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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1941.

Help Our Brave Greek Allies

It is not claiming too much to say that, humanly speaking, the Greeks have saved the situation for us in the Mediterranean. Not only have they engaged and beaten the common foe in Albania, and kept them from concentrating on Mediterranean and North African objectives, but they have provided us with a base in the Island of Crete which gives us dominance in the eastern waters and a half-way-house between Alexandria and the Adriatic.

The Great Example

It is unfortunate that at the hearings before the U.S. Congressional committee on foreign affairs, the widest publicity is likely to attach to the evidence of the least responsible witnesses. The experts must be heard in camera, while the theorists can air their views in public for the simple reason that they have no inside knowledge to betray.

To these people, and to all Americans who have not yet come to grips with the realities of the European crisis, Mr. Whitelaw Reid has issued a stirring appeal in the New York Herald Tribune. Just back from the heat of the conflict in England, Mr. Reid describes the magnificent spirit shown by all classes in defense of Christian democracy.

The truth is, as Mr. Reid sees it, that twenty years of debating societies and peace groups on this side of the ocean have made the American people unrealistic about war, unrealistic in their thinking about the sending of men from their shores or of taking steps that may seem to imply that some day they will. Could they not as well moralize, he asks, about the crime of sending "their boys" into the slums of the Chicago area to clean up the Al Capone mess?

What, Another Conference?

The Ottawa correspondent of the Financial Post, a paper strongly favorable to the adoption of the Sirois Report, predicts that another Dominion-Provincial conference on the report may be held in June. At the moment this is merely a hope because the Dominion Government is still licking the wounds inflicted by the three dissenting provinces—chiefly by Mr. Hepburn of Ontario. Actually, it is claimed, the move for a second conference is stronger than a hope: it is a distinct probability.

1—The Dominion budget, which will carry out the programme outlined to the conference by Hon. J. L. Ilsley, will come down in March. The provinces, particularly the weaker ones, will be hard hit.
2—The conference never really reached discussion of the report or the basic problems confronting the nation and, until these problems have been faced, Ottawa is not disposed to regard failure as inevitable.

3—Manitoba faces debt maturities in July. Saskatchewan has none this year. But so severe will be the effect of Ottawa's budget on these and other provinces that the dissenters may be in a much more reasonable mood by June.

In retrospect, says the Post correspondent, the Dominion Government and its advisers are of two minds with respect to the conference. Some think that Mr. King made a regrettable error in tactics which enabled Mr. Hepburn to undermine the conference before it had really got under way; to collapse the edifice almost before construction had begun in earnest.

berta". Mr. Hepburn never wobbled in his desire to end the conference. But Mr. Patullo did. "If you want this conference to continue," he said, "why not let us discuss questions of mutual interest? Leave the discussion wide open..." Mr. Aberhart, while he stood by Mr. Hepburn, cannot be regarded as adamant in his opposition to the conference, unless all his earlier statements are ignored.

The man who torpedoed the conference was Mr. Hepburn and he was astute enough to realize that he could not do it, safely, single-handed. He sought and obtained allies at the very time the Dominion Government sat twiddling its thumbs in benign complacency.

Criticism from within the Dominion fold takes the line that Mr. King, as chairman, should have spoken very briefly in opening the conference and promptly called upon Mr. Ilsley to say at the outset on Tuesday what he actually said the next day, after the Hepburn revolt had stormed the citadel and pulled down the flag. Even so, Mr. Ilsley's counter attack very nearly brought two of the rebels to heel. If he had led with it, the revolt probably would never have occurred.

Why did Mr. King fail to gauge the temper of the conference?

His opening speech, says the Post correspondent, is completely revealing. He never anticipated attack in the form it came, nor was he speedy enough in his mental processes to extemporize a crisis policy. Mr. Hepburn caught him off guard, overwhelmed the conference before Mr. King could adjust himself to shock tactics. Quite evidently Mr. King cannot think in terms of Ontario's stormy premier; cannot foresee and provide against what Mr. Hepburn can and does do.

A single phrase from Mr. King's opening speech tells the whole story of the handling of the conference. "We are members one of another." That came straight from the Epistle to the Romans, chapter 12. Mr. King undoubtedly had read it that morning, imbued himself with it. Do good to your enemy, leave vengeance to God, feed him if he is hungry, and so on. A reading of this chapter is essential if Mr. King's temper is to be understood. He came armor clad, impervious to gibes and sneers and flouts. He even tried to feed Mr. Hepburn on the Tuesday night at dinner. Mr. Hepburn, somewhat ostentatiously, declined to be fed.

Mr. King's attitude remained sweetly reasonable and persuasive throughout; his detachment was perfect, no pressure was placed upon the provinces. But the conference failed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It takes a little determination, but you feel better afterwards, to face the filling in of your Income Tax schedules this early in the year. The tax must be paid, however, and better take advantage of the Instalment plan than be landed in for the whole total when April is here. You can get eight months to pay your War Tax, your Federal Income Tax and your Provincial Income Tax if you pay the first instalment this month.

Japan is still teaching her grandmother how to suck eggs. Previously she warned the U.S.A. what would likely happen to her at the hands of Japan were she to continue to help Britain; now she warns U.S.A. that if both of them enter the war it will spell the downfall of civilization. Meaning, of course, if Germany, Italy and Japan are allowed to continue devastation and aggression their conception of civilization would be saved!

Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dobson, ("Lewis Carroll") humorist and mathematician, born this date, 1832; was author of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland", "Through the Looking-Glass" "Euclid and His Modern Rivals", etc. "I only took the regular course" said the Mock Turtle. "What was that?" inquired Alice. "Reeling and Writhing, of course, to begin with," the Mock Turtle replied; "and then the different branches of Arithmetic—Ambition, Distraction, Uglification, and Derision."

Mr. D. A. R. McCannell of Regina, president of the Dominion Council of Professional Engineers, declares that a great number of Canadian university students are "just wasting their time, because they are unsuited for the courses they are taking up." If a plan drawn up by the council to guide Canada's high school students in the proper fields of training in respect to engineering could be put into effect, he was positive the number of college student failures on examinations would be reduced considerably and students would be saved a waste of time. "It even has a financial aspect," he added, "as it would indirectly mean a saving to the country and the individual."

Mr. R. B. Boothby, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the British Ministry of Food has resigned because a select committee of the House has reported he has been guilty of "conduct derogatory to the dignity of the House." The report said Mr. Boothby was promised by a Czech citizen, Mr. Richard Weininger, 10 per cent of any frozen assets Mr. Weininger owned which Mr. Boothby might succeed in collecting. It added that Mr. Boothby had received £1,000 (\$4,400) for expenses. Mr. Weininger, who had been sent to prison under the defence regulations, testified before the committee.

Not before time, officers of the Canadian Army have been barred from delivering public addresses, it was learned recently. This includes even innocuous talks to service clubs, it is understood, but as far as is known will not be so interpreted as to prevent recruiting activity by officers designated to do this work. "Propriety" and pressure of work is given as the reason for the ban. A district order reads as follows: "The delivery of addresses and lectures by officers of the Canadian Army to outside organizations will no longer be authorized." In addition to the question of propriety, under present conditions, of Government servants giving addresses of a more or less public nature, it is felt that the pressure of work in the department is such that officers should not be required to take on the extra work entailed in the preparation of such addresses.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In a city the size of Glasgow the collection of kitchen waste presents some considerable problems of organization and no doubt it would be too much to ask our dustmen, already verburdened by the task of keeping the waste paper separate from the dry iron and both from the general refuse, to make a special collection for potential pig feed. Yet the fact is that the British pig may be hungry this winter unless the supply of kitchen waste is increased. We are celebrated as a nation for our gifts of improvisation, and if the kitchen waste cannot be taken to the pigs the obvious alternative of bringing the pigs to the kitchen will at once suggest itself. And why not? The pig has acquired a reputation for sagacity, but it is a good deal less sagacious than the pig, and no more affectionate and genial an animal. Moreover, the pig is highly intelligent, and could readily be trained to work its allotted case, eating its way from kitchen to kitchen and when all was done trot merrily downhill to the point of assembly where the vans would transport the herd back to the piggery. — Glasgow Herald.

We have just talked with a large group of Italian soldiers and two lieutenant-colonels captured near Chimara, a coastal town 30 miles south of Valona. During the last month we have talked with scores of Fascist prisoners in every war zone. Virtually all the officers profess confidence in and loyalty to Mussolini. On the other hand the Italian soldiers are mostly spiritless. They are ragged and miserable, and only a few have a vestige of self-assurance left in them. Again and again they say frankly "We've had enough." They seem to have no shame over having thrown down their weapons. They want nothing except food for their families and to get back to Italy. The two lieutenant-colonels, Lughli Sandemenea and Vincenzo Damiani, admitted a serious lack of organization between units of the invading Italians. One wounded private from the Siena division explained: "We had no food, no good clothing, no shelter, no weapons. We threw our arms away. The officers all ran away and left us wounded behind." The large number of Italian common soldiers we have seen was mostly of the type we have seen in the Balkans. They are not heart for war against Greece and most seriously lack the will to fight. They are bewildered, disillusioned and have the appearance of cowed animals. —Leland Stowe in The Chicago Daily News.

Please, may we know our heroes? We buy our Spitfires. There is hardly a hamlet or a town in this country which has not its own Spitfire warplane in the sky. But these people who give would like to receive in return news of gallant men. As we did in the last war, let us again identify our famous fighting squadrons. Let us have our Pat Mannocks and Rhodes-Morhuses, and tell us daily what they do. The idea is to attain a super-quising, a grand entrance and no fight; a pompous and full-dress conquest with air of life or limb; a fifth column in that the hero Hitler's capture of Norway, the Low-Countries and France seem amateur stuff by comparison. As the story continues, Metaxas took the 20 million, spent it on armaments, and used them on the invading Italians. — New York World-Telegram.

The story isn't authenticated, but it's going the rounds, and even if it isn't so it should be preserved as fiction. As it goes, it seems that Metaxas bribed the asking price had been 50 million dollars but Duce chiselled it down to 20 million. The idea was to attain a super-quising, a grand entrance and no fight; a pompous and full-dress conquest with air of life or limb; a fifth column in that the hero Hitler's capture of Norway, the Low-Countries and France seem amateur stuff by comparison. As the story continues, Metaxas took the 20 million, spent it on armaments, and used them on the invading Italians. — New York World-Telegram.

Britain fights today without allies on the Continent but not without friends. She has them wherever, and the darkness and ruin spread by the onrush of Hitler's "revolution of destruction" the love of freedom and hatred of tyranny still glow in the breasts of men. The friends can be embodied, as Mr. Churchill sought to embody them recently, to organize in secret for their own deliverance; others whose minds have been benumbed by German propaganda must be made to see the truth. The voices of hope speaking from the very air of Britain must grow in volume and persuasiveness, and the fires of revolt must be fanned, by every available agency of propaganda and intrigue, in every country which has fallen under Hitler's heel. Hitler himself has shown us how potent these secret weapons are. His revolution in time can be rolled back on itself; indeed, it bears within it the seeds of its own decay. The monstrous structure of conquest which he has erected, and to which he is still adding with the aid of the atomic bomb, is also threatened with explosion because of the interior fermentations which were gradually undermining it. Hitler's sprawling "empire"

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion of correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

OFFER TO HELP: BIRDS NEED GRAVEL

Sir,—I have written several articles on helping the Hungarian partridge during these days of deep snow. Others are writing telling what to do, etc. I have been advised that the most important thing for the birds now is proper gravel, or grit, for digestive purposes. Without this the birds will die. Food is not the main thing, as these birds will die even on full stomachs, the same as we would, if our food failed to digest. I would like to ask the co-operation of the schools in this matter. If teachers will take action much can be done. Will the teachers ask the children to take this to have the gravel which is cleared in the vicinity of every school—get down to the bare ground or get an old door or some old boards and spread the gravel on the surface—the birds will do the rest. If school teachers will undertake to do this, I will arrange for the proper grit, or gravel, that is, if it cannot be obtained near the schools. Send me the name of the teacher of the school that will undertake to do this and let me know roughly how many birds are to be fed, and I will try and have the grit sent out. Better still, if you have somebody call for it. I think we can get enough money from the Fish and Game Association, the Department of Agriculture and sportsmen to supply the grit if the teachers and school children will take on the work. Carver & Company state they have just received a fresh supply of grit which we can buy reasonably for this work. Act quickly because it's tough on the Hungarian partridge just now with so much snow. I am, sir, etc., W. GAUDET, Acting President, Fish and Game Association.

Who Said This?

(Winnipeg Tribune) —Here is a quotation that has a familiar ring: "The criterion can be counted upon to carry through to victory any struggle that it once enters upon, no matter how long such a struggle may last, or however great the sacrifice that may be necessary, or whatever the means that have to be employed." Who said this? Was it Pitt, for example? Or Winston Churchill? It was written by an Austrian, Adolf Hitler, in a book called Mein Kampf. It should prove no less vulnerable than Napoleon's to attack from within. —Sydney Herald (N.S.W.)

The question of air raids must be taken from the forefront of the war campaign and placed in the ranks of domestic problems, where it belongs. This war is not being fought in Britain alone, nor in Europe alone. We see the Dictators stretching out to the Balkans, the Mediterranean, the Near and Middle East. We hear the rumblings of crisis in America and Japan. Britain forces an enemy equipped not only with enormous power, but with bold, strategic brains. They must be countered by imaginative plans which look at the war as a world war. For that reason the War Cabinet must not be continually harassed by matters within the competence of the Home Departments. Mr. Morrison, with the help of Mr. Macdonald and Colonel Moore-Brabazon, the two other Ministers most nearly concerned (Health and Transport), must take the burden of air raid protection from the shoulders of the Inner Cabinet. Let us get on with the war. — Daily Mail (London).

The Poets Corner LIVING GREECE AGAIN "Tis fitting still that Greece should be a bulwark of Democracy. For it was there in ages gone That Freedom first attained her throne. Though brave Lord Byron did deplore Greece, but living Greece no more. Today we hear the changed refrain, 'Tis Greece, and a living Greece again. —Charles Winfield Matheson, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta)

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The Poets Corner LIVING GREECE AGAIN "Tis fitting still that Greece should be a bulwark of Democracy. For it was there in ages gone That Freedom first attained her throne. Though brave Lord Byron did deplore Greece, but living Greece no more. Today we hear the changed refrain, 'Tis Greece, and a living Greece again. —Charles Winfield Matheson, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta)

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