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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1942

"A Bird In The Hand"

On the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread, let us welcome the suggestion of the Dominion Government that a ferry steamer, the Sacramento, at present in California, can be obtained for the summer service between Borden and Tormentine.

Mr. J. L. Douglas, M.P., who discussed this proposition at Monday's Board of Trade meeting, assured the Board that this proposal was regarded at Ottawa as a purely temporary measure.

It would be unwise to turn down this offer in view of the precarious position in which we are placed. We may argue until we are black in the face, but in the end we are at the mercy of the Dominion authorities and must bow to their rulings.

U. S. Shipbuilding

Some encouraging details are given in the February bulletin of the American Bureau of Shipping. At the end of January 11,511,690 gross tons were under construction or contract, representing 1,809 individual vessels, ranging in size from small craft to big passenger vessels and tankers.

Another important feature, announced by the United States Maritime Commission, is that seagoing vessels are being armed and otherwise equipped for dealing with hostile marauders, whether on the sea, under the sea, or in the air, at a rate twice that of a few weeks ago.

How Russia Got Ready

A revealing book on Russia is Joseph E. Davies' "Mission to Moscow." It shows how rigorously Russia, spurred by the Nazi menace on one frontier and the Japanese menace on the other, has been preparing for war since 1936.

Mr. Davies' revelations regarding the vast extent of Russia's "heavy" industries and their all-out concentration on war weapons, says the Financial Post, make it clear why Russia has been able to throw back the "irresistible" armored onslaught of Hitler's steel legions.

When Hitler struck, Russia had tanks, guns, planes such as the democratic capitalist states did not have. Does this imply, then, that there is greater efficiency in Communism than in an economy of free enterprise? Does it mean that "there's something wrong" with our system of production, "something" that isn't wrong in Russia?

Mr. Davies provides the clear-cut answers. In page after page this friendly recorder of Russia's achievements makes it clear that when Russia went all out on production it abandoned Communist theories in industry. The profit mo-

tive and selfinterest were made the mainspring of Russia's astonishingly successful effort. Stalin wanted weapons and wanted them fast. So he reorganized his factories and his methods. He stimulated production by premiums and extra wages to the more competent workers, managers and engineers.

Each individual plant was required to make a profit by cutting costs and the profits were shared with management. In order to make the machine work, the whole system was studded with rewards and incentives.

But even with such incentives to the most efficient possible effort, the State factories never reached the efficiency that is every day practice in the privately-owned plants of North America. Mr. Davies estimates that, in efficiency, the workers and plants did not approach 40 per cent of what is normal on this continent.

If we haven't enough planes and guns and tanks it is not because our industries—or our economic system—could not produce them. It is simply because our governments did not order them until almost too late.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Let's Make it a Billion!

Now it won't be long—just a month to Good Friday.

Now, if it had been chewing gum instead of tobacco there'd be something doing!

What non-tobacco smokers are asking is, why should they be deprived of the opportunity of contributing to the Health Tax?

Be it remembered \$600,000,000 was merely the reserve bid in the Victory Bond Campaign—much more is expected and needed. Do it now!

The Campbell Government have been very thoughtful in providing smokers with an excuse other than self-sacrifice for giving up something during Lent.

Surely Mr. Lester Douglas did not come all the way from Ottawa to tell us he was not consulted about the Fertilizer Fund. Perhaps it was about the Tobacco Tax.

It is up to the Federal Government and the Farmers Federation to explain why the Provincial powers—that be and potato growers and exporters were not consulted in connection with the application of the Fertilizer Fund.

If you buy 10 cigarettes you are taxed 10 per cent; if you buy 25 your tax is 12 per cent. The Government pays the dealer 3 per cent only on tax handed over allowing them to defray the balance of the expense of book-keeping.

When the headmaster of Eton advises parents that "the Eton tailors have a large quantity of second-hand tail coats, jackets, waistcoats and trousers which can be purchased without coupons at a small cost," it gives some slight indication of the financial distress among the former moneyed and aristocratic classes in England.

Leader of the Country Party, official opposition in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly is Colonel M. F. Bruxner. Years of political experience have made him a formidable debater, and one feature of his oratory is that he thrives on interjections. In a recent debate on the Labor Government's taxation proposals he was belligerent, provocative, deadly. But the whole of his speech was heard in silence. The reason was that the Labor members had put into operation a new strategy. They were under threat of a dollar fine for every interjection they made.

John, Lord Somers, English statesman, born this date 1651; called to the bar in 1676, early became an authority on Civil and Constitutional law, and was junior counsel for the Seven Bishops in 1688; after the Revolution he sat in Parliament for Worcester, and is largely responsible for the Bill of Rights; became Attorney-General and Lord Chancellor; had great influence with William III, and during Queen Anne's reign, became virtual head of the Whig Junta—a nickname applied to the Covenanting men of the southwest of Scotland (probably from whig—"sour whey"); after the Restoration, applied generally to the Presbyterian party in Scotland, and later in England to those suspected of opposition to the Stewart dynasty, or of sympathy with the Nonconformists; applied to supporters of the Revolution.

Is Canada still enjoying a honeymoon? It must be judging what Premier Curtin told the Australians in announcing all-out conscription of manpower and resources. "Protection of this country is no longer a contribution to a world at war but resistance to an enemy threatening to invade our shores," he declared. "What the battle of Britain required, so the battle of Australia demands. The battle of Britain meant service, struggle and devotion. It means the same things for Australians in the defence of Australia. Our honeymoon is finished. It is now work or fight as we have never done before. Naturally I will say nothing of our defence plans. I feel the stature of our race is such that we can put playtime aside. I tell this nation that brains and brawn are better than bets and beer. We have to pep up all essential production. I am not particularizing beyond this general statement. We have to organize and unite, unflinching resistance which will enable us not to become a nation governed by others."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Dr. Paitulle has an ingenious proposal regarding old-age pensions. Pay it to every one on arrival at the stated age. Those who already have excess incomes will repay it to the Government by way of income taxes.

Surely Mr. Eden was setting all a sensible example when in his broadcast talk he spoke repeatedly of "Mr. Stalin" and "Mr. Molotov." "Monsieur" is appropriate enough when applied to Frenchmen, but only a meaningless diplomatic convention encourages us to prefix it to Russian names. If we should use the title returned to, or we should be content with our English "Mr." — John N. D. Kelly in the London Times.

At the recent conference of public health nurses held at Birmingham, an industrial nurse stated that out of 58 people who failed to pass their works doctor because of the lousy condition of their hair, 28 preferred to give notice rather than go to a cleansing station that has been set up. The chief objection to going there was a loss of "waves" and "curls," because, after treatment, the hair became straight. — Better Health (The Official Journal of Central Council for Health Education.)

A "tack splitter" has been awarded \$178.16 by the State Industrial Commission for time lost and repair to teeth damaged because of his work. One may not know, of course, what "tack splitting" is. The worker takes a mouthful of tacks. He thrusts one to the front with his tongue and catches its head on a magnetic hammer. He is then able to pound the tack in without touching it. A good tack splitter can hammer out 8,000 tacks in a day in this way. But the wear and tear on his mouth and teeth must be terrific. — Milwaukee Journal.

Some would rather rely at first on voluntary rationing with appeals to patriotism to retard hoarding in this case the trouble with moral suasion is that it works on the wrong people. It influences the loyal while the selfish are untouched. Voluntary rationing sufficed for a time in the United States during the first World War but it was on the point of giving way to compulsory rationing when the end came. This time the situation is more urgent and the basis of experience on which to act is more ample. Let us have rationing at once! — Christian Science Monitor (Boston).

The depredations of bears seem to be the fly in the ointment of the growing sheep industry in this area. The plenteousness of bears may be only a temporary condition. There have been periods when bears were scarce but abouts and probably such a condition will recur before very long. The fact that sheep keep together when feeding and lie in a close huddle at night makes them easy victims when a bear with mass-killing instincts comes along. However, sheep will be sheep and bears will be bears. — Fur William Times-Journal.

Possibly Lincoln—who helped Washington make this month very warm while—would reason about search-and-seek typists in the kindly way he reasons about common folk. Certainly the number of each of these human species is such as to suggest that they are highly favored. For every one touch-system typist you can find a dozen persons who type with little system and less that could be described as "touch." The touch-and-poke typist may be a subject of some derision in the secretarial schools. But he must make up in philosophy what he lacks in technique. It is to be doubted whether any adequate typist has ever had to wrestle with such abstruse questions as these: Why, if the finger hits two keys at once, does the wrong key always get to the paper first? Why, when all the letters of a word roll smoothly off one's two index fingers, do these letters appear on the paper in the wrong order? Why is it that the longer a person uses the touch-and-poke method the less efficient he becomes at it? In everything else, practice makes perfect. — Christian Science Monitor, Boston.

Cars may now be repaired "by appointment only" at many Birmingham garages because of the shortage of staff and the difficulty of getting materials. Gone are the days when a motorist could drive his damaged car into the repair shop and expect immediate service. "We are now under by orders for repair work," I was told. "We cannot deal with more than a small fraction of the number of cars brought to us. There is not much difficulty when no materials are needed, such as in decarbonizing and ordinary tuning-up jobs, but even then the work cannot be done at a moment's notice. An appointment has to be made. We cannot easily get spare parts now, and some cars which could not be put into use without replacements have been standing here for weeks and even months. By Government instruction, priority is, of course, given to commercial vehicles. More than half my men have been taken away from their regular work. Women have been drafted in to do car-nark and petrol-pump duty, but it takes 20 years to make a really competent motor engineer." — Birmingham Mail

PUBLIC FORUM

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

FERTILIZER BONUS

Sir—I notice in your paper a report of a recent meeting of the Charlottetown Board of Trade, in which Mr. R. E. Mutch questions my statement that the Federation of Agriculture was consulted regarding the nature of the fertilizer bonus. For the benefit of Mr. Mutch and to make the investigation easy for Mr. Boulter I refer them to any of the following: Messrs. Wylie Gibbons, Marshfield; Lincoln Dewar, New Perth; J. J. Trainor, Bedford; Capt. John L. Read, Borden; or to the Hon. W. H. Dennis, Minister of Agriculture, who presented the matter to the Federation.

I am, Sir, etc.

Gestures Cannot Suffice

(M. Beattie in St. John Telegraph Journal)

In ordinary times most of us play follow-my-leader complacency. But in times of great crisis when we are personally affected by the hazards along the way, we discover ideas of our own, and we're not so docile. We know that many business men enrolled in our government are working tirelessly for the good of Canada and for a safe future. We're ready to help them. But somewhere along the line, leadership and example are failing. There's something wrong in Canada and we are perplexed at the display of economy on one hand (to which we subscribe) and the extravagant gestures on the other hand. It hurts our pride. We're just the common people, but there are a lot of us and we wonder what sort of people our leaders think we are.

Do they think we can't see the inconsistencies? Do they think we're at the lollipop stage, with minds of a comic strip quality? Don't they realize that the common people in any country are fundamentally solid, reserved, honest, conscientious, thrifty and peace loving? Don't they know that we admire forceful leadership and that we grow indignant and humiliated when we can't look up and feel proud?

We are proud of many things: our soldiers, sailors and air men and many individual and group accom-

The Poet's Corner

A piper in the streets today Set up, and tuned, and started to play. And away, away, away on the tide Of his music we started; on every side Doors and windows were opened wide. And men left down their work and came. And women with petticoats colored like flame And little bare feet that were blue with cold. Went dancing back to the age of gold. And all the world went gay, went gay. For half an hour in the streets today. —Seumas O'Sullivan.

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Very well then—place your own order for the new Victory Bonds . . . and buy them to the very limit of your ability.

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WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War

"I know that we will win this victory by hard fighting. I know that we will have to fight on all sides as the enemy surrounds us everywhere. I know that in the year to come we will all be called upon to make new sacrifices. Nevertheless, at the end of the effort shines the sun of justice and in its light our country will find itself again—greater, stronger and more worthy of our love." — Brig.-Gen. E. de B. Panet.

plishments. We're proud too of our own small efforts in our homes where we save scrap and fats, papers, sugar, gas, tires, toothpaste tubes and all the other designated items. We stamp on our natural wants to buy bonds and stamps; we wear old clothes and look shabby—we are proud to do it. Yet we don't feel secure in the economy of our leaders, something is definitely lacking and no verbal denial can erase that feeling. If you don't feel it too, Leaders, it's because your politics or training makes your reactions different from those of common citizens. But there are a lot more of us than there are of you—and this feeling isn't good.

And yet all the little dribbles of things we save wouldn't in a thousand years counteract the deficit created by the guided gestures of those who spend the money we save to lend. Guided torches! Festive bon fires! A train load of shiny armament! Red tape! And the luxurious plebs! There's not a thoughtful person among us who has viewed the shiny armaments now being shipped over Canada (at our expense) who doesn't wish the implements were in China or Russia, or in any one of a dozen places where they could be doing a rightful job. Guess! An advertising man's paradise this, but to us they suggest an unseemly display of purpose that no fanfare can cover up. If we don't look out, our love of symbols will be our doom.

This is a streamlined war. Bold, honest headlines that tell truth other than that at it, and strict economy that's what we respect. We know (although you've never heard told us) that we've been licked at every turn so far: we know we've been outsmarted, but we had it coming to us and we're not afraid to face it. Truth is the best sort of advertising you can give up. Leaders, Truth will unite us and sell more bonds than all the blab your advertising advisors can promise.

And it costs nothing. We British people have slapped ourselves on the back so long and told ourselves how brave and wonderful and invulnerable we are, that we've become it. So why worry? Let George do it—we can't lose. The only way to make us up is to tell the truth: to scare us into being unbeatable. And stop spending our

hard-earned money on fluff. And the plebs! How can we be proud before the world and our own people? How can we be so sure of ourselves? How can we face it when a world is de-humiliated by gestures we didn't need a mandate to declare war and we were proud of the declaration. We elected leaders to tell us what to do—to lead us, and not to let us lead them. We want to be

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This means that every Canadian must learn to do without some of the things he normally enjoys. Watch your spending. Stern duty demands that we save for Victory now.

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