

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

India's Defense

Appropos of the situation in India, the Christian Science Monitor says that Indian leaders do not understand public opinion in the United Nations today if they think they can press extreme demands for rearrangement of India's defence setup without causing misgivings among many of the most ardent of India's friends.

It is not clear just what Congress Party leaders demand, but from available reports they seem to be asking for considerable power in the defence setup. British reluctance to intrust a great part of India's defence to Indians themselves may be readily understood when it is realized that to do so would be to place India's defence policies partly under the influence of men who might favor non-violent resistance in place of military action against attackers.

Mr. Nehru, the contemporary points out, has referred to himself as a "non-belligerent," he has also said that Mr. Gandhi's methods may yet have to be employed though Mr. Gandhi himself retired from active leadership of the Congress Party because he felt his non-violent ideals might not be adapted to the present crisis.

Several statements have come from Indian leaders to indicate that Britain can count on any great gains in a military sense even if all Indian demands could be met. Many nations among the Allies today realize that their own unwillingness to recognize the need of all-out military effort against the Axis is part of the reason for their critical situation.

More Airmen Needed

Correcting an impression which has gained ground that enlistment quotas for pilots and observers in the R. C. A. F. are readily filled from waiting-lists a commanding officer emphasizes that more men are needed for training in these ranks of Canada's fighting airmen.

Drawn Two Ways

Before Parliament rose for the Easter recess, Premier King took the opportunity presented by a question from one of the members to outline the war policy to which his government is committed, both at home and overseas.

It was manifest, says an exchange, that in making this elaborate statement Mr. King's purpose was to picture the Dominion Government under his wise leadership as being a moderate, sensible, safe, middle-of-the-road institution, which pursues its purpose undisturbed by the blasts and counter-blasts of political criticism.

Everyone will agree that Mr. King is about the most conscientious and persistent political trimmer that has ever led one of the great parties in Canada's political history. Such being the case, he might have taken his own reputation for granted, and not fallen into the absurd position of conjuring up an imaginary group of citizens who are demanding that "every trained man and all available weapons of war" be sent overseas.

figment of Mr. King's own imagination. But Mr. King has been, and still is, oscillating between two well-defined schools of thought. One contains the great British majority of the Canadian people, who demand a one-hundred per cent war effort, the other the few irresponsible separatists who are against sending "a dollar or a man" to assist the Allied cause.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is not strange but nevertheless true no one seems to be worrying over the opening of the roads for auto traffic, though long overdue.

All the leaders of all the parties are to be "yes" men during the current month; moreover, are to appeal to all and sundry of the electorate to follow their example.

Now its Don Baker who is among the missing. The war is coming right down into our homes, and soon few there'll be without the vacant chair to which there will be no returning occupant. We may love our enemies, but there is nothing to prevent us hating their aggression, and moving heaven and earth to stop them pursuing it. Thereby is hate justified.

We have less assets in the United States by \$71,150,000 than we had a year ago. This reduction reflects the difficulties Canada has encountered in paying for the flood of raw materials and manufactured goods required from the United States for the Dominion's war effort.

Our Provincial Government is becoming quite reckless in its guarantees of other people's bank accounts. May we draw their attention to the meaning of guarantee as given in the current issue of The Royal Bank Magazine: "It is said that borrowed money has wrecked more friendships than anything else, but this ignores the Guarantee. When a man lends his friend a sum in hard cash, he hardly expects to see it back, but when he signs a Guarantee for the friend's benefit, he somehow gets the impression that he has helped him without cost to himself.

William Godwin, English socialist and novelist, died this date, 1836; held extreme, revolutionary views on social affairs; friend of Horne Tooke, and intellectual leader of philosophic Radicals, whose principles he boldly enunciated in his "Enquiry concerning Political Justice"; was prosecuted for his opinions, and narrowly escaped indictment for treason; failed as a bookseller, but latterly had bestowed upon him sincere government posts which he held till his death; his publications, "History of the Commonwealth," "Caleb Williams," (a novel); "He that loves reading has everything within his reach. He has but to desire, and he may possess himself of every species of wisdom to judge and power to perform."

The multiplicity of government jobs is all but appalling, however necessary or unnecessary they may be. If necessary, then there should be a corresponding decrease in peace time government offices. In this connection the Montreal Gazette says: "There is a strong and growing feeling throughout the country that too much public money, intended by the citizens for use in prosecuting the war, is going into the maintenance of peace-time departments and services which are not essential and which might well be shut down or discontinued until the war is over. If there are some more or less ancient statutes standing in the way, those statutes can be repealed or their operation suspended. The Ottawa Government has every right to ask the people to economize, but the people have an equal right to ask the same thing of their Government."

Mr. John G. McConnell, president of the Montreal Standard Publishing Company, and official of the R. A. F. Ferry Command and Queen's Canadian Fund, in an address before the Advertising and Sales Executives Club Montreal declared: "There is no complacency abroad in Britain today. As far as the out-look for our side is concerned, the desperation of our position is well realized. Where American eyes are inclined to the Pacific, in Britain all eyes are on Russia. For Britain recognizes that on the Russian-German battlefield the fate of Europe, and inevitably the whole civilized world, will be settled. We in Canada must not forget that we stand or fall with Russia. We must not begrudge any aid we can afford and we must guard against any expressions which might prejudice her cause, which is vital to our victory."

It appears that during the raid on St. Nazaire the British held an entire section of the town, a German eye-witness, greatly praised the "ferocious courage" of Scots and Englishmen involved. This German war correspondent said that for their landing the commandos used rubber boots and the Scotsmen, who were the first to jump ashore, wore rubber-soled boots so that it took some time for the German guards to discover the "completely silent invasion," he said. The British occupied an entire section of St. Nazaire and civilians were evacuated. The Germans had to dislodge their determined opponents house by house. "This time," said the German correspondent, "they were real Englishmen. At certain points they offered the bitterest resistance even after their retreat to the port was cut off. They fought with 'gigantic rage.'" The correspondent revealed that the Germans threw into the battle "troops specialized in street fighting."

NOTES BY THE WAY

As of December, 1942: "Junior must be home from college," mused this puzzled sire. "I can't find my bike." — Detroit News.

Very few cases of T.N.T. poisoning have occurred in explosives factories in the United States since the war. That is only one way in which much more effective supervision is being given industrial operations than was the case during the Great War — Brockville Recorder and Times.

An Independent Belgians News Agency report that has come into the BBC shows that Belgian defiance of the Germans is no less stubborn in this war than in the last one. Inhabitants of Brussels, it appears, recently awoke one morning to find the town in the main boulevards of the town bearing anti-Nazi slogans. While imprints proclaimed, "Down with Hitler," the English Hurray for the R.A.F. Long live de Gaulle. These inscriptions had been made at night by a car equipped with a cleverly contrived device covered in white paint. At midday, before a group of gazing spectators, the car drove over the slogans, trying with brushes to remove the lettering. — B.B.C. Bulletin.

Speaking at an alumni dinner recently, President Bowman of the Johns Hopkins University said that a drop to fifty, or perhaps to thirty, percent of present enrollment in the United States during the war continues two years longer than would involve, among other things, a heavy reduction in the income of the university. The matter before the session of the Legislature concluded, whereas the Exhibition supporters had no such "doubts" and immediately what they went after. — Ed. G.)

Murray E. Hill, newspaper broker told us this week of an incident when he sold an exclusive county newspaper to a man who said: "We were going over the books, the usual expense, etc., when the purchases called attention that there was a tax on the paper. We don't pay taxes. We never have since I have been here. And to my inquiry how he got by with it, he said: 'Why, when I came there, when they sent me a tax notice about five years ago, I just went over to see the county clerk and asked him if he had never heard of the freedom of the press. That wasn't necessary for a newspaper to pay taxes, and got him to agree with me that the constitution of the United States was based on the freedom of the press. Since that time I have paid no taxes.'"

London parks, like London streets, are much tidier than a town, when dumps of salvaged bricks and lumber were being constantly piled up in open spaces. But the parks continued to afford an effective survey in miniature of their contrasts which have long been the gulf between the rich and the poor. The gulf, the difference in the allotments and the trenches are among the various little spectacles which are observed with more curiosity by the visitor than the accustomed Londoner.

The war-makers in Germany are being unmasked as the supporters of Hitler and the Nazis ever since the party showed signs of being some place in the Reich. The munitions manufacturers of Germany have been behind the wargamers for many years. There if it meant blood and death, like people. The Krupp firm, as one example, has managed to remain an independent existence indefinitely. Possibly Sweden's iron deliveries are not satisfactory, although she seems to have been doing her best to make them so. Else the Fuehrer is licensed over the decision of the Swedish Courts to release ten Norwegian ships which have been lying at Gherburg, to their Norwegian owners in Great Britain. But whatever the reason is, it is not because Sweden has failed to observe an honorable and impartial neutrality; it is because Sweden cannot be bribed, bullied or tricked into dishonorable subservience to Germany's belligerent designs. — Quebec Chronicle.

The spirit of these men on Bataan Peninsula is the best assurance we could have that the advice of the late General MacArthur prevails against the steady course of the great majority of the American people. For these men on Bataan are picked and chosen carefully, as Hitler and the Japanese choose "suicide squads" for acts of desperation. They are instead a group of a few of the best of the mill Americans as could be found: farm boys and factory hands who never dreamed, when

PUBLIC FORUM

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

TEMPERANCE FEDERATION

Sir: At variance with your editorial note, The Guardian's very fair report of the Temperance Federation meeting reveals that the Federation did not consider it "too late" to do more than pass a formal protest against the taxation of liquor for revenue. The report clearly states that the question was not "settled" at that meeting. The earnestness of the temperance forces of this Province cannot be impugned. 1927 and 1940 were the tests. Unfortunately, the Temperance Federation has defended the liberties of the people, and has insisted on their right to be free from what is now the nation's greatest fifth columnist. The Guardian can be reassured. The temperance forces here, spurred on by the tragic knowledge of someliquor sales in provinces where liquor is regarded as a legitimate source of revenue, can be depended upon to live up to their proud record of freely given, patriotic, public service. I am, Sir, etc., R. E. Shaw, Secretary, P. E. I. Temperance Federation, New Glasgow, April 4, 1942.

(The point we made was that the Federation seemed satisfied with "the doubt" of Mr. D. N. MacKay, M.L.A., that there would be time to deal with the matter before the session of the Legislature concluded, whereas the Exhibition supporters had no such "doubts" and immediately what they went after. — Ed. G.)

Unsung Heroes

(Halifax Chronicle) The menace of German U-boats is nothing new to the hardy fisher folk of Nova Scotia. In the grim dark days of the First Great War their fishing fleets went out to sea amidst perils of war as well as weather. Today the same fishermen and their sons face daily the peril of Nazi submarines as they sail the waters along the Atlantic coast.

To speak of the bravery of these men now and then is to do them an injustice. For bravery, the willingness to face sudden death without thought of self, is too much a part of their daily lives to call for comment. On the storm-tossed waters of the Atlantic Nova Scotia fishermen face the perils of every hour of the day. But tales of recent encounters between the men of our fishing fleets and the Nazi U-boats which hover constantly off our shores reveal the true heroism of our fisherfolk. The stories that they tell of enemy submarines skulking around their ships waiting for their prey of food and supplies demanded by one of the most important of our war efforts, the merchant marine, are not without interest. The men of our fishing fleets were refused without delay to call for a hail of machine-gun bullets might sweep the decks of the little fishing vessel. The men of our fishing fleets are the true heroes of our day. Nova Scotia's sturdy fishermen.

Thus far no enemy craft has been sighted to destroy fishing vessels along the coast. But the thought that such might happen has not deterred the men of the fishing fleet. They go on with their job in the face of danger. They put out to sea in waters infested with German submarines knowing the danger that they run. They are willing to take the risk in order that Canada's food supplies may not suffer.

Give to me the life I love. Let the love go by me. Give the jolly heaven above And the byway rich me. Bed in the bush with stars to see, Bread I dip in the river— There's the life for a man like me. There's the life for ever. Let the blow fall soon or late, Face what will be over me. Give the face of earth around And the road before me. Wealth I seek not, hope nor love, Nor a friend to know me: All I seek, the heaven above And the road below me. — Robert Louis Stevenson.

they enlisted in the Army, that they would be called upon to face death slowly on a distant mountain-side. Yet they have beaten back for weeks on end, the best that a resourceful enemy, greatly superior in force, could bring against them. We at home, who must produce the instruments of victory, can praise them best with deeds that match their spirit of self-sacrifice and the depth of their devotion to their country. — New York Times.

KEEPS TO HIS OWN The gorilla has an extremely limited habitat range of three degrees of latitude near the equator.

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How Are Your Eyes? If you are having symptoms of strain — headaches, watery eyes or dizziness — consult specialist. At your service with year of experience and a thorough refracting service. Call in and discuss your difficulties. G. F. Hutcheson F. G. HUTCHESON G. F. HUTCHESON

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Unsinkable Mr. Bracken (Winning Free Prizes) The Government of Manitoba has undoubtedly become the envy of all the other provincial governments. Whenever they are defeated in the Legislature on a financial measure, it is said for them. But the Manitoba Government can take a defeat and suffer no ill effect, as in the case of the adverse vote on Mr. Seaman's bill to empower Portage la Prairie to impose a liquor tax. Premier Bracken and eight other members of the cabinet were subordinated on that occasion, but they immediately came to the surface again and carried on as usual. Hon. A. R. Welch, minister without portfolio, evidently thought the vote was a free-for-all, since he voted with the rebellious majority. The division was 28 to 18, and nearly all the 28 are supporters of the coalition government. They doubtless voted as they reviled thought best. Ordinarily, the supporters of a government vote as they think best, but frequently they vote against something which they think should pass, rather than bring on the calamity—as they see it—of the defeat of the government. The present administration in Manitoba is a wartime coalition government, intended to be unshakable, and we have just had a demonstration that it is. That may be an advantage, but so is the ability of the members to vote as they think.

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TENDERS Tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned for the supplying of thirty (30) pairs of thigh rubber boots. Tenders to close at 12 o'clock noon April 10th, 1942. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. J. A. FULLERTON, City Clerk. L-1366-3-31-4-2-7

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His name was MacDuff And he felt very gruff. But it wasn't his liver Or his Model T flivver That caused him to huff and to puff! It seems he went buying, Spent all his time trying To keep from losing his roll— But the story is sad— He spent all he had— And landed himself in the hole! But the Guardian came to the rescue— With bargains worth looking into, So the ending is gay We're happy to say, And MacDuff no longer gets gruff!

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