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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1943.

A Shameful Situation

In an attempt to keep the tremendous output of allied war factories from the battlefields," says a London despatch, "Hitler was said by British naval observers today to be maintaining 200 U-boats of his fleet of perhaps 500 at sea all the time."

There are other ways of aiding Hitler to tie up the output of Allied war factories. Take this item for instance: "In all 13,500 men are idle due to the strike which has tied up plants of the Algoma Steel Corporation at Sault Ste. Marie and of the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation at Sydney and Trenton. The strike has halted an estimated two-thirds of Canada's wartime steel production."

When work starts again at Sydney, says another despatch, it will take about a week before the plant can get into the full swing of its 50,000 tons monthly of basic steel. Up to yesterday morning, the production loss in this plant was about 13,000 tons.

The strike still goes on, with the Dominion Government on one side and the strikers on the other, haggling over terms. The strikers' position, according to Labor Minister Mitchell, is illegal under the Defense of Canada Act. Where then is the Minister of Justice, and where are the powers that can and should be invoked to enforce the law?

There is no question but that this serious tie-up of vitally important material is sabotaging the war effort. It reveals, more clearly than anything else perhaps, the weakness of the administration at Ottawa. It can neither command the confidence of the workers, nor muster up the courage needed to enforce its own regulations.

Farm Labor Shortage

The shortage of farm labor across Canada has emerged as a first-rate wartime problem. Latest evidence of this fact is the demand presented at Ottawa for establishment of a Ministry of Food, with a board to co-ordinate all agencies of production, processing, distribution and rationing. Of all the problems with which such a ministry would be required to deal, that of farm labor is the most urgent. Up to the present it has hardly been taken very seriously by those outside agricultural circles—the natural emphasis has been on the needs of the armed services and industry for manpower. Now farmers are making it abundantly clear they must have men if they are going to meet the ever-growing demands for food.

Ontario Agriculture Minister Dewan heads up the agitation by stating that "if the war continues as it has a food shortage is not far away" and "I am firmly convinced we are not yet sufficiently awake to the acuteness of the farm labor situation." British Columbia Minister of Agriculture MacDonald urges establishment of a woman's land army and to leave farmers and farmers' sons on the land as essential to the war effort. The Toronto Financial Post quotes a dozen prominent Ontario men to the effect that greater consideration for farm manpower needs is essential, while every meeting of farmers held recently has emphasized this need as number one problem.

Current difficulties with butter and beef illustrate the trouble food shortages can cause in a country like Canada where people are accustomed to abundance. Growing buying power has increased the demand for food, but many farmers cannot see how they can reach even last year's record farm harvest, how they can possibly plan for the increases the 1943 farm program asks for.

Seasonal labor recruited in the cities, land armies of women, student help for part of the year, are all only a partial solution of the problem. Dairy farms, poultry and hog producers, in fact many of the class of farms being urged to increase production in a big way, need full-time help. Yet it is estimated they are operating with 20 per cent less labor than formerly.

The whole situation, says the Ottawa Journal, emphasizes the urgent need for a real manpower policy. It is either that or food scarcity and increased rationing, with the possibility our exports to Britain may suffer.

A Liberal Tribute

In a farewell salute to Hon. Mr. Bracken as Premier of Manitoba the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) says:

"Not only Mr. Bracken but the people of Manitoba can look back upon the twenty years of his premiership with a large measure of satisfaction. By any practical standard we have had good and honest government during those two decades and we have seen established here a tradition of administration far better than anything which preceded it and one which everyone is confident will be preserved under his successor. Mr. Bracken has seldom since 1922 done anything spectacular. His has been a steady and cautious advance strictly limited by what he has believed to be politically practical and within the financial resources of the province to carry out. He consolidated the social programme of his predecessors and expanded it; he developed a good provincial highway system on methodical lines; he has aided greatly in the opening of the north country; he has to some extent aided industry. He has had two main objects; to improve the lot of the agricultural population and to develop a more rounded economy in Manitoba, one better balanced and thus better able to withstand the storms of adversity when they come. This is an endless programme, but any comparison of the state of Manitoba in 1922 with its condition in 1943 leaves Mr. Bracken with a large and very comfortable balance on the credit side."

He is experienced in the handling of economic depressions. He assumed office during the agrarian slump which followed the last war; and since 1930 he has been struggling with the impact and effects of the collapse which began in 1929. It has been his study of these events which has best fitted him for the larger responsibilities he now assumes, for the more he has studied the more clearly he has seen that the Manitoba economy is not one capable of such internal modification as to make security available to all. Every problem which has confronted him has forced him to take wider and larger views. He has learned very completely that the foundation of prosperity in Canada cannot be achieved by any pandering to particular classes or regions, and that the real solution of our provincial ills lies far beyond the constitutional powers which Manitoba enjoys."

In conclusion the Free Press says that Mr. Bracken's "advent in the federal field and his appearance in the House of Commons which it must be hoped will not be long delayed, will do much to elevate the tenor of discussion in Canada."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Jules Desmarais, K.C., general manager of the Quebec Liquor Commission, has given a definite quietus to the rumor circulating that it was the intention to impose a permit system in the Province of Quebec, such as has always existed in Ontario since there was liquor control there. It would appear also that to impose a \$2 permit would constitute a tax and that could be imposed only by the legislature, and it may be taken for granted that specially on the eve of a general election, as is quite possible, in 1943, the legislature would not think of such an imposition.

Matches, says the Gazette, are none too plentiful for the reason that the consumer demand since 1941 has risen 30 per cent, while production has gone up but four per cent. An unprecedented number of Canadians are gainfully employed today and they are smoking more tobacco, chiefly in the form of the cigarette. But it is the pipe smoker who wastes matches on the grand scale—some of the noble tribe using half a dozen or so of the firesticks to a pipeful. They should be more conservative with their pipe lighting, especially now that mechanical lighters are becoming scarcer all the time.

Vladimir Ilitch Ulinov Lenin, Russian Soviet leader, died this date, 1924; a hereditary noble and son of a state councillor early imbued Marxian Socialist doctrines and was expelled from Kazan University for participating in anti-government riots; later went to Germany, and on return, continuing his Socialist activities was exiled for three years to Siberia; appeared in Petrograd in October, 1917, and with Trotsky brought about the fall of Kerensky who led the revolution against Czarism; was the greatest intellectual force which the Russian revolution brought to light.

On both sides of the border criminal actions are being taken against war contractors who have allegedly defrauded the Government out of many thousands of dollars. A federal grand jury at Providence, R.I., has indicted the Anaconda Wire and Cable Company of Pawtucket, R.I., and five individuals on charges of conspiring to defraud the government and present false claims in connection with wire and cable produced for the United States and British armies. The indictment, made public by the Justice Department, alleged that defective and untested wire and cable had been shipped to the fighting forces as a result of a deliberate policy of evasion of inspection. A similar charge was placed December 21 by a federal grand jury at Fort Wayne, Ind., against the Anaconda Wire and Cable Company of Marion, Ind. Both companies are in a group of eight plants controlled by Anaconda Copper Mining Company. The government charged that "the conspiracy resulted in the production and delivery to the British War Ministry and the United States Army Signal Corps of inferior and defective wire and cable, which was intended to be used for military purposes."

In the prosecution proceedings against the Montreal Engine Works and Trading Co., Inc. one of the witnesses was Mr. Patrick Leonard McCarville, farmer, Kinkora, P.E.I. Mr. McCarville recalled having applied for work at Engine Works during the summer of 1941 and of giving 3532 Clark street as his address because he was living there at the time. He had never worked there, however, and denied receiving any Engine Works monies. Entries from company books revealed that one "L. McCarville" received \$86 for 82 hours of work during the period May 13-19, 1942, and \$1,210 for the period February 3-May 19, 1942 when, according to the witness, he was employed at Montreal Locomotives. The "L. McCarville" on the company's books had 972 St. Antoine street and 3532 Clark street as addresses. Confronted with a copy of the evidence he gave before the Forsyth Commission, which investigated Engine Works affairs, Mr. McCarville replied that "I could almost swear that I applied for a job." Transcription of his testimony at the inquiry indicated that Mr. McCarville had said he could not remember making an application for work at the Engine Works plant. "It doesn't seem altogether like the evidence I gave," Mr. McCarville said of the transcription. He added that he had not been seen by anybody in the interim between his first evidence and that in court.

Notes By The Way

A. This time in 1862 President Abraham Lincoln delivered his historic message to congress in which he predicted that the population of the United States would eventually reach 250,000,000. As it has increased by more than a hundred million in the eighty years to over 132,000,000, it is apparent that the Emancipator's faith in the future of his country was justified.—Montreal Gazette.

We're for any post-war plan that eliminates the breath-taking spectacle: civilization swinging from trapeze to trapeze without a life-net. Winnipeg Tribune.

A leading American industrialist comes forward with the statement that he isn't fighting to provide m k for Hottentot babies nor to build a "V. V. A. on the Danube." That's the sort of foolishness that springs from the worst foolishness of people going about peddling post-war panaceas and promising a new world. The whole lot of them could be sent to the front.—Prime Minister Churchill warned recently against people warring over what we should do with our victory before we've won it. It's a wise saying.

Josef Stalin, we notice, isn't promising the Russian people a "new world"; he's asking them merely to fight to save the world they have. To fight for their homes and soil and farmland. That should be sufficient for us. The reward of victory in this war isn't going to be the "new world" some of them are going to be the saving of ourselves and our children from degradation and a sorry, isn't that enough? Or are our consciences so dull that we have to promise our people they are going to all live in some "Garden of Eden" some place where there will be work for everybody, or when if people won't work, the State will take care of them anyway? Most of this talk about a "new world" is a dishonest talk begun with because no one is in a position to promise a new world, or has the faintest notion of what the "new world" will be like. All the people making all these promises and creating all this controversy are doing is laying up trouble for the future. Involve the groundwork for the "new world" is to take the "new world" while taking people's eyes off the "new world"—which is the saving of the world.—Ottawa Journal.

The Government has announced that, as 18-year-olds are now being accepted for overseas service, it will not do so on its staffs and officials. It fits most of the members of the class. As this makes it practically impossible for other concerns to hire them, it is a form of conscription on the part of the Government. It is a step toward conscription and should be done with it.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

The role of Wehr, badly hit when war conditions made it a prohibited area to tourists, has worked out its own salvation. It is fast becoming "Tommy's" and "Johnny's" and "there was practically no commercial tourist traffic there. This season a million tourists have produced here. It is a million dollars worth of business.—London Evening Standard.

Mr. Richard Law, parliamentary under-secretary for foreign affairs, anticipated by many months the suggestion made in Parliament that the Government should take the very rubber bicycle He invariably brings a bicycle with him when he visits Hull, and uses it for calls in his constituency. Mr. Law was the first to see the rubber bicycle when he saw one in the city centre to make a call at the Guildhall before setting out on a tour of the Southwest Division.—Leeds Yorkshire Post.

I had breakfast with him a few days ago in Cleveland. He ordered waffles. "Was Cleveland that good?" doesn't sound like a Scotsman's breakfast. My guest was six feet tall as any one might have expected of a man of his stature. He is the very Rev. Hutcheson Cockburn, when he was in Canada last year as visiting moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland. "Do you know why I order waffles?" he asked. "Well, it is because I get two pats of butter and lots of syrup with my waffles. The only one in America who ever got enough butter and syrup. Our bodies seem to cry out for them." Mr. Cockburn, whose proper title by the way, is Rev. Harold Hutcheson Cockburn, B.D., M.A., is the parish minister of St. Michael's Presbyterian Church in Dumfries the church in which Bobby Burns sat and in whose adjoining graveyard his body now lies—a church of two thousand members.—By A. J. Oberson, in the United Church Observer.

Young naval officers are not the only people to grow wartime beards. There was an outbreak of them among American aviators who came to Northern Ireland. The average life of a beard among them is reported, however, to be very short for some reason or other, but I have heard of one technician who made a bet about his beard, under which he must keep it until March. The results are that, though he is reported to be a very young man, he has a beard like a Civil War general. One day recently he and some of his friends visited a church in Belfast and he wished to reach the top floor of the church. The liftman said: "It's not very far—maybe you young fellows would walk up the stairs." But to the bottom, he said: "We'll be able to make one for you, sir," and so he did.—Belfast News-Letter.

As a power with imperial ambitions Italy has been a nuisance to all the world, and not least to her own people. She has neither the moral nor the material resources to carry out such a role, and Mussolini's attempt to inflate his own and his country's position merely to his own and his country's political impasse where there was no possibility of any permanent Italian interests, to become Hitler's client and lackey. Italy's future can be only in a close co-operation with her neighbours and with all those who seek to ensure peace in Europe. If the Germans must be taught to forget their tradition of aggression and conquest, the lesson must be taught by Italian policy. It is that of the value of fair dealing and one must hope that the disastrous failure of present foreign policy will teach it to them.—Glasgow Herald.

The Secret of Russian Success

By J. C. LEWIS

It is a most difficult task for one whose ability is limited to strict, succinct, but comprehensive, on the secret of Russia's amazing power when such a task involves the discussion of a subject about which the average Canadian knows so little yet about which, thanks to misleading propaganda, he has such decided opinions.

All one can do is to take the distrust for and the ignorance of Russia's political and economic system for granted and where one may dispel the ignorance while showing the lack of reason for the distrust. But because these articles are of necessity brief, it is obvious one can only review the highlights, and those very sketchily, of modern Russian history—those highlights which are responsible for making Russia the strongest power on earth.

On November 7th, 1917, there was set up in Russia a new Government. The following government founded on political and economic principles wholly unlike those possessed by any other government. Superficially, it was a government of the people, a government of world history, searching for a precedent for the Russian system, have gone back more than two thousand years and out of that almost forgotten past, have produced Plato's "Republic" to prove their contention that "there is nothing new under the sun." But while it is true Plato had meditated upon and written of an ideal Republic, a political entity to be directed and governed by philosophers, it was to have for its base a social stratum consisting of the masses of the people. A mighty brain and the actual product of equally mighty intellects, and fought a highly trained and unscrupulous enemy under all kinds of conditions, may well feel proud of the great record achieved.

Lenin seized power on November 7, 1917. He was a man of great energy, with one stroke of his pen, all the land of Russia, henceforth, the nation was to be long to the people. Henceforth, there was to be no more hated aristocracy, no more exploitation by the masses of the owners of those who in their miserable houses at night, had eaten black bread and cabbage soup for their evening meal, and their children were to be taken from the fields of the wealthy. A smile must have stolen over the busy countenance of Karl Marx as he turned gently over in his grave.

However, it is one thing to sign one's name to a declaration, but it is an entirely different matter to put into effect the dicta of that proclamation. Greed, injustice, and the lust for power are not removed from the hearts of men by a few scrawls of ink upon a piece of paper. Knowledge, tolerance, and new psychological and economic points of view instantly instilled into the minds of the masses of the people, were the only man in the world in 1917 who possessed the requisite amount of energy, of economic and philosophical training to effect such a world-shaking change. Before the history of the world had a poverty-stricken, beaten, humiliated, and completely disorganized nation pulled itself to its feet by its own bootstraps.

We of the capitalist world admit the profit motive to be the mainspring of our economic machine. On the other hand, Socialists of all grades—which include the C.C.F. and other pink-lea varieties—believe, and so did the early Christians of Christ's day, that money is the root of all evil in the political and economic world. And so the first shock which the new Soviet Government in its climb to a true democracy gave to the rest of the world was when it outlawed profit. Today from Stalingrad to Murmansk, and from Leningrad to Vladivostok, the profit motive is mercilessly trampled upon. Private enterprise, as we understand the term, is dead in Russia. The dead and despite Hamlet's ghost, do not return. On that 22nd of June, 1941, when Russia stood at the crossroads of her destiny, the first thought of her people was the safeguarding of her home front and "Death to the Speculator!" was their cry. (To be continued)

Do not be over sympathetic and down your unfortunate friend in sympathy. Your heart tells you to be sympathetic, but your head should keep it in decent check.

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(Sarnia Observer) Too little has been said about the work of the Royal Canadian Navy in connection with the seizure of North Africa—an act which will be named, one day, as a decisive event in the war. Now a part of the story, as it affects the R.C.N., can be told.

More than 1,200 officers and ratings on 17 Canadian corvettes took part in conveying the greatest troop-carrying armada in history—the armada which carried men and guns to North Africa. Canadian sailors manned landing craft which carried warriors of the United States and Great Britain through the surf and onto the African beaches. Six Canadian flotillas carried American troops and equipment in under fire in the black night—a night illuminated only by tracer bullets and the red glare of exploding shells.

There, in the Mediterranean, as well as in other seas of the world, Canadian ships and personnel acted in closest co-operation with the navies and land and air forces of the United States and Britain.

It is also a fact that five Canadian ships of war collaborated with American forces in the sea fighting near the Aleutian Islands. The current story of the R.C.N. lends special interest to the announcement that King George VI has consented to become Admiral of the Sea Cadets of Canada. By June of next year, it is expected that the present membership of the Sea Cadets, about 50,000 will have jumped to 100,000. This organization prepares boys between the ages of 15 and 18 for duty in the Navy. It is supported by subsidies from the Canadian Government and by voluntary contributions.

Within a little more than three years, the R.C.N. has expanded from a few ships to a fleet of 100 Canadian ships whose sons have gone from quiet, peacetime jobs to unfamiliar work, on war craft that have sailed the seven seas and fought a highly trained and unscrupulous enemy under all kinds of conditions, may well feel proud of the great record achieved.

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