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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the
Weakest Ink.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1914.

British War Damage

The annual report which life assurance companies in Great Britain have issued for 1914 shows that the companies find themselves able to go full steam ahead even in these difficult times.

On this occasion, however, the reports reveal other and perhaps more interesting details, since official statements have simultaneously and for the first time been made on the extent of war damage in England.

On the whole, the reports issued by the assurance companies show that damage to the extensive properties, held by them as guarantee for their liabilities, averages some 2 per cent. The United Kingdom Provident, for example, which is interested in real estate to the extent of some \$40,000,000, puts the proportion of properties partly damaged or wholly destroyed by bombs and fires at between 2 per cent and 3 per cent, and the Clerical, Medical and General, with property investments of about \$30,000,000 finds war damage to have been less than 1 per cent of book values.

As a considerable part of the real estate owned by the assurance companies, is situated in London itself, where it appears to be fairly evenly distributed throughout all districts, it is very probable that these first official figures can be applied to real estate throughout Great Britain. It appears that bomb damage has been far heavier for small and cheap houses than for larger buildings. Fire damage, on the other hand, has been spread fairly even over small and large properties alike.

War casualties in Great Britain have also proved to be not very considerable. A remarkable feature is that most assurance offices were able to declare that, notwithstanding war deaths, the mortality has been not much beyond normal expectation. Reports issued by 22 companies state that the war death claims have augmented normal death claims by only 10.4 per cent.

Premier Pattullo's Mistake

The Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) comes sadly to the conclusion that the Pattullo Government in British Columbia "did not help itself by asking the electors to vote for it in confirmation of its policies of co-operation with the Dominion Government in the war effort. There was in this a suggestion that the opposition parties were less disposed to such co-operation, which quite properly led to protests."

This is a shrewd analysis, and a most revealing one coming from the leading Liberal newspaper of the West. Not only in British Columbia, but all over Canada there is resentment at the implication that other parties are less loyal or less disposed to 100 per cent war participation than members of the Liberal party who happen to be in power. It is Prime Minister King's great weakness that he can see nothing in members of other parties except political opponents. The Pattullo Government was following Liberal precedent in seeking to capitalize on the war effort. If, as the Winnipeg Free Press suggests, this was resented by the electors, then it is as much a rebuke to the King Government as to the Pattullo Government. Premier Pattullo would probably have made a less partisan appeal if he had a less partisan leader and government at Ottawa.

Reducing Australian Butter

During the current production season Australia will seek, like Canada, to increase its cheese output for shipment to the United Kingdom, and in doing so will cut down the production of butter for export. This adjustment in the production of the Australian dairy industry is to meet United Kingdom requirements. During last summer the British Ministry of Food indicated that shipments of butter from Australia to the United Kingdom would be limited in the coming Australian season to approximately 60 per cent of the quantity shipped in previous seasons, but that 40,000 tons of cheese, or more if available, might be accepted.

To meet this situation, the Commonwealth Dairy Produce Control Committee announced that a substantial quantity of milk would have to be diverted from butter to cheese manufacture, and to facilitate the change and expansion of cheese output approved of the formation of a State Cheese Committee in each state.

To encourage cheese manufacture, writes Frederick Palmer, in a report to the Department of Trade and Commerce, manufacturers who undertake the manufacture of additional quantities of cheese, or who begin the production of

cheese, will be guaranteed against loss, subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions. Steps have been taken by the Commonwealth Government, through the Commonwealth Bank, to guarantee loans made to factories requiring financial assistance, and the Dairy Produce Control Committee will make arrangements with the Commonwealth Department of Supply and Development to ensure that the needs of cheese manufacturers for plant and materials will be met. Since butter prices will tend to decline as shipments to the United Kingdom fall, relative values of cheese and butter are also to be watched carefully by the Committee.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canadians, neither West nor East, are very interested in electioneering at this critical time; Premier MacMillan, Nova Scotia, would have been well advised to have accepted the Conservative opposition leader's offer to resort to an extension of parliament rather than rouse animosity by holding a general election.

Australia has discovered a new process for making bullet-proof armor for fighting vehicles, said the Director of Ordnance Production (Mr. F. S. Daly) in a recent talk. "It has to remain a secret but we are very proud of it," he said. "It has brought us \$200,000,000 worth of orders from the Imperial authorities."

Sydney police patrol chased a stolen car into a dead-end lane so narrow that the doors of neither car could be opened. The officers sat impotent while their man crawled through a window and escaped—which is one argument for small policemen.

Feodor Mikhaerlovitch Dostoievsky, Russian novelist, born this date 1821; wrote very powerful stories dealing with peasant life and social problems in Czarist Russia which did not fail to attract attention to, and sympathy with the downtrodden serfs of an outworn autocracy. His masterpiece was "Crime and Punishment," which was translated into seven languages, including English.

Evidently the U.S.A. Defense Authorities are acting upon President Roosevelt's warning, and taking measures to prevent the Nazi invasion of Panama at all costs. The banks of the Panama Canal and adjacent areas, from the Miraflores Locks on the Pacific side to Gatun Lake, have been declared a prohibited zone for all unauthorized persons. The military authorities have posted public notices stating that any unauthorized person who leaves the highways or other roads in the prohibited area does so at the risk of being fired upon without warning by patrols and hidden guards.

News from the ancient colony over the weekend indicates that Sir John R. Bennett, one-time member of the legislative council, had died after a long illness, at the age of 75. He was the ninth member of the council to die since Newfoundland was placed under commission government and its legislature suspended in 1933. Sir John, who began his career as a clerk, became the president of large concerns, besides taking an important part in the government of Newfoundland, for which public service he was knighted in 1926.

Though we enjoy the doubtful distinction of being the only province with a decrease in Income Tax payments, that does not mean there is less money in circulation among the average citizen. The reverse is the case. Owing to separation allowances, soldiers remittances and pay the general community is much better off financially than ordinarily, which accounts for a growing prosperity of farmers and stores alike. It is to be hoped a "ceiling" will not be placed on farm produce for this Province was never better off than when butter sold in the market at 50c per lb. and ungraded eggs at 45c per doz.

Medical students are not exempt from military service. Maj-Gen. L. R. LaFleche, Associate Deputy Minister of National War Services, specifically states that medical students at Canadian universities will be granted no exemptions or partial exemptions from compulsory military training, but that some of them will be given an opportunity to study "military medicine" instead of the ordinary training course. Gen. LaFleche said the Department of National Defence has worked out a method whereby medical students in their final years may give particular attention to courses or subjects which the Defence Department has designated as "military medicine."

The quality of the personnel secured to organize the new totalitarian regime in our way of life is widely conceded to be quite as important as the terms and conditions of the plan itself. Statements emanating from certain Government officials are to the effect that the supply of equipped man-power for the rapidly increasing war control tasks is almost exhausted, but the fact remains there are many well-equipped officials in the present departments who could take on the new jobs without impairing the efficiency of administration in those departments. It is known that in Ottawa there are many officials in what might be termed peacetime departments who are not overworked, and others who would welcome useful war employment; but up to date the Cabinet has contented itself with bringing in men from private enterprises. So much of this has been done that many private business and industrial firms are obliged to conduct their business with almost skeleton staffs, while almost as many men in Government posts are not only available but eager to have a chance to engage in work more closely related to the war. On top of this, too, is the Civil Service system, not the commission that sometimes makes it difficult to fit persons already in the service into new and wartime tasks. The time has come for a change in this respect and the getting rid of all "Red Tape" restrictions and hindrances.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Britain's rising income tax is having the incidental result of releasing from private collections for wider appreciation overseas more and more of the beautiful porcelain of England. The recent London sale of one private collection disclosed the astonishing fact that the owner was regularly using more than one hundred dinner-sets, tea and dessert services of the finest porcelain. Collections like these are now being eagerly bought up by Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, South America and the United States. Prices vary amazingly. A Worcester dinner set, specially painted for the Prince Regent in Waterloo year by Humphrey Chamberlain, was knocked down for £380. In other days it might well have fetched twice that amount. On the other hand, a private collection from Walton, Cheshire, was knocked down for £136. Chinese (Nanking) decorated in the Lowestoft tradition, brings in £3 a piece and, as a good set will run to anything between 110 and 275 pieces, the total value of the United States is particularly keen on Crown Derby and old Worcester; and one London dealer is now shipping dinner-sets, tea and dessert services and crockery for 6,000 dollars worth a month. Americans used to buy as collectors. To-day they are buying for use. So do Canada, Australia and New Zealand. South America has the remaining market for decorative pieces prized by those who just collect.

Not one letter has been lost of the thirteen and a half million flown between England and Lisbon in the last year by the British Overseas Airways Corporation. The planes and aeroplanes for passengers covered 750,000 miles with 4,000 passengers, and neither war nor weather has caused the service to change its time-table since it opened in 1912. Throughout the Battle of Britain, severe weather and hazards of war, the air link between England and Portugal, and by Clipper on to U.S.A., has remained unbroken. No letters or orders of war are flown to Portugal and letters from them are flown, free of charge, back to Lisbon where the Portuguese Post Office transfers them to British Airways. In July a special lightweight letter-card was devised for airmails to prisoners of war. It costs only three pence to fly one of these cards to Lisbon and on by the Clipper to Germany. Four thousand five hundred of the new letter-cards weigh just one pound; the same number of ordinary airmail letters one cwt. and a half.

Thousands of miles from the war zone, people are now sitting their letters open with paper knives made from bits of bombs rained by the enemy on London. The larger pieces are melted down and used again by industry, but small fragments have been shaped into blades, leaving the handle in the original splinter. The paper knives are from six inches to two feet long and quantities of these souvenirs have already been shipped to the Dominion and U.S.A.

The system of getting aid to the Axis Powers (through South American countries) should have been noted by the British. It takes us a long time to create our weapons for defence, it ought not to have required a great deal of time to discover when and how the reports were being used for Axis advantage and to have stopped the business immediately. Yet there is actually more to the problem than merely keeping American supplies from reaching these controlled Latin American firms. They are an integral part of Latin American economy. Their roots go deep into the industry and commerce of the various countries in which they are established. Hence an obligation rests on the United States, after this necessary blacklisting, to co-operate closely with the affected Latin American countries in making necessary economic readjustments. Acting Secretary of State Wells promises that will be done. But it should be done promptly and as adequately as we can in the midst of our defence program. — Providence Journal.

In May, 1914, a month before the Nazi invasion of France, the Pasteur Institute in Paris announced the discovery of a serum against dysentery. The importance of this discovery was classed with that of the anti-tetanus and anti-cholera serums. But now that Nazis are in Paris, there is apprehension as to the fate of this world-famous laboratory. It is well known that through the brutal application of their silly race theory, the Nazis have robbed Germany of much talent, and it is feared that the work of the Pasteur Institute is now being menaced. — Toronto Star.

The appointment of Mr. G. T. Shipston to the new post of Director of Fruit Juices and Focins must have puzzled many people beyond those who wondered what peckins are. Why a director of fruit juices when there are hardly any fruit juices one knows of to direct? The explanation is understood to be that fruit juices of some kind are to be produced in quantity. It is asked if there is any likelihood of juices coming from abroad, thus reducing the cargo space used by fruit. There is the difficulty there that Spain and Palestine, which give us our main orange supply, have not the machinery for extracting orange juice, and the United States and the Cape require the cargo space for more essential goods. Still, there is the fact that concentrated orange juice can be canned in America so strong that it can be watered to produce three or four times the original quantity at normal strength. — Manchester Guardian.

California, where there is one automobile for every 2.6 persons (highest in the world), has raised speed limits on open highways to 55 miles per hour. In Los Angeles the rule is 35 except for special highways marked individually at 25. Killing of elderly persons at night at dark intersections is the city's greatest traffic problem. — Vancouver Sun.

It is probably true that women can stand more pain than men. A woman in the United States, it has just been reported saw eight hundred and thirty-seven movies in four years. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

Guelph Mercury has discovered that "very few chauffeurs are eloping with heiresses like they used to a few years ago". That's because

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR
"Canada must prepare and have arms and so that when the time comes to take the offensive—and there is going to come a time—we can strike hard and heavy." — J. L. Rasston, Minister of National Defence.

Moscow Holds Out

(Exchange)
The German high command can see itself capturing Moscow and still have to speculate on whether it has either destroyed or isolated the Russians in the north. If it does not do this, the Russian army continues to exist, and so long as it does it may join with the Russians around the Black Sea coasts. There will be bitter recriminations in the German high command if the northern Russians escape still to block the way to the Crimea and on to the Caucasus. There remains every indication that even a break-through to Moscow itself will not relieve the Germans of still having to overcome a Russian army. This must be inferred from every announcement officially coming out of Russia and from every indication that the British and Americans mean to give material support to the Russians. If the taking of Moscow were to overwhelm the entire Russian army, why continue to ship war material to Russia? To do so would be to waste supplies the nations at war are aware they will still require. They must have good reasons for diverting that material to Russian uses, and it must be assumed that they can read more of the German strategical intentions than most of us can divine in any fall of Moscow.

Enough can be seen in retrospect of the campaigns on the Russian front to confirm the early German intention to isolate the northern Russians from the Black Sea coasts. If this had been done earlier, done when Leningrad was meant first to be taken, the Germans would have completely repulsed Marshal Budyenny and by now be well across the Crimea and through the Caucasus in their approach to the Middle East.

What happened? Germans and Finns co-operated to take Leningrad and, when balked, desisted for an interval that ended with the sudden resumption of the offensive in the last two weeks of August. That resumption of the offensive in the north was expected to break down the resistance of Budyenny in the south. The Russians in the Ukraine were hard pressed and have been driven back, but they were not so completely routed as the Germans had meant them to be. Other tactics had to be resorted to by the Germans, and the colossal gamble of the all-out attack on Moscow was prepared.

In spite of these setbacks to German plans it is obvious that the directive mentality of the German high command is as Prussian as was that of Molke in the war of 1870. The dissolution of Molke's mind was done by Marshal Foch when a colonel lecturing at l'Ecole Superieure de la Guerre at Paris, and is embodied in Foch's book, The Conduct of War. The mentality that Foch saw operating in Molke can be seen by today governing the mind of the German high command on the Russian front. For Molke, Foch wrote, was more interested in his plan of operations than in the safety (preservation) of his army, and for him preconceptions were infinitely more important than facts. The German forces have slogged into the battles as though life were of purely secondary consideration and losses that must amount to one and a half million casualties and probably to more than a half

million killed are for the moment of no account. The fact was that the Russian strength and resistance were much greater than the Germans imagined they were, but the preconception misled the Germans into a slaughter that has given them much territory and may yet give them Moscow.

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Men's All-Wool fall caps, also winter caps with ear bands, all sizes, each — 69c
Men's Heavy wool work hose, pair — 24c, 29c, 39c, and 59c
Men's fancy cotton hose, all sizes, pair — 17c
Men's Overalls, large sizes only, worth up to \$2.00 pr. Special, pair \$1.00
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Men's Heavy fall Pants, stripe pattern, all sizes up to 42, pair — \$2.00
Men's White Canvas gloves, Clearing, pair — 10c
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S. A. McDONALD'S

A false fervency is lent to the "W" campaign that irrationally inflames the spirit of a people, but the true design is to hurt the Nazis in the way in which they can least enforce exaction. How this is done and how well it has worked in Czechoslovakia was told by Mr. Masaryk. The 40,000 Czech workers in the Skoda works use a hundred guiles to slow down production in the German war industry. This effective sabotage is hardest to combat. When its method was detected from and political actions led to individual acts, the Czechs paid by having 2,000 of their number shot by the Nazis.
The economic importance of a high physical standard of requirements is obvious. Actual cost to Canada of the Great War, including mobilization, was but \$1,300,000,000, and the total cost of pensions and re-establishment already has reached a like amount. Tuberculosis alone cost the Dominion Government \$150,000,000 in hospital treatment and pensions for soldiers and their dependents. It was responsible for 23 per cent of all the deaths from disease and for invaliding some 6,000 Canadian soldiers in 1914-18. Greater care in the selection of the men is undoubtedly being taken now.
Many rejections are due to defects which can be remedied by hospital and medical treatment, and it has been announced from Ottawa that young men found unfit because of some curable condition may soon be offered free surgical treatment and hospitalization to make them fit for army service.
The problem is not confined to Canada. President Roosevelt said recently that he was worried about the health of the people of the United States as a result of figures he had received. These showed a high percentage of army selections had been rejected for medical reasons.

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