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

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1942

Our Overseas Army

The greater part of the October issue of the Canadian Geographical Journal is devoted to a subject of the very foremost interest and importance, namely, "The Canadian Army Overseas 1914-1918".

As emphasized by the writer, a very notable fact concerning the composition of the new Army is its great proportion of armoured strength. Its physical character has undergone many changes during the past year and a half.

The precise manner in which the weapon now under General McNaughton's hand will be used is a matter for the future to disclose, but the General himself has called it "a dagger pointed at the heart of Berlin."

The Why And The Wherefore

Lieutenant-Colonel Dollard Menard has the right to speak bluntly if any man has, says the Globe and Mail. It was he who led his French-Canadian unit, Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal, in the Dieppe attack.

"Then all the more meaning have these words of his spoken to the press at Montreal: 'What the hell is the matter with French-Canadians? We should have twice as many in the army as we have, especially when there are such excellent opportunities for promotion. But, instead of taking these opportunities, French-Canadians are staying in their shells. A great mission has been thrust upon us, and we must take up our just share of the battle.'

"We can tell Colonel Menard what is wrong with the French-Canadians. There is nothing wrong with them. We have repeated that time and time again. But things have been happening while Colonel Menard was training his unit in Britain.

"The French-Canadians are a generous, good-hearted people. They were deliberately fooled by men in public life who have hidden their backs for twenty-five years. They have been isolated from the rest of Canada to keep them a voting block.

"And if you will want to know immediately what is wrong with the French-Canadians, Colonel Menard, then read the report of The Canadian Press which appeared in this newspaper on the same day as your manly and honest words were spoken:

Quebec, Oct. 15 (CP) — Mrs. Pierre F. Casgrain, in a message to electors of Charlevoix-Saguenay constituency, where she will run as an Independent Liberal in a Federal by-election Nov. 30, said today that she was "opposed to compulsory military service if its object is to send our youths, against their will, to fight in a foreign country."

"In the plebiscite I voted negatively, as did the majority of my fellow-citizens, because I wanted nothing changed in the promises that political chiefs had made to our province before the war and even in the general elections in 1940 on the conscription question."

"And it isn't that Madame Casgrain couldn't know better if she wished. She is an educated woman whose husband was for twenty-four years a member of the House of Commons. He was its Speaker, and, until he was recently appointed to the Superior Court Bench of Quebec, was Secretary of State in Mr. King's Cabinet. And that same Pierre Casgrain is, of all things, an honorary member of your regiment, Les Fusiliers Mont-Royal.

"For political gain politicians have been playing that sort of dangerous game. But it is not Madame Casgrain alone. It has been Mr. St. Laurent who said that it is no obligation of citizenship to fight beyond the shores of Canada. It has been all the host of partisans of French-Canadian race who have befuddled your people with talk of this being a British war, an imperialist war, not Canada's war. You, Colonel Menard, have shown that you know what kind of war it is. By your wounds you have proof that French-Canadians can fight, and do fight, for freedom.

"And while you were fighting for them and us, the Raymonds, the Chalouls, the Duplessis, the Cardins have done their ill service until you, in honest wrath, wonder what is wrong. But not alone are the French-Canadian politicians to blame. Others, English-speaking, have been willing to get the benefit of keeping French-Canadians a voting block, war or no war, danger or no danger. All the English-speaking Cabinet Ministers have benefited by the campaign of segregating the French-Canadians from the rest of Canada. And why? Just to keep the political formula, so carefully worked out by Mr. King, of insisting since the last war that isolation is a good thing; that conscription is hateful; that total war is not for us; that all participation in the war should be moderate and voluntary.

"Colonel Menard, all Canada is proud of your heroism. Be not worried about the worth of the members of your race. Remember that evil men have misled them."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The response so far good, but not nearly good enough.

Advice has been received that gifts for members of the Canadian Armed Forces stationed in United States territory will be admitted into that country duty free. In order to secure this privilege, senders in Canada should endorse such parcels: "For Personal Use of Member of Canadian Armed Forces."

Is Government criticism justified at this critical period? The plain truth is that some few Canadian newspapers, pleading to aid and arguing with and goading the Government, have stiffened and expanded this country's war effort to an extent which would have been impossible if they had left the Government alone. In doing this they have served their country and its cause, faithfully and well. The Government itself has reason to thank them.

The Battle of Trafalgar this date 1805 when the British Fleet under Nelson gained victory over the French and Spanish Fleets under Villeneuve off Cape Trafalgar, south west of Spain; the battle began at noon and ended about five; Nelson, mortally wounded, lived long enough to know the day was won; the victory relieved Britain of the threat of invasion and made her mistress of the seas up till the present.

The Federal Department of Agriculture announces that the British Food Ministry has advised that it is prepared to purchase an additional quantity of cheese above the 125,000,000 pounds provided for in an agreement covering the 12 months ending March 31 next. "The additional quantity which the Ministry has agreed to accept will, it is believed, permit of export to the Ministry of the greater part, and probably all the October-made cheese which may be tendered for export," the Department said.

Sending "half-baked college kids" out west to harvest the wheat crop was in line with the King government's policy of "too little and too late," declares Mr. Elmore Philipot, editor-director of the Vancouver News-Herald, and author of the syndicated column As I See It. Mr. Philipot who recently led a movement to place General McNaughton in the Prime Minister's chair at Ottawa, is in Montreal to "size up the change in the mental atmosphere" since his movement attempted to lessen the tension between east and west. "Mile after mile of wheat will be destroyed this year," he charges because of lack of co-ordination in the government's war plan. The newspaper editor charges that there is "gross discrimination" in the call-up system between military districts. "Some are 100% ruthless in calling up men, while some are quite lax." Changing the national selective service from one department to another was not sufficient, he says. A machinery change is no good until the government makes its own basic overseas service," but he believes total war will come by the end of the year.

This is also England, writes the London correspondent of Montreal Gazette: I visited the Sussex village on which a German tip-and-run raider dropped a single bomb. He hit a school-house and 26 children were killed. The village is small and picturesque. It is set in a valley miles removed from anything of a military nature. A single street, probably called High Street, runs between rows of modest dwellings and gardens. Here, one would say, is a haven for children in a cruel world. It turned out to be a burial place. The single bomb which dropped on the schoolhouse changed the character of the village forever. One cannot remove 26 children from so small a community without marking it for generations to come as a place of mourning. One elderly gentleman knows this. On each Saturday afternoon he goes to the grave of his eight-year-old grandson and places a sixpence by the stone. It is the sweets money he used to give the lad on Sabbath eve. Beside another stone is a small wood slab on which is written in childish capitals: "To my best pal Keith, from Billy Clark."

NOTES BY THE WAY Why Britain Stood Alone

Armed with the trusty stiletto, there would still be nothing for the Duke to do but to come opening a second back — Winnipeg Tribune.

Tea is not rationed in Belgium because there is none. And that, by the way, is an excellent reason. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Hitler conferred with Antonescu, Rumanian premier, in Berlin on Wednesday. "Conferred" is a courteous term. Poor Antonescu was probably shivering in his shoes while the Fuehrer scolded and threatened. — Ottawa Citizen.

Gossip about the possibility of an election has been set going by recent speeches in the House of Commons. To keep the war in the air, which there should be no indulgence at present unless it be planned to set up a non-political cabinet to keep the war in the air, is no other way. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

A gain of 1,327,000 in our population for 1941 is attributed to war influences. But all except 41,000 of this gain is due to an excess of births over deaths. The total births were 2,273,000 — at least one-half of which would grow up to become soldiers against Hitler if he got that long. — Kansas City Star.

The Canadian Navy has lost more ships in the last few weeks than it comprised at the outset. And it still is a great fighting force. The way the navy has been built up is a credit to the government in Canada's war effort. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

If Madrid had issued a communique, Berlin style, on the challenge to now hold the line against the Spanish fleet: "An English cruiser of the Revenge class was surprised by an inferior force of our surface fleet while visiting Portugal neutrally in the Azores. Despite our efforts to escape action, the English vessel was quickly boarded and captured without loss on our part." — Toronto Star.

A group of American paratroops, on maneuvers last week in rural England, were sprayed beside a road ending their lunch when a truck filled with British Guards rolled up, came to a grinding stop. The Englishmen leaped to their rifles, and the Americans jumped back and ducked — shaped helmets of the Americans. The tension was broken when it was realized that the strange uniforms were not made in Germany. "Blimey," exclaimed a Home Guard, "we've had some Jerries landed." Britons and Americans laughed and began swapping cigarettes. — New York Times.

An American soldier now in Northern Ireland is said to have written home: "Dear Dad — Guess what I need most of all. That's right, son, Tom. The father replied: "Don't hang over me, you son of a bitch. What happens here. Write us another letter. ANON. Jimmy was asking about you on Monday. Now we have to say good-bye." — London T.I. Bits.

Decisive battles in this war are being fought, on the present fronts. A highly interesting statement in the August letter of Lieut. Colonel Menard suggests that Canada is winning the greatest contribution to world culture since the war. The statement is: "In the manufacturing field there is some evidence that the peak of national capacity for the production of materials has nearly been reached." Presumably Canada's production of war materials will attain its maximum when the Selective Service program, using compulsion where necessary, shifts man and woman power from the peacetime war work. — Sydney Post-Record.

We tend to forget, as we congregate in cities, the primary importance of the farmer. Sometimes we drive our cars to the market, quite oblivious of what the farmers are doing in our economy, and what they contribute to our economy. The farmer is and has the right to be considered a key man with all that involves. — St. John Telegraph-Journal.

Direct income tax as we know it in Canada is perhaps the most effective method of Government financing. You have the income tax, you pay — no person can dodge. Further, it provides continuous income for the Government. That is, it orders that previously ruled that it be a wise policy to maintain a price ceiling even though it might be under the strain and needs the prop of subsidies. It can be accepted as a fact that it has kept us from price inflation. But now, it is being realized that the farmer is and has the right to be considered a key man with all that involves. — St. John Telegraph-Journal.

If there is a shortage of domestic accommodation in Toronto area at this time it is due to war time conditions and therefore the city is not obligated to use the taxpayer's money to undertake the erection of temporary houses. The responsibility rests with the Dominion Government which establishes Wartime Housing Ltd. to provide housing for war workers and others in need of it. Wartime houses are temporary structures for which there will be no return. The revenue which they bring in while occupied is not and eventually they will be demolished and their contents sold at junk prices. It is not part of municipal business to engage in such a temporary venture. — Toronto Telegram.

Thirty members of the Women's Land Army, who completed a fortnight's intensive training in rat destruction, have begun work against rats in the West Riding. There will hardly be a parish in the West Riding which will not be covered by these girls, who will work in pairs. A fortnight earlier these girls were hairdressers, clerks, shop assistants, such as, and the thoughts of handling a rat would fill them with horror. They have had extensive training in rat destruction by trap, other poisoning of baits, and every method, but the one they will use mostly. — Leeds Yorkshire Post.



BOY IN AUTUMN

When gypsy-colored woods invite his roaming, He rises early to spy out the weather. He plucks a high note from the sky. Assured of sunshine, like a swallow homing, He plunges in. Tall sumacs close together Behind his back, and he is lost to sight — Only the sound of trampled leaves is heard. Only a startled echo of delight. And the long whistle of a woodland bird.

When he returns at evening, pockets heavy With unfiled walnuts, and his cap piled high With shining red haws, he makes an instant levy On supper stores, and long before Has darkened to night-blue, he falls asleep. Before the open fire, his ardent spent. Beside him, the prized treasures in a heap Glow and reflect rich autumn's wonderment. — Christie Jeffries in the Christian Science Monitor.

Hero Of Three Wars

(Ottawa Journal) Jan Christian Smuts, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, has turned up in London to confer with British war leaders. It is a miracle of social systems. It is a miracle of human nature, which asserts its dignity against the forces of hell. Because Britain held in 1940 Russia can now hold the line against the guerrillas in the Balkans die with their hands on Nazi throats but their places are taken by others. Because Britain held, mankind can now hope. We can well bow our heads in admiration of the British. We can well hold out our hands to the living, who pray with us, who march with us and stand with us on the day of victory.

Secrets Of The Weather

(Ottawa Journal) Weather nowadays is a military secret, and its importance in aerial military operations has given new urgency to study of the factors that make good weather and bad. An article by Wolfgang Lange-Haber in the Harper's Magazine throws a great deal of light on recent improvement in the accuracy of weather predictions and explains why the weather never has been clear to the layman. One day the skies are gray and dreary; the next morning the sun is shining brightly. How is it predicted? The author explains. "The air which was warm, moist and gray last night is still warm, moist and gray this morning, but it has been pushed 50 or 100 miles to the south and east of where you live and has been replaced by a mass of cold, dry air coming from the north or west. This is the new theory of weather, and it is called Air Mass Analysis. It is based upon the research and experiments of a Norwegian physicist, Vilhelm Bjerknes, and Mr. Larue, calls his discovery the 'new weather forecast contribution to world culture since 1918.' Mr. Bjerknes, it is interesting to note, for some years pursued his research in Northern Canada on expense grants from the Canadian Government.

Singapore Explained

(Exchange) Many people have been sorely perplexed over the destruction of the battleship Prince of Wales and the battle cruiser Repulse, and the subsequent loss of Singapore, which had been so frequently described as an impregnable fortress and symbol of British power in the East. The recent review of happenings in the Pacific given by Admiral Thomas G. Hart, of the United States Navy, furnishes an illuminating explanation of this tragedy. In this connection he says: "What happened at Pearl Harbour was a minor circumstance compared with the loss of Singapore — material and psychological. Singapore could not have been saved by plans. Everyone can now see that the only thing which could have saved this stronghold would have been the success of Admiral Tom Phillips' attempt to get his powerful ships, the Prince of Wales and the Repulse, into Japanese transports at sea. . . . Had he succeeded, with even one of his ships, her guns would have pounded off the enemy transports at the rate of one a minute. Admiral Phillips' gallant attempt was called reckless and foolhardy by some. It increased use of Britain's canals for transportation of munitions and supplies, the traffic jam has persisted on the waterways system."

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JAM ON WATERWAYS LONDON (CP) — The traffic jam has been taken from the highway by petrol restrictions but, with

FREEDOM MUST BE FOUGHT FOR AND PAID FOR

Supreme Courage and Fortitude were characteristics of those sturdy pioneers who braved the perils of the wilderness, dangers and hardships of a nation dedicated to lay the foundations of the freedom. Their sons and daughters have proved worthy custodians of the precious heritage and have built a Canada of which we may well be proud. . . . This freedom must be fought for — and which we may well be proud to pay for. Our freedom . . . our very lives are in the keeping of that to battle a foe who would destroy all that we hold dear. Nothing that we can do can equal their sacrifice. But we must back them to the limit. . . . WORK harder than ever before. . . . SAVE every cent absolutely necessary. . . . LEND every dollar to buy the planes, the tanks, the ships they need to give them every advantage in their fight to keep Canada a free nation.

VICTORY BONDS S. A. McDONALD

Youth Training Classes The attention of young men between the ages of sixteen and thirty who are not eligible for military call is directed to the five months course on Blacksmithing, which is to open in Charlottetown the second of November, and which will continue for five months. This course gives an excellent training for young men who wish to fit themselves for general Blacksmithing work in this province. Applications of intending enrollees should be mailed immediately to the undersigned. This is a splendid opportunity for a thorough training in this trade.

The attention of young women is also directed to the training classes in Mechanics and general farm work. This six weeks course is designed to give a training to girls who may be of outstanding assistance in carrying on farm programmes in this time of emergency. There is a splendid opportunity here to assist in the national service. Applications for these courses are herewith solicited. Other courses for young men and women, as previously outlined will be arranged shortly. Applicants should immediately send in properly filled forms if it is the intention to enroll. W. R. SHAW, Director Youth Training

points out that in all the early campaigns only one of the American attacks — that in the Malacca Straits — was successful, "because for once information, excellent staff work, favorable weather conditions, and a good luck." The British admiral thought they might have saved the ships, but none were at hand, and Admiral Hart thinks that Phillips was justified in taking the risk. The break was against him. Admiral Hart

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