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

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1942.

War Gardens.

The official position of the Government in the matter of war vegetable gardens is set out in a circular signed jointly by the Agricultural Supplies Board and the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. It is this:

"If you have always had a vegetable garden, by all means plant one again this year. If you have not had one before, and have not had previous experience, it is not urged that you plant one this year . . . There is no present necessity for new community or school gardens."

New war gardens, it is emphasized, "would create the demand for equipment such as garden tools, fertilizers, and sprays, which are made from materials needed by Canada's war industries, and because Canada's vegetable seed supply can best be employed by experienced gardeners with equipment on hand . . . . There is enough seed for normal production in 1942, but not sufficient for any wastage whatsoever. Canada must retain some reserve as a safeguard against possible seed crop failure in 1942."

These directions apply to city gardens. For country folks the situation is different: "It has always been expected that rural communities would maintain home vegetable gardens . . . . At this time, to aid in eliminating unnecessary transportation, it is more desirable than ever before that rural communities should be self-supporting in vegetables."

Libyan Allies

Colonel Lawrence of Arabia. were he alive today, would have been interested in the news quoted by a London correspondent, that the powerful Senussi tribe of North African desert fighters are now on our side.

Equipped with suitable arms and trained by British officers, these hardy Arabs are enthusiastically co-operating with our desert forces against Rommel's mixed German-Italian command. In the last war, armed by the Germans who carried supplies to them by U-boats, the Senussi were against the Allies, chiefly because the Italians, who were then, of course, with the Allies, had interfered with their established trade routes through the desert. Now, however, they realize that they are fighting for their desert freedom and against the Italians, whose attitude to the Arab people has incensed them greatly.

The Senussi are one of the most numerous and powerful of the Arab tribesmen, and claim direct descent, through their founder, Sheik Es Senussi, dating back to 1850, from Fatima, daughter of Mahomet.

Has King Disunited Canada?

Under the above heading the Montreal Gazette has a trenchant editorial comment on the plebiscite results, which we quote:

"A Quebec self-isolated from the rest of the Dominion, a Quebec which has to all intents and purposes voted itself out of the company of Allied Nations, with all that such a vote implies—this is the situation which confronts Canada's Prime Minister, and it is his work. While the rest of the Dominion was crying out for total war, while English-speaking newspapers, The Gazette among them, were urging the Government to wage total war and were being abused and vilified for so doing, Premier King was holding to a pledge which during the plebiscite campaign he frankly acknowledged to be restrictive and dangerous. Forced by public opinion to at least clear the way for compulsory overseas military service he devised his plebiscite—and split the country into two irreconcilable camps. With painstaking effort he created a Frankenstein, and it has devoured him.

"With party political eyes always fastened upon this province Mr. King chose to ignore the true voice of the Dominion. He found encouragement in the defeat of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen in South York and in the presumed discomforture of Premier Hepburn of Ontario, who chose to put country before party and endorsed the Conservative Leader. There is no comfort obtainable from those sources now. South York, which was induced—by means with which most people are now familiar —to reject Mr. Meighen, subscribed emphatically to the overwhelming verdict rendered by Ontario on Monday. Premier Hepburn's own riding of Elgin provided one of the largest affirmative majorities registered in the entire province, and Mr. Hepburn has been one of the Federal Prime Minister's most vigorous critics. The voice of Toronto. and of the Province of Ontario generally, is utterly unlike the voice of Quebec to which the ear of the Prime Minister has been so consistently and so thanklessly turned.

"Mr. King's disastrous attempt to protect himself rather than the nation with whose leadership he has been entrusted may prove to have thrown the whole scheme of Confederation out of gear. Secondary, but by no means unimportant results of Mr. King's course, include the embarrassment of such ministers as the Hon. Louis St. Laurent, K. C., Minister of Justice, and the Hon. C. G. Power, Air Minister, able men both of them, real contributors to the national war effort. Some of the mud may cling to them, and through no fault of theirs. The constituencies represented by both these distinguished Canadians gave smashing majorities against the release which the Government asked. They did this notwithstanding the very earnest and eloquent appeals made by Messrs. St. Laurent and Power and despite the cogent arguments which these two Ministers put forward on their responsibility as members of the Government

"And still there is no assurance of total war. Newspapers and public men who have asked for it and urged it, whose position has been vindicated in a national verdict, still have no guarantee that they will get it."

The sentiments expressed by *The Gazette* are in full accord with those voiced editorially in *The Catholic Record,* published in London, Ont., on the eve of the plebiscite. The *Record* says the question is whether the people of Canada "will decide to tear up the Government's promissory note on conscription for overseas service or continue the stupidity of expecting that this Dominion can fight her share in this war with one hand tied behind her back." The curse of the whole controversy, it says, has been "a befogging of the true issue through fear to state the facts brusquely. Lack of complete frankness has approached dishonesty and, under the conditions of the present war, dishonesty is to insincerity as looting is to theft."

The Catholic Record commends the forthright statement of Hon. J. L. Ilsley, warning that the war situation had reached the stage where we may have to move our forces to one or the other of many places if we are to defend Canada effectively and play our part on the common front against a common enemy. "There is every reason to believe," adds the *Record,* "that if this one bit of realism had been fearlessly announced to all the citizens of the country, large blocs of them would not have become the dupes of little, self-seeking politicians. They would not have been deceived by the arguments that Canada could be saved only on the Plains of Abraham after the bombs had smashed the Citadel." The plebiscite controversy, it says, "proves beyond measure that, in time of war, an appeal to the electorate is the wrong way to deal with vital questions. . . .The nation's leaders must command and lead."

The *Record* suggests drily to the King Government that "the first step towards the unity which is indispensable, would be another governmental promise never to put the people of this country in a similar position again, at least when the nation is fighting for its life."

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Think of the sufferings of the English civilians bombarded from the air this week.

* * * *

The Temperance Federation seemingly is very sceptical of doctors who issue medicinal scripts to provide a health tax. It does not seem logical.

* * * *

The roads are now in good condition, but alas, gas and tire restrictions prevent many taking advantage of them. Perhaps the churches will reap the benefit.

* * *

Medical students this year must resume their studies at the various universities with practically no let up, in order to graduate in three years instead of five. The war demands it.

* * * *

We here have no need to complain of shortening of pants by the elimination of cuffs, when we bear in mind that in Britain no boy of fourteen and under may wear shorts longer than three inches above the knee; while the long pant stage has been postponed till he has, at earliest, attained sixteen.

* * * *

Executive Commissioner John A. Stiles, of the Boy Scouts, knows boys and boys' work better even than his great predecessor and preceptor, Dr. James Robertson, of Ottawa, so well and favourably known in this province. Mr. Stiles was the prime mover in raising the number of Scouts in Canada to the 100,000 mark. Psychology has nothing on him in the understanding of how to build up boyhood to be the next generation of manhood.

* * * *

Leonarda da Vinci, Italian painter, sculptor, architect, engineer, poet, mathematician, philosopher and would-be-aeronaut, died this date 1519; one of the real "Supermen" of history; born near Florence; studied art under Verrocchio and was patronized by Lorenzo de' Medici; his "Adoration of the Kings" and "Medusa's Head" are masterpieces; after settling in Milan he painted "Our Lady of the Rocks" and "The Last Supper," besides devising an irrigation scheme for the plains of Lombardy; returning to Florence, he cooperated with Michaelangelo in decorative work, and completed his famous "Mona Lisa"; went to France, designed a royal palace and projected a great canal scheme; left numberless MSS. dealing with anatomy, astronomy, hydraulics, physics, geology, geography, etc., while throughout his life he made eager experiments in the art of flying: "Thou, O God, dost sell unto us all good things at the price of labour."

* * * *

"Catholic organizations ordinarily keep aloof from party politics and contentious secular issues," says The Canadian Register. "Members are left free to act according to their own opinions while the organizations themselves preserve neutrality. Similarly the Catholic press is normally neutral when a great controversial public issue is being decided and no specifically religious issue is at stake. On the question of the plebiscite, however, Catholic organizations have taken a positive stand. In Toronto the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League have joined with forty non-Catholic organizations urging citizens to vote 'Yes.' It may be safely assumed that the authorities of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League did not arrive at their conclusion without taking adequate counsel. This editorial is written to add to the volume of Catholic advice in favor of a 'Yes' vote."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Sound, patriotic, careful men, they are—down in Memphis, Tenn. And so, when the rubber and automobile shortage came along, different groups got together and decided that the family car should be left at home. So the men of Memphis who, hitherto, had driven to work, took the street-cars and the buses and felt all aglow with righteousness while they were doing it. The downtown garage and the parking lots raised a bit of fuss at first but piped down when reminded that this is a time for sacrifice. Streetcar and bus business went way up, as expected. But, strange to relate, at the end of 30 days a checkup was made and it was found that garages, parking lots and parking meters were casting in more than ever. Yes, you guessed it; Mom and the kids were doing the driving! — The Chicago Sun.

This reporter, for one, has now heard enough jokes and beefs about out British allies to last till next Thanksgiving Day at least. Whenever we heard another of these japes, the though goes thundering through the bean that we Americans have been so superior to the British in our conduct of the war to date that we can justly snoot them. The British pulled some awful boners in Malaya and in the short-lived defence of Singapore. But in two and a half years of war, the British have yet to surpass the boner of Pearl Harbor. And according to a broadcast by Martin Agronsky from Australia, a United States fighting ship in one of the early actions off Java found itself trying to struggle along under a Japanese dive-bomber attack with 1930 and 1931 ammunition which had been tested a year before and found to be only 30 percent effective. The Navy is now investigating this charge. Our two countries are in this war together, for better or for worse, and up to the neck. The more energy we refuse to waste in mutual recriminations the more we'll save to spend on the Axis. — Collier's Magazine.

If you have a plot where you can do so, resolve to plant a tree this spring. It has been said that the man who plants a tree confers a lasting benefit to himself and to posterity. Man lives today. Tomorrow he is gone and perhaps forgotten. Trees live on. They are the friends of man and the friends of birds. Each tree has a distinctive personality; each has its individuality — as much individuality as a dog or a horse. Trees outlive all such pets. They ask nothing—they live to give. — Stirling News-Argus.

Last January Churchill asserted in the British House of Commons that, while hesitating to prophesy, he did not think that the Japanese would "undertake a serious mass invasion of Australia"; he believed rather that they would consolidate their rich gains in the East Indies. One writer appears to think that Churchill was just fooling the Japanese. It is pointed out that, as far back as last Christmas Churchill and Roosevelt had decided upon the strategy now being carried out. When Churchill spoke he knew that United States troops were en route to Australia, as also did Curtin while he was crying out for support. From this it is assumed that Churchill was being crafty and hoodwinking the Japanese, which is probable up to a point. Less so, however, is the assumption that the Japanese did and do intend a "serious mass invasion of Australia." — Saint John Telegraph Journal.

One of the acts of the Germans in Paris has been the opening of the safety deposit boxes in the various banks. In one bank was a safe belonging to an old lady in black. The officer in charge said, "May I beg of you Madame, to be good enough to. . ." "Certainly, sir, replied the lady, and when the safe was opened the officer was amazed to see nothing whatever but a shining sword. He turned to the lady who simply said: "That is my late husband's sword. I am the widow of Marshal Foch." The officer turned pale, saluted and withdrew. — Duluth Tribune.

The "boys" were teasing a young car owner. "What do you intend to do about the gas rationing? Can't you get by somehow?" he was asked. "I'll keep the law," was the reply. "But the other fellows will sneak by somehow and you'll be left holding the bag." "I'll keep the law,' was the reply given a second time. We like that attitude. Many people to whom we look for better things forget that gasoline rationing is part of our price of freedom. — Exter Times-Advocate.

Even in these disturbed times, with the Exhibition ground occupied by troops and the "Glorious Twelfth" falling on Sunday, local Orangemen have not lost their enthusiasm for the parade, which will be held on Saturday. This annual demonstration of loyalty would be missed in Toronto, and it is a safe bet that every man in the parade voted "Yes" in the plebiscite on Monday. — Toronto Globe and Mail.

Man's ingenuity has rescued the human race from many a dire predicament in bygone days. We would be pessimists indeed were we to accept as final the impoverishment of our way of life which the seizure by the enemy of so many of our sources of supply threatens to bring about. Other nations and other peoples have proven their ingenuity, their ability to devise substitutes which in many a case have turned out better than the original. — Halifax Chroniole.

James Hilton, the famous English novelist, is one of President Roosevelt's favorite authors. On more than one occasion he has quoted from Hilton's books in his public addresses. Now, in the humorous mood he frequently displays, revealing a fortunate lack of excessive strain from the war, the President has told a press conference that the U. S. planes which the Japanese say have bombed their cities came from a secret base in Shangri La. This is the imaginary, lovely but rather sinister Utopia in Tibet described by Hilton (Who never visited that country) in his "Lost Horizon." Mr. Roosevelt took this method of declaring that he still had nothing to say about the reported air raids on Tokyo and other cities. He would not even confirm that such raids occurred The Japs are certainly kept guessing this time. — Toronto Daily Star.

Yosemite Falls drop 1,439 feet in one sheer fall, a height equal to nine Niagara Falls.

HITLER'S "NEW ORDER"

By Lieut-Col. R. R. Thompson, M.C., V. D., War Commentator For The Canadian Legion

(Continued from Tuesday)

German oppression and mass murders in Poland are on a truly terrible scale. The most fertile agricultural land has already been taken for Germans. During the winter, an average of ten trains a day were filled with Polish peasants, evicted to make room for Germans. After an 18-day journey packed in open trucks, many arrived in Germany frozen to death. Of the remainder many were left stranded in the open to die of exposure and starvation. In each village the Germans appoint a "Committee of Trustees" —the mayor, priest and three others. If the village cannot produce the exorbitant levy of food demanded for Germany, they are sent to special prison camps.

Potatoes, cabbage and onions cost 60 cents per pound in Warsaw. Hundreds die of famine. In Poland Germans have the prior right to all food. Recently, for leaving the Jewish quarter in Warsaw without permission, 15 Jews were hanged. No Pole is allowed to teach in Poland. All but elementary schools have been closed. Scientific instruments and libraries have been stolen by Germany. Most of the professors have been executed or sent to prison camps. At Cracow 300 students of both sexes were arrested, many shot immediately, and others terribly tortured. On one occasion 100 Polish boy scouts were lined up and machine-gunned one by one. The lads were so heroic that even some Germans were ashamed; But they finished their crime. In March, 100 Poles were shot in Warsaw as hostages for the killing of one Gestapo official and the wounding of another. The city was threatened with starvation if it occurred again. Hundreds of priests, Roman Catholic and Protestant, have been executed or sent to prison camps, and cowardly young Nazis have treated gentle old men to the foulest infamies before doing them to death. Since the Germans entered Poland, they have executed 82,000 Poles. In addition, over 30,000 have died in prison camps and it is estimated that in all 3,000,000 Poles have died in battle, by execution, in prison, of disease, or of want. Yet the Poles, fired by their unconquerable national spirit, fight on by sabotage, and now Polish guerillas armed with modern weapons harrass the invaders.

Russia

From German-occupied Russia come similar accounts of wholesale massacres, burnings of homes and other horrors committed by German soldiers. From Norway and elsewhere in Europe we learn that Germans have robbed Russian prisoners-of-war of their boots and clothes and herded them, barefooted and in rags, to die by thousands of cold and starvation in shelterless prison camps in sub-zero weather. Germans have raped thousands of Russian girls and women, and then murdered their victims.

It was Bismark in 1864-71, Kaiser, Wilhelm in 1914-18, and it is Hitler today; but the German military caste has always known that it would have the support of the majority of the German people, provided that they were given victories and plunder, and little suffering to themselves. These wholesale crimes are being carried out by average German soldiers and policemen, who are average Germans. The young Nazi commits these cruelties because of his belief in the Nazi doctrine of cruelty and affects pride in them. The older German commits them, because that is the easiest course for himself. Not until the Germans have suffered in their own country the horrors which they have inflicted on others, will they prefer peace to war.

In spite of the incipient ferment in Europe we cannot depend on Gestapo-controlled peoples rising in general revolt until a powerful British-American army has landed there, and, in co-operation with the Russians, inflicted a heavy defeat on the German forces.

Dehydrated Foods In The War

(New York Journal of Commerce)

The production of dehydrated foods has been stimulated greatly by heavy purchases for the Army and for shipment abroad under the lend-lease law. While the output of such foods is still quite small when compared with other types of food products, a number of processors whose operations have been curtailed by limitations on the use of metal containers are carrying on intensive research with a view to selling their products in dehydrated form. This presages an early major expansion of dehydrated food production.

The dispatch of large American combat forces abroad imposes a serious added strain upon available ocean tonnage, since this country already furnishes a considerable part of the food requirements of our allies. With existing processing techniques, one can of dehydrated food is roughly equivalent to ten cans of foods in other forms and concentration could be carried further. Hence, the wider use of dehydration in the preparation of food products is becoming a vital feature of the effort to conserve shipping space.

The way in which the war is already expanding the output of dehydrated foods may be seen in the case of dried eggs, which have been favored by the Government in its lend-lease purchases. During the past year, the number of egg-drying plants has been increased from less than 20 to about 90, and the output has been expanded to an annual rate of more than 275,000,000 pounds.

Various sections of the food industry are now carrying on significant research into the extension of dehydration processes of foods not now prepared in this way, for shipment abroad. It is probable that present equipment may be used to dehydrate additional products now processed by other methods, so that equipment shortages will not prevent an extension of this technique in new directions. Because time is of the essence, however, Government procurement agencies should take the responsibility for planning a food dehydration program designed to save a maximum amount of shipping space, through concentrating upon the preparation of the most essential foods in this way through use of the available equipment.

The Poets' Corner

BEAUTY

And what is beauty? It is a going-home
To an adventure in an unknown land.
It is surprise that smites the spirit dumb,
Yet as familiar as a trusted hand.
It is a faring forth and a return—
A recognition where they glow apart
Of storm-blown lights whose lesser embers burn
Upon the hearthstone of the secret heart.
Beauty can be the reawakening spell
For wonders that the spirit always knew—
Or the strange coming of a miracle
That on the soul's dark threshhold now proves true—
And the heart sees, with dim incredulous eyes,
Itself the manger where a savior lies.

—Arthur Davison Ficke in the Saturday Review.

Kidney Acids Rob Your Rest

Many people never seem to get a good night's rest. They turn and toss—lie awake and count sheep. Often they blame it on "nerves" when it may be their kidneys. Healthy kidneys filter poisons from the blood. If they are faulty and fail, poisons stay in the system and sleeplessness, headache, backache often follow. If you don't sleep well, try Dodd's Kidney Pills—for half a century the favorite remedy. 103

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WORDS OF CHALLENGE

"This war is not only one between conflicting armies It is a struggle between falsehood and truth, between darkness and light, between evil and good. We can win it only by attacking evil, dispelling darkness and hounding down falsehood.' — General Charles de Gaulle, head of the Free French.

Boy Scouts In War

(Ottawa Journal)

Some striking facts were given at the annual meeting in Ottawa of the Canadian General Council of the Boy Scouts' Association.

More than 20 per cent of Scout leaders have enlisted, it was reported, and this has accounted for a small drop in the total Scout membership. Moreover more than 50 per cent of Scouts volunteer as they become 18 years of age, and during the year 63 members of the Association died on active service.

Boy Scouts make soldiers, and good ones, or good sailors or skilled airmen, and anyone who knows anything of Scouting understands why this is so. The Scout learns discipline and self-reliance, is trained in ingenuity and adaptability, and all of these are qualities which prove their value in war as in every branch of civilian activity.

And the Boy Scout, moreover, is a young patriot, giving of his leisure to make himself a better Canadian. It is the most natural thing in the world that he should help to defend his country when it is in danger, to give his life if need be for the things in which he believes.

Plebiscite Results

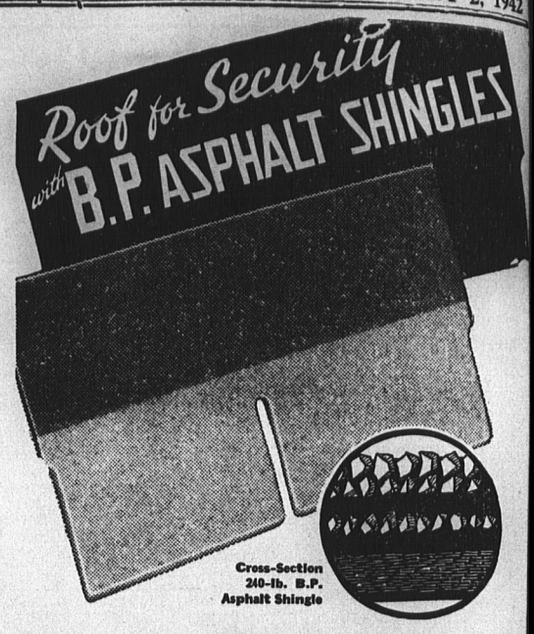
(Sydney Post Record)

Comparing Monday's popular vote with that polled in the general election of 1940, it is to be observed that, as a rule, the constituencies which voted in the negative rolled up far heavier totals, while those which voted in the affirmative fell in the great majority of cases considerably below the tallies of two years ago. In Nova Scotia, for example, Monday's popular vote was only about 60 per cent and in Prince Edward Island not more than 58 per cent, of that recorded in 1940. The largest percentage was reached in Inverness, which recorded a heavier negative proportion than any other Nova Scotia constituency. In New Brunswick, the constituency of Royal, which votes "yes" by nearly eight to one nevertheless polled only 55 per cent of the 1940 popular vote, whereas Restigouche - Madawaska, which went "no" by 10 to 7, cast several thousand ballots more in this plebiscite than in the last general election.

In the province of Ontario, which was regarded, and which proved to be, the most solidly "conscriptionist" part of Canada, there were very few constituencies outside of Toronto which polled as heavily last Monday as they had done two years previously. In some cases not more than from 55 to 60 per cent as many persons voted in Ontario in this plebiscite as in the last Dominion election. But in Russell and Prescott, both of which voted in the negative, the total polls were emphatically higher than in the general election.

Quebec, however, proved to be the outstanding example of this tendency on the part of the "antics" to vote in full strength. For whereas Nova Scotia's vote was only about 60 per cent of its 1940 total and Ontario's was not more than 85 per cent, that of Quebec rose to approximately 125 per cent of the general election aggregate. In one constituency, indeed, that of Montreal Laurier, there were 50 per cent more negative votes cast on Monday than the total poll recorded for the rival Parliamentary candidates in 1940.

These facts are not cited to the disparagement of Quebec, which only voted on Monday last as it had been schooled to do in every election in the past quarter century by the political leaders of the dominant party in that province, and by their associates and political beneficiaries of Ottawa. The evil seed planted for nearly three decades cannot be eradicated nor its sinister fruit destroyed by a three weeks' campaign by press and hustings and radio. This ill-conceived plebiscite, designed and staged by the Federal Government for the alleged purpose of promoting national unity, has only served to emphasize more strongly than ever those unfortunate divisions for which the very authors of the plebiscite are themselves chiefly responsible. How the resultant situation is to be met is a question good Canadians of very party affiliation should cooperate in answering to the best of their collective ability. The problem is not an easy one, but it can, and should, be solved with a minimum of friction by the united action of the members of Canada's war Parliament. But if, in face of the existing situation, the majority leaders of that Parliament persist in keeping the Houses and the constituencies divided on obsolete party lines. Monday's plebiscite is certain to prove injurious to the unity of Canada and to the effectiveness of its whole war effort.



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