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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1941

Belated Assurance

It is to be hoped that Hon. Mr. Howe is right, in his belatedly expressed opinion that the car ferry steamer Charlottetown can be salvaged. Why it took so long to obtain this reassuring statement from Ottawa is somewhat difficult to understand. After the sinking of the ferry on June 19 last, it was stated that the prospects of refloating her were remote. Newspapers all over the Maritimes urged that no time should be lost in surveying the situation, and in obtaining another modern steamer if salvaging proved impossible. Officialdom, having placed the old Prince Edward Island on the route, seems to have considered this procedure all that was necessary. Our Boards of Trade took the matter up, and on July 12 Hon. J. P. McIntyre, Minister of Public Works, went to Montreal and Ottawa, the "main reason for his visit", according to our local contemporary, being "to urge on the Dominion Government the necessity for immediate action to replace the ferry Charlottetown." Mr. McIntyre, it was announced, "will consult all the departments in Ottawa which may be able to help in obtaining the resumption of this service, so important to our farmers and fishermen." Mr. McIntyre returned from Ottawa on July 22, after seeing the Minister of National Defense (Colonel Ralston) the Minister of Transport (Hon. Mr. Howe) and the President of the Canadian National Railways (Mr. Hungerford, since retired). They all assured him that everything possible was being done to find another boat, and that, "at any rate two icebreakers would be within twelve hours reach of Borden and Tormentine during the coming winter if their services are found necessary." Apparently it was not suggested, either by the federal or railway authorities, that there was any hope of salvaging the Charlottetown. As Hon. Mr. Wright pointed out to Mr. Howe on the present occasion, the assistance of other icebreakers, even if they were available, would be of little value without facilities for loading and unloading. Subsequently, the new C. N. R. President, Mr. Vaughan, stated that the situation with regard to the Charlottetown had been looked over by experts, and that it was deemed "quite impossible" to salvage the steamer.

Mr. Howe, we are glad to note, does not now share this view, whatever opinion he may have had when Mr. McIntyre visited him. He says no salvaging action has been taken because there was no equipment in Canada capable of doing the work. There is, however, such equipment in the United States and it will be obtained at the first opportunity; Mr. Howe himself being "fully confident" that the steamer can be floated.

The incredibly long delay in getting even this assurance from any authoritative source is a sad commentary on the ineffectiveness of our representation at Ottawa.

Nazi Control Of Morocco

Following the Petain-Goering conference on Vichy-Nazi collaboration, reports have been circulated that Vichy has agreed to allow the Nazis to garrison French Morocco. The fact seems to be that the Nazis have long been in control of Morocco. Vaughan Henry, an American newspaperman, who recently made a tour of North Africa, has reported that the Nazis already have an army of 20,000 there and are virtually in complete control.

Soon after the collapse of France the Nazis sent a swarm of agents into the country disguised as armistice officials. At Casablanca they built a powerful radio station. German soldiers in ever increasing numbers are seen daily scurrying around the city, into the air bases and through the coastal batteries at Fort Lyautey, Agadir and in all the other North African ports. German submarines make frequent appearances on the Moroccan ocean front where they are serviced and refueled. Giant German airliners and troop carriers have been common sights there for more than a year.

More than 1,500 United States built planes were delivered to Morocco and have been taken over by the Nazis. After the fall of France, French pilots in considerable numbers flew off to Gibraltar. This resulted in the French air force being grounded by the Nazis. Since then the order has been revised, but when French planes do go up for coastal patrol they are given only limited gas supplies.

Evading The Issue

Major the Hon. Charles G. Power, says the Montreal Gazette, uttered strong, brave words when he spoke on the need for national selective service. It was the most heartening statement we have had from any Cabinet Minister. Mr. Power's statement of the Government's authority to conscript "as may be deemed necessary or expedient for securing the public safety" was a direct quotation from Section

Two of the National Resources Mobilization Act of 1940. But when he went on and drew cheers from the assembly with the words "These powers we propose to use in this emergency," the Air Minister slid over a very important point. He omitted to quote Section Three of the same Act, which provides: "The powers conferred by the next preceding section may not be exercised for the purpose of requiring persons to serve in the military, naval or air forces outside of Canada and the territorial waters thereof."

How, asks the Gazette, can Mr. Power contend that a Government thus hobbled has "the fullest authority and jurisdiction to bring about national selective service"? How can he announce plans to mobilize manpower "so that there shall be no chink in the armor of the democratic front"? Last week the Mayor of Victoria announced that the Japs were in the Aleutian Islands, that string of little dots on the map between the Alaska Peninsula and the International Date Line in mid-Pacific. Last spring and summer there were numerous reports of German submarine stations on the coast of Greenland, and even secret hideaways on the wild north shore of Newfoundland. None of these stories has been confirmed, but none is unlikely; were any of them to prove true, Canada could not send a conscript force against the enemy under the law as it stands. Were the State of Washington to be attacked, Canadian conscript units would have to watch the battle from the international border.

But though these arguments are valid, they evade the real issue. The real issue lies in the question "Where is Canada's front line?" and the answer can only be "Wherever the common enemy is to be found."

Today the Provincial Premiers and Federal Government meet at Ottawa to endeavour to iron out their financial differences.

The camel excels in a number of ways; It can go without drinking for several days. According to a report from G. H. Q., Cairo, the Germans have now thought of a new way in which it may possibly excel; their desert patrol units are using camels in front of them to try to locate the minefields that would hinder the approach of nominally hostile forces.

How many people have noticed the trim, blue-eyed, clear-eyed young fellows in air force uniforms who carry the letters U.S.A. on the shoulders? They are being seen on ever-increasing numbers and they are living answers to the isolationist charges that this war is no affair of the United States. They know what the issues are and what is at stake. So they gave up their jobs and their college courses, their homes and their families to trek northward in the face of any and every hardship to fight for freedom. A recent Government survey revealed that eight percent of the air crews training in Canada are from the United States, and 600 flyers from the United States are acting as instructors for the air training plan. Some of the officers are leaving members to British Canadians and Americans are men-mates in the R.A.F., and the American Eagle squadrons often fly with formations from the R.C.A.F. Original members of the Canadian active army. Hundreds more are in the air, and even more are training on the border is continuing. From the Winnipeg Free Press.

British planes and tanks are reported fighting in the Russian front. American supplies are only beginning to arrive. Britain is a-aid of schedule on deliveries to Russia. The Government has decided not fulfilling his promises to Moscow. The White House makes it clear that any failure is not due to the Government, but to the determined to honor his pledge is "fullest measure." Apparently in the first two months there has been a slow start. Washington hopes that the amount of supplies sent will look like trickles. For Russia the big test is likely to come in the Spring. Whether the eastern front holds then may depend on how much tanks and planes and other "tools" can be made and shipped in the next three months. The "Battle of Russia" may be won on an American supply line, and that is the point about aid to Russia. — Christian Science Monitor.

Evidence of the effects of Social Credit's reputation of debt obligations is to be seen in the fact that Alberta's citizens are finding it difficult to secure loans from the usual sources. This is not hard to understand. Lenders naturally unwilling to lend with the prospect that they may not be able to collect interest or principal. And that is why Calgary, one of the West's most substantial cities, is in the throes of the worst housing shortage in its history. Housing construction not only in Calgary but throughout the province has a standstill. Premier Aberhart has succeeded in chasing the mortgage lenders out of the province — but

War or no war, America's march of progress goes forward. A bathing suit manufacturer tells Minneapolis that suits are going to be carried on an observable trend. Sing no for the knee-length affair in the attic-trunk that Aunt Cynthia laid aside when she wanted to keep up with the times. We've seen forfornitax come in, and abbreviated garments whose staying on seemed nothing more than a phenomenon. We've held our breath as the mid-riff made its appearance. And now suits are going to be still more brief and measures won't do. This is a world which goes to show what a nation, making sacrifices, can get along with-out if it has to. — Minneapolis Star Journal.

In an official survey of work being done on behalf of New Zealand prisoners of war, an approximate total of names now on record is given—3,230. Nothing could change which is a matter of grave concern to the operations that the contrast between this number and the total of members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force captured by the enemy in the last year. The number officially so reported between 1914 and the signing of peace in June, 1919, was 501. The difference is no reflection on the men serving in this war. At Gallipoli, when evacuation was finally undertaken, complete command of the sea and the absence of air attack were the factors that saved the men without loss of a man as prisoner. How different the circumstances were in Greece and Crete needs no saying. The list of over 3,000 prisoners of war, with more to come, is a result of the transformation. — Auckland News (New Zealand).

We have both the tales of our childhood and the testimony of one of our island poets for the proposition that the camel excels in a number of ways; It can go without drinking for several days. According to a report from G. H. Q., Cairo, the Germans have now thought of a new way in which it may possibly excel; their desert patrol units are using camels in front of them to try to locate the minefields that would hinder the approach of nominally hostile forces. What the camels think about that device is not known, but it is at least a slight improvement on driving civilian refugees in front of the troops from machine-gun fire; or on the seizing and slaughter of 50 innocent hostages in a rural suburb in which the whether camels are much good as minefield detectors, but it seems possible that the Italians at least are not so stupid as to use them in the branch of military operations. For if the camels fall at the job the next protective device for German man-power may well be the use of camels in the service of Italians. — Manchester Guardian.

Mr. Walter S. Thompson the well known and highly esteemed director of publicity for Canadian National Railways, has been appointed director of public relations, it is announced by Mr. R. C. Vaughan, president. The appointment was effective December 1. In making the announcement, Mr. Vaughan said that Mr. Thompson would "continue to have jurisdiction over the general publicity and advertising of all departments of the system, in addition to other duties assigned to him." The appointment is a popular one with newspaper men.

One of rulings of the National War Labour Board commands wide interest, for it applies to the much-discussed and very welcome Christmas bonus. The board states that Christmas bonuses to employees are permissible this year provided they are in accordance with established practice. This ruling is not new. It was a principle laid down by the Labor Minister at the time the wage ceiling was set up, but the board now emphasizes that the inauguration of any new policy in this respect is prohibited "unless it is a monetary Christmas bonus in an amount not in excess of \$25, and is not charged as an expense for tax purposes."

Magistrate J. R. Gillen, of Brantford, says the Peterborough Examiner, is putting the pressure on car drivers, drunk and careless. The first one up was found guilty of coming through a stop sign and hitting another car. Ten days in jail and his license to drive suspended for three years. Another drunk driver came from Hamilton. He goes to jail for seven days, his car is impounded for three months and his license to drive it has been lifted for three years. The third man was fined \$35 for reckless driving. A few sessions of that sort and drivers who still think they can drink and drive may revise their estimate. Admittedly that is cracking down rather hard, says our contemporary, but those who persist in drunk driving "have been sticking the chin out a long way asking for it."

In Montreal there has already been a whole list of complaints about disregard of the price ceiling. A number of complaints of increased rates for laundry service featured consumer reports of alleged violations of the new price ceiling made to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and to the Better Business Bureau. Laundering and cleaning are among the services for which rates are frozen at the maximum charged during the price control basic period, September 15 to October 11. In some cases, complaints said the charges had been raised for general laundering or for particular types of work. In others, it was alleged that so-called "service charges" had been tacked on to regular rates. Steps have been taken to probe the complaints and to consult with the services administrator of the Prices Board, Mr. James Stewart of Toronto.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Scarcity of cups—owing to labor shortage and the rest of it—has led the Glasgow restaurateur to order to his competent chef already to eke out the crockery. In another restaurant a waitress confided that the service was slow because the chef had to wash the dishes from her table to the dishwasher to see that they did not get snatched for a rival's table. — Glasgow Herald.

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Plain Questions For Ottawa

The time has come for this country to take stock of its position. A perusal of the Canadian press already has shown the outcries of our American allies and fallen upon them while they were still tied to their beds. Hostile aircraft made reconnaissance flights over the American coast, and were reported off the Aleutian Islands in the North Pacific within flying distance of British Columbia. Canadians are under fire at Hong Kong, and, as Mr. Churchill has pointed out, the bustling American defenses will create a gap in the flow of munitions to countries enjoying the benefit of lease-lend supplies.

War has brought much closer to us. Though our front line in British still stands and the Atlantic barrier is unbroken, we now have a front line on the Pacific coast which already has been badly dented. Realizing their peril more acutely than before, the people of Canada are asking the Government to take steps to ask what extraordinary measures their Government is prepared to take. How does the Cabinet stand on conscription now? If the Japanese force a landing at Seattle and a call is made upon Canadian forces in the West, must we refuse aid to our American allies on the ground that the men are enlisted only for service in Canada? Surely the Canadian unit which the Prime Minister says that he "cherishes" most is the side of the grave above every matter of political expediency for the Liberal Party. Or has it?

By "lying at anchor in the stream of time," the present Prime Minister has held power for better than fifteen years, on and off. But even though the tide turns, the storm mounts, the cables part, and ships without seam up and steegeaway get driven on to the rocks. What mesmeric power does this man possess that he can compel his colleagues against their proper instincts to follow him in a course that is so obviously the oblique and devious methods adopted for dealing with the problem of manpower to strengthen the armed forces, the war industries and agriculture? Men are dragged into the army on the promise that they will never be conscripted for overseas service, and then are subjected to a species of moral third degree and are refused their freedom, so that they have little choice but to follow him to active service. This is unbecomingly unbecoming. It isn't honest, and it is an insult to Canadian manhood.

Nothing in the nature of a sovereign remedy for the economic ills which inevitably follow war conditions is to be found in any one device; the problem must instead be attacked from all its angles. Essentially price and wage stabilization are parts of a comprehensive program designed to forestall inflation. In any highly developed economy, direct controls such as price-fixing and rationing must be coordinated with monetary and fiscal mechanisms of taxation, borrowing and the regulation of consumer credit. The timing of the various measures and the sequence in which they are applied, are also of prime importance. The introduction of relatively severe direct controls before a general condition of scarcity exists could conceivably cause more harm than good and at best serve no useful purpose. The existence of large reserves of idle labour and unused plant and other facilities in the earlier stages of the transition to an all-out war economy is the best assurance that serious price spirals would not immediately develop. At such a time, the use of direct controls is not appropriate since they cannot supplement to any significant degree increases in output which normally result from higher prices. As long as these price increases remain moderate, indicating adequate supplies of goods, direct measures should be employed sparingly in the relief of acute situations and bottlenecks. As full employment approaches, however, undue delay in applying such controls could very well stultify the entire anti-inflation programme.

A further shift in production from consumers' goods to military supplies can only be secured in one of two ways: first, by permitting prices to advance without restraint until they reach a level at which consumer purchases materially decline; secondly, by establishing a system of direct controls under which goods are allocated on the basis of necessity rather than of purchasing power. Canada has quite properly chosen the latter course, but in so doing she has earned the notice that the normal operation of the law of supply and demand, based upon changes in the prices of goods, will be suspended for the duration of the war. A universal price ceiling at the present time is, therefore, logical, as

Where do Mr. King's colleagues stand on this question? It is a matter of common knowledge that some of them have not always been of the best. Some of them may not be yet. How about Colonel Ralston? He is a returned soldier with a distinguished record who subscribed to the general belief of the veterans' organizations following the last war that conscription should be introduced on the first day of any war, but which has since gone back on his comrades? The Minister of National Defense has a son serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in I.S.S. No one can question his loyalty, for his own record and the presence of his son in Britain are ample testimony to that. But what about properly named reinforcements, fully equipped and ready to send behind Colonel Ralston's son and his comrades? The Minister of National Defense has a son serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in I.S.S. 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