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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1941.

Calls For A Showdown

The failure of Federal Aircraft, Ltd., a government-owned corporation, to deal with the vitally important problem of aircraft production has been the subject of repeated criticism in such leading Liberal newspapers as the Winnipeg Free Press, and such authoritative, independent journals as the Financial Post and Canadian Aviation.

Premier King once before scuttled Parliament and sprung an election rather than afford to the then Opposition leader, Dr. Manion, the opportunity of discussing the Government's war activities.

Wartime Financing

There is point also to Mr. Hanson's criticism that the King Government should set a better example in the way of wartime economy. Finance Minister Ilsley has presented a war budget for the coming fiscal year for the enormous sum of \$130,000,000,000, and has warned that the costs probably will exceed this figure by "a considerable amount."

"We recognize," said Mr. Ilsley, "the fact that probably this will be the most critical year in the history of civilization." Is it conceivable that a Government, recognizing this all-important fact, should spend this year nearly three million dollars—the price of over one hundred of the finest fighter planes—in taking a census of the population which will only duplicate, so far as war requirements are concerned, the national registration taken last year?

Mr. Hanson points out that the reduction in the main estimates for non-war purposes of \$18,200,000 includes a \$15,000,000 C. N. R. deficit which will be non-existent because of increased railway earnings due to war conditions.

Another matter about which the Opposition leader is concerned is the Government's "cost-plus contracts." He has placed a series of questions on the order paper on this subject, and is commended for doing so by the Halifax Chronicle, (Liberal) which says—

"These are contracts under which the Government orders war material from a manufacturer at a price, plus the cost of production. Such a method is of fascinating interest to our farmers. It is their bitter experience, too often, to be compelled to sell their products at less than cost. Often, their greatest hope is the prospect of merely breaking even. A contract which assures the producer of his cost, and something more besides, looks to the farmer pretty much like a sign of the millennium."

The Central Provinces are receiving the lion's share of these contracts, with the remainder going in large part to the Western Provinces, by whom Hon. Mr. Gardner boasts that he is regarded as a Santa Claus.

One of the principal duties of Parliament this session will be to scrutinize all contracts, as well as other expenditures, with a view to getting full value for every dollar of the taxpayers' money devoted to war purposes, and of reducing all other expenditures to the minimum.

The point most strongly urged by Mr. Hanson was the need of a war cabinet composed of the ablest administrators, and free of any partisan tinge. Declaring it was the duty of the Opposition in war to help, and not to obstruct, the Government, he offered his suggestion "in the name of the Conservative party, and of every Liberal who puts his country first."

Feverish Nazi Efforts

Germany's feverish diplomatic activity in the Balkans and elsewhere has created apprehension. It should not occasion surprise, Germany, as an exchange points out, is now a great force confined within a limited space which gives her no

immediate outlet for military action, except against Salonika. The longer she is thus confined, the greater becomes the pressure of economic and political stresses generated within her sphere of influence. And the longer this pressure is continued, the greater is the danger from outside as American help becomes effective and the British offensive more intolerable.

In Europe Nazi pressure is directed toward a readjustment of German relations with those countries which stand between the Reich and the vital interests of her great enemy, Britain. In the Far East it is directed toward prodding and encouraging Germany's Japanese confederate. If Russo-Japanese differences should be composed, and Russia were to lend herself to Japanese purposes with the same complacency as she showed Germany, the whole Pacific area would become a war zone.

The possibility of successful Japanese aggression against the East Indies is causing acute alarm in Australia, which might find her shipping routes menaced, her mandated islands threatened and her, very shores in danger. The United States might be roused to such a state of alarm that the normal shipment of war materials to Britain would be suspended in a fever of preparation for action against Japan.

At no time has Canada's role appeared more vital, nor her responsibilities more onerous. As Australia turns her head toward the east and prepares herself to meet whatever may come from that direction, as the United States prepares to guard her Pacific empire and bases, we in this country become more and more obliged to swell the stream of weapons and supplies.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Markets are slim these days.

A nickel a day keeps the Gestapo away.

Cause and effect? Since the order was given to arm the city police, the City Police Court has been simply patronized.

The Germans are said to be constructing a second concrete line of defences in Poland against Russia.

The new lines are built more westward with great haste. Some of the Maginot line's equipment has been transported from France for use in these new defences.

To save the salary of an official ratcheter the Town Council of Caistor in the agricultural district of Lincolnshire two years ago offered to pay two pence each for rat tails brought into the council offices. The 1,500 townspeople had earned £217, 6s 8d up to the first of this month by taking in 26,080 tails.

John Henry Newman, English Cardinal and litterateur, born this date 1801; excelled as a preacher; as a Christian poet he ranks high; his "Lyra Apostolica" and his "Dream of Gerontius" are perfect in expression; while his hymn, "Lead Kindly Light" has attained immense popularity in all denominations.

The first woman physician to be sworn in as a soldier, Dr. Agnes Bennet, has arrived in England from New Zealand. She travelled to Egypt to offer her services in the last war and was signed on with the rank of a captain in the Royal New Zealand Army Medical Corps. At the present time Dr. Bennet will study conditions in the women's services with the object of advising the authorities at home about sending New Zealand women over to England to help.

Enough aluminum to make 500 airplanes has been collected from the kitchens and stores of the British Army and turned over to the Ministry of Aircraft Production. It was in the form of pots and pans, for which block tin utensils have been substituted. More than half of the huge quantity of aluminum was contributed by housewives in response to an appeal has already been transformed into fighter planes and bombers.

The Church of St. Olave's, where Samuel Pepys, the diarist, worshipped, was one of the seven churches of London that escaped the Great Fire of 1666. It also escaped that of December 29, 1940, caused by Hitler's barbarians. Since the start of the blitzkrieg, watchers have awaited the descent of fire bombs on its flat roof. An incendiary fell on the belfry from which the alarm for the Great Fire was tolled. It was smothered in a few minutes. Pepys himself helped to save St. Olave's in 1666. He brought men from the docks to blow up the surrounding houses and to stay the fire's progress.

The question of further shipments of American tobacco to Britain is to be taken up by Mr. A. H. Maxwell, British government tobacco controller, who is en route to the United States. The British Board of Trade announces that manufacturers have complained against the virtual ban against new American purchases effective since early last year. Tobacco from empire stocks and Turkish and Greek products mixed with Virginian leaf has not satisfied the demand. Citing October's imports, the board said the 33,000,000 pounds of American tobacco arriving in Britain amounted to about one-tenth of the annual total, most of this bought and paid for prior to the war. These stocks must now be replenished, hence reopening negotiations with U. S. A.

It appears that Quebec's Premier has been giving Ontario's Premier a lesson in good manners. Responsibility for the failure of the Sirois conference was placed squarely on Premier Mitchell Hepburn, by Mr. Brooke Claxton, K.C., M.P., in an address at a Montreal Reform Club. "Hepburn came there with a deliberate design to sabotage the conference to torpedo it," declared Mr. Claxton. "And he did it, because the people here were not willing to talk on his terms or in his kind of language." Premier Godbout's attitude, on the other hand, was applauded by Mr. Claxton, and the audience. "Mr. Godbout," said Mr. Claxton, "created a tremendous impression among all the people there. His speech was not only a lesson in manners, but it also tried to teach another Canadian, from Ontario, how to be a good Canadian." Unluckily it failed of its objectives, while "Mitch" continues to make his fellow Liberals' flesh creep.

NOTES BY THE WAY

What goes up must come down is an old saying but it has no application to Alberta government taxation. — Calgary Herald.

The turning over of French stores of gas line in Tunisia to the hard-pressed Italians is taken in some quarters as a sign that Marshal Petain is weakening from his Hamant stand that he will stick by the armistice terms and that he may make further concessions to the Axis. — Sault Daily Star.

How seriously labour trouble can interfere with production in munition plants is graphically portrayed in Steel. A recent issue of this publication shows a huge two-engine bomber alongside a single-packer parade, and says: "This bomber requires 24,000 man-hours to build. One strike like this, affecting 9,000 workers and lasting only 12 days, results in loss of 768,000 man-hours. This means 32 bombers, vital to our defense and that of England, won't be built."

General Herzog, former Premier of South Africa, who opposed South Africa's entry into the war, and later resigned his seat in Parliament, has been granted a £2,000 pension for life by the Government of Premier Smuts. That is a generous award for past services to the Union, and also recognition of the democratic right of General Herzog to hold to his own opinion, in quiet quarters of the world, he would have been a very able and able opposition. — St. Catharines Standard.

A waiter stood beside the table at which a man and woman were lunching in London yesterday. "Pardon me, sir," he said. "An unwelcome guest has been moved along the road with a few minutes. Perhaps you would like to seek shelter?" The man waved his cigarette idly. "All right waiter," he said. "I'll be right back." The waiter moved the water, turned the moved. Shop assistants were dressing windows. The police warned them to stop drinking wine. Outside in the street, hundreds of people stood three deep along the pavements, speculating on what they were to see. — London Mail.

Perhaps the condemnation of the modern age uttered by Professor A. J. Aymer, Emmanuel College, Toronto, would be more effective, if he found it on scoundrel premises. He contrasts the sinking of the Titanic, by the playing and singing of "Nearer My God to Thee" and the lusty bellying by childish rungs of "Roll Out the Barrel" as the City of Benares sank beneath the waves of a governmental indifference and stolidity; but our banner bearers are near the top, the goal is nearly theirs so let every man be a hero and push that will clear all obstacles and bring justice to our cause.

After the sudden collapse of the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce deal with the Sirois Report proposals because of the unyielding opposition of the Premiers of Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan, the Premier Pattullo has just proposed that he had business to do in New York, and so has not yet returned home. It may have been an act of pride, or a desire to see this storm of protest would soon die out, but he seems to have made a mistake in not returning to a Vancouver audience to personally support his Government that on his return he will face a province which demands a showdown on this matter. — Calgary Herald.

The public have a great deal to learn from the War Office general who throughout this war, it has been fashionable to call the War Office general have plainly learned their lessons and profited by the knowledge of their own mistakes in North Africa. The British armies, abandoning their old tactics, and applying new methods of warfare are driving before them Mussolini's armies in a series of triumphant engagements which seem bound to shorten the war. The rulers of the R.A.F. are striving all the time to improve their technique. As a result of this spirit of co-operation the men of the R.A.F. have saved civilization and are winning daily successes which will take their place in history. What must the rest of us do now? We must concentrate day and night, night and day, on the shipping situation, on the shipping, shipping. A Minister with supreme powers to build new ships more swiftly to turn the old ships and battered ships into more quickly, must be appointed now. — Sunday Express (London).

An experimental health conservation plan undertaken recently by a Minneapolis machine manufacturing company calls for the daily issuance of vitamin pills to the workers. The hope is that the pills will build up resistance to colds and other winter ills and thus keep the plant's manpower close to a maximum. Industrial production is materially impaired by the loss of health programme which effectively reduces illness will be a great boon, particularly when all available manpower is needed to speed up national defense. The experiment will be watched with interest by the industrial world and national defense officials. — Boston Sunday Post.

Sir Christopher Wren's favorite church, the St. James', Piccadilly, ruined by German bombs destroyed and incendiary bombs destroyed part of the roof and made the north wall unsafe. But much of the interior decorative work which Wren put into the gilt cupids at the top of the wooden pillars which rise from the gallery to the roof, the carved mural shields on the supporting beams, and the moldings in the roof—escaped damage. "It is not generally known," says the rector, "that our tower leans four feet out of the perpendicular—a sort of London Tower of Babel. The German bombs could not further undo Wren's magnificent work, and the tower today is as sturdy and strong as it ever was."

RATIONING BEER —(CP)—Even German soldiers here are rationed in the north because of the shortage of grain for bread throughout occupied Belgium.

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.

IMPORTED FEED COSTS

Sir:—Having read most of the contributions offered on this important issue I believe that these discussions are quite valuable in bringing up the many different aspects of the problem. Some writers seem more interested in personal literary combat but the more consistent contributors to this topic have invariably given of the fruits of sincere thought and research.

Although our farms produce abundantly we purchase heavily imported feeds of various kinds for our hogs, poultry (thousands raised yearly) and foxes. And if these feeds could be obtained at a more reasonable price not only would our profit be increased but we could favorably with our labor but it would result in a greatly increased consumption throughout the Island.

I know that our neighbors who do not buy heavily of these feeds would use them extensively if they were sold at a rate encouraging to intelligent purchasers. For we know that through this increased stock more stock could be handled, the increased profit from such raising the low standard of living and not only maintaining but increasing the fertility of the breed.

These beneficial results would reflect on almost all activities peculiar to our Island but especially on business and industry. Our merchants realized how much greater their own profit would be if the purchasing power of the agricultural producer was increased. They would appreciate more the problems of the farmer and his struggles amidst increasingly adverse circumstances.

Now at last after pressing laborious and energetic work has been offered from Ottawa on feed freight rates which I believe needs only to be qualified by some price control to be acceptable to our provincial governments. It seems easy enough to peg the prices of "our" products but why no control through the increased price of fertilizer and machinery as well as feeds is a mystery to fair minded citizens.

But with regard to lowering the cost of feeds coming into this and other Eastern provinces, it is to be hoped that when so near accomplishing something the effort will not be allowed to peter out. Much has been written, many conferences attended and many requests and resolutions sent forth in the trying and laborious ascent up the mountain of governmental indifference and stolidity; but our banner bearers are near the top, the goal is nearly theirs so let every man be a hero and push that will clear all obstacles and bring justice to our cause.

Sturdy our Island province (especially) which has no share of the Dominion's great increase in industrial activity is entitled to this small concession. I am Sir, E. Fairview, P. E. I.

CURRIE

The Suez Is Safe

(New York Times)

The Italians never got anywhere near the Suez Canal for many months they seemed to be on their way. The British garrisons in Egypt, Mr. Churchill now admits, took a very grave view of the danger to the lifeline as long as the Fascist legions and their much-polluted and ill-armed units, now practically all of Libya as well as all of Egypt lies between the scattered invaders and their prize, and the Suez is safe. Perhaps it was safe from the moment I Duce's vanguard on the road to defeat crossed the Greek frontier and handed over to the British the handy island of Crete.

At any rate the threat to the Suez is removed. The British are also driving through Eritrea to the Red Sea, with the object of narrowing the Italian grip on the Nile which the Italians are caught. The passage to India they have kept open from the beginning, and now it is free even from the threat of the Italian empire. A complete main small gain for the British, but to win with one hand the battle for the Suez is a great victory. It proves their power to defend their own empire and all its routes and approaches.

It is possible that Hitler is trying to force Mussolini and France to compromise their rival claims as a price for the return of the Mediterranean. The western gate of the Mediterranean may be threatened next. But the security of the Suez puts the British in a much more favorable position to meet that threat. They are no longer obliged to base a large part of the army on the Nile and a large part of the navy on Alexandria. With the Suez safe, they can move on the Italian peninsula and challenge Germany in the Balkans. They are stronger and more unimpeded in the Mediterranean than they have ever been, and the security of the Suez is of importance in the future conduct of the war.

Living Water

Music is living water: music is westward-flowing river between the sun-baked banks of spruce and willow. Music is autumn evening—colored, beating with slow deep thunder on strange beaches and on those shores where men have temporary forays, beside the salty driftwood. Music is a feather of water breaking from a river's breast to plunge into the narrow green-swept valleys.

Music is living water in the heart's green acre, is furious water plunging forever over the massive cliffs of Time. —Frances Frost.

MORE MILES PER GALLON

MELBOURNE —(CP)—Australian researchers have found that a mixture of gasoline and eucalyptus extract can cover from three to four miles extra per gallon.

Modern Troglodytes

(Hamilton Spectator) According to a recent dispatch from London there is now night accommodation for approximately a million and a half people in the metropolitan shelters, but only little more than half a million actually make use of it. One-twelfth of the population of London and county sleep in public shelters, according to this report. So it is obvious that the majority of citizens prefer to remain in their homes and take a chance on bombs. There is a kind of fatalism growing up—"what will be, will be." The underground railway at one time accommodated over 175,000 persons, when conditions were especially bad; but less than 100,000 take up their sleeping quarters in the "tube" to-day. The majority, naturally, prefer the comfort of a soft, warm bed to improvised bunks; moreover, the conditions in many shelters are far from desirable. Even in dry weather, some are damp and cold, and when it rains they become flooded. Ventilation is another serious problem, and sanitary arrangements present the greatest difficulty of all. Improvement in all these respects is being steadily achieved, however, and scientists and engineers are constantly applying new remedial measures.

What is the effect of Nazi air activity on the health of the people in the Motherland? We know that their morale is standing up magnificently; but what about the physical consequences? The dire results of herding in congested underground quarters generally anticipated have not, happily, occurred. In fact, the posts to the number of 170 have been set up, with 200 doctors in nightly attendance, an extra 300 are available for emergencies and there are upwards of 300 full-time nurses on duty. Food trains are run on the subway for the visitors and special canteens are provided. Desirable "shelters" have to submit to a thorough process of cleaning and army "hot-air disinfectors" take care of the clothes of suspects. An official campaign for the destruction of rats which infest some of the shelters has been undertaken, and more and more is being done to remove every possible menace to health.

The statistics issued by the British Department of Health are, on the whole, quite reassuring. It is found that the population was actually healthier in 1940 than in the period immediately preceding the war. The incidence of such diseases as scarlet fever, diphtheria and typhoid showed a marked decline; the exceptional severity of the winter brought only a slight increase in pneumonia cases, and the incidence of cerebro-spinal fever was rampant, as it usually is in war-time, the mortality rate has been reduced from 60 per cent. to as low as 5 per cent. In view of these facts, the situation must be regarded as most satisfactory, on the public health point of view.

Stronger Staff Of Life

(Winnipeg Free Press)

A great improvement in white bread is coming in the very near future, without any doubt, and since bread is used so much by the whole population the change is bound to be a factor in improving the health of young and old. It will not save the race from all physical ills, but it will increase vitality, strengthen resistance to disease—which is exceedingly important—and should increase human efficiency. It will be done by putting back into white flour valuable parts of wheat that have wrongly been taken out. There will be no increase in cost of the new bread.

The importance of nutrition to health and efficiency was recognized before the war. It was still more important if it would improve the physical condition of the fighting men, the war workers and the rest of the population, and help them all to meet the severe tests and strain of the war.

The propriety of restoring to white flour the virtue which it lacks is fully recognized in Britain, the United States and Canada. It is only a question of how it should be done. It might be done by adding thiamin, containing vitamin B1, to the flour; or by new milling methods which would leave the germ and some of the outer skin of wheat in the flour.

The Canadian Nutrition Council, thinking on a health, favors the latter method because it would put all the eight members of the vitamin B group in the flour, while thiamin contains only one, though

FOR BETTER LIGHT
LAD MAZDA
MADE IN CANADA
The most important one...
Expert cerealist, on the other hand, think the economic value of flour as well as the wheat germ is left in flour it causes fermentation if the flour is kept for any considerable time. Thus, there is a question of protecting its commercial value.

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Expels worms. Saves insects. Tones Hogs. Increases Fertility. Helps make bigger, better, healthier hogs. Mac's Pig Worm Powder and tonic, not only removes the worms but is an excellent tonic for the hogs. Large sums of money are lost by farmers through worms in pigs and these losses can be entirely avoided by using Mac's Pig Worm Powder and Tonic.

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DR. BARTON HONOURED
Dr. G. S. H. Barton, Deputy Minister, Dominion Department of Agriculture, was made a life member of the Canadian Airshire Breeders' Association at the annual meeting of the Association held in Montreal on January 28, 1941. This honour was conferred on Dr. Barton "in recognition of valued and devoted services rendered in the industry of Airshire breed of cattle in Canada."

CANADIAN HORSES EXPORTED
In the calendar year 1940 a total of 5,416 horses valued at \$674,131 an average price of slightly more than \$124 each was exported from Canada. Of the total 4,171 went to the United States, valued at \$435,250; to France 757 valued at \$111,875; to Newfoundland 488 valued at \$66,588 and to other countries two valued at \$500.

OTTAWA, Feb. 20 —(CP)—Canada's cost-of-living index increased to 108.3 in January compared with 108 the previous month and 103.8 in January, 1940, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported today. The January level is the highest since late in 1937, the report said. Since August, 1939, prices have risen 17.3 per cent. An increase in the food index from 100.1 in December, 1940, to 109.7 in January was the largest gain recorded among the component group indices. This was accomplished despite lowered prices on eggs and fruit, the report said.

OTTAWA, Feb. 20 —(CP)—Revenue Minister Gibson announced today that up to last Tuesday \$50,000,000 had been received by the government in advance payments of income tax, provided for in an eight-month instalment plan. Of this amount, he said in a statement, \$40,000,000 came from corporations and \$10,000,000 from private individuals.

WINDSOR
ON DOMINION SQUARE

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Men in all walks of life find "Hickey's Twist a great standby when they have a long hard day ahead of them. For the long hard pull try HICKEY'S BLACK TWIST 10c Per Pig Manufactured By HICKEY & NICHOLSON Tobacco Co. Ltd. Charlottetown