

"We all struck in 1776," said 12.

"That was for human liberty," I ventured.

Number 12's eyes flashed. "Well, what's the use of liberty if you haven't the time to enjoy it? We're striking for human liberty, too," she said, the color rising in her face.

"Well, Miss Morgan says," – Miss Morgan is evidently 5's great authority – "that there are so many dishonest men in unions."

"Well, you can tell Miss Morgan," said 12, folding her arms, "that it's only because they haven't enough money to be directors of corporations, and you can tell Miss Morgan that there's not one union official in jail to-day, but there's all kinds of bank officials, and lawyers, and high-toned grafters, wearing the stripes."

Here some one threw a piece of bread at Number 12, as the head-waitress appeared at the door. A storm of abuse broke out about the new-comer's head.

"Well," she said, when it had subsided, "If I don't fine you, I'll get fined myself. You remember when Maggie was head-waitress and half a day's pay was deducted for not fining the girls enough. A head-waitress with only eight dollars a week and no tips can't afford to lose any pay."

New York, May 15th.

This was the worst day I have had. The morning was very warm. I hated to go to work. I loathed it. The head-waitress hardly motioned with her eyebrows when I asked her if I should wash the same tables as I had on Saturday. It was an hour after I had finished the cleaning before people began to come in. I thought that hour would never pass. I am always kept at the back of the room, because I am inexperienced. It was hot and noisy back there, because of the heaters which kept the food warm, and the machines which turn the electric fans. I stood leaning against the wall, watching the clock. The time we spend cleaning always goes quickly, but it seems as if the time we stand about waiting for customers would never pass. It would not be so bad if we could sit down, but we are not allowed to sit down during hours. It seems to me, now, that I took thousands of orders to-day. I grew so very tired with the artificial light and noise and heat, that I wondered several times if I should get through the day. It was like a benediction when the head-waitress said, "Go to the front, dear."

It was a day of various mishaps. Once, I dropped a ham sandwich on the floor, right before the head-waitress. I looked up at her questioningly, because I had never seen an incident of this kind, and I was not perfectly certain of the correct policy in such a case. "Change it," she said quickly. She knew I would not change it, and I knew that she knew I would not. But I took it all up, went to the counter, and said to the man there, "Change it." He looked at me and then at the sandwich and back again at me. Then he rearranged the same ham on the same bread, and I sallied forth a second time to present the reconstructed sandwich to my customer. It was interesting to observe her eating it with relish. Another time, as I was flying about, I backed into Number 27 and knocked two of her fried oysters on the floor. "Damn you!" she said. I knew she only meant, "Oh, dear." Somehow, I did not feel in the least deprecatory. I picked them up, for her arms were full. Later, when we were standing at the counter together, she said, "I hope you don't mind what I said to you. I didn't mean it."

Human nature, as considered in customers, seems to present considerable variety. I spilled a little coffee on the floor, near a lady in a gray summer silk and a hat with pink roses. Only two drops spattered on her dress, but she was very cross. If we had met at an afternoon tea, I know she would have smiled and said, "Why, that's of no consequence." She was of the kind that has adaptable manners. This was the first time a customer had been cross about any mishap. I observe that most of the people who come in here are of the class which earns its own living, and that almost without exception they are kind and help me out when they can. A little after the escapade with the summer-silk lady, I spilled some milk on the dress of a sweet young girl. It was a very pretty dress and probably her best. It looked like "my spring suit." But she only said, "Accidents will happen. Every one makes mistakes." And before she left, she called to me and said that the stains had disappeared.

It is strange how much a part of the life of a restaurant one soon comes to feel. I have gone so fast from one duty to another that I never have time to consider the life as a whole. To-day, as I walked home, hot and utterly weary in flesh and spirit, I wondered suddenly why I was doing such work at all. In sheer fatigue of body, my

mind had fallen back on the fact that this exhaustion was unnecessary. I was so far away from the problem that had brought me that I remembered it with a start.

When we were all assembled at half past ten, and the roll had been called, the order was given that when a customer ordered oatmeal with cream, we were hereafter to serve half cream and half milk, instead of pure cream, as we had hitherto done. I asked a girl why, and she said, "Well, I suppose it don't pay." Only with strawberries is pure cream to be served. It must be put in a small, round pitcher with a handle. The small, round pitchers with handles are for half and half, and the small, straight pitchers are for milk. We must be very careful to serve in the right pitchers, or we are fined.

The hardest thing I have had to learn is to remember my orders correctly. I do not think a stupid girl could be a waitress. There are a great many things to think of, and they are as disconnected as a shopping list, and I can never remember shopping lists. My first customer this morning ordered a side of beans with a separate order of white bread. The man at the counter scolded me because I did not know whether she had ordered Boston or New York beans. Then, when I went back to my customer, she counted the pieces of bread on the plate and said, "Don't I get four pieces with an order?" I seized the arm of the first girl who went by and found that the woman was right. No bread is served with a side of beans; two pieces are served with any ten-cent order; three pieces with any fifteen-cent order or more. When the bread is a separate order, it costs five cents and means four pieces. You must always ask, I am told, whether the customer wants a plate or bowl of soup, and what kind of bread – white, rye, or graham.

Once, when I was ordering stew, the girl beside me whispered, "Don't order it that way. Say 'stew in the bowl,' and for wheat cakes say 'brown the wheats.'" Another time, when I had an order for broiled bluefish, the man behind the counter said crossly, "Order it right. Say, 'Fish off the iron.'" When I asked for two fried eggs, he scowled, "That ain't the way to order. Say 'Fry two, 7.'" Seven is the number of the girl under whom I am working. A waitress always gives her number for a kitchen order.

Three new girls came in to-day. Two of them have worked before in offices. They looked strange and conscious – just as I have felt. I heard the other girls speak of them, but not unkindly. I am anxious to see how quickly they will learn. They seemed tired out before the end of the day. Several times I saw them sitting down in chairs beside their tables. I have never dared to do this, it is against the rules, but I lean against the wall or on the window ledge every time I can. Sometimes I sit on the edge of the table.

I am growing to feel much more at home with the girls, since I have learned to do my share of the work. One novel sensation I have had here is a sense of inefficiency very real and purifying. I don't remember that I have ever before been with people who did so well something that I did very badly. It is not pleasant to feel inferior, yet I cannot but look up to girls who do their work so thoroughly and well. After all, it seems a just standard, the efficiency with which one does his work in a community. The girls are apparently conscious of this self-distrust. They are all very kind to me;

they call me “girlie,” and the men call me “sis.” This morning Number 7, under whom I have been working, told me to go to the head-waitress and say, “I would like to station myself to-morrow.” Another girl said, “Haven’t you got a station yet? Ask for one. Tell the head-waitress you think you’re competent.”

I lost my pocket-book to-day. I discovered the loss while we were eating our dinner. The girls were very sympathetic and asked how much there was in it. They said, “You’ll never get it back.” But I heard later that it had been found and taken to the office up-stairs. There was in it a letter from my lawyer in regard to some changes in my will. The cashier at the desk gave it to me and said nothing, but I knew she had been through it.

There was such a nice conductor on the car as I came home. I sat on the back seat, and whenever he came back to the platform, he talked to me. I notice that conductors and policemen are much kinder and more considerate of my comfort since I am a working-woman. They all treat me so much better than they ever treated my best Paris gowns. I did not know the working classes were so united. There is more affection and loyalty toward one another than among other people. Perhaps this is because the working people feel that there is a class struggle, and the leisure class does not know it yet. This class loyalty helps one to understand their hatred of a traitor – a scab.

New York, May 17th

After I had washed my tables this morning, the head-waitress told me to go down and help in the annex. I like the annex. It is cool and airy. The head-waitress in the annex said, “Get a rag good and wet and wash the chairs. Begin in that corner.” I washed thirty-six chairs down-stairs, and with the forty I had washed up-stairs, I had just seventy-six chairs to my credit to-day. I have always hitherto accepted a chair as something to sit on, but for the rest of my life I shall look upon it as something to wash. When I went up-stairs again, I asked the head-waitress if I could have a station. She looked at me steadily, and I looked back at her steadily. I said, “Perhaps there are a few things I don’t know yet, but I think I can run a station.” “Well, the manager won’t take any one else on to-day, but you can have it to-morrow.” Half an hour later, while I was waiting on some customers, she came up behind me and said, “When you finish those orders, come to me.” I was so afraid I was going to be discharged! But she called Number 40, gave me 40’s belt, and told me how to put it on. Number 40 was sent down-stairs. It is a promotion to go down-stairs, because there are more men there. That was one of the proudest moments of my life. At last I am experienced. The girls who noticed the belt said, in a congratulatory manner, “Oh, you’re getting paid now.” I wonder if I am really beginning to draw on that magnificent salary of sixty-seven cents a day? My first customer was a little forlorn woman with a narrow back and a waist that was too tight. She ordered two eggs, hot. “Very hot,” she said, “be sure and get them hot.” Then she added wistfully, “I have rheumatism so bad. See, I can hardly move my left hand. If it was my right, I couldn’t work.” She was so grateful to be able to work. I wondered whether it were my duty as

a waitress to clear the dishes somewhere else or to listen to this little customer. She seemed so to long to pour out her soul to some one, that I turned my back on the head-waitress and the whole room and said how sorry I was. Then Number 7 called me to wait on two customers who had just come in. When I went back to my little beneficiary again, she said, "A cup of cocoa, please, very hot. I am a crank on having things hot. But don't get it until you are ready. Take your time." A number of other customers came in just then, and I had to rush for the cocoa and leave her.

One of the funny things in the restaurant is the way we all read the papers over the customers' shoulders. To-day, when I was tiptoeing around, reading about a sensational murder trial in which we were all interested, a waiter, who was doing the same thing, said in my ear, "Say, sis, d'you see that Smith's wife's married already again? They're a bad lot, those Smiths." And this afternoon one of the girls rushed back excitedly to a row of us who were standing by the counter, and said, "Nan's free! Nan's free! She went by here in a automobile!" "I saw a automobile," cried another, "I wonder if it was her!"

As I went out on the street, I saw Number 12 and another girl ahead of me. I hurried to catch up with them, because I had been trying several times to get a chance to talk with Number 12. She has the most intelligence and spirit of any of the girls here, and I wanted to see what she would say about some of the things I have been thinking about.

"Did you see in the Sunday paper that a manager said that any bright young girl could make two dollars a day on tips?" I asked, after a few casual remarks.

"Yes, I saw it. There's some that does, and they always get in the Sunday paper. Maggie, here, was just saying that she made a nickel to-day, and last week she made thirty-five cents, and she's been working in this place over a year."

"You think that unions would better things, don't you?" I asked.

"They're the only things that ever have," she said. "It's only standing together that we working people have ever raised our wages and shortened our hours and bettered ourselves otherwise."

"But you don't believe in forcing people to join a union, do you?" I asked, with the feeling of one who has proposed a clincher.

"Well, seeing that it's the unions that has raised the conditions to what they are, I don't see as any one ought to take advantage of those conditions without contributing to them. We've given our money, and we've gone cold and hungry for them. Why should a man who's never done anything for us get the good of our sacrifices?"

"But, of course, you don't believe in violence, do you?" I asked feebly.

Her answer came with quick vehemence. "I understand it," she said. "You read as how congressmen use their fists, and Southern gentlemen their shot-guns; and I can understand much better how a working-man can throw a brick at a scab in a strike, because he's fighting for his life and his family and the future of the working class, and it's the scab that keeps him from winning."

We had reached the corner, but I said I should like to ask one more question if she didn't mind. Maggie answered for her with an Irish grin. "Sure, there's nothing Katie loikes better thin to talk about unions whin that Irish blood of hers is up."

"Well, then," I asked, "why don't the waitresses have a union, if unions are so desirable?"

"They have," said Katie with her blue eyes measuring me, "but I suppose you've never heard of it. It's been a peaceable union. It's only them that causes trouble that gets in the papers. Then people read the articles and say what terrible things them labor unions are. But you never heard them say that insurance companies are terrible, just because a few of them are run by grafters. Well, so long," and she and Maggie left me abruptly and turned the corner of Broadway.

I wish I could write things down just as she says them. She has an air of conviction that makes you sure at the time that she is right. I always think of her as a kind of Joan of Arc, leading on the army of workers to battle. She is such a strange mixture, with her fine, tender mouth, that clear Irish skin, the deep blue eyes that sometimes flash and sometimes melt, and the soft bronze hair that flies in little rings all about her head – such a strange mixture of the sweet, blooming young woman and of the enthusiast for an abstract ideal which turns flesh and blood into steel.

New York, May 18th

After roll-call this morning, as I was getting a bowl of water to wash the tables, the head-waitress called me aside and said: "The manager says he don't think you'll do for a waitress, so I thought I better tell you, dear."

"Why does he think I won't do?" I asked.

"I don't know," and she looked puzzled. "He didn't give any reason; but why don't you go to Childs', around the corner?"

Now the standard of work at Childs' is higher, so I pondered deeply, and then I remembered my lost pocket-book.

"Well, it can't be helped, but I'm sorry," I said; "good-bye."

Up in the dressing-room two belated girls were getting into their clothes.

"Going to leave?" they asked.

"Yes, they won't take me on."

"Why don't you wait a day or two, girlie, and you'll get a station sure. You're doing fine. Why, one of the girls was saying only yesterday how quick you learned."

"They don't pay the girls here until they have to," said the other one, "but you'll get paid sure in a day or two. You'd better wait."

"I'm pretty sure they aren't going to take me on," I said. "I'd better try some other place."

They looked dubious. It was plain that they thought my judgment bad.

I went down, and out into the street. What a sense of freedom to be in the fresh air and be able to do as I pleased again! What a glorious morning! What air! What sunlight! What exhilaration in all the spacious swarming streets! Above all, what intoxication in the liberty of commanding your own time. As I ate my luncheon, I

watched the waiter with interest. I believe I could have done as well myself. Still, he had an air, with his napkin over his arm, that gave me a pang of professional jealousy. I wish that we could have carried napkins over our arms, too. Ours were pinned to our aprons.

New York, June 8th

I worked in a bakery this week. It was a large, high-ceilinged place, with flowery red paper and mirrors ranging along the walls. In spite of its cheerful decorations, the room was neither pleasant nor attractive.

When I was ready the first morning, I went to the head-waiter and found him distributing cash-books and pencils. I don't like pencils. They are not half so much fun as punching checks. The books are kept in the bibs of the girls' aprons, and the pencils back of the ear. The latter practice gave me an ill-balanced feeling, as if I knew more on one side of my head than on the other.

A pretty, plump girl with dull brown hair motioned me to sit down at a table beside her and pick strawberries.

"Put the spoiled ones over there for pies," she said, suiting actions to words.

We talked while picking, and, of course, began on the all-important question of wages.

"The half-time girls, from ten to three, get three dollars and fifty cents a week," she said, in answer to my question. "The three-quarter time – six to three – get five dollars; and the full time – six in the morning till seven-thirty at night – get six dollars. Full times don't get any tips, because they're behind the counter."

It fell upon my mind like a blow. For a moment I did not hear what she was saying. To stand behind a counter from six in the morning until seven-thirty at night, thirteen and a half hours, almost three times as long as I had been working, for a dollar a day!

"You don't get much on the side here," I heard her say next, "till the customers know you by name. I made almost two dollars last week, but then I've been here three years. That little one," and she nodded toward a little blonde, "has got a good station, and she makes lots of money, sometimes a dollar a day; but it ain't fair to base wages on tips, 'cause some of the girls don't get any. That's the boss at the first table. He's so mean. That's 'Missus' at the desk. The head-waiter's nice. His name's Harry."

I looked across at the boss, a tall man in a long linen duster, bowing amiably to a nonchalant customer. He looked very far from mean. I saw later that his manners were a business asset, like our uniforms. He put them on for business hours, as we put on our aprons, and when the customers left, he laid them aside.

"Missus," his wife, was a placid German woman, who sat behind the desk. All week I never saw her doing anything else. She is one of those women who are born to sit, just simply sit behind a desk and hold something down.

The other individual of consular rank was Harry, the head-waiter, a man of one characteristic – a harassed air.

When we had finished the strawberries, I put them in the saucers and took them to the front window, where a waiter spread them out alluringly. We filled half a dozen tarts, and those, also, I took forward. The other girls were cutting strawberry shortcake and putting it on plates. Various kinds of pies and tarts – huckleberry, apple and cherry – were being cut and carried to the racks and shelves from which they were to be served. I found, not without a flush of pride, that I could carry seven plates of pie on my left arm.

During one of my trips to the counter, Harry gathered in two new waiters, and, adding me to the party, took us on an expedition to the different counters. He spoke very rapidly:

“Penny apiece, five cents apiece, two cents each, two for five,” he would say, waving his hand; “three cents each, two for six; strawberry shortcake, ten cents. Pour cream over and put a plate under it. Serve with a spoon. Huckleberry-pie with cheese, ten cents. Huckleberry tart, five,” he rattled on, as we moved from counter to counter.

I looked at the waiters. They looked serious and comprehending, so I looked serious and comprehending, but I never felt more bewildered and more irresponsible in my life. My head was in a whirl. When we had finished this little comedy, Harry escorted me to the back of the room and presented me with two tables and ten chairs. One of the girls advised me to put a glass of water at each place beforehand.

“Don’t give them napkins unless they ask. It’s fierce at twelve o’clock,” she explained. “And take care about the butter. They’ll cheat you if they see you’re green, and make you serve butter with orders that don’t get any.”

Everybody in the place seemed to be getting ready for a forced march.

Since the waiters were temporary, and I was new, our stations were together at the undesirable back of the room. In this place the men wait at the tables. In the other places they have been only behind the counters or on the floor as “buses.” My station was next to theirs, and I would stand first at one corner and talk to the waiter nearest that, and then, after a little, as everything must keep moving here, I would stroll to the other corner and chat with the other man.

“I’ve worked in other places,” said the little one, after the rush hour, “but this is a mad-house. I just come here when I’m out of work. We only get fifty cents for three hours. The girls get fifty-nine cents for five hours, and the boss ‘ud rather have girls.”

I strolled up to the corner and began:

“What station have you?”

“I don’t know. I hope this one next to you,” he said, with gallantry.

“I’ve got ten chairs at my station to-day,” I sighed. “I hope I can manage them all.”

“Never mind, sis,” he said. “I’ll help you.” And he did.

“How’re you making out?” he said once, as he went back to the counter with his arm full of dishes.

“First rate,” I said, “but I haven’t many customers yet.”

“Oh, you must jolly your customers along,” said a girl who overheard this. “You’ve got to build up a little trade for yourself. Now, if a man says to me, ‘Is that

order coming?' I say something funny. Sometimes I say, 'Yes, so's Christmas.' Sometimes I give him a whack. The boss likes us to be fresh with the customers."

I fell into meditation, my mind fixed upon the vision of thus building trade for myself.

Just then the boss came by. "Youse'd better find out the prices of things," he fairly shouted in our ears, "instead of waiting and asking when everybody's busy."

"The head-waiter told us," I said pertly; but the waiter needed his fifty cents, so he picked up the bill-of-fare and began to study it diligently. The boss glared at me a moment, and then he looked around undecidedly.

"Take those glasses off that table!" he shouted suddenly, pointing at a corner near us. "For God's sake, get busy."

A girl had just carefully placed the glasses there, but I just as carefully removed them, since his object was to keep me in motion. He stood by watching me.

"See if there are any more chairs," he said, with a snarl, when I had finished.

I found two in the dressing-room, and he began to shove the other chairs at the table violently, to make room for the two extra.

"Crowd in as many as you can!" he roared.

He shoved the chairs, and I shoved the chairs, and so long as he was there I kept on shoving, and when he went away I stopped. It was the sort of thing for which one might punish a child.

I went back to my station and found a man who said he wanted coffee and horns.

"Coffee and horns?" I repeated questioningly.

"Yes, coffee and horns," he said, as if a rock could be shaken from its firm base as soon as he.

I made my accustomed dive after a girl who knew something about the business.

"A man over there wants something that sounds like coffee and horns," I said to her.

"There they are," she said, and pointed to some crescent rolls, "five with an order."

I returned with the "horns," and found ten men waiting to be served. A feeling of helpless desperation came over me, as they all clamored at once for their lunches. The rush hour was indeed "fierce." Before I had served my ten men, there were others standing in line waiting for seats. As soon as one man finished, another took his place. They shoved back the dishes in front of them and ate on top of the debris. Once, the situation grew desperate, each one wanting to be served first, all giving their orders at once, so that I could not extricate anything from the jumble. It was so absolutely petrifying that I could not do anything. I just stood still and laughed. The smile went around the table, and they subsided and let me take one order at a time. No one was cross when I gave him the wrong thing. They were mostly ten cent customers, one dish five, and a drink five; all men, and they wore their hats.

One man spoke in very broken English – in fact, his order was in fragments. All I could make out of it was coffee, so I brought him the most accessible food, which

happened to be strawberry-pie. I do not approve of strawberry-pie as the piece de resistance of a luncheon, but I put it down with an air of command. He looked up at me meekly and ate it without a word. It was rather unfortunate that he was so docile. If he had demurred, I think I should have sunk upon the floor and wept.

The rush ended as suddenly as it began, and I leaned against a pillar, mopping my forehead. But the sight of the boss coming in my direction goaded me to action, and I hastened to clear and wipe my tables. A few customers still straggled in, but no more came to the back of the room. As they grew fewer in number, one table after another was put out of commission, the chairs were put on top of them, and the dirt swept up from under. I was moved forward to serve the late comers.

I thought the afternoon never would pass, but, after what seemed six or eight hours, the minute hand reached three o'clock. At last it was time for our luncheon.

"Can we order what we like?" I asked.

"Say, chef, she says, can she order what she likes," said the pretty golden-haired girl, who made a dollar a day on tips; and a shout of laughter went up from four girls sitting at a table near.

"I guess you'll take what you get," said the chef, handing out a bowl of dark soup. It looked as unappetizing as a mud bath. Hungry as I was, I could not eat it. I took a glass of milk and hurried home.

The second day I picked strawberries again with the same girl. Annie (such is her alluring name) has the kind of amiability which comes from being sluggish, the kind which never in any extremity becomes hilarity.

"Oh, dear, I'm so tired," she said. "I was off on a racket last night on the New York Roof Garden."

Just then a girl they call Red Hair came up to get some strawberries for an early customer. Another came hurrying after.

"Give him big ones and wash them good," she said; "he's good for a nickel."

"Do you ever write to Beatrice Fairfax?" said Annie, when they had gone.

"Why, no," I said, with a gasp; "do you?"

"Yes," said Annie, "about every month, under a different name. I ain't got no parents living. Yes," she said, rising and gathering up the bad berries for the pies, "there's lots of girls that she's helped."

When the strawberries were finished, the boss appeared.

"Fold some napkins!" he roared. He never, as a matter of fact, merely says anything. He always issues manifestos.

I found the napkins in the dressing-room under our clothes (good place for napkins) and brought them out to a table under an electric fan. First one girl joined me, then another. It was nice easy work, and we chatted pleasantly.

"Do you live with your folks?" said the pretty little blonde, turning toward me her white-lidded, darkly shaded eyes.

"No, with friends."

"I'm trying to find some girl to go to Brooklyn with me and take up some rooms there," and she looked at me enticingly. "I could get three rooms cheap."

I devoted my attention to folding napkins. Annie spoke up:

“Now, if you was to say Chicago, I’d go with you.” She heaved a sigh. “It’s sorry I am that I ever left there. We used to have it nice in Chicago.”

“It is better for a waitress there, isn’t it?” I said.

“Yes, if you get in a union house,” she answered, slowly adding one napkin after another to the pile, “the bosses treat you right, and they stick to what they say.”

“Is that because of the union?” I asked.

“Sure,” she said. “They dassent go back on it.”

“I belonged to a union once,” said another. “Before I was married, I used to work on gents’ neckwear, and my, but there was a difference if you didn’t work in a union shop. The boss could curse you and shove you around, and the forelady’s make you sit all day when you was working on piece work, and not give you anything to do if she didn’t like you. In a union shop they dassent do that.”

“They have sociable in the unions,” said Annie. “Sometimes they have lectures with magic-lantern pictures, and it gives a girl somewhere to go evenings.”

“Then why don’t all girls belong to unions?” I asked, feeling very much an outsider; but she of the gents’ neckwear replied:

“Well, there’s some that thinks it ain’t fashionable; there’s some that thinks it ain’t no use, and there’s some that never thinks at all. And there’s some as is afraid of strikes and ain’t willing to give up their wages.”

“And then, besides,” interjected the girl from Chicago, “a girl counts on getting’ married some day and givin’ up work.”

“There’s some girls,” broke in another, “as is afraid of losin’ their jobs if the boss knew they belonged to a union.”

Red Hair, who had been going back and forth between our table and one of the counters, joined us at this point.

“Keep cool. Glass of milk and dairy dish, ten cents,” said she irrelevantly, with an air of saying something of great importance. Her look was fixed. We followed the direction of her glance and saw the boss painting this sign on a blackboard a few feet away. One employee always warns another of the approach of the boss in this place, I notice. Conversation ceased conspicuously, and we devoted ourselves to the napkins.

After a moment, Harry came up.

“That’s enough,” he said.

The boss moved on, and after a little conversation I remarked, “Why, we’re still folding napkins.”

“Harry just said that to make the boss think we had something else to do. You’ve got to make him think you’re rushing all the time,” explained the blonde.

Soon the room filled up, the people standing against the walls and crowding the aisles. I do not believe that any one who has not been behind the scenes can realize what that rush hour means to the waitresses. It is like a panic in the theatre. People come in from the neighboring shops for sandwiches and pails of coffee. They all come at the same time. Sometimes there are boys and girls who have come to take back coffee and milk for a crowd of people at the shop. They block up the counter so that the waitresses cannot get near enough to fill orders. Sometimes there would be such a crush about the counters that no one could do anything. There would be some strong

talk. "I've worked in lots of places," a girl said one day, "but *this is hell*." When it was over, some of the girls would almost be shivering with fatigue. I would feel as though all the starch were out of me. It was on such an occasion that a new sun dawned on my horizon, in all the majesty of a spotless white jacket. He was making straight toward me, a tall, healthy-looking blond, with that sentimental German eye that sees stars in a woman's glance and angels where she walks.

"Come, sis," he said, "help me dry these dishes." He set up a screen behind a table and handed me a dish towel. "Say," he said after a little, "s'pose you and me was to go somewhere this afternoon and get a nice cool glass o' beer."

"I haven't any time to-day," I said, without any extenuating explanation.

"I was at Coney, Sunday," he said invitingly; "perhaps I'll go again next Sunday. I made four dollars and fifty cents," he went on, "and so I didn't work yesterday."

"Blow it all in?" I asked, rising to the occasion, to the full extent of my vocabulary.

"Yes," smilingly, as if I had done something very discriminating in making such a guess, "that's just what I did."

The boss came by, and I took my knee off the chair where I had been resting it, and stood erect. When he passed on, I put my knee up again. The waiter had been looking at me with a melting eye.

"Say," he said, "I wonder how it would be if I was to get married?"

"Oh, your troubles would just begin," I suggested.

"Perhaps," without a hint of a smile, "but we can always hope for the best." And he wiped a dish, considering it thoughtfully.

At this dangerous juncture a man came down the room and took a seat at a table near by. I seized the opportunity of relieving a perilous situation and went over to serve him.

"Have you been waited on?" I asked politely.

"He's the baker!" laughed Jennie, at the next table.

Harry appeared at my elbow. "Here, Miss," he said, as several other men came in, "you wait on the bakers."

There were five.

"Beefsteak or ice-cream?" I asked gaily, for they have no choice, any more than we have.

"Soup!" said one.

"Bread!" said another pompously.

"Soup for the bakers," I shouted over the counter, and brought it back to them with my most experienced manner.

"Where are all those tips?" I asked, when they went out. It seemed an opportunity to practice on getting trade.

"They're coming later," said one.

"So is Christmas," I called after them, and the girl who had taught me laughed. After that I served them every day. They never ate much, I noticed. The rest of us were always hungry.

It was Tuesday afternoon, just after I had served the bakers, that I had a scene with the boss. This is the worst experience I have had. I had been meandering about the room after the rush hour, trying to keep out of his range. His linen duster was admirably reflected from the many mirrors, but he spied me from a distance and beckoned me over to him.

“Wipe that table!” he commanded.

The table was liberally spattered with catsup as the sandwiches of the customers had been. I hate to clear catsup dishes. However, I picked up a soiled napkin and began.

“Use your towel!” he roared. “What do you think it’s for? For ornament?” He snatched at it and tried to pull it off, but the pins held it fast. For a moment my heart beat thickly, then I removed the pins and wiped the tables as quickly as I could. He stood by until I had finished, glaring at me menacingly.

On Wednesday the boss did not come until two o’clock, which was very nice of him. We all worked and helped each other. I grew to feel very much at home. It was as though we were all one large family, bound to one another by a common interest. All day the sentimental waiter stood around gazing at me with his dreamy, blue eyes. When he passed, he would say, “Here’s the little girl who helped me wipe dishes yesterday.” Once, when I thought he was going to speak to me, I began to talk to another waiter, which made him full of palpable wrath, for he is as simple as a child. I began to feel as if I were in a play. A little later, when I saw him near the counter, I strolled over and said, “What are the names of all these cakes and things? I can’t remember any of them.”

He scowled and turned away, then he smiled like a July sun coming out from a cloud all in one second.

“This afternoon when work is over,” he said, looking down at me tenderly, “I’ll take the bill-of-fare, and we’ll study it together.”

The tempo of the thing was terrifying; he was as sudden as an Austrian officer.

Again, when the rush was over, he put a screen before his table and brought some dishes from the kitchen for us to dry, of which I was glad enough, because it gave me a chance to rest my knee on a chair. When we were well started, he said, “It rained awful yesterday, I was a-thinkin’ there’s no beer for us to-day. What did you do when you got home?”

Now, this was rather a startling question, and a limping waiter who appeared beyond the edge of the screen saved me from answering.

“Is he lame?” I asked.

“Aw,” said my “friend” angrily, “he ain’t nothing.”

I was drying the dishes quickly.

“Don’t work so hard,” said my companion coaxingly; “don’t hurry. How about that glass of beer this afternoon?”

“I must go to the dressmaker’s,” I answered, drying two dishes rapidly.

“What are you getting?”

“Oh, a fine new dress – to wear to Coney,” I could not help adding, he looked so crestfallen. He beamed. I began to wipe vigorously. Only the thickness of the china saved it from destruction.

The dishes were getting low, and the job would soon be over. Some one brought another lot.

“Oh,” said my friend, smiling at him gratefully, “that’s good.”

Harry’s head appeared around the edge of the screen.

“Say, what’s your name?” he asked. “Annie says it’s Johnson. There was a customer down front thought he knew you, but it was another name. I’ll show him to you to-morrow.”

I went home, rejoicing in the name of Johnson, but it seemed best that there should not be any to-morrow. I wrote a note to Harry to say that I would not come back, and when the sun is shining high in the heavens, and I am peacefully oblivious of care, Harry will be rushing about distractedly, minus one waitress; Annie will be picking strawberries in silence; the boss will be rejoicing in my wages forfeited; and those eyes, those fervent, blue eyes, will be gazing just as fervently, perhaps, at Red Hair.

New York, June 14th

Some one remarked to-day that I seem always to be looking for work – and I really believe that I have spent more time looking, than in actual service. This morning I went to only one house, but I waited two hours. With its branches, it is the desideratum of the waitresses. There were thirteen of us in the line. I knew the second girl ahead of me. She worked once where I did.

“Well, have you lost your job?” I asked.

“Oh, no,” said she, screwing around between her neighbors, “but they pay so much more here and treat you so much better. I’ll stay here till ten, and if I don’t get anything, I’ll go back. I keep trying it.” At ten she was still far from the top, and she went off regretfully.

It was very tiresome standing, and there were seats for only three. I leaned against the wall, my gaze wandering to the mural decorations on the ceiling, where Napoleonic wreaths and flambeaux crowned an unrelated scene. They stirred the memory and imagination, if one had time to look so high. But who had time, in that busy scene of feeding and being fed? My gaze fell, and I began to talk to the girl ahead of me.

“I used to work in the Eighth Street Store till six weeks ago,” she said. “Then my husband took sick, and I had to take care of him. With both of us working, we made nice money. But we’re up against it now,” and she sighed.

“Sure, we all have it hard at times,” said the next girl. “I only made five dollars a week the first year I came to New York. Every week I had forty cents left. I paid two dollars for a room, a dollar insurance, a dollar laundry, and sixty cents car-fare. I couldn’t go out all winter; I didn’t have any clothes. I couldn’t afford to anyhow. And I used to sit in my room all alone there and think of all the girls in New York City

that was just the same. I'd think as I didn't blame them for doing things they do. I couldn't have stood it more than one winter. Lucky I got a good place."

"You were there," said another girl, "when my sister died. She was the only one of my family living," she went on to the rest of us, "and we lived together. I worked up to three o'clock the afternoon of her funeral. Then one girl said she'd take my place for the last half hour. I just had time to rush out of my room and change my clothes to go out with her body to the cemetery."

"Wouldn't the manager let you off that day?" I asked dully.

"Yes, but I couldn't afford to lose the money," she said. "After that terrible rush at the waiting, I'll never forget how peaceful the cemetery was." Her face contracted. "It was one of the most beautiful days of my life."

The superintendent came up then from the back of the store and began to walk down the line. Conversation ceased. He surveyed us all with a businesslike, comprehensive glance. We were all his suppliants. Our fates were in his hands. He called one girl over to him and questioned her. She might wait, he said. Then he motioned to the next, and so on until my turn came. My heart was in my mouth. It was like examination day at school. Suppose I should not pass!

"Ever work here?" he asked, his keen eye raking me like a search-light.

"No," and I mentioned my last place.

"How long?"

"One week. I just got on the floor, but I want to work here."

"You may wait," he said, after a pause, and I retried.

He went on down the line, the girls moving up as in a box-office line. Some he told to wait, and some he told to go.

A waiter passed by. "Ain't it a shame, so many nice girls out of work?" He smiled at each of us and put one foot up into the window. One girl's back was turned, and her hands were behind her; he slapped them gently with a pancake turner. She wheeled about and smiled.

"Been here long?" she asked.

"Yep, and I expect to spend the rest of my life here." He climbed into the window. "My! It's the deuce to be poor. That's what it is," he commented, moving some plates. And he began to arrange a beautiful large heart of red strawberries pierced by a strawberry arrow. He moved around in the window to get a better view of it, being careful not to step on the saucers of berries, apples, and other dainties set out to attract the passing eye. The arrow seemed to be jointed, for it did not emerge in the direction from which one would have expected of a well-ordered arrow which had entered at the angle this one had.

"That's wrong," he said critically, with his head on one side, and redirected the point.

Twice, as we stood waiting, the telephone rang, and there was a call from another branch for girls. The first two girls were sent off, and the rest of us sat and listened for the telephone to ring again. I stood for three-quarters of an hour before I had a seat on the bench, and then I sat for an hour waiting. I left at eleven, and there were three girls still sitting and hoping on. All the others had dropped out.

New York, June 29th

Well, at last I am at Childs', the much desired, seemingly unattainable Childs'; that Childs' where it is the ambition of half the waitresses in New York to be, and from which it is the ambition of every restaurant manager in New York to get his girls. I have even had a manager tell me go to back to Childs' and get training and then come back to him and he would take me on. And now I am of the elite. Many a time have I applied at the various branches, only to be met with the dictum: "If you've never worked for Childs', you can't work for Childs'." It seemed so cruel thus to be punished because my previous education had been neglected. Katie Martin, who is working here now, told me to try this branch. She works in different places to talk unions. They took me on, but I soon found there was nothing new to learn – I know it all – I have mastered the trade. Of course, I try not to be conceited about it, but I am now an experienced waitress. I can go to work anywhere. The store is of the tile type, familiar to the quick-luncher. "Yes, it's nice to look at," said one of the girl when I remarked about it, "and it's easy to keep clean. But it's awful hard on your feet. You'd better wear rubber heels," she added.

The uniform here is again of a variety different from that of any other restaurant in which I have worked. I fall girls changed places as frequently as I have done, it would take all their wages to pay for their uniforms. Here the girls have to buy their own waists from the firm.

We wear embroidery collars and cuffs – beading with black ribbon through it. I chose a broad band for mine, and I had just finished my breakfast the first morning, when I observed that my neck was the point of attraction for two girls who were standing near me. They eyed the collar, and they eyed me, and they talked. Finally one of them called over to me and said:

"Say, lend her your collar to-day, and you take hers."

"I've burnt my neck," said the other. "Your collar's higher and will cover the burn."

"Yes, let her have it," said the first girl. "She works down front where the men are. There are only women back here, and so it doesn't matter."

It is needless to say that I understood the force of the argument and proceeded to make the exchange.

I was delighted, when I went to the head-waitress, to have her say, "Pick strawberries." I hope the strawberry season will last as long as I am a waitress. Strawberries mean sitting down and interesting conversations. Here we are allowed to eat what we like – beefsteak once a week, ice-cream twice, and strawberry shortcake every day!

There were three girls picking strawberries when I went over to the table in the corner. They made room for me and then went on talking.

A girl with an air of knowing her own mind was saying:

"Once, when I was working in another house, I wanted to go to the races, an' the manager wouldn't let me off, so I put on my things and started."

“So that’s the way yer goin’, sez he.

“Yes,’ sez I. ‘That’s the way I’m goin’,’ an’ I looked him straight in the eye.

“Will yer be back to-morrow?’ sez he.

“I don’t know,’ sez I. An’ I didn’t come back for two days.”

“Did he take you back?” I asked.

“Sure! If a girl’s smart enough to look out fer herself, she’s smart enough fer a manager to keep.”

“What are the wages here?” I asked, after a time.

“Five dollars for five hours; seven dollars and seventy cents for eight hours; ten dollars for twelve hours. It’s the same in all the Childs’ houses.”

She spoke of the standard of Childs’ as though it were the standard of the community. I began to have a feeling that I had to live up to Childs’.

“We used to get only four dollars and a half for five hours,” she went on, surveying her strawberry-stained hands reminiscently. “But one day we saw a sign in the dressing-room saying the four-and-a-half girls would get five. All of us got raised, and there wasn’t to be any more night work. Well, weren’t we surprised?”

Every one about the table smiled as if remembering an especially large and savory plum pudding.

“An’ there’s Katie saying we ought to have a union,” as Katie joined us.

“If you’ve got a guarantee that Mr. Childs will live forever, perhaps you don’t need a union *here*,” said Katie. “But you can’t tell when conditions may change. I appreciate what he’s doing just as much as anybody, but if he’s done so much for us, what about the other girls that ain’t so well off? We could do something for them if we’d all work together. There’s thousands in New York as don’t get paid enough to call it living.”

“You’ll get into trouble yet with your union talk,” said Number 1, who had just come up. (Number 1 is the head-waitress.) Katie turned toward her and flourished the rags with which she had just washed the tables.

“Here, get to work and stop your talking,” said Number 1 pleasantly, for we had finished the strawberries. We cleared the table, and the girl at whose station we were in set it in order.

The head-waitress told me to go over and help Number 2. Number 2 looked entirely capable of doing without my help. From her red hair, flowing in an exuberant wave, to her ample foot, she expressed absolute self-sufficiency. I found her sitting on a window ledge. “Are we allowed to sit down here?” I asked.

She complacently folded one strong hand over the other. “Oh, yes, we can sit down whenever you’re not busy.”

I find that this privilege means about an hour a day less of being on one’s feet. “Do all the Childs’ places have the same rules?” I asked.

“That depends on the manager,” she answered coolly. “I could work for this man all my life.”

I have heard other girls make the same remark, and it seems to me that justice is as much appreciated by working-girls as by other classes of people I have known.

One day I was standing near her at the counter, waiting for a kitchen order, when I heard the chef say: "Nothing doing?"

He gave me my order, and I rushed off. But later I said to her, "What did he mean?"

"Mean!" she said; "he wants a tip."

"A tip," I said in some surprise.

"Yes," she said. "You'll soon find out about it when you get a good station. All the waitresses that makes tips has got to tip the chef, and it ain't only the chef, but it's all the other men that fills your orders."

"Why do you do it?" said I, with some lack of acuteness.

"If we didn't," she said, still fuming, "he'd give us a bad piece of meat or keep the order late, and then we wouldn't get the tip ourselves. And it ain't once a week that you've got to tip them, but it's every day for a girl that gets lots of tips herself," and she seemed to have argued herself into a degree of resignation.

Everything is very systematic here. The head-waitress took my name and address when I entered upon the work. I had to sign a contract that I would work for nothing. No girl is paid while training. The work here is done, too, with more attention to the details of cleanliness and nicety. Every night before we go home, oil-cloth is spread over the end of each table. All the bottles of vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, etc., are collected, the contents of each are emptied into a pitcher and strained through cheese-cloth, and the bottles are washed with a brush and soap, rinsed in clean water, dried, refilled, and taken back to the table. Mustard, catsup, and horse-radish are not put back into the bottles until morning.

The work is apportioned among the girls. The completeness of the system gives one a sense of satisfaction like the working of a giant combine harvester, which starts across a field of growing wheat and leaves in its wake the bags of grain ready for market. I was standing one day by the window, thinking how interesting it was to be part of a big machine and to watch its effectual working, when Number 2 went by with her hat and coat on. "Are you ill?" I asked, seeing that the clock pointed only to 3:25. Without stopping, she turned her gaze upon me, and I realized that I was asking questions again. Number 2 herself accepts life without questions. A pretty little blonde who came by answered for her. "Why, you can go, too, honey, if you're through," she said. "The girls are free as soon as the work's done." And she put her arm about me. We walked over to the counter together for our dinner.

"Draw one," I said proudly.

"Oh, you mustn't say that, girlie," she cautioned. "They don't allow slang here."

"Can't we even say 'three off,' or 'brown the wheats,' or 'fish off the iron'?" I cried despairingly. I could not relinquish my new acquisition, of which I had been as proud as if ordering a bath in Hungarian or giving a toast in Swedish.

"There seems to be a better class of girls here than in the other places where I have worked," I remarked, as we sat at the table.

"Sure," she said, buttering an English muffin. "They treat the girls best, and so they get the pick of the city."

I walked along with Katie this afternoon and told her I was going to give up the job. “There’s nothing new to learn – I feel so very experienced,” I explained.

“Sure,” she said, with a twinkle in her eye. “You’re eligible to the union now.”

“But, Katie—” I hesitated – “I do not stand for the way unions break their contracts.”

“Unions don’t stand for that, either,” she said, “though it’s sometimes done, and it’s sometimes excusable. Those that talk loudest about unions breaking contracts are the worst themselves about breaking the laws.”

“But don’t you think the union keeps the efficient man down?”

“We can’t all be generals,” she flashed. “Where there’s one that can get to the top, there’s thousands must stay below, and I’m working for the thousands – and we can’t choose who those thousands are, either. We’ve got to take them as we find them – sometimes they’re rough, and sometimes they’re dull, but it’s our duty to get in and organize them and help them along.”

Katie stood still on the corner to deliver herself of this speech. Her eyes flashed, and she tossed her head. Every one else dragged along one foot after another, drooping in the hot, murky afternoon of a midsummer day in New York.

“I used to be prejudiced against unions, Katie,” I said, “but, do you know – ”

I hesitated, and she looked at me a moment silently. Then she held out her hand, for we had come to the parting of our ways. “I knew you’d come round,” she said.

I watched her mount the elevated steps, then turned and walked home quickly, hugging my apron and a new resolution – I want to be a walking delegate like Katie!