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McNaughton Statements Discussed By Members In House of Commons

Examination of statements made in the House of Commons by General A. G. McNaughton, Minister of National Defence, on the subject of overseas reinforcements to the European theatre. Early in 1943 and again in the spring of 1944 increases had been made in the proportion of infantry troops to total army manpower. Instead of being acted upon apparently by the minister of the war cabinet, presumably the chief staff officers were figuring on an early end to the war and ignored the overseas request. Only in October did he learn about the matter. By that time nearly a half million men had been sent overseas while there are under the N. E. A. young men who they feel should take their places. Mr. McNaughton: There were reports but I am not aware of them personally. Mr. Brooks: I believe the department is instructed to bring men who have been overseas for four and five years, which I believe is a splendid thing. Mr. Brooks: These men have been away for a long time, and they are not the men who are anticipated they will remain in Canada? Mr. McNaughton: The minimum period is thirty days, clear of time taken up in transportation. As a matter of fact, although I cannot be specific on the point, I think we shall find that a good many of these people with special experience will be kept here in the army and on in the training scheme.

Monthly Absorption Mr. Brooks: You would not say that you could absorb four or five years of these men each month? Mr. McNaughton: Our difficulty in working it out has been the availability of transportation. As a matter of fact, I believe the number we have this month is about 450. I am hopeful that in subsequent months the total may be very much greater. I should like to see them rotated. Mr. Brooks: I am instructed to bring men who have been overseas for four and five years, which I believe is a splendid thing. Mr. Brooks: These men have been away for a long time, and they are not the men who are anticipated they will remain in Canada? Mr. McNaughton: The minimum period is thirty days, clear of time taken up in transportation. As a matter of fact, although I cannot be specific on the point, I think we shall find that a good many of these people with special experience will be kept here in the army and on in the training scheme.

Col. Ralston Replies Mr. Ralston: I do not imagine the minister would have any knowledge of it. That would have to do with my own administration. I know of no telegram that was sent from overseas with regard to the losses continued. It was not brought to the attention of the minister. Any important wire on a matter of that kind would be brought to the attention of the minister. The real situation is that it was two that a half million men were "very much higher" — we have always used those words, although I could give the percentages—than had been anticipated, and that goes not only for the Canadian forces but for our allies as well. The overall casualties were practically the same, but the infantry casualties were a much higher proportion of the total than had been estimated on the very best information available. The result was that the infantry pool became exhausted. Immediately vigorous steps were taken by Canadian military headquarters over there to remember men from other arms and train them for infantry. I was going to tell the house at some time or another if it does not invade security—I do not think it does—that at one time our units were down by something like 3,000 in the aggregate. I think that happened about the middle of August, if I am not mistaken. By a very effective re-mustering programme they had managed to get the situation back to normal, and had a small margin. It was expected that the pool would build up through the remustering that was taking place, and that what had occurred was more or less a spurge in activities. Mr. Ralston: I am trying to get information because this story had been circulated in a paper as in-



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Looking Ahead In Ottawa

By The Ottawa Staff of the Canadian Press
OTTAWA, Dec. 17 — (C P) — One of the most important events in the labor horizon is a move by the United Automobile Workers (C. I. O.) to obtain a national agreement covering employees in three general motors plants in Ontario—Oshawa, St. Catharines and Windsor. Separate agreements covering these plants are about to come up for review and George Burt of Windsor, Ont., Canadian director of the union, has advanced the proposal that they should be combined in a national agreement. The union is also seeking union shop provisions which would require all general motors employees to become members of the union. So far there has been no reaction from the Company to these requests. The union bases its claim to a national agreement on the ground that the existing contracts run almost concurrently and are generally similar in terms.

Anglican Archbishop In Christmas Message

TORONTO, Dec. 19 — (CP) — Most Rev. Derwyn T. Owen, Anglican Archbishop of Toronto and Primate of all Canada, said in a Christmas message today that "this should be a hopeful Christmas because, as Christians, we know that there is courage and sacrifice there is also the pledge of a better day and a fuller life." "Our men and women are making great sacrifices. Some of them have made the great sacrifice. But that has not been in vain. On Christmas Day we thank the Lord who came Himself into the battle of life to share its sorrows and sufferings. He showed us that faith, courage, sacrifice, always produce results."

The Soldier's Hour

The following poem was sent home by Pte. Charles Deighan from Italy in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Deighan, Summerside. It's peaceful in the twilight As the shadows of day come down, And all is hushed and quiet, Throughout the mountain town. There is something about this hour, Controlled by God's own hand As though to bring a spell of peace to a weary, shell-racked land. The dogs of war, exhausted, lie down to rest; 'Tis the hour of the soldier's rest. And sitting in the twilight, beneath the heavenly dome, A soldier's thoughts are not of war, but, of a far-off home. We are thankful, Lord in Heaven For the hour that You've set For us to dwell on days of yore In peace—lest we forget.

QUICKIES

Hearing of an application by Nova Scotia coal miners for wage increases is scheduled before the National War Labor Board Tuesday. The United Mine Workers (C. I. O.) is seeking an increase of \$1 a day in the present basic labor rate of \$5.67 a day and increases averaging about 20 per cent for other workers. The application affects about 10,000 workers employed

This War—Four Years Ago

By The Canadian Press
DEC. 21, 1940—British Air Ministry announced at least 144 Italian planes destroyed in first 12 days of North African offensive. 13 R.A.F. planes lost, but five pilots saved; British bombers raided Brindisi, Italy.

MIGHTY ERUPTION

The loudest noise the world has ever heard is believed to have been the eruption of the volcano Krakatoa in 1883, heard 3,000 miles away.

Superforts In Fresh Raids



WASHINGTON, Dec. 19—(AP)—The big Omura aircraft factory on the Japanese home island of Kyushu came in for another blasting from American Superfortresses today while other B-29's hit targets at enemy-held Shanghai and Nanking on the Chinese mainland. These new blimps stepped up air war aimed to knock out Japanese sources of airpower and supply lines for the enemy forces in China were reported in a War Department communique. China-based B-29's in "medium force"—an expression which usually means about 40 planes—bombed Omura through an overcast with precision instruments. It was the fifth time that Omura, which has a huge aircraft assembly works, has been hit since last July. When carving turkey, first cut through the leg, crack the joint, and then disjoint the leg from the turkey. Cut the breast in medium thick slices, not in junk. Use a sharp knife.

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UNTIL 9 P. M.
FRI. and SAT.
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HELP THE COAL DEALER TO Help you

Consult your dealer regarding your needs: Your dealer has many pressing problems. Let him know how much fuel you will need to last until May 1, in addition to the amount you have in your bin. He can then organize his deliveries so that you will receive your share of fuel as it may become available.

Clear all approaches to your bins: Be sure that driveways, walk and outside steps are cleared of snow, and sanded if necessary also clear walk and driveway. Use nearest windows. Keep inside steps cleared and free of boxes, pails, etc.

Accept whatever kind of usable fuel the dealer can supply: Some types of coal are scarce and you can't afford to insist on specific grades or sizes as you would in normal times. Don't take a chance. Any kind of coal is preferable to none.

Take delivery when dealer can make it: Your dealer is working with limited delivery facilities which must be used continuously throughout the winter, if every household is to receive his share of available supplies. Don't wait, therefore, until you are almost out of fuel before permitting your dealer to replenish your bin. Let him make delivery when he can.

SAVE 1 SHOVELFUL IN 5

Ask your dealer for a copy of the Free Government Booklet "33 Ways To Save 1 Ton in 5"

It contains many helpful suggestions that will enable you to save coal by properly firing your furnace and keeping the heating system efficient. It also points to heat-stealing leaks in your house and how to prevent them.

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