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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1941.

Boxing Day Observance

The observance of Boxing Day—the day immediately following Christmas Day—is a long established custom in the Old Country. It provides an extra holiday for overworked clerks, postal officials and others and serves to focus more attention on the religious aspect of Christmas Day itself.

Boxing Day falls this year, it is true, on a Friday, which is our market day. But market day could be held on the following Saturday on this occasion, as has been done before when public holidays have fallen on Friday.

The suggestion is, at least, worth considering, and we commend it to the attention of our City Council, merchants and citizens generally.

Wheels Still Turning

The "thumbs up" spirit of Old England is amusingly illustrated by the following letter appearing in the London Times:

"Sir:—A few months ago I sent you a letter, which you printed under the heading 'Twice Hit,' to say that Cromwell and Hitler had both succeeded in hitting my oilmill with an interval of some 300 years between. You may be interested to learn that Hitler has had another shot and penetrated the roof of our mess-room with a missile, but fortunately we have got another of Cromwell's cannon-balls to hang with it on the other side of the office fireplace. Meanwhile, day and night, the wheels go merrily round."

Too Many Audits

The shortage of qualified accountants was the subject of a recent editorial in The Canadian Chartered Accountant. It drew attention to the cause of this shortage when it cited the case of an accounting firm which, seeking to arrange for the annual audit with one of its clients, was greeted with: "For heaven's sake please postpone it as long as possible; we have just finished with the fifth set of government auditors and our accounting department wants to get caught up with its work."

Commenting on the foregoing statement, the Financial Post says there is a growing overlapping and duplication of government audits of all types of business, an overlapping that is costly to the government and to business. There are squads of government auditors who investigate the sales tax, income tax, foreign exchange and war contracts. Now comes a new set of wage and price regulations, again requiring an investigation and policing staff. There seems no end to the burden on business—and the drain on the supply of qualified auditors.

An Italian Peace Movement

The current issue of the magazine "Free World," published in New York, carries the text of a peace manifesto prepared and disseminated by an organization of Italian patriots, who convened "somewhere in Italy" in secret meeting in October. In striking contrast the belligerent attitude of Mussolini it demands an immediate separate peace with Britain, Russia, and all nations which are fighting Fascist aggression. This document, according to "Free World," is being distributed throughout Italy, France and Switzerland, and is producing definite results. It condemns Mussolini's policy, which it declares has resulted in six years of uninterrupted war for Italy. It denounces Fascist aggression in Ethiopia, Spain, Albania, Greece and Russia. The New York magazine quotes this passage from the text of the manifesto: "The menace of a winter of intensified military operations in the Mediterranean is hanging over us. We must not lose one second in building the Italian people's union around the following programme." This programme is summarized in seven points as follows:

- 1. Denunciation of the pact of alliance between Hitler and Mussolini.
2. Immediate separate peace with Great Britain, with Soviet Russia and with the other countries attacked by Fascism.
3. Withdrawal of the Italian fighting and occupation forces from Russia and from all other fronts.
4. Ousting of the Hitlerian oppressor from Italy.
5. Ousting of Mussolini from power.

- 6. Freedom of the press, of organization, of speech.
7. Restoration to the Italian people of their sovereign right to give themselves government which responds to their will and their interests.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A tragedy at our door creates a much greater sensation than Hitler's fiendish barbarity the other side of the Atlantic.

The new Premier of British Columbia is en route to Ottawa with his attorney-general to straighten out the Income Tax trouble between his government and that of the Dominion.

Cadet corps are being formed all over England to train girls for the services. They learn like O. T. C. boys, military map reading, drill, car maintenance and routine work which will enable them to become efficient members of the women's auxiliary forces.

The Provincial Premiers meet with Finance Minister Ilsley at Ottawa on Thursday for final discussion of the Income Tax and Corporation Tax proposals. It is expected all the provinces will agree to vacate these revenue fields in return for a quid pro quo in the shape of subsidy or otherwise.

The mother of the new Minister of Justice was Irish, and when a child Mr. St. Laurent used to speak English when addressing her, but French when speaking to his father, and so at first did not know there were two languages. He says: "I just thought there was one way to talk to my father and another way to talk to my mother." How natural, even where there is only one language!

Izaak Walton, English author and angler, died this date, 1683; after retiring as a linen draper, started touring country parsonages; wrote several admirable biographies, including that of Donne, but his masterpiece is "The Compleat Angler," a dissertation on angling interspersed with entertaining reflections on life and nature; among his choice friends were Michael Drayton, Ben Jonson, and Sir Henry Wotton: "Of this blest man let this just praise be given, Heaven was in him before he was in heaven."

London auction sales for the benefit of various war charities have been reaching a status where it seemed that the bidders were not trying to obtain an article at minimum but at maximum price. A climax was reached the other day when Sarah Churchill, who has joined the W. A. A. F., and her husband, Vic Oliver, both of the Comedy Theatre, auctioned off a miscellaneous lot for the benefit of the R. A. F. Benevolent Fund. On that occasion a carton of 100 cigarettes brought \$210, and eight bottles of whisky were knocked down at the same figure. After the happy owners had carried away their purchases, a less "fortunate" bidder got a small basket of fruit, eggs and ham for \$55.

At the Scottish Servicemen's hostel, "Caledonia," at Hyde Park Corner, largely attended by Canadians, the executive committee are laying their plans already for giving the Scottish sailors, soldiers, and airmen, who will be visiting or staying there at the time a traditional Christmas, Hogmanay, and New Year fare. They hope to have the customary Christmas tree, with the tree provided from a Scottish nobleman's forest, and perhaps venison from the same source, and it is proposed to bring in the New Year with a lively festival. The hostel continues to draw an increasing number of soldiers and Servicemen generally of Scottish nationality every day and evening, and like most Servicemen's hostels of the kind, it is conducted in accordance with the War Office regulations as to minimum prices charged for meals, and the catering is on strict temperance lines.

In October a total of 550,000,000 pounds of agricultural products valued at \$60,000,000 had been delivered to the British Government for shipment under provisions of the Lease-Land Act report the Department of Agriculture of the U. S. A. The Surplus Marketing Administration reported that the food and other agricultural commodities delivered to the British from the beginning of operations in April up to Nov. 1 amounted to more than 2,200,000,000 pounds. Cost of the commodities, delivered at shipping points during this period, was just under \$250,000,000. The steadily increasing flow of food to Britain reached a rate of \$2,000,000 worth a day during October. This represented nearly 20,000,000 pounds of agricultural shipments daily. Purchases are being made daily to provide for large continuing supplies of the American farm products which are so vitally needed across the water. U. S. have agreed to furnish one-fourth of Britain's animal protein needs during the months ahead, as well as a number of other agricultural commodities. Rates of purchase and of shipment will be in line with these commitments.

A defeat of the British declare many people, is unthinkable. In one sense, says the Gazette, this is true. Nazism is something to which a man cannot submit; nothing—not horror, not hunger, not death in any form—will give it permanent victory over any civilized country except perhaps (and even this is uncertain) its native Germany. But this truth is not necessarily a cheerful one. To say "we lose every battle but the last" is cold comfort when the last battle is not fought for eight or ten generations. This is not what the easy optimists mean by "unthinkable." They mean "too unpleasant to be contemplated," and so they do not contemplate it. They prefer their optimism. They like what Gilbert Keith Chesterton called "the easy speeches. That comfort cruel men."

They put red V's on the windshields of the autos in which they drive along at a mile a minute; they call a well-paid Government job "war service"; they argue "Canada is already doing all she can afford." When they say, after all this, that defeat is "unthinkable," they are still telling the truth—but the burden of that truth is not theirs.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A man who could recall the bombardment of Beirut by British warships in 1882 plotted the first British warship to enter this harbor following the Military Convention between the Allies and Vichy troops. He is the 94-year-old Ibrahim Bahagi, and he speaks of the relief of the Syrian population at the arrival of the Allies. At the end of the last war he was regularly piloting British warships in and out of the harbor.—India Information.

Many men who would otherwise have responded eagerly to the recruiting appeal have apparently been held back by uncertainty as to the security of their civilian employment. No one could relish the prospect of coming back from the wars only to find somebody else who was turned down for the army or who did not even volunteer, solidly entrenched in the old job with no intention whatever of giving up or for such men this word from Ottawa is clear and definite. Stop worrying. Step out in a uniform. The jobs will be there. This country does not propose that those who serve her in this hour of need will be forgotten after the war.—Regina Leader-Post.

The Germans have much to be angry after the terrible battering the R.A.F. has given them, and the Germans are a revengeful people. Long dark nights will give the members of the opposition one more of assaulting our cities with fire and high explosives. Fortunately our leaders are awake. Mr. Morrison's new compulsory fire-watching is a better idea than necessary stroke. It will ensure our A.R.P. services are fully manned for the ordeals they will surely have to face. It will be successful, if it commands the full and whole-hearted co-operation of every citizen.—Sunday Chronicle (London).

The engineer's prints, without which Britain could not produce a single battleship, tank, or airplane, or even the smallest nut and bolt, are being consigned to the "trash heap." The traditional "blueprint" is gradually being replaced by papers giving diagrams in black, blue or brown on white, instead of white on blue. The new prints, made by the dyeline process, are positive instead of negative. They can not only be produced much more quickly and in a smaller size, but they are clearer, less subject to fading, so helping the thousands of women and other inexperienced in war production. Moreover, the paper does not shrink, as does the "blueprint" or ferro paper, and the designs are therefore more true to scale. Another advantage to the semi-skilled.—British Industries Bulletin.

One of the latest R.A.F. stories concerns a suggestion by Goering that they fly over London and inspect the damage done by their bombs. They took off in a plane before dawn with an escort of fighters. Goering and his staff were soon fast asleep. Hitler soon fell asleep. He awoke at dawn and saw below him a devastated city, with not a single building upright. "Wonderful," he said, "wonderful." Goering—who replied: "Sh, go back to sleep. That was Hamburg."—Victoria Times.

Between the Canadians who want to see how things are being done in Britain and the Britons who want to see what Canada is doing, it is no wonder that the transatlantic liners and bombers are kept busy. Brockville Recorder and Times.

In the world today are some 4,500,000 prisoners of war. Soldiers out of luck who have been taken prisoner. Because most of the prisoners of war are young men, the Young Men's Christian Association has gone to their aid, just as the Association has sought to meet the needs of young men the world over, since it was founded. The work is reciprocal. The conductors of prisoners of war in Germany unless work is done for the prisoners of war in Canada. Consequently, whatever the Y.M.C.A. does for prisoners in one country, it tries to do in another. It is now providing athletic equipment, musical instruments, etc and literature for British prisoners. In a single party chase is provided \$10,000 worth of athletic equipment for British prisoners in Germany. It establishes educational classes in the camps and promotes religious work. Because of the work for German prisoners in Canada, the number of neutral Y.M.C.A. secretaries who can work for the British and Canadian prisoners in Germany has been redoubled.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

Being conductress of a bus is not a romantic job, but a hard week made clear. Here is an authentic story: During "rush" hour a few days ago, the conductress was detained on top taking fares, and by juries on and went inside. Shortly afterwards an inspector arrived. He found that the boy, through no fault of his own, had not yet paid his fare. The conductress, coming down the stairs, received an undesired "telling off" by the inspector. She reminded him that she could not be in two places at once. His temper became roused and he threatened to "report" her, whereupon she rounded upon this limb of officialdom and said: "Here's the tickets" (putting them into his hands); "here's the money" (taking off her satchel); and finally: "Press the bell and the bus is yours!"—Birmingham Mail.

In 1574, during the struggle of the Dutch against the Spanish, the city of Leyden withstood a long and grim siege. The following year a reward, William of Orange of the people of Leyden the choice between paying no taxes over a period of years and a university. They took the university and developed into one of the great European seats of learning, week.

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Bagpipe Barrage Blasts 'Em

(Stratford Beacon-Herald)
Now it can be told—Pipe Major Robert H. Sim of Chicago, late of the Gordon Highlanders, ascribes the British victories in Africa to the inspirations given the Scottish regiments in service there by their bagpipes. The claim was made as the Pipe Major sounded the pipes at the annual celebration by the Illinois St. Andrew's Society.

Declared the pipe: "The pipes when well played are very musical, and for martial music can't be beat. The bagpiper is the idol of his regiment and leads the men into battle."
We feel that Pipe Major Sim has proclaimed a great truth right there, a truth which ought to be more widely understood. Credit has already been given to the Australians, New Zealanders and South Africans for the successes in the Dark Continent. Now the Scots and their Piper take a bow.

Not being schooled in the finer points of bagpiping, we cannot speak concerning the musical qualities of the tunes. The martial spirit, however, is unmistakable. A Scottish regiment always marches better to the shrill o' the pipes. So does an Irish regiment, beforral! An English regiment may prefer a brass band, but it too will follow the piper on occasion—at a discreet distance.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War
"We have to call upon the nation for a further degree of sacrifice and exertion."—Winston Churchill.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE

Sir,—May I, through the columns of your paper, address a word to our business men, at this particular season of the year, when the greatest feast of the Christian world, that of Christmas, is approaching. There can be no question in the mind of anyone that the present world war which is being waged is one in which the contending forces may be symbolized, as Liberty versus Slavery.

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