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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink.

TUESDAY, NOV. 23, 1943

A Bacon Crisis

According to an Ottawa correspondent, the Canadian Government hasn't a snowball's chance of meeting its contractual obligation in bacon with the United Kingdom during the next contract period unless the agreement is re-written on prices and a clamp is renewed on domestic pork consumption.

This new crisis, which is not devoid of political significance, is pin-pointed by farmer reaction and the fact that within three weeks of the date that quota restrictions were removed on the slaughtering of hogs for home consumption, domestic killings in inspected plants more than doubled.

The issue is before the King Cabinet now, although Agriculture Minister J. G. Gardiner is not expected back from Western Canada until the end of the month. The Cabinet, however, is fully aware of his views and is aware also that the United Kingdom is anxious to obtain Canadian bacon during the next contract term.

Already, it is stated, delivery date on the 1943 contract has been retarded for the simple reason that so many hogs are being channelled into the domestic market. This is one of the consequences of uncertain leadership from Ottawa. For the past two years farmers have been told to go the limit on hogs.

According to farm experts, they believed they have been "had", and their reaction has been to unload hogs and "everything that will market", even though packing plants already are glutted by the heaviest marketing of finished hogs in the country's history.

Losses In Italy

To keep the information from the enemy, the Dominion Government will not issue a cumulative total of Canadian casualties in Italy. As individual casualties occur, the relatives will be notified and the lists will be published. But, there will be no grand total shown.

In Sicily the Canadians lost ten per cent of the effectives, which meant many casualties. Most of these men were wounded, but many were killed or died of wounds.

Since going into Italy the fighting has been harder. The Boche has been putting up a stiff resistance in the effort to check the advance on Rome. It is pleasant to think of going ahead without casualties, but that is not the way wars are fought. The Canadians are losing men. So are all the other units of the British and American formations in Italy. It is inevitable that there must be men killed and wounded as the battle rages.

The enemy would like to know how heavily he is making our side pay for the advances being made. By not publishing the cumulative totals this information can be kept from him.

Pictou Island

A letter published in the Toronto Globe and Mail from a resident of Pictou Island, N.S., revealed a deplorable situation which should call for immediate remedial measures. By this account the 200-odd inhabitants of this little island are a band of forgotten people, who are suffering real hardships from the deprivation of essential services.

The islanders claim that in sending their sons to the fighting forces, in buying Victory bonds and in providing supplies for the Red Cross they have in proportion to their numbers made an ample contribution to the national war effort and they feel sorely aggrieved that their interests have been so persistently neglected and that their requests for the restoration of vital elementary services have so far been treated with contempt.

"We fear that this neglect of small outlying communities is not confined to Pictou Island," says the Globe and Mail. "Just a few days ago a party of three who had been isolated for months with dwindling food supplies at Fort Ross in the Arctic Circle had to be rescued just in the nick of time on a plane through a special expedition undertaken by an intrepid flier. There may be times when grave temporary hardships for small outlying communities are unavoidable, but as soon as they are made known, as they have been in the case of Pictou Island, any serious delay by the authorities in taking appropriate action to mitigate them is reprehensible."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Notes By The Way Crisis In Lebanon

Storm damage suffered by the New Brunswick Telephone Co., Ltd., over last week-end was reported at between \$60,000 and \$70,000. Wire communication via Saint John and this Province was seriously interrupted and had to be routed by cable from the United States.

The British armed merchant cruiser Rowland, formerly a P. & O. liner, was sunk this date 1941 off Iceland by the Nazi pocket battleship Deutschland and another unidentified ship after a magnificent fight, maintained until every gun was put out of action and the whole ship ablaze. The enemy withdrew on the approach of British cruisers after picking up some survivors.

Here is part of the "modest" menu provided for "war working" ladies at the Ritz-Carlton, New York recently: supreme of melon in port wine, boned quab with white grapes, new peas in butter, hearts of endive and beet roots and fine herbs, floating heart ice cream with figs, petit fours, demitasse. It was meatless Tuesday, that is why there was nothing more elaborate.

In this current fiscal year not less than \$5,500,000,000 will be spent by the Federal Government, and present prospects for any substantial cut in this figure for the next fiscal year are not bright. It can be assumed that billion-dollar mutual aid fund will be fully spent, while the high interest bill together with not much less than \$600,000,000 for so-called non-war outlay will when added to another big war program keep the total close to that of the year now more than half past. So there would seem to be little room for an ambitious reconstruction program or even for its discussion in the coming sittings of parliament.

Saint John is to have an active-service pipe band, permanently stationed in the city. Announcement was made by Lieut.-Cmdr. George A. Brown, commanding officer of H.M.C.S. Brunswick, the naval training establishment, that word had been received from headquarters of naval reserve divisions in Toronto that Brunswick's pipe band, for many years on reserve strength, will be taken on active service. It will be the first authorized active-service band with its "home" in Saint John, during the present war at least, and the only naval band of its kind in Canada; in fact, as far as is known, it will have no counterpart in the Empire except the pipe band of the Royal Naval Barracks, at Chatham, England.

Provision has been made under National Selective Service regulations for temporary employment of workers during the Christmas rush period by the post office department and the retail trade. From Dec. 13 to Jan. 5 they may engage women over 44 years of age and men over 59 without first obtaining selective service permit. If it is desired to retain any of these employees after Jan. 5 permits will be necessary. Students and teachers may be employed during the Christmas vacation in post offices or retail stores without permits and in areas where there is no shortage of female employees for essential industries, selective service officers may permit employment of women under 44 years for the holiday season.

There is many an aroused temper in the Scottish clans today, says Saint John Telegraph-Journal. The news has just leaked out that St. Andrew's Day—Nov. 30—will fall on a meatless Tuesday. Which means that the Scots in Canada won't be able to saunter into restaurants and order a choice mixture of leeks, sheep's stomach, beef liver and heart, in the tradition of auld Scotland. The loudest laments come from the Prices Board itself of Ottawa. And consternation has spread from Mr. Donald Gordon—the Scottish-born chairman—down through six MacKenzies, a Dewar, a Leckie, into a raging tumult of MacNabs, MacLennans, MacFarlanes, MacGills, MacIntoshes, MacLeans, MacQueens and MacPhersons. At last report 70 Scotsmen had been discovered in the Prices Board in Ottawa. And rumor has it that something will be done about the haggis situation before Nov. 30. "One way around the restrictions," it is suggested in an Ottawa despatch, "would be to declare haggis a sacred dish. Or an alternative would be to term it 'unfit for human consumption.'"

The Ottawa correspondent of the Montreal Gazette declares the Liberal Government is dreadfully worried over election prospects. The Progressive Conservative organization has properly decided, he says, that the most effective weapon against the C.C.F. is a complete and continuous exposure of what the C.C.F. people plan to do to this country should they attain power. The ultra socialists must be offset by adopting as candidates men with a single eye to the true interests of the country. In the Liberal camp it is different. The Prime Minister at the recent national Liberal gathering did pay attention to what the C.C.F. had done in Ontario, how their program was hostile to a successful prosecution of the war no matter how insistently they denied this charge, but amongst rank and file Liberals there is still too much wringing of hands, too many reflections of the wrong kind of attitude toward a coming battle of the ballots. There is trouble, too, in the C.C.F. ranks. By the very nature of its program and of the kinds of people it is bound to attract to its fold this third party has hot-heads. One of them blew off the lid lately at Calgary and Mr. M. J. Coldwell, national leader, thought it necessary to go west and try to replace the lid, but his attempts to soften the effect of the Winch explosion have not been convincing. The soldiers' vote overseas is carefully watching the attitude of all three parties at home, and will be swinging according to which is considered in the best interests of those now serving at the front when, and if, they return home.

That English gardening expert who declares that "gardeners are bigger than fishermen" must have been reading the seed catalogues.—Saratoga Beacon-Herald.

Irving Berlin, American composer, whose army show has repeated its triumph in London, mingled with the street crowds there and wrote My British Buddy, reported to be a hit. With this song, Mr. Berlin has sought to catch the camaraderie that prevails among British and American troops, and he may thus do as much as any friendly relations between the two countries as diplomacy has succeeded in doing.—Hamilton Spectator

The British knew the offensive against the Afrika Korps would be costly unless Rommel's attention could be diverted. The navy provided four little motor torpedo boats. When the British artillery reached an on-again, off-again sound, as another attack came from behind a smoke screen offshore. Rommel rushed reinforcements to the beach. But the British never emerged from the screen. The ruse was only battle noises amplified from recordings on the M. T. B's. And Rommel's line was greatly weakened when Montgomery hit it hard some miles inland. The story is told by George Palmer and Frederic Sondern, Jr., in the November Reader's Digest.

John Knight of Portland took his call-up papers to the local employer. The clerk looked at the papers, then at John. John was told he wasn't wanted. There must be some mistake. And John, aged 9, skipped home.—Vancouver Province.

Cain slew Abel and thus became the first juvenile delinquent, charges Neil Giles in the November Ladies Home Journal. Delinquency is still wild, he says. "Theft is 'aggravated by the war,' it is 'not caused by the war.' At the same time she quotes J. Edgar Hoover's report that in the last year there were 35 percent more girls arrested for drunkenness, 64 percent more for prostitution, 69 percent more for disorderly conduct and 14 percent more for vagrancy. Nothing is said about the boys. 'I was' N. J., has found that diverting the adolescent from idleness prevents delinquency and that city is treating it as a community problem. It is the business of a woman drill press operator, a poolroom proprietor, the school principal, the Catholic priest and Protestant churches, the department stores and the boys' clubs, even the spinners and bachelors. As a result, Miss Giles says, 'street corners in Newark are beginning to look deserted.'—Exchange.

It's very nice that Joseph Stalin is learning English, the language of allies, inasmuch as the Russians are natural linguists. It's much easier for Stalin to learn English than it would be for President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill to learn Russian—and it takes up the time of only one man. English will be very useful to Stalin in consulting with the Allies during the progress of the war and in conferring with them around the victory table. His knowledge of their language will also be appreciated by the British, the United States and Britain. It is significant that Stalin isn't bothering to learn German. His soldiers are already making themselves perfectly clear in the only language the Nazis really understood—the language of bombs, bullets and bayonets.—Buffalo Courier-Express.

This hard-boiled age often prides itself on being shrewder than preceding ones, but a glib-tongued man who has a trail of rubber cheques, with face value of \$20,000, in Washington, and a lot of worldly faces are red, including that of Ole Olsen, or Olsen and Johnson. Bartrum proved to be a competent judge of human weakness.—Hamilton Spectator.

Natives on one of those south Pacific islands use stone coins up to eight feet in diameter. To work up an appetite one matches a friend for lunch.—Milwaukee Journal.

The suggestion there should be an "old school tie" after the war for members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service was advanced by Miss Doe, sub-dean and canon on Westminster Abbey marking the fifth anniversary of the women's service. "I was at school at Rugby and if I did not wear a collar that renders all ties superfluous I would often wear my old school tie," she said. "There is much to be said for the old school tie, for the more frequently we remind ourselves we are not mere irresponsible individuals, but members of a society whose good name is in our keeping, the less likely we are to make fools of ourselves." You are members of a great society, a team which for the last five years has been building up a tradition of discipline, service and good citizenship," the sub-dean added. "You will still be old members of the A. T. S. after the war, and I should like to think you may wear something corresponding to the old school tie, something outward and visible to remind you of your war-time resolve not to let down the A. T. S."—Exchange.

The country towns of England are often the loveliest part of its honest kersey fabric. One thinks of red roofs, tip-tilted round a Market Place in fat-time of spaniels sleeping in the sun of long, drowsy gardens hidden behind

(Hamilton Spectator) The French, once the great masters of finesse in statecraft, seem nowadays to have a positive genius for doing the wrong thing. The latest exhibition of it has produced very unfortunate results in Lebanon, a little country with less than a million population lying between Palestine and Syria on the eastern littoral of the Mediterranean. Ever since the French, at the close of the last war, were granted mandates by the League of Nations over Syria and Lebanon their Governments have played fast and loose with the national aspirations of these two countries. Britain and France had pledged themselves to promote for mandated countries in this region the establishment of national governments deriving their authority from the free choice of the native populations. The British fulfilled this pledge to Iraq, and the French, while they did nothing to meet the demands of the Syrians for autonomy, did countenance the complete independence of a republic in 1926. However, they procrastinated for 10 years before they regularized their relations with it by a treaty, and then in 1935, just before the outbreak of war, when disturbances broke out in this region, they suspended both the treaty and the Constitution.

When the Vichyite French took control of Syria and Lebanon in 1940, Britain, in co-operation with the Free French, undertook a campaign for the liberation of both countries, and in order to conciliate the native inhabitants promised complete independence to them and aid for Arab unification. After the fall of Damascus Gen. Catroux, the local representative of the Free French, gave explicit pledges, then two separate proclamations that Free France would terminate her mandates and grant Syria and Lebanon the status of independent nations. Further procrastination, however, ensued, and the Lebanese Nationalist Government, assuming the French had reneged on their promise that it had full freedom, proceeded to draft a new Constitution, which, among other things, decreed that Arab should be the official language and that all official posts should be reserved for Lebanese nationals. M. Jean Helou, the resident French representative, then rashly elected to interpret these provisions as a plot against France, and having mobilized some French troops, proceeded to arrest the Prime Minister of other Arab leaders into custody.

But he had no excuse for high-handed proceedings, which were inevitably resented not merely in Lebanon, where some fighting is in progress, but in all the other countries, and produced hostile demonstrations in Egypt against France and protests from other Arab states. The British Government, apart from the fact that it is a co-guarantor of Lebanese independence, could not afford to let such a political crisis ensue and fighting developed in territory which is an important base for the British armies. So it is fully justified in the strong measure, backed by the threat of military intervention, which it has addressed to the French Committee of National Liberation. Under the circumstances the French Committee, even if it so desired, is in no position to stand by M. Helou and so it has despatched Gen. Catroux to Lebanon with instructions to clear up the situation. The Lebanese Nationalist Government conceded, but meanwhile suspicions have been aroused in the Near East about the bona fides of the French Committee, and the hopes of the French Committee for full recognition as a Government have probably received a serious setback.

COINCIDENCE OF WAR MOTTINGHAM, Kent, England (CP)—Two local soldiers, Charles Moore and Henry Spooner who lived on the same street, were wounded and captured in France in June 1940, both had arms and legs amputated and both were repatriated together.

The mellow brick of the High Street's Georgian facade; or, again, of grey hill-side beauties, the "little towns of stone" forgotten in the Western Woods. But a joy to the eye can be a worry to the mind. Hereford has just reminded us in the matter of stone. Just a city of spires set among streams and orchards may be handsome mainly to the eye. Country towns have special problems of administration, amenity, and development. They can be dull and dismal.—London Observer.

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