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

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1943

Mr. King's "Chickens" Come Home

In the debate on the External Policy of the King Government in the House of Commons, Mr. H. C. Green, Vancouver South, scored severely the Prime Minister's disastrous isolation policy which preceded the outbreak of the war. He said the Prime Minister's foreign policy then was that we had no commitments to anyone either Great Britain or any of the other members of the Commonwealth, to the United States or any other nation. Time and again on the hustings and in the House members of the Government stated that policy. And they put it this way, that Canada could be informed by Great Britain what was going on, but she could not be consulted, the implication being that she would be under no obligation to Great Britain or anyone else. Proceeding, Mr. Green said:

"Perhaps the most humiliating situation in which Canada was placed as a result of this non-commitment policy was on July 1, 1938, Canada's birthday, when those of us who were in the last parliament had to sit in the house and hear the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) say that he was unwilling to have Great Britain set up schools in Canada for the training of her airmen, because that would be the equivalent of setting up a foreign military station in this land.

"Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I take exception at once to what my hon. friend has said. If he makes any reference he should make clear that the whole point in connection with schools being established in this country was that the government had no objection whatsoever to the schools being established, so long as their administration was to be under the responsibility of a Canadian minister.

"Mr. GREEN: I have the reference from Hansard before me.

"Mr. MACKENIZE KING: Read them.

"Mr. GREEN: Unfortunately what I have said is correct.

"Mr. MACKENIE KING: No, it is not correct. I have made a statement, and I challenge the hon. member to refute it. The position has been perfectly clear at all times.

"Mr. GREEN: And I may say this, that as an old soldier of Canada I hung my head in shame at the words of the Prime Minister on that occasion, and the manner in which they were said.

"The CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister has denied the statement attributed to him, and has asked for the exact statement.

"Mr. GREEN: I would refer the committee to page 4527 of Hansard for July 1, 1938, where the Prime Minister is reported in this way:

'May I say a word with respect to the idea of having the imperial air force set up flying schools in Canada to train their pilots, in short, a military station put down in Canada, owned, maintained and operated by the imperial government for imperial purposes. I must say that long ago Canadian governments finally settled the constitutional principle that in Canadian territory there could be no military establishments unless they were owned, maintained and controlled by the Canadian government responsible to the Canadian parliament and people.'

"The Prime Minister goes on to say:

'Such domestic ownership, maintenance and control of all military stations and personnel is one of the really indispensable hall marks of national sovereign self-government and an indispensable basis for friendly and effective cooperation between the governments of Canada and those of other parts of the British commonwealth of Nations, including the government of the United Kingdom.'

"At page 4529 of Hansard we find this:

'Mr. Bennett. This is not a military force but a training force.

'Mr. Mackenzie King: I want the house and the country to understand clearly what is being discussed. My reference was with regard to the idea of having the imperial air force set up a flying school somewhere in Canada to train their flying pilots. In short, a military station to be put down in Canada, owned, maintained and operated by the imperial government for imperial purposes.

'Mr. Bennett: Not for imperial purposes.

'Mr. Mackenzie King: It is for imperial purposes. Is it for Canadian purposes?

'Mr. Bennett: Yes, very much so.

"I will leave hon. members to draw their own conclusions.

"Mr. MACKENZIE KING: My hon. friend, were he willing to make the record complete, should have drawn attention to what I said several times, in addition to the particular excerpts he has quoted, and which served to make our position very clear.

"Mr. GREEN: If the Prime Minister wishes to explain his words he will have an opportunity to do so."

Mount Etna

Canadians battling on the plains of Catania in Sicily will find themselves within eighteen miles of one of nature's greatest phenomena—the huge volcano of Mount Etna, now quiescent but by no means extinct. The mountain itself soars to a height of over 10,750 feet and covers 460 square miles. The shape is that of a truncated cone, interrupted on the west by the Valle del Bove, a huge sterile abyss, three miles wide, bounded on three sides by perpendicular cliffs of from 2000 to 4000 feet. Its south-west portion, which is the deepest, was perhaps the original crater. There are also some 200 subsidiary cones, some of them over 3000 feet high, which have risen over lateral fissures. The lower slopes of the mountain are well cultivated and (in peacetime) densely populated. The middle zone consists chiefly of forests of evergreen pines and birch-woods, while the upper part is covered with snow for the greater part of the year. By the end of summer this has almost melted, except for that preserved in covered pits for which it is stored for use for cooling drinks, etc., in Catania and elsewhere. From the village of Nicolosi, nine miles to the north-west of Catania, the summit of Etna can be reached in seven or eight hours; an arduous ascent, best undertaken in summer or autumn. Canadians who may attempt it will be following—at the distance of twenty centuries—in the footsteps of the Emperor Hadrian.

Thucydides mentions eruptions of Mount Etna in the 8th and 5th centuries B.C. The last serious one took place not so long ago, in 1910. In between these dates stretches a long grim record of volcanic disturbances. Catania itself was overwhelmed by an eruption in 1160.

The ancient Greeks believed the mountain to be the one with which Zeus crushed the giant Typhon. Other legends turned it into the fiery workshop of the Cyclopes, and the gateway to the nether regions. The most intriguing story of all concerns the disappearance of the philosopher Empedocles. He is said to have thrown himself into the crater of Etna in the hope that men, finding no traces of his end, would suppose him translated to heaven. But his hopes were cheated by the volcano, which cast forth his brazen sandals and betrayed his secret. It is, perhaps, too much to hope that a similar inspiration will occur to Mussolini!

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Just to think of it! Martinique's automobiles are running freely on a mixture of 10 per cent. gasoline and 90 per cent. rum.

* * * *

The King's new Private Secretary, Sir Alan Lascelles, well knows, and is well known in, Canada, for he was private secretary to Governor General Lord Bessborough, and later, in 1939, accompanied Their Majesties on their tour of Canada.

* * * *

The Australian Newsletter says that many women have been called up for work in canneries in that Dominion, and that those who do not obey the order are liable to six months' jail or a fine of 100 pounds, or both. Either can or be canned, comments the Gazette.

* * * *

The Royal Navy's motto is "Seek out, engage and destroy". By June, 1942, 6,178,681 tons of the 11,000,000 tons of Axis merchant shipping had been destroyed, captured or put out of action by the Royal Navy and the R.A.F. In addition, the Royal Navy had sunk 3 Axis (German and Italian) battleships, 15 cruisers, 62 destroyers, and in conjunction with the Royal Canadian and United States Navies, sunk or damaged 530 submarines. British submarines, alone, have sunk more than 300 enemy supply ships, including many troop ships, and have damaged many more.

* * * *

A quarter of a million documents a week can be handled by the War Office microgram service. Microscopic negatives are made by the microgram units abroad on films of varying length, which are then sent home by air. As a result, official correspondence is speeded up and transmission of such documents as adjustment of allowances to soldiers' dependents, formerly sent by rail and sea, frequently take only as many days as they previously took months. One hundred feet of film may bear the negatives of as many as 1,600 documents in a container which is no bigger than a two-ounce tobacco tin. On arrival at the War Office the films are enlarged at the rate of 1,000 documents an hour.

* * * *

The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Governor-General of Canada, paid an official visit here this date, 1873, when he was entertained at a memorable ball in Government House by the last of the Imperial Governors of this Island, Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson; the two had much in common, Sir William having by "his judicious counsels" brought about our inclusion in the Canadian Confederation; while Lord Dufferin, by his "diplomacy, tact and judgment," paved the way for our admission, allaying any fears of our being absorbed and wipt out as a separate and distinct entity; alas, later his "eloquent speeches" were described by Goldwin Smith as "elegant flummery". But they did the trick at the time.

* * * *

Mr. Graydon correctly insisted that General LaFleche should not refuse to say how much money the National Film Board receives from movie theatres, on the ground that this was contrary to public policy. It is also contrary to public policy that the C.N.R. management is never forced to say what salaries its officers receive—when this question is raised in the Commons Committee. It is essential to democratic Government that every expenditure of the Government—directly or indirectly—which is not actually military in its character should be put before the House of Commons—whenever the House so desires. If Mr. Graydon will stick to this, he will find that it is a thoroughly popular stand.

* * * *

Business men, thinking of post-War plans, should keep in mind, says The Letter Review, that the change from war to peace will be gradual this time. We are finishing this War—not calling it off and giving rainchecks, as in 1918. That means that material and labour for civilian uses will become available long before the War is over in any real sense; that export opportunities will spring up, by degrees, and without waiting for all the elaborate inter-governmental plans which the semi-Fascists in the Civil Service have in mind. Business men should be urgent in watching that the semi-Fascists, who will soon see this danger to their power, do not keep their control of goods and labour any longer than is necessary, in each field.

Notes By The Way

One of the Japanese favorite expressions is going to come in handy in due time—"Very sorry!"—Winnipeg Tribune.

Two jobs for the higher mathematicians; Making out the Canadian income tax returns and counting the returns in an Irish election —Vancouver Daily Province.

Henry J. Kaiser promises $400 automobile, after the war. Yes, but the ambitious young man wants to know the price of a private plane. —London Free Press.

Sixty thousand tons of civilian goods have been sent to Africa, which explains why the retailer in this country is out of a few items. —Indianapolis News.

Our knights of the air in the 8th United States air force in England are now reported to be wearing cuirasses in their raids over Germany. This garment is described as consisting of thin steel plates to protect breast and back, enclosed in a sleeveless jacket that can be discarded instantly by pulling a release cord. One gunner so equipped was hit by a piece of shell and knocked across the plane, but his armor protected him from injury. — Chicago Daily News.

If Canada is prevented by lack of population from taking rank with the great powers, she has, in the last three years, made a place for herself in a category all her won. Relative to her resources her record is second to none. In absolute terms, the distance that separates Canada from the great powers is less than that between her own achievements and that of any other of the smaller nations.—London Ecoomist.

In a letter to Dana Wilgress, Minister to the Soviet Union, Premier Molotoff has expressed his gratitude to the Canadian people for the gift of the ice-breaker Montcalm. The Russian statesmen wrote that it had already been used to good advantage by the Soviet merchant marine. The Montcalm is the ship which beat off three successive attacks from the air on the way to Murmansk. There is something symbolic in the gift and it is to be hoped that the good ship may do its job not only in the physical sence but in the field of national relations as well.

Winston Churchill said recently that he looks forward to an increase in village and country living in Great Britain after the war. From all sections of the United States come reports that city dwellers are buying places of small acreage on the fringes of cities and larger towns. The National Association of Real Estate Boards was reported that steady farm purchasing has increased prices 15 per cent since 1940 and that the trend is still upward. This land buying is a wholesome use for some of the increased income. As new industries develop, factories will locate outside the larger communities. Descentralization is already in process and will increase in momentum as more people learn to appreciate country living. To those unfamiliar with rural land values, it will be well to check with authorities before the deed is passed. The dream of a little place in the country with a few acres of land, a cow, a pig, a garden, and a flock of chickens is cherished by many urban workers. It is a good dream to realize but the transaction should be on a sound financial basis. —Christian Science Monitor.

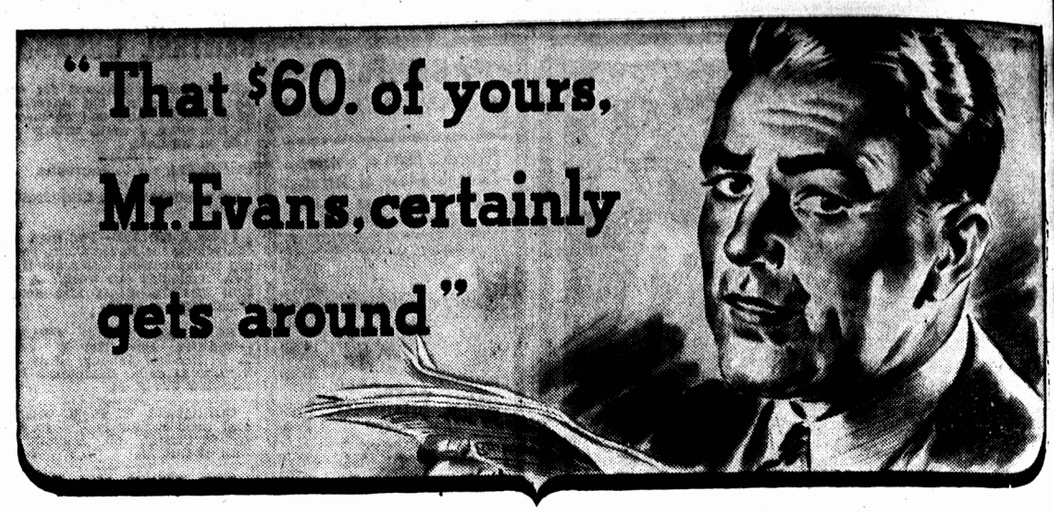
But this year South Albertans are glad they can pay for rain, the rain that comes down from the mountains in the irrigation ditches and is spread on the land. Every few years we get drought conditions — as what part of Canada does not, on occasion. Then we realize how lucky we are to be situated on the eastern slope of the Rockies where topography makes it possible to take the life-giving water from the streams to spread over our farm lands. This year we have well over 40,000 acres of specialized crops which are thriving today because they can be given the water they need to take the place of the rain which hasn't fallen during the season. It is our good fortune that this is so. It should harden our determination to go ahead with the program of water conservation and irrigation extension which has been envisioned for the post-war period. —Lethbridge Herald.

Recently the Toronto board of education passed a resolution urging the government to defer calling up those men doing valuable work in the secondary schools. The problems arising from the loss of these men is no different for secondary schools anywhere than it is in Toronto. If it is wise to prevent them moving to other occupations, even essential war work, by what reasoning can they be drafted to do service in an army isolated from the enemy? Ottawa statesmen could be expected to have a deeper appreciation of an educational system which has produced so well for their voluntary policy. —Toronto Globe and Mail.

Be fair to your service man. Don't ask him questions. Don't press him for information about what he knows, about what he learns, about what he guesses. A senior officer, buying new equipment, mentioned it, with his sailing date, to a lady friend. He is in prison. Another officer writing to his wife, described his arrival at a British port in a convoy of Americans and R. A. F. He was dismissed from the service. An R. A. F. aircraftman has been fined £50 at Bournemouth for careless talk.—London Sunday Chronicle.

New federal regulations provide that a permit must be obtained to employ more than one domestic servant in any one household, the idea being to provide help for women with young children and restrict the demands on the labor market of those maintaining large establishments, says The Australian Newsletter. But so many women have transferred to war work that help is scarce and servants offering choose the easiest situations. Bulletin of the Queensland Bureau of Industry complains the regulations have missed their mark and the result is that "leisured women are providing jobs for leisured domestics."

Charles Conquest of Luton, England, had the last laugh when somebody stripped his small allotment. The thief, in his hurry dropped the equivalent of $40.



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Here's the story, Mr. Evans.

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These assets certainly get around.
Some of them have built docks in the Maritimes.
Some of them have built grain elevators on the prairies.

Some of them have gone into highway building on the Pacific Coast.
For three years, now, most of them have gone to war.

YOU also have a share in Victory, Mr. Evans.
Your insurance companies have put a large percentage of your premium dollars into Victory Bonds *for you.*

They have just bought 160 million dollars worth of the 4th Victory Loan . . . making a total of 600 million dollars invested in these bonds—because they know that you and everybody else in Canada believes that Victory is the immediate business of the whole nation.
Protection is the people's own business.
You, and four million other policyholders are investing in the security that only Victory will bring.
We hope you have bought some bonds, too.
Worth holding on to, aren't they?

IT IS GOOD CITIZENSHIP TO OWN LIFE INSURANCE

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L-30X

Bombed Capitals

(By The Canadian Press)

With the bombing of Rome, 15 European capitals have been subject to air raids since Hitler invaded Poland Sept. 1 1939. Names of the cities, and the dates on which they were first bombed:—

Warsaw—Sept. 1, 1939
Helsinki—Nov. 30, 1939.
Oslo—April 26, 1940.
Brussels—May 10, 1940.
Paris—June 3, 1940.
London—Aug. 17, 1940.
Berlin—Aug. 31, 1940.
The Hague—Nov. 18, 1940.
Belgrade—April 8, 1941.
Sofia—April 13, 1941.
Bucharest—June 26, 1941
Moscow—July 22, 1941.
Budapest—Sept. 5, 1942.
Copenhagen—Jan. 27, 1943.
Rome—July 19, 1943.

Tokyo, capital of Japan, was bombed April 18, 1942.

The harbor district of Athens, capital of Greece, was bombed by the Axis March 14, 1942, but no bombs were reported to have been dropped in the city proper.

C. B, E., O. B. E., M. B. E.

(Stratford Beacon-Herald)

The king's honor list, issued recently conferred several honors that have somewhat puzzled many people. We have been asked to explain the meaning, for example of C. B. E., O. B. E. and M. B. E.

All of these distinctions indicate membership in the British order of knighthood known as the Order of the British Empire. The Order of the British Empire was instituted by King George V in 1917 and is conferred on both men and women for services rendered to the Empire at home or abroad. There are two divisions of the order, military and civil, and each division consists of five classes or ranks:

Highest class —Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (G. B. E.) and Dame Grand Cross (D. B. E.)

Second class —Knight Commander (K. B. E.) and Dame Commander (D. B. E.)

Third class—Commander (C. B. E.)

Fourth Class —Officer (O. B. E.)

Fifth class—Member (M. B. E.)

In the case of the first two classes, men are known as Sir and women as Dame.

The late Sir Edward W. Beatty, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire. There is now no Canadian of the first class of this order.

The Poet's Corner

SONNET

Such, such is Death; no triumph: no defeat:
Only an empty pail, a slate rubbed clean,
A merciful putting away of what has been.
And this we know: Death is not Life effete,
Life crushed, the broken pail. We who have seen
So marvellous things know well the end's not yet.
Victor and vanquished are a-one in death:
Coward and brave: friend, foe. Ghosts do not say,
"Come, what was your record when you drew breath?"
But a big blot has hid each yesterday
So poor, so manifestly incomplete,
And your bright promise, withered long and sped,
Is touched, stirs, rises, opens and grows sweet
And blossoms and is you, when you are dead.

—Charles Hamilton Sorley.
(Killed in Action, 1915.)

Front Line Generals

Action at last for Canada's invasion army fields seven Canadian generals in command of two corps and five divisions. The Divisional Commanders include MAJ.-GEN. G. G. SIMMONDS.

By DOUG. HOW
Canadian Press Staff Writer

The Canadians in Britain know Guy Granville Simonds as a man who got to be a general young and deserved what he got.

He was recognized as one of the army's men of brains long before he became a major-general commanding first one, then another infantry division within comparatively few days. As a sharp, quick thinker who gave able expression to the things he thought, they saw him coming.

He was a major-general at 39, the youngest of his rank in the 1st Canadian Army, one of the three under Lt.-Gen. H. D. G. Crerar in the Infantry Corps. He went to North Africa as a brigadier from the Canadian Army, saw the 8th Army outfox Rommel at the Mareth Line and take Sfax. He came back—beckoned unexpectedly from his observer's post in the battlefield — convinced that the minefield had put infantry ahead of the tank in fighting importance and found himself a divisional commander.

Gen. Simonds is a tall, dark man with an imposing moustache. His accent indicates his English birth. He leaves reporters with the impression of a fully capable man confident of his capabilities. His present wartime rise started from the rank of major.

Born at Ixworth Abbey, Bury St. Edmunds, England, in 1903 he came to Canada as a youngster. He was educated at Ashbury College, Ottawa, and at Royal Military College where he graduated in 1925. He entered the permanent army as an artilleryman.

STAFF COLLEGE TRAINING

Gen. Simonds returned to Britain twice before the war, first for a gunnery course in 1932, later for a course at the Staff College at Camberly. He was attached to Sandhurst and Woolwich after the second course.

He sailed to Britain a third time as General Staff Officer (Grade II) with the 1st Division in 1939. His rise started the following July when he was promoted lieutenant-colonel in command of an artillery regiment.

In December 1940, Gen. Simonds was named Commandant of the first Canadian Junior War Staff Course to be held in England. The he was GSO of an Infantry division, Brigadier of the General Staff Canadian Corps, and held the same job when the Corps became the 1st Army early in 1943.

He took over an infantry division from Maj.-Gen. J. H. Roberts a few months later but shifted to another division on the death of Maj. Gen. H. L. N. Salmon in an airplane crash.

Gen. Simonds likes polo, hunting and writing. His wife and two children, Ruth 10, and Charles, 7, live in Winnipeg.

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