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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1940.
On War Footing

The annual review of the National Research Council of Canada reveals a year of fruitful experimentation and results. Major-General A. G. L. McNaughton is now overseas, in command of the First Contingent of the Canadian Active Service Force, and the council is devoting its attention mainly to war needs, working in close co-operation with the Department of National Defence and the War Supply Board. Dean C. J. Mackenzie, of the University of Saskatchewan, is acting president during General McNaughton's absence. The aim of the institution is "the prosecution of war research referred to it, to make the greatest possible use of existing facilities in various centres throughout the Dominion, and to utilize the services of organized teams of research workers wherever possible." It is not possible, naturally, to give details of the investigations for military purposes which have been undertaken; they are of a varied character and will undoubtedly be attended with important results. One significant activity of the council is to examine "the value of proposed inventions."

With regard to what has been done in the year just ended, progress is reported in the several divisions—in the field of biology and agriculture; in chemistry; in mechanical engineering; in physics and electrical engineering. Space does not permit anything more than a brief reference to some of the outstanding discoveries. In plant biochemistry, for example, useful facts relating to the propagation of spruce cuttings have been disclosed. Hormone treatment, in cases of deficient moisture, has increased the yield of barley straw, but not the grain. Researchers are providing the medical profession with an ever-increasing number of useful synthetic drugs. Tests of paints, of wool fleeces, of many commercial processes have been carried out. In the division of mechanical engineering, a new ski for use on all types of civil and military aircraft is announced, which supersedes earlier patterns. Important experiments in defrosting aircraft propellers have been made.

Of interest to women is the statement that a "heavy" silk stocking gives extremely little protection against cold; while, on the other hand, the wearing of a knitted dress along with other clothing is found to provide as much warmth as the "warmly-clothed" man gets from his garments. Much is said about X-ray apparatus and other technical subjects.

"He Should Resign"

Under the above heading the Halifax Chronicle (Liberal) delivers a smashing broadside at Hon. J. E. Michaud, Minister of Fisheries in the King Government. We quote the full text of the Chronicle's comment, which should be read in conjunction with the statements of Senator Duff (Liberal) quoted in yesterday's issue:

"The Hon. J. E. Michaud, minister of fisheries, may lack much practical knowledge of salt water fish, but he has some knowledge of the red herring. The impertinent replies and comments which Mr. Michaud has issued, following recent protests from this province, are full of attempts to draw a red herring across the trail.

"The protests arose because of the appointment of a New Yorker to investigate markets for salt fish in the West Indies and Latin America. Those markets have been thoroughly surveyed. The industry looks for action rather than any further delay. Senator William Duff, at Lunenburg, suggests that the minister resign to give the prime minister an opportunity to reorganize the fisheries department from the top down."

"Mr. Michaud says he sees no way in which his resignation could help to bring about new trade treaties and tariff changes on behalf of Nova Scotia's salt fish industry. He does not believe his resignation would do any good. Many Nova Scotians believe it would do no harm. It would offer an opportunity for reorganization, as Senator Duff suggests, or it could be presented as a protest against laxity in bettering trading arrangements between Canada and Southern countries which are potential markets for Nova Scotia fish.

"Comments from Mr. Michaud have a sickly sound when one recalls the constant pressure from this province for helpful action by the department of fisheries. Men in the salt fish industry know—even if Mr. Michaud does not—that tariff barriers in Southern countries shut out Nova Scotia's fish exports, and that commercial negotiation, to achieve entry to Southern markets, is of vital importance.

"Provision of markets is the great need of the salt fish industry. Producer and exporter agree on that. It is a weak attempt at demagoguery, then, when Mr. Michaud says that he feels the protests came from fish dealers rather than producers. And it is the cheapest sort of politics when Mr. Michaud says that criticism from the 'reactionary element of the fishing industry' indicates that the government is moving in the right direction.

"That is more than cheap; it is futile. "Everyone associated with the industry knows that markets are the crying need. Everyone knows that the department has been woefully lax in assistance to the salt fish industry—and to the fresh fish industry, too, for that matter. Everyone knows that another survey of poten-

tial markets is a shameful duplication of effort and expenditure—especially shameful, during wartime, when more emphasis than ever is placed on thrift and efficiency.

"The plain fact is that Mr. Michaud shows up badly in this dispute. His remarks are impertinent and irrelevant. His performance is disappointing and embarrassing to friends and supporters of good government.

"One does not expect every minister to have technical knowledge of all the business of his department. But the people of this country expect, and deserve, ministers who will take pains to maintain a staff with adequate technical knowledge, and who will see that that staff functions industriously and efficiently. The continued difficulties which have beset the salt fish industry during Mr. Michaud's term of office discredit his ministry.

"Mr. Michaud should resign from office, to permit a successor who enjoys public confidence to reorganize the department of fisheries on an efficient and useful basis."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Banks and Bond dealers had a busy day yesterday.

Up to the end of the year 905 Home Improvement loans were granted to Islanders, totalling \$222,314.

A limited legislative program, a short session and a general election in May and not later than June are now indicated.

If there are those in Canada who still think this war can be won without individual discomfort, or without any abatement of their normal peace-time scale of living, they are living in a fool's paradise and had better come out of it.

Edmund Spenser died this date, 1599. What more felicitous can fall to creature Than to enjoy delight with liberty, And to be lord of all the works of nature; To raigue in th' aire from th' earth to highest skie.

All Russian attention is not centred on the unproclaimed war with Finland. A four-wheeled vehicle, estimated by Soviet scientists to date back to about 2,500 B.C. has been found by an archaeological expedition which has been excavating for four years in the Tsalka district of the Georgian S.S.R. The vehicle, which has been preserved intact, was unearthed at a height of 2,000 metres above sea level. The Moscow News reports that the Tsalka vehicle has been added to the collection of golden chalices, ornaments and other archaeological relics found in that district.

A notice placed in some of the offices at Whitehall, London, ironically recalls the fact that in the World War an enemy agent planted in a neutral legation was able for a time to communicate with a spy by means of the apparently empty match-boxes he threw from day to day into his waste-paper basket. The Whitehall notice reads: "Messenger coming on duty at 7 a.m. must see that the confidential wastepaper basket in Room—(temporarily a cardboard box) is locked in a cupboard. Such things as are obviously not confidential, such as empty matchboxes, &c., may be put into the ordinary wastepaper basket."

Concrete evidence of the increasing effectiveness of the convoy system was seen in the latest figures from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the value of Canada's imports from the United Kingdom during the third month of the war. Goods shipped in convoy to Canada from the United Kingdom during November, 1939, increased to \$13,482,462 from \$5,777,132 the previous month and \$11,026,638 the corresponding month of 1938, the Bureau said. Canada's total imports from all countries rose to \$84,561,211 from \$79,053,266 the previous month and \$63,303,669 the corresponding month a year before. Imports from all British Empire countries amounted to \$21,668,063 compared with \$13,651,742 and \$17,790,038.

Never has there been greater need for clear, constructive thinking and practical co-operation nor greater necessity to avoid extremes and experiments, Mr. K. H. Olive stressed in his presidential report to the annual meeting of the Montreal Provision Trades Association. "It is my belief that we Canadians have an opportunity to serve the Empire to a greater degree than ever before. Because of the great blessings of our natural resources, we are in an enviable position to contribute to the democratic cause to which we are pledged. If sincerity of purpose, thoroughness and energy in effort are pursued in this respect, we should be able to develop our country in such a manner that when peace once again returns many of our old economic problems may be well on the road to solution."

It is just as reasonable to expect an elephant to pass muster as a hog as to expect that Winston Churchill could escape identification when he goes abroad. He might change his name, but he cannot change his manner and mode of getting where he wants to. During Prohibition Days in the U.S.A. he visited New York, and wanted his liquid refreshments as at home. A young Englishman, Jim Gallagher, who knew his New York, was acting as his cicerone. He arranged a visit to one of the exclusive night club speakeasies which New York society then patronized. But they forgot to advise their police escort, which was of dimensions befitting Mr. Churchill's eminence. Progress to their objective was therefore marked by the blare of police car sirens. On their arrival, surrounded by police armed to the teeth, the proprietor thought there was going to be a raid and refused to open the door. Mr. Gallagher explained the situation and finally they were admitted. "Good evening, Mr. Churchill," said the proprietor. "His name is not Mr. Churchill, but Mr. Brown," Mr. Gallagher corrected. "Good evening, Mr. Brown," said the proprietor and led them to a table. As he did so both bands struck up "God Save the King." This was Mr. Churchill's incognito preserved!

NOTES BY THE WAY

Apparently the Soviet supplies are no better than their general military organization. There seems little doubt that very few of the Russian troops are properly equipped for a winter campaign in unsympathetic territory, while the quality of the mechanized and motorized equipment is demonstrated by the ease with which the Finns have disabled or captured scores of Soviet tanks. Yet there are signs that the Russian invasion was not without planning of a kind, for the Asiatic troops who have been used in the Petsamo campaign because of their supposed capacity to withstand Arctic conditions could hardly have been drafted to the front since the war began. It begins to seem, in fact, that the Russians' greatest advantage over the Finns is their enormous reserve of man-power. If this can be properly organized, led, and equipped, there is little hope for Finland. — Glasgow Herald.

In places like Northern Maine, Minnesota and Alaska outdoor men may know from experience what the armies are facing in Finland. Naturally, the cold grows greater as one advances toward the Pole from the comparatively mild climate of the Aland Islands and Helsinki. On the Petsamo front, 250 miles north of the Arctic Circle, James Aldridge writes in the Times of "the cold killing as many Russians in the terrible night as the Finn patrols kill in the daytime." He writes of cold so intense that the breath freezes, there is ice in the nostrils, hands are numb under the thickest mittens, feet are like frozen blocks, and men dare not go outside until they have encased themselves in layer after layer of wool, topped by a bear-skin parka. — It reports are true, some are in Moscow blundered. The Russians were not ready for such cold. It numbs men's minds as well as bodies. Forget for a moment the emotionless sweep of power diplomacy, the hammering of abstract ideas. Here are men, peasants and workers under the hammer-and-sickle banner. The day is only a brief glimmer in the south. The stars blaze like luminescent steel—Stalin is the Russian word for steel. The Northern Lights dance like an unattainable dream of brotherhood, freedom and peace. The stunted birches cast faint shadows. Who is the enemy—the men in white, slipping silently around the low hills, among the trees, a long the borders of frozen lakes, or the drifts, no winter into which a man sinks and dies? Or is the enemy something else, a man, a system, remorseless and ever still? "The silence here," writes Mr. Aldridge, "is tremendous." Rifle fire, breaking out on a near-by hill, is like artillery. Wounded men freeze in the contortions of their last agonies. For Marx's dream, for Lenin's, for Stalin—does it matter to a dying man? Do he think of 1917, when the soldiers of the old empire thronged h.m. ward, shouting with joy of a peace regained? An American, pondering these things, may recall the lines of Robert Frost:

Some say the world will end in fire,
 Some say in ice—
 I think I know enough of hate
 To say that for destruction ice
 Is also great
 And would suffice.

Some say in ice—
 I think I know enough of hate
 To say that for destruction ice
 Is also great
 And would suffice.

From the New York Times.

The Government of Finland sends us a 32-page brochure entitled "Finland at Work—The Land and Its People." It is made up entirely of photographs, with only brief and explanatory reading matter, and the thing which most impresses the Canadian reader is that there is hardly a picture which could not be duplicated almost exactly in this country. Indeed, with titles and text changed, the book could be put out by the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce with few people detecting the fraud. The front cover illustrates logging operations, and the back has a harvest scene and a depicted agriculture, dairying, hydro-electric power development, iron and steel industries, lumbering and wood refining industries, textiles, domestic trade, shipping, communications, finance, education and urban life. The Finns shown in these pages are fine, wholesome people, and we should be proud to think of them as Canadians. The effect of the brochure, without a word in it having to do with the battles that now are staining red the Arctic snows of that gallant little nation, is to emphasize the atrociousness of the Russian invasion. Here is a country interested in nothing but the economic expansion and the social development which are possible only in peace; a country with a small population and so situated as to quite amply to the spirit of aggressiveness so ably taught by some other European states. Finland asked nothing of the world but to be let alone. But Finland is the victim of a ruthless attack by a neighbor with infinitely greater resources and a population nearly 50 times as large. Her women and children are killed by bombs, her men are dying bravely in defence of their liberty. The blood of innocent people stains the hands of those responsible for these deeds of horror—"Red" has come to be more than a political symbol when applied to Stalin and his fellow cut-throats. — Ottawa Journal

Death of Mrs. Ruydard Kipling at her home in Sussex within a few days of her 74th birthday recalls the brilliant career and fascinating stories of Britain's ardently imperialistic poet and writer. The widow of the poet—Kipling died in January of 1936—was an American girl, Caroline Starr Balestier, of Vermont. She was married to the poet in 1882, the year "Barrack Room Ballads" was published. Kipling had the advantage many great men have had a clever, capable woman as mother. He was the son of Alice Macdonald, of Birmingham, two of whose sisters had married respectively two painters.

Political Non-political

(Vancouver Province)
 Politician friends of Hon. Ian MacKenzie, Minister of Pensions in the King Cabinet, are organizing a banquet to be tendered the minister in Vancouver on Jan. 19. The banquet is stated, will be non-political. Mr. Mackenzie is a member of Parliament, representing an important Vancouver constituency, and is also a minister of the Crown. If his friends, political or non-political, wish to do him honor by tendering him a dinner, that is their affair. If this political friends on the occasion of his visit to the city, wish to hold a political justification, that is their affair also, though political justifications at a time of political truce are hardly in good taste. This banquet, however, is apparently to be a sort of hybrid affair. It is described as non-political, but it is understood the purpose of the gathering is to give the minister an opportunity to reply to certain charges which have been made against him by eastern periodicals. As these charges are definitely political, having to do with Mr. Mackenzie's administration of the Department of National Defense from which he was recently transferred, reply to them will necessarily give the banquet a political character. There is no question that Mr. Mackenzie wishes to reply to the charges made against him. There is as little question that the charges demand a reply. But the place where the reply should be made is the House of Commons, where the minister can be subjected to questioning and where his political speeches will be in order. To hold a political banquet in Vancouver in this time of political truce and to seek to give the appearance of a public testimonial is not only a challenge to public patience; it is an impertinence that will invite resentment.

The Poet's Corner

THE POPLAR FIELD
 The poplars are felled, farewell to the snare
 And the whispering sound of the cool colonnade;
 The willow plays no longer and sing in the leaves,
 Nor Ouse on its bosom their image receives.

Twelve years have elapsed since I last took a view
 Of my favorite field and the bank where they graze
 And now in the grass behold they are laid.
 And the tree is my seat that once lent me a shade.

The blackbird has fled to another
 Where the hazels afford him a screen from the heat;
 And the scene where his melody charmed me before,
 Resounds with his sweet-flowing ditty no more.

My fugitive years are all hastening away,
 And I must ere long lie as lowly as
 With a turf on my breast and a stone at my head,
 Ere another such grove shall arise in its stead.
 —Cowper, 1731-1800.

Sir Edward Burne-Jones and Sir Edward Baines. Another sister-in-law the mother of Stanley Baldwin, former British prime minister, now Lord Baldwin of Bewley. There were five Macdonald sisters, daughters of Rev. G. B. Macdonald, a Wesleyan minister. Louise was the mother of Mr. Baldwin. Kipling and Baldwin were first cousins. —London Free Press.

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Parent Hansard

(Manchester Guardian)
 In few ways is the intense conservatism of our Parliamentary system better exhibited than in the announcement of a new editor of Hansard, for it will soon be 50 years since there was any connection between the name of Hansard and the daily publication of the Parliamentary debates. But members who were not born when the change was made continue to speak of Hansard as a matter of course.

Actually it was in 1893 that T. C. Hansard began to compile a daily report of proceedings, and he soon won high praise from Speakers and others for the accuracy of the work. It turned out also to be a successful speculation and for more than 50 years it was carried on without any assistance from the State.

But as debts became more voluminous a subsidy was given to meet cost. In 1855 the Treasury arranged to subscribe for 100 copies; in 1858 this was increased to 120; in 1877 a regular State subvention was given of £3,000; this was raised to £4,000 and then to £500 for each volume of 96 pages.

In 1892 the publisher was changed and the official name ceased to be Hansard and became "Parliamentary Debates". But no member of Parliament thinks of this describing them; presumably they will be Hansard still when the second centenary of T. C. Hansard's enterprise is reached: always assuming that there is still a Parliament in 2003.

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Rheumatism is often caused by uric acid in the blood. This blood impurity should be extracted by the kidneys. If kidneys fail, and excess uric acid remains, it irritates the muscles and joints causing excruciating pains. Plan to help prevent rheumatism by keeping your kidneys in good condition. Take regular Dodd's Kidney Pills—for half a century the favorite kidney remedy.

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