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

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1941.

Mr. King's Excuses

For the time being at least, there seems no likelihood of Prime Minister Churchill calling a conference of the Premiers of the Commonwealth in London. Such a proposal was rumored following Premier Menzies' arrival in the Old Country, and gave rise to some discussion in the Canadian Parliament last week.

About the merits of Mr. King's contentions, comments the Globe and Mail, there will be debate; but he evidently took no account of the fact that the personal presence in London of the leader of the Canadian people would be a heartening source of comfort, encouragement and inspiration to the whole British nation.

But the most regrettable part of Mr. King's statement concerned his inability to understand "just fully what are the grounds on which certain people are so anxious to have me out of the country at the present time. I know what the criticism will be the minute that I leave; that, if I had understood my duty aright, I would stay in my own Dominion at this time, seeing to affairs here."

Here spoke the party politician obsessed with the passion for safeguarding his own prestige and the personal fortunes of his party, sensing dark conspiracies against them, and incapable of realizing that any criticism of his Government or any suggestion to it might be offered from quite disinterested motives in the national interests.

By Slow Degrees

Colonel Ralston, Minister of Defense, has announced another step in the recruiting program. This elicits the following comment from an exchange: First we had a thirty-days' compulsory training period for home defense by age groups. After the initial experiment it was abandoned as unsatisfactory. It cost much money, gave a number of young men the idea that they had done their bit, failed to help voluntary enlistment for overseas service noticeably, and generally was frowned upon by citizens who wished to see Canada take a really vigorous part in winning the war.

The new announcement is to the effect that the four-months' period is to be of indefinite length, in the sense that the men called up for training will be detailed afterward for active service in Canada. Some 10,000 men have gone into camp. A new class will be called each month. Meanwhile, the Minister states that a limited recruiting drive will commence to obtain 22,000 men on a voluntary basis for the overseas Canadian Army. According to his estimate, at least all the men who form the first two classes in camp, leaving in July and August, will be needed to relieve men on duty in the country who have volunteered to serve abroad. This would appear to mean that some 22,000 have volunteered. Yet it is stated that in the last few months recruiting for active service has fallen short of the quotas set on the basis of men required for reinforcement due to discharges and allowances for battle casualties.

Serious-minded people cannot be blamed for wondering what the Government is trying to get at. Is its aim to introduce full conscription by stages in a circuitous manner, hoping the public won't notice? Does it fear to come out, admit it under-estimated the needs and say that the critical nature of the situation demands a complete reversal of original plans?

EDITORIAL NOTES

The object of religion and of systems of morality is to take possession of human life in order to save it from being abandoned to passion or allowed to drift at random, and to give it some durable and lasting happiness.

This story is told by an Australian Airman who has been training at the Macleod, Airport, Empire Air Training School. On a recent training flight, the airman said, he was forced down in Montana. The wife of the farmer on whose field he landed rushed out and in the conversation which followed, asked him where he came from "Australia," he said, "My, but you've had a long trip," she said.

Pilot Officer Richard W. S. Inge, 25 years old, youngest son of Dr. W. R. Inge, former dean of St. Paul's has been killed in active service. A clergyman, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force as an aircraftman and recently obtained his commission. He thought like some other patriotic youths, that air pilots were more needed than sky pilots at the present juncture.

A return tabled at Ottawa shows there were 18,852 commissioned officers in the Canadian Army, 170,326 men on active service and 172,909 reserves. The Navy Department said there were 1,980 commissioned officers in the Royal Canadian Navy, 14,662 ratings on active service and 1,517 reserves. The figures given were for March 1. The return said that the pay and allowances of warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Canadian (Active) Army are exempt from income tax. Pay of ratings in the naval service is not subject to income tax.

Here is service for you! The Godbout Government will hire an expert to teach members of the Quebec Retail Merchants' Association the modern methods used in retail stores. The expert will make periodic visits to the business establishments of all members of the association in the province and will teach them the latest methods being used on this continent. He will show them the latest purchasing and selling methods, bookkeeping systems, store layouts and display ideas for store windows and the interior of the establishments.

Napoleon Bonaparte, the Charlemagne of the 19th Century, died this date 1821. He was a Corsican, a French subject though of Italian nationality. Unhindered by tradition, unmoved by moral or religious influences, he was, as nearly as it is possible to be sheer intellect stalking through the world, bringing all problems straight to the touchstone of his ardent brain. Excess of logic rather than excess of idealism ruined him in the end. He fought the desperate final campaign of 1815 with consummate skill, and it was only at Waterloo after his bolt was shot that any obvious wandering of his powers was perceptible. He was only 46 years old when his career came to a close.

Kingston, Ont., is looking forward to a real old home week on its own account next Fall. The Governor-General, the Earl of Athlone, will be awarded an honorary degree at the centennial ceremonies of Queen's University in October, and also be installed as rector of the University giving the rectorial address. Other distinguished visitors who will address meetings during ceremonies include an Islander, Sir Robert Falconer, former president of the University of Toronto; Sir Thomas Holland, principal of the University of Edinburgh; Sir Edward Peacock, governor of the Bank of England; Dr. Nathaniel Micklem principal of Mansfield College, Oxford University; Dr. Henry Sigerist, of Johns Hopkins University.

Isn't the use of the word "Epic" being overdone these hysterical days? The blame, of course largely falls on the shoulders of editors who fail to blue pencil the "barren verbiage current... light coin, the tinsel clink" resorted to by reporters and other writers endeavouring to embellish their "copy." For a time the current phrase was "suicide squads" applied to the self-sacrifice of that comparatively small body of heroes to whom Churchill declared Christian civilization owes so much. Now the other extreme is featured, and ordinary, "garden" descriptions of press correspondents, even the dry, terse diplomatic phrases issued officially are designated and dignified as "epics." Shades of Homer, Virgil, Dante, Milton, et al! Epic is the highest and most dignified form of narrative poetry, and even the highest type of special correspondents in London or elsewhere are far from being even average poets.

Canada's domestic exports in March were valued at \$101,616,064 as compared with \$82,719,395 in March, 1940. The total for the first three months of 1941 was \$288,134,784 as compared with \$243,898,474 in the same period of 1940. Exports of foreign produce in March this year totalled \$1,076,608 compared with \$745,745 in March 1940, while during the first quarter of 1941 the value was \$4,043,690 compared with \$2,734,574 in the same period of 1940. The foregoing figures do not include gold. Leading domestic exports in March follow, with 1940 figures in brackets: wheat, \$9,794,385 (\$8,141,245); wheat flour \$2,011,813 (\$2,864,163); fish, \$2,260,484 (\$2,237,305); furs, \$1,165,186 (\$1,400,212); meats, \$3,221,668 (\$5,654,067); planks and boards, \$5,061,055 (\$3,743,494); wood pulp, \$5,987,038 (\$3,547,991); newsprint, \$10,811,366 (\$8,984,203); automobiles and parts, \$9,732,404 (\$2,227,520). Leading domestic exports during the first quarter of 1941 were as follows, with totals for the like period in brackets: wheat, \$21,624,648 (\$23,166,647); wheat flour, \$5,255,279 (\$7,612,248); fish, \$8,636,345 (\$7,656,372); furs, \$4,982,967 (\$5,314,320); meats, \$17,580,861 (\$16,528,721); planks and boards \$14,241,607 (\$10,835,607); wood pulp, \$17,679,227 (\$11,267,682); newsprint, \$30,898,378 (\$27,012,093); automobiles and parts, \$24,312,187 (\$6,840,242).

Roscoe Drummond, a Washington editorial contributor to the Christian Science Monitor, writes in that excellent daily issue on Monday last that he has "talked" with a single military expert, with a single naval authority who was not convinced that the use of the American Navy is essential if Britain is to win the battle at sea in the North Atlantic and if the vital weapons of defence now coming from democracy's assembly lines are to be moved to democracy's battle lines in Britain, quickly enough to inflict sufficient damage to stem the Nazis' desperate, final, all-out attack.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia, fell on the very day Germany launched a new war in the Balkans. It is only five years since Emperor Haile Selassie, now preparing a triumphant return, fled from his palace and Italy annexed his country. It is an eerie period of the world's occupation has been spent chiefly on road-building. As in Libya, these well-laid military highways have served the British well. But it was the railroad being up over the Ethiopian escarpment that brought the victorious South Africans to the city gates. Thus the one avenue by which the Italian armies might have escaped destruction became the instrument of their quick defeat. As a symbol Addis Ababa is a prize beyond reckoning. This capital is the heart of an empire of 1,725,000 square miles, a vast region supporting 12,000,000 people. Its capture in what seems almost a single leap of ninety miles from the Awash River shows the complete demoralization of its defenders. Both in Ethiopia and Italy there are still isolated Italian forces, but their fate is sealed, for they have nowhere to go, no point at which to rally. Strategical the campaign in Ethiopia is over. At the best it will be a quick mopping up, at the worst a hopeless attempt by the Italians to wage guerrilla warfare from hostile territory. The British conquest of Ethiopia promises early return of the books for their capture in Libya and on the Greek peninsula. Its effect on the time-table of the war will be substantial. — New York Times.

Alderman Wilson will move at the next convenient date that the new streets and thoroughfares as they are opened shall be named for our past and our future. A reporter has already suggested that the near future may see Wavell Walk, Willkie Way and Bevin Boulevard on the map of the city.

Although the war is steadily spreading, the British position is not deteriorating, nor can it deteriorate so long as British sources of supply remain unaffected and British lines of communication are maintained. The mere possession of territory does not necessarily bring military advantage to Hitler. On the contrary, it may be that he is swelling his bulk at the expense of his mobility, and increasing the size of the target at which we have to shoot. He is undoubtedly increasing the number of the enemies behind his own lines, which may at the appropriate moment be far more dangerous than the enemies who assail his frontiers.

When the Yankee Clipper took off for Europe from Lacanville Field on Monday recently, Pan American Airways completed its first year of trans-Atlantic flight from that base. In that time 2,300 passengers and 1,000 mail parcels worth \$1,000,000 of mail have been carried. It has been but a short time since the risks of trans-Atlantic flights were considered to be too great for the general public. But since the war started flying has been the preferred safety route to and from Europe. The dangers on the sea are regarded as great by many, and indeed by those who have not an secure accommodation for the quicker and safer flight by air. The cosmopolitan character of the traffic is shown in the fact that during the year fifty-seven nationalities have been represented on the passenger list. Refugees from Europe, Ambassadors and special agents traveling by air have been the principal means by which our government and our people have had firsthand information about what is going on abroad. The speed with which distance can be covered is the proper measure of mileage. The British and American forces were closer to Europe than she was even three or four years ago. It is certain we will never be any farther distant, and the fact has significance in the present and future foreign policy of this nation. — Philadelphia Bulletin.

The bonds of Empire fraternity are being drawn tighter as a consequence of the general agreement of Canadian Holstein breeders in donating from seventy-five to one hundred heifer calves, which will be sold at public auction in Brampton in May, and the proceeds turned over to the British Cattle Society of England. The money raised will be used to further the British war effort. The Canadian breeds are not doing things now it should be distributed, as they are leaving that to the good judgment of the British society. A tidy sum, no doubt, will be raised. But, whatever it is, it can only be a fine spirit shown by the Dominion farmers who are participating. — Windsor Star.

Nor shall we forget, during these next few weeks, that the cause which is ours is the cause that holds within it the happiness of the whole human race. Canada takes her place in the ranks of freedom and democracy. It is this so. Thus our cause enlarges itself far beyond the narrow, de-basing limits which our enemies have placed upon themselves. Here we have no not that we are a "Herrenvolk," designed by God to rule over lesser men. What we want to establish is the widest liberty which all can enjoy in the own fashion, and limited only by the obligations and responsibilities which civilization imposes upon the civilized. The world is the foundation of our strength; and the strength that is based upon such moral and spiritual values is not one that can be easily destroyed. — Winnipeg Free Press.

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Army Chapels

Instead of worshipping in recreation halls or "huts" erected by the various auxiliary services as Canadian soldiers in camp do, and as United States soldiers have done in most emergency camps in the past, the men of Uncle Sam's new Army are to have chapels erected by the War Department for that purpose alone. There will be 604 of them, according to present plans and the cost of the erections will be \$12,815,000 including the cost of the electric organ which will be installed in each. Built from uniform plans, each will accommodate 400 worshippers.

The same chapel will be used by chaplains of different denominations, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish, and with services held at various hours each chapel will accommodate many more men than its seating capacity. Provision will be made for such equipment as may be required by different denominations, including an ark to hold the Jewish Book of the Law.

The erection of the chapels will be a splendid contribution to the recreation life of the soldiers, but we are not advocating a similar appropriation for Canadian camps. The United States is not at war, as are we, and Canada cannot. It is desirable that in making provision for worship, all possible regard be paid to decency and order, but we are sincerely offered in a recreation hall will be heard as readily as those offered in a special chapel or a consecrated church or cathedral.

Nature Takes A Hand

The expected has happened. A temporary butter shortage of last fall has now become a small surplus. As nature improves this surplus will increase. From now on less and less may be heard of fixing maximum prices and more about the development of dairy cows. Had Dominion authorities investigated the real situation six months ago they might have saved themselves embarrassment. Prices might have gone a few cents above the maximum set by the Wartime Prices Board, but this rise, like all price increases in farm produce not artificially controlled, would have been welcomed by the consumer. Dairymen's stimulation was already on the way when the Board acted.

Dairy production is a long term proposition. It takes years for a farmer to get into a dairy business, but once started, he cannot quickly or easily turn output on or off. Prior to the cycle of droughts which hit Western Canada in 1933, farmers of the prairies were steadily increasing their dairy cows. Butter volume gained. The time was approaching when Canada would be on an export basis.

The droughts of 1933-35 seriously hit this industry. Dairy cows depend upon grass, hay and coarse grains, and all these crops must have more moisture than wheat. Dairy cows had to be liquidated in Western Canada during the dry years. Butter production fell off sharply.

Three years ago the rains returned and dairymen started forward again. Development was slow and had not gathered sufficient momentum by last fall, to fully offset two new factors. These were:

1. A general increase in butter consumption due to sharply improved employment. 2. A temporary decline in butter production in Ontario due to damaged crops last summer.

It was apparent, however, from the sharp price gains each month that the time would be brief. Now it has gone. Butter production is catching up with consumption. In a few weeks, when pasture opens on both East and West, it will be in excess.

An Indecisive Campaign

(Globe and Mail) British official spokesmen, and the British press alike, have made it clear that the British forces were fighting in Greece merely to satisfy the demands of honor, and not because of any tactical advantage they might hope to gain. It was Britain's duty to give all the assistance could to the gallant little nation that had defied the Axis. It was not Britain's duty, however, to send such forces to Greece as would denude her more vital possessions of their proper protection. In her desire to help Greece, Britain weakened her army of the Nile to a dangerous degree, with the result that Alexandria and the Suez Canal were placed, for a time at least, in serious jeopardy. The situation in North Africa has now been restored so that there is no immediate cause for alarm, and there is

Many Canadians, and we believe Britons as well feel the same way. Certain it is that the world will see momentous happenings during the next few weeks. — St. Thomas Times Journal.

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WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR "Today the Air Training Plan appears like a cloud as small as a man's hand on the horizon. But it will come to pass that the heavens will be black with that cloud and its great rain will destroy the Nazi enemies of men's liberty and progress." — Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, British High Commissioner.

reason to hope that in this theatre of war, too, the Germans will pay a heavy price for having occupied a few thousand square miles of worthless territory without gaining any permanent tactical advantage. While fighting a furious battle in Northern Greece and in the Egyptian frontiers, Britain has not overlooked the ultimate purpose of the German eastward drive. The German moved into Rumania and Bulgaria to serve a much larger purpose than the conquest of Greece. They hope to overwhelm Turkey, and obtain possession of the Persian oil fields. They hope to occupy Syria and Palestine, and so gain command of the Suez and drive the British from the Mediterranean. Bearing this in mind, the British have sent a strong and well-equipped force into Iraq, where German political agents had succeeded in engineering a coup d'etat and establishing a Government that was not friendly to the British.

But before they could drive home their advantage and follow political intrigue with military action, the British moved into Iraq. The British forces has brought some change of heart to the new Government of Iraq. They welcomed the British commanding officer with great ceremony, promised full cooperation with the British Government and meticulous observance of treaties.

Although the war is steadily spreading, the British position is not deteriorating, nor can it deteriorate so long as British sources of supply remain unaffected and British lines of communication are maintained. The mere possession of territory does not necessarily bring military advantage to Hitler. On the contrary, it may be that he is swelling his bulk at the expense of his mobility, and increasing the size of the target at which we have to shoot. He is undoubtedly increasing the number of the enemies behind his own lines, which may at the appropriate moment be far more dangerous than the enemies who assail his frontiers.

BLIND AIR WARDEN RESCUES VICTIMS

LIVERPOOL.—(CP) — People call Arthur Small "the man with the merry eyes." Yet he is Liverpool's only blind air warden. He has helped rescue people from bombed houses and guided injured to the nearest doctor.

Off duty one night he and his wife heard the crump of high explosives. "Let's go out and see if we can help," he said. They took two old women, bombed out of their own home under the stairs and went out.

Soon after a heavy bomb wrecked the house. Dorrin's bomb splinters. Small and his wife hurried back and rescued the old women.

C. P. R. EARNINGS

MONTREAL, May 3. — (CP) — Earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway increased \$1,618,000 in the nine-day period ended April 30 over the corresponding period last year. Totals were: 1941, \$5,588,000, 1940, \$3,970,000.

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