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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1941.

Canada's War Budget

The war budget delivered in the House of Commons yesterday by Hon. J. L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, is aptly described as "the most drastic and far-reaching programme ever laid before a Canadian Parliament." Canadians will not object to that. We are today facing the "most drastic and far-reaching" situation ever confronted by the peoples of the British Empire. We expect that Canada will play a major part in this war; and to do so we expect that the resources of this country will be tapped to the fullest extent. The Government, Mr. Ilsley says, has adopted the policy of drawing the necessary revenues from those best able to supply them.

Among the surprises of the Budget is the announcement that the Dominion Government will take over the entire field of income taxes, both personal and corporation, for the duration of the war, and will grant in return to the Provinces "an amount equal to their collections from these taxes in the last fiscal year, or the net service on their provincial debt less revenue obtained from succession duties during that period."

To the taxpayers, this change will not be of importance. Instead of paying provincial and federal income taxes, the Dominion tax will be doubled in the lower brackets (that's where we all are, isn't it?) and the provincial tax will be wiped out. The change will not be welcomed in Ontario and Quebec, where the bulk of the high-bracketed income taxes are paid; but that simply means that the revenue these Central Provinces have been deriving from all over Canada, through personal and corporation income taxes, will go into the federal treasury for war purposes. That, in effect, was what the Sirois Commission recommended. The agitation against adopting the Sirois Report was led by Premier Hepburn of Ontario. The Dominion Government has in yesterday's Budget, found other means of effecting the same end.

Other measures include increases in the national defense tax, excise taxes on automobiles, busses, beer, malt, wine, cosmetics and toilet preparations, sugar, corn syrup and other products, as well as a new federal succession duty, a three per cent gasoline tax, a tax on railway, bus and air line tickets, on motion picture tickets, etc.

There should be no necessity for emphasizing the necessity of tax increases. Provided the Government utilizes the revenue to the best possible advantage in aid of Great Britain in this year of supreme crisis, there can be no objection. Indeed, our taxes are but a small part of what we shall be expected to carry.

Mr. Ilsley warned that very much larger amounts would be required this year in the way of war loans. "We must be under no illusions," he said on this point. "Amounts such as the government, as the instrument of Parliament and the people, is compelled to ask for are not likely to be oversubscribed on a Monday forenoon, and they will be obtained only if there has been most careful organization, and the most persistent and energetic promotion, and if there is a determined will in the Canadian people to place their savings at the disposal of their government for the prosecution of the war."

As an illustration of the mounting expenditure required for war purposes, Mr. Ilsley pointed out that for the first quarter of this calendar year, our war expenditures were five times the figure for the same quarter of last year, and at the rate of more than $1,000,000,000 annually.

On the other hand, the greatly increased volume of business activity has resulted in an estimated increase in national income for the calendar year 1940 of $600,000,000, $348,000,000 of which was in salaries and wages. It is expected this year that purchases from the United Kingdom for all purposes will reach the staggering figure of $1,500,000,000. Under the stimulus of these purchases, it is estimated our national income in the fiscal year 1941-42 will rise $950,000,000 above the 1940 figure.

These astronomical figures give some idea of the extent to which we are involved in the war struggle. But only in part. Our manpower will be required as well as our financial resources. We should be thankful to be living in a land as yet untouched by the ravaging hand of war. Our homes are inviolate; we pursue our normal course as if we were living in the piping times of peace. If yesterday's Budget serves to awaken us to the realities of the situation that is facing our kinsfolk in the Old Country, it will have achieved even more than the fiscal returns anticipated by Mr. Ilsley.

Agriculture Blames Mr. King

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture in its official organ "Agriculture Is Saying", carries trenchant comment by the President, Mr. H. H. Hannam, on a subject of prime interest to every farmer in this Province. We quote Mr. Hannam's statement in full:

"It is now disclosed that Prime Minister Mackenzie King wrote in January to the Premier of Prince Edward Island saying, 'In a sense, through the loss of markets in continental Europe, the Canadian farmers have become casualties of the present war.' And the publication which is recognized as the official voice of Canadian business interests (Canadian Business, published by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce) has a very good article in the current issue stating that 'Agriculture is Canada's first major war casualty on the home front.'

"With the Prime Minister and members of his cabinet, Canadian businessmen and Canadian farmers all agreeing that agriculture is a war casualty it must be a fact. The question then is 'Why.' Mr. King gives one reason: loss of markets in continental Europe. Let us be frank about it. Loss of European markets is only one part of the reason. The other part is neglect of agriculture in national policies of the present government headed by Rt. Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King. The first is, of course, beyond our control. The second, however, is entirely within our power in Canada to remedy if we would face it.

"The Canadian people are providing the Federal treasury with the largest tax budget in the history of this Dominion. That huge budget to finance our war program is responsible for the comparative prosperity of industry and labor. If the Federal government would use a small part of that budget to finance agricultural production, as they are financing other war industry, agriculture would not be a casualty. In reality then agriculture is a Dominion government casualty rather than a war casualty."

EDITORIAL NOTES

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Provincial Committees for recruiting are to be appointed—at length some show of encouragement from Ottawa, where hertofore "pooh-pooh" has been the watch word.

* * * *

Canadian Gunner Leo Leach, now manning a British long-range gun somewhere along the English coast, writes home that Dover landladies are advertising, "Nice Rooms. Every Convenience. Facing the Enemy."

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The British Post Office now announces that letters and printed papers posted in Britain between March 13 and 17 for Canada and Newfoundland have been lost by enemy action. Parcels and magazines posted between March 10 and 14 for Canada and Newfoundland also have been lost.

* * * *

Australia's Bren factory came into production early in the year. The first gun made was hurried to a meeting of the Federal Cabinet in Sydney for inspection. Others were inspected by the Army chiefs. The Lithgow Small Arms Factory, where they are made is proud of its achievement. Unlike Canada, which imports many component parts from England, Australia makes every part in her own workshops.

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An interesting dietary experiment by Opportunity Clubs in Melbourne is showing remarkable results. A group of 52 school children from Collingwood (a poorer suburb) have gained an average of up to 3lb. in weight, and also improved their school work, after a three months' course of the Oslo meal —a balanced ration which consists of fruit, milk, wholemeal bread, butter, and a portion of processed cheese.

* * * *

James Montgomery, Scottish poet and hymnwriter, died this date, 1854. He was prolific in his writings, and, to this day is one of the most oft quoted minor poets. Of the heroes of the war of a century ago he said:

Gashed with honourable scars,
Low in glory's lap they lie;
Though they fell, they fell like stars,
Streaming splendours through the sky.

How descriptive of present-day aerial fatalities.

* * *

Production of creamery butter in March amounted to 12,346,048 pounds compared with 9,958,973 in February and 10,526,374 in March, 1940, while the output during the first quarter of 1941 totalled 34,032,380 pounds as compared with 30,125,383 in the like period of 1940, a gain of 13 per cent. Factory cheese production in March amounted to 1,459,887 pounds compared with 958,556 in February and 2,793,160 in March, 1940. Output during the first three months of 1941 totalled 3,528,790 pounds compared with 6,430,193 in the same period of 1940 a drop of 45 per cent.

* * * *

This is from The Eastern Chronicle, New Glasgow: "A good example of the futility of radio advertising was instanced at the curling banquet a few evenings ago. Said a speaker in referring to the good-fellowship of curling, 'It's friendship in a cup as they say on the radio of Maxwell House coffee.' Seated not far away was a Chase & Sanborn traveller and his eyes fairly popped. For that's the phrase that accompanies Chase & Sanborn coffee. The Maxwell House slogan is 'Good to the last drop.' The inference is that radio advertising does not make the permanent impression that setting it down in cold print does. These coffee slogans have been on the air for years and failed to impress themselves."

* * * *

Dr. W. P. Percival, director of Protestant Education for the Province of Quebec has written a book entitled "Life in School" in which he says: "The commandments given by the lawgivers of old are not learned only in parrot-fashion in the modern classroom. In the dealings they have with one another, children soon begin to appreciate their practical significance. The gravity of such dicta as 'Thou shalt not kill' (by word or deed), 'Thou shalt not steal' (morally or physically), 'Thou shalt not bear false witness,' is perhaps slowly but none the less surely apprehended. Though children use fitting means to teach these lessons to one another they are not always ultra-kind in the selection of their methods of instruction. It is often necessary for teachers to point to the two supreme commandments of Jesus and to set the example of honoring the divine law and loving one's neighobr as himself. These principles are not taugh to children in a day. Tender nursing is needed as the moral and social consciousness unfolds.'

NOTES BY THE WAY

Farmers have the bonus—manufacturers have the tariff—civil servants have a pension—members of parliament have the indemnity. What do the consumers have? Taxes, brother. — London Free Press.

As a means of saving cloth the cuffs on trousers are being omitted by British tailors, and that no doubt will make cuffless trousers the right thing. But so long as men aren't compelled to give up their pockets they won't worry much about their clothes. — Ottawa Journal.

Canada has shut down on further exports of timber and wheat to Yokohama. The fact will act like a jolt on the merchants of Japan who do not favor the Axis tie-up. Japan will enjoy the situation still less when all the implications of a loss of trade are realized. — Vancouver Sun.

With the success of the famous Swiss hotel schools as an example, the Quebec Government has just concluded an interesting experiment as part of its policy to do everything possible to encourage the tourist industry within that province. According to Quebec Tourist Bureau officials the first rural hotel school to be held in America has been an outstanding success. So much so, in fact, that other schools of this nature are being considered, and the movement may spread to every district in the province. — Ottawa Journal.

Standardization has its place and has greatly helped along mass production and so has probably brought the comforts of modern civilization to many who would not otherwise have enjoyed them. But there are limits. Take, for example, the two Sault young ladies who looked so much alike that they were usually taken for twins. When, however, one observer remarked that this must be the case, a friend explained the situation. "No", he said, "they are not twins. They just patronize the same beauty parlor." —Sault Ste. Marie Star.

An officer of the mercantile marine just back from Australia declares that the reputation of this country has never stood so high there. He had only to appear in his uniform in the streets of the port cities to receive invitations to lunch, dinner, picnic parties, motor runs, and other forms of hospitality. The pride of Australians in the Old Country in the stand it is making is unbounded and veryy touching. — News of the World.

Often in England's wars the identity of her troops is not known until the histories are being written. But it has become tradition in Empire history to know that wherever there is fighting, there will be found the sons of Scotland. Their glories never seem to diminish. The sons repeat in bravery the deeds of the fathers. While the present campaigns on the fields and in the mountains of Greece are wrapped in confusion, and the final result will not be known for days and perhaps weeks, we know full well that the Scots are present. — Boston Post.

Amherst, Nova Scotia, a town of less than 8,000 inhabitants, has probably given more notable men to Canadian public life than any other place of similar size: three Fathers of Confederation, including Sir Charles Tupper who became premier of the Dominion; Hon. E. N. Rhodes, who became premier of Nova Scotia and Canadian finance minister; Hon. J. L. Ralston, who also held the federal finance portfolio and is now minister of national defense; and Mr. Loring Christie, who was Canada's minister at Washington until ill-health forced him recently to seek leave of absence, in the death of Mr. Christie Canada loses one of her foremost career-diplomats. — Toronto Star.

For the present, Soviet Russia is the one political unit to gain from the war without any trouble at all. By bargaining with Germany they have enriched themselves in the west at the expense of five separate states that were previously independent; by bargaining with Japan they are likely now to be able to enrich themselves in the east. The Japanese are said to be offering them the whole of the island Sakhalin, half of which is at present Japanese and half Russian; and they have also an excellent chance of being able to share in a partition of China. — London Tablet.

Jean Gabin, the French cinema star, arrived in New York the other day, with plans for making a picture in Hollywood. Despite reports from Vichy that French citizens living outside France are to be made responsible for their acts and words, M. Gabin had much to say. Petain he admires, but "Laval. He will be killed. Only wait. Perhaps they get him in Paris, perhaps in the country. But he will be kiled." Asked how the populace felt toward England, he said. "We are both pro and anti-British. Those who are pro-British say each night in their prayers, 'Please God, let the gallant British win quickly!' Those who are anti-British say in their prayers, 'Please God, let those dirty British win right away'!' — Baltimore Evening Sun.

Railroad switch-engine crews and freight train engineers are going around these days wearing that hunted look and are given to starting at the slightest sound, particularly if the sound is a ticking, like a clocks. Seems the claims prevention men are one up on them. It used to be that the annual damage to freight in transit amounted to more than $100,000,000. Now it's down to about $20,000,000 and still on the toboggan. Much of the credit is due to a device got up by the claims men. It is called an impact register and the switch crews speak no good of it. No larger than a portable radio, the register keeps track of the engineer; if he shunts a boxcar too vigorously or plays crack-the-whip out on the main line when he starts his train the new gadget records all the details. It prints a tape and operates something like a seismograph. Inquiring into the workings of the device, we were told that it is likely to be crated to resemble ordinary merchandise and hidden among other boxes in a shipment—not in every shipment, but the engineer doesn't know whether it's there. — From the Chicago News

Britain Sees It Through

Capital And Labor Both Trust Bevin

Each Feels Its Rights Will Survive War Disruptions.

PAUL A. TIERNEY— War Editor, New York Pos
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(The second of two articles on the relations between capital and labor in Britain).

Britain is short of labor. Male unemployment virtually doesn't exist. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labor, now proposes to begin wholesale transfers of the employed from unessential industries to wartime jobs, and has begun the creation of corps of workers who are to be moved from town to town wherever the need is most pressing.

Under such circumstances, one would expect wages to go soaring. But they don't. They have risen only moderately and for the most have been held down close to the levels established early in the war.

This strange willingness of workingmen to forego a chance to boost their wages seems to be due to two main causes.

First, the government is also holding down living costs by preventing profiteering in food, clothing, rents and other essentials, thus far, the government has been able to preserve for the workingman a balance between income and outgo.

But the second reason is the more important. It is this:

British labor is afraid of the long-range results of a wartime wage boom.

The basis of this fear is easy to understand. During the World War, wages went rocketing. Everyone had a pocket of money. Everyone had a silk shirt. The millennium was at hand.

The Aftermath

But it didn't last. When the war stopped, so did industry. By 1920 unemployment was terrific. A second crisis came in 1925, and a third in 1931. In short, the World War brought labor big money; the aftermath of the World War brought labor acute distress.

Consequently, the leaders of British labor today are willing to try a new course—a course designed to avert a post-warpanic by preventing a wartime boom. No one is absolutely sure the new plan will work, but everyone is sure the old method was horrible in its results.

So the British workingman, like the British business man, has been sold the idea of attempting to maintain stability through the war and after it. As the business man has accepted rigorously controlled profits, so the worker has accepted stabilized wages, both of them hoping that avoidance of wartime excesses will be helpful in cushioning postwar shocks.

It wasn't so difficult for labor leaders to persuade their followers to agree to such a program.

They Fear Inflation

British labor today fears inflation The fear is genuine because labor is a heavy investor. By that I mean that the British working classes have accumulated by now a huge money interest in the government's social services—things like old age pensions, unemployment and health insurance, and similar funds.

Insurance in private companies is less widespread in Britain than in the United States. The common people depend more largely on their investments in the social services of the government. Thus every man and woman who looks toward an old age pension wants to protect the purchasing power of that pension. No one wants to come of pension age only to discover that price levels have shifted so greatly that the pension won't buy as much as he had thought it would.

This anti-inflationist sentiment among workmen has a close relationship to several other phases of the wartime setup between capital and labor.

In the opinion of Labor Minister Bevin, for example, opposition to inflation is one of the basic reasons for the general acceptance of compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.

Labor's experiences since the last war, Bevin is sure, have made labor more mindful of the long-range consequences of strikes, more interested in the long-range welfare of an industry than in immediate wage increases.

Plan to Continue Arbitration

The government, he explains, has asked labor to stick on the job and has guaranteed labor security on that job, plus earnings of assured buying power. By accepting such arrangements, labor has indicated that its prime interest is security for the long pull. Therefore Bevin is confident that after the war neither labor nor capital will want to abandon the principal of compulsory arbitration.

Incidentally, it may be pointed out here that the Labor Minister believes continued compulsory arbitration will have continued beneficial results for both sides.

"For one thing," he told me, "it will bring up a different type of negotiators or both sides—men who will be negotiators rather than fighters; men who will take a long view of the probem confronting them. Employers who have to negotiate enter the conferences in a new spirit, because a settlement has to be reached. Labor unions are represented by cooler heads—not the kind I was in my younger days when I was fighting on the picket lines.

Whatever the ultimate results of the new system may prove to be, labor has made certain immediate gains, which are due to Bevin's unique position. Not only is he head of the Transport and General Workers Union with its 800,000 members, but he is, aside from Winston Churchill, the most powerful figure in the government itself, a member of the inner War Cabinet of five members, which makes every important decision relative to the conduct of the war.

Labor "Won't Change Sides"

For the first tme, then, labor is represented by a man who is actually labor-minded, which was not quite the case during the Prime Ministry of Ramsay MacDonald, the man who abandoned his program when he came into power.

Bevin will not discuss MacDonald but perhaps one of his favorite expressions gives a clue to his sentiments:

"Labor," he asserts, "will never change sides just to prove to somebody that it is impartial."

Thus it is difficult to imagine Bevin ever going into the House of Lords, or even being swept off his feet by honors bestowed by the Tory proup.

The sacrfices labor has made for the period of the war have been pretty thoroughly safeguarded.

Labor unions have temporarily waived their two greatest assets: their jurisdiction over many types of work, and the right to call strikes.

Rights Backed by Law

In return, they have received something they never possessed before—recognition of their rights, not as a matter of contract between union and employer, but as a matter of national law.

Every time a labor union has waived a right, it has been permitted to file with the Labor Ministry a stipulation to that effect. These stipulations are now recognized by the national government as unchallengeable proof of definite rights which labor possesses. Finally, the national government not only recognizes those rights but is committed to restore and uphold them when the war is over.

Trades unionosm, for the first time in British history, is today an integral part of the British governmental system.

With that solid gain, British labor makes its present sacrifices and throws its whole-hearted effort into the winning of the war.

TO PROTECT SHRUBS FROM CATS AND DOGS

Flowers and shrubs in gardens and porches can be protected against damage by cats and dogs by the simple use of a dilute nicotine sulphite spray. The spray is harmless but the smell is very offensive to these animals, even when applied so thinly that persons are unaware of its presence.

Nicotine sulphite may be bought at any seed or drug store and should be used at the rate of one-half teaspoonful to a gallon of water. The spray evaporates and should be renewed after rain. In ordinary weathere, spraying every two weeks is sufficient.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR

"There is nothing to be gained by not looking ugly facts in the face. Ebb and flow must always mark the tide of war, but I am confident that Britain will in the end not go down before so vile a thing as the Nazi system has shown itself to be." — Lord Halifax.

The Poets' Corner

SPIDER'S CASTLE

High in his house of silk and silver
The bloated mottled ogre waits;
He has no ears, but he will feel
The first knock at his airy gates.
—Alas, frail traveller of the sky!
Herein is death: be warned; pass by.

Night-long in dreams spun of unreason
I journey far and perilous lands
That never knew a human foot
And were not shaped by human hands—
Cities fantastically made
With silver walls and roofs of jade.
Wearily I range on forever
Westward, and seek, and never find:
Whatever are the dwellers there
I know they are not humankind.
I feel that I am watched, and know
Eyeless are they that track me so.

Always at last the only ending!
A tall door pierced as fine as lace,
Through whose transparency I glimpse
The icy purple-blue of space.
The door is on the latch: I stand
And have half-lifted up my hand . . .

No sound, no shadow and no motion—
How am I warned to turn again?
Whatever lurks beyond that door
Shall listen and lie in wait in vain.
This house, that trembles at a breath—
These bright walls are the house of death.

—Audrey Alexander Brown in the Winnipeg Free Press

Canada hits her Stride!

With grim determination this young and virile nation dons her armour, buckles on her sword. From coast to coast the tempo of Canada's war effort accelerates. Tanks, planes, shells, foodstuffs, and equipment of every kind are being massed for victory. Canada means business.

Personal sacrifice must match this national effort.

Yours is the duty of providing the dollars so vital to Canada's war needs. Yours is the duty to save. Invest in war savings certificates regularly. Build up your savings account. Save for victory.

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WHY ON EARTH DO THEY DO IT?

... play catch-as-catch-can with the insurable value of their property

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Moral: Have your Insurance situation given the once-over by someone who knows. We'd like to do it without charge.

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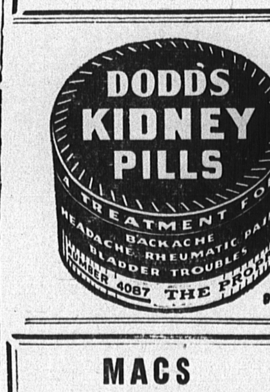

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