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

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1942.

Nazis, Too, Short of Oil

Essential oil requirements are such that there will be "no heating by oil next winter in homes or factories throughout Canada," states Munitions Minister Howe.

In a recent number of the Petroleum Press Service an attempt is made to appraise the oil situation in Germany, and its conclusions are somewhat encouraging.

The author of the article is satisfied that the intensified efforts of the Germans to enlarge their domestic production of synthetic oil from coal and to improve its quality have met with considerable success.

The way of the transgressor in Belgium is hard. At Vise on the Meuse River, no Belgian priest could be found to officiate at the funeral of Urban Dodefont pere et fils.

Peat Bogs

More vital war materials, like oil and cordite, can be obtained from peat bogs in Allied countries when a new method for carbonizing peat has been developed on a commercial scale.

Peat, used from time immemorial as a fuel, has become of increasing industrial importance in recent years owing to the development of artificial drying methods which reduce the time taken from weeks to hours.

Turkey On The Fence

The lesson learned in the last war when Turkey made the mistake of entering the fray on the side of Germany and the other Central powers seems to have left a lasting impression on the Turks, says the Montreal Gazette.

M. Inonu indirectly served notice to possible aggressors when he stated that since the beginning of the war Turkey's army had been practically mobilized and had been keeping vigil on the frontiers, ready and alert, and did not

intend to change that policy. No matter how long the war lasts — and it looks as if it will last a long time — the head of the state said he was convinced that Turkey would emerge "intact and strong."

Being both of Europe and Asia the Turks are in a position fairly accurately to interpret the situation. The President believes it will be a long war, a belief that is worth noting. That is what he anticipates and that is why the armed forces are being maintained in a state of preparedness.

EDITORIAL NOTES

There's going to be work for the grate and furnace fitters this summer anyway.

There are thousands of airmen to be looked after by Moncton, why take our railway men as well?

We are going to have our quota of American tourists all right, but it is on Canadians from Upper and Lower Canada, as well as farther west, that we must most largely depend from now on.

Kentucky will use orange and black windshield stickers in place of automobile licence plates for 1943. The stickers will be four by two inches. Operators will be required to keep their 1942 plates on their cars in addition to having the stickers.

It is a good thing being a lawyer on the "right side" of politics these days. The Wartime Prices and Trade Board has appointed 51 lawyers to positions since October 1, 1941, it was reported in a return made in the House of Commons.

American tourists who have been issued Canadian gasoline ration books good for the purchase of 100 gallons will be enabled to keep them, although the ration for those making application now is 20 gallons. The 100-gallon allocation originally was available to tourists who entered under arrangements permitting them to remain in Canada for six months, the ration books being obtained from customs officers.

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Hon. Mr. Howe is both worried and irritated over the submarine menace along our shores. When interrogated by Mr. Hatfield, M. P. when the Maritimes might expect relief from oil restrictions, etc., he said flatly that they would not only be increased, but extended to the whole of Canada, adding with unusual heat for a responsible minister: "If my honorable friend can help us out with the submarine sinkings I may be able to answer his question. I am sorry but I am not conducting the Germans' war."

Victor-Marie Hugo, French novelist and poet, died this date, 1885; took active part in politics till 1851 when he retired to the Channel Islands until 1870; was the great leader of the Romantic school of French literature; his poems, dramas and romances, on every subject and in numberless forms, aroused an enthusiasm almost unparalleled in literature; his best known translations are "Notre Dame de Paris" and "Les Miserables"; his heroes always suffer some untoward handicap, like the deformed bell-ringer of Notre Dame or a convict with luck against him like Jean Valjean. The eternal note of sadness is one of the charms of Hugo; love of liberty, justice, glory, nature, children are also outstanding features of his work; in poetry his "Paradise Lost and Regained," was praised by Swinburne as the greatest poem of the 19th century.

Considerable stir has been created in business circles by alleged Fascist propaganda by one of the many bureaucrats, Mr. Robert F. Chisholm, Administrator of Wholesale Trade under the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, addressing the Toronto Real Estate Board a few days ago, intimating that war controls of business may be perpetuated as peace controls. Some other speakers have been saying much the same thing. "It begins to look like a campaign of some sort, a campaign to impose forever upon business the restrictions and controls which they have willingly accepted as a patriotic duty in time of war," says The Montreal Gazette, the voice of St. James St. "The success of any such movement would be, of course, a stupendous fraud and betrayal, but it is quite clear that there are some persons who wish to bring it about. Mr. Chisholm may not be expressing the attitude of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, or that of the Government. The probability is that he does not, but the Board and the Government should say so. The continued co-operation of business is vitally necessary to the success of the war effort, but business is not being encouraged to cooperate by officials and others who hang a threat over its head."

NOTES BY THE WAY

A North of England factory which used to make cricket bats has now turned over to producing buttons and stocks for Tommy guns and rifles. It occurred to its manager when war broke out that his machines could be adapted for making the wooden "furniture" of guns. The suggestion was poked at first; but he won the day and got his contract. To-day the machines which three years ago were turning out cricket bats are shaping four shafts of wood into four rifle butts in as many minutes. Other machines complete the 92 processes which are necessary before the butts and stocks go into the ammonia chamber to mellow. They are then treated with linseed oil. The craftsmen who made the cricket bats maintain that to-day they are out of a pile of other rifles, a seasoned war veteran will still choose their work for its "feel". —Robert Williamson.

Five bright hued wools are now blended together to produce the earthy colour of khaki first widely used in South Africa for the uniforms of the British army. In peace time the process was a secret belonging to the West Riding of Yorkshire where the heavy wool-textile industry first discovered how to blend wools of six colours into khaki thread. But to-day the West Riding shares its secret with all other wool spinning areas in the United Kingdom so that the whole industry can go ahead with the colossal job of putting the troops into uniform. The blending is now standardised and the number of colours reduced by one. The correct proportions of blue, yellow, brown, red and mauve wools are laid up by huge combs which separate and blend them. Gradually each colour begins to lose its identity, just as the colours on a spinning top will merge into a single grey. At first the mass of coloured wool is patty bluish here, yellowish there—and then as the machines complete the job, the colours become so well blended that khaki emerges from the rainbow of colour. This blending process gives an even and moiré lasting result than dyeing the cloth in the piece as was done in the early days of the war. In 1914-18 the difficulties of replacing dyes formerly imported from Germany produced colours which varied in almost grass green to dark brown. To-day colour charts and Ministry of Supply specifications result in the same shade of khaki. A piece of khaki cloth is carefully inspected before being passed out. —British Industry Bulletin.

Thirty thousand farm vehicles, wanted by British farmers for this year's harvest, will be delivered to time, thanks to two new standard wheel patterns. Agricultural engineers in Britain were faced with two shortages — of materials for making pneumatic tyres for tractor trailers and tumbrils, and of standard wheels. The solution was to have labour for making the old-fashioned wooden cart wheel. The long of these problems had arisen from the loss of rubber producing territories in the East, for war work of greater priority had already made it difficult to get moulds and presses for tyre making. So the engineers have evolved an all steel wheel 3 ft. in diameter with a minimum tyre width of 6 in. To absorb the shock formerly taken by the pneumatic tyre there are two coil springs between the axle and the cart, kept in line by a sliding pin in grooves. The 3 ft. wheel can be turned out in as many months as it took years for the older types. A road test with two tons over a 7 mile trip at 10 and then 15 m.p.h., proved the rubberless trailers to be quite as good as those with pneumatic tyres. The British Agricultural Engineers' Association have given the new 3 ft. wheel and axle for a 4 ft. 6 in. steel wheel for farm carts, free of all patent and licence rights. — Industrial Publicity.

The straw in the thousands of palliasses on which the British Army sleeps is now regularly turned into paper as fresh straw takes its place. In the old days the straw would just be burned. Now it is laid out to air thoroughly, then packed up in bales and sent to the paper mills. Jute from tattered sand bags is from the Army Salvage depots to the paper makers too. There is not a scrap of paper left in the world. Every week one of them alone collects 50 tons of iron, aluminium and tin. It sorts out tin, aluminium and iron, and sends them to the makers that the carbon may be used in the production of steel. Old barrage balloons become strips of rubber for the making of water-tight covers for tanks shipped overseas. Cotton sent in by the Women's Voluntary Services and the Girl Guides are used by the Engineers for cable rests in laying temporary telephone and telegraph lines. More than 15,000 of them have been collected since this one depot collected 859 tons of Army paper for salvage and sold it at 5 pounds a ton; in all the Army got 100,000 pounds for its salvage in a year and passed the money on to war funds. — London Army Salvage Depot.

About 1,200 million buttons moulded from plastic materials are wanted for the "utility" suits designed for war-time wear in Britain. Before the war most of Britain's buttons were of vegetable ivory. Now the bulk of them are moulded from the by-products of cold. Although not popular before the war, these plastic buttons are much preferred to-day for they do not break in the mangle and they retain their finish indefinitely. They are stronger than buttons because they have no sharp edges to cut the thread. One factory where the utility buttons are being made is at present producing three million of something like 10,000,000 buttons a year. By the end of this year their rate will be in the neighbourhood of 200 million; and this tripled output will be secured with a staff of only 200 workers. One machine recently installed turned out 5,760 waistcoat buttons an hour. The buttons are made in tons, 36 of which are required on each suit, can be made at the rate of 2,880 an hour. In two months' time the factory will be producing 835,000 buttons a week — enough for 21,000 soldiers. Soon the brass buttons of the Army and Royal Air Force will also be replaced with moulded buttons to save value surplus of brass and copper not to mention time in cleaning — Lacroid Products Ltd.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

"The war will not soon be over." — M. Grassi, O'Leary, Associate Editor of the Ottawa Journal.

Italy And Her Nazi Masters

(Manchester Guardian)

Evidence from many sources suggests that the black market is the rule rather than the exception in the provisioning of the Italian people. The Government is struggling to control it, but the problem has proved intractable. Warnings against the danger of illegal dealings are broadcast just before the news bulletin. The Fascist party which was at first in charge of the control of distribution and prices seems to have failed as the task was transferred to the Governmental prefects.

Later higher authorities were considered necessary to cope with the evil, and an inter-Ministerial committee has just been set up for the purpose. Well-informed quarters regard these changes as a struggle between the various "hierarchies" each of which is anxious to shift responsibility for what is regarded as a hopeless job. The life of the odious Special Tribunal of the Revolution has been extended indefinitely. This court, which has pronounced dozens of death sentences and thousands of prison sentences — not including banishment to the islands, which are administrative, not judicial, measures — was created in 1927 for a period of five years. It has twice been prolonged for five years, and now even this last pretence of legality has been dropped.

An American who left Italy in November, has summed up the attitude of the man in the street, by saying: "They never ask who will win; they only ask when the war will end. The Fascist press and radio both confirm and try to answer this outlook. They make the most of the achievements in Libya and the Far East and promise better things to come. They explain that Italian sacrifices are due to inter-Axis co-operation. After some evidently vain efforts to discount the legend of American power a matter well known to millions of Italians with contacts and friends in the United States, official propaganda is now trying to dictate that the 'Jewish Republic of Roosevelt' will soon collapse and make possible a separate peace. Giovanni Ansoldo, chief Fascist radio propagandist, said: 'We believe that in two years' time the people of the United States will have realized that no Axis division will ever try to land in New York and that they will be extremely wary of the whole war.'"

The Nazis theme "Hate Britain" was followed by Fascist propaganda rather unceasingly, and then abandoned. More successful must have been the reverse slogan, "The British hate you all," which has become the most consistent of all propaganda trends. The vice-secretary of the party, Carlo Ravasio, addressed a meeting of political journalists at Milan told them to remind the Italians that "while we are asking only for justice our foes speak only of avenging themselves and destroying us."

Northwest Passage

(Halifax Chronicle)

Bombing and naval forays on Allied convoys proceeding northward along the coast of Norway indicate pretty clearly the importance attached by the Axis and the United Nations alike to this "back door" to the Soviet Union. Yet some of us have failed to grasp fully its significance. We take it for granted that Murmansk and Archangel are the only Soviet Arctic ports, and that the proximity of German and Finnish lines to both these ports are an obstacle to their use. It is not so. Russia's lifeline to the Arctic is far from being unimportant. But they are by no means the only accessible routes to the Kara Sea, east of the high island mass of Nova Zembla, lie a number of little known but extremely active seaports — sea-ports far away from the Kara and Finnish menace which constantly threaten Murmansk and Archangel and their connecting railways. There is little-known Novyport, built by the Soviets, four hundred miles which surrounds the estuary of the Ob River. Then there is Igarka, a port laid out only in 1928, located four hundred miles up the mighty Yenisei river. Igarka has extensive and modern lumber mills, equipped with the latest machinery. So the lumbering operations may go on even through the bitter cold of the Siberian winter. A large artificially-heated log pool has been constructed. Hospitals, theatres, community centers and all the other characteristic features of Soviet communal life, occupy prominent place in this Arctic river port of eighty thousand people. It is significant that the current number of the P.L.A. Monthly, official publication of the Port of London Authority, should carry an article dealing at length with these other Siberian ports of the Soviet Arctic. The article recalls that the trade between London and ports on the Kara Sea was first successfully opened by one Joseph Wiggins, in 1878. In the months preceding the war great quantities of Soviet timber were shipped to Britain from Igarka and Novyport. The distance from Britain is



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India. Fortunately Canada has generous supplies of pup-pod and the fertilizer should be able to meet the needs of the fertilizer trade with pup-pod bags, said Mr. Peart.

MAY USE PAPER BAGS FOR FERTILIZERS

Due to the shortage in the available supplies of jute, as a result of war conditions, it may be necessary next year to use paper bags entirely for fertilizers, G. S. Peart, Fertilizers Administrator, states today. During the present season members of the fertilizer trade have been unable to obtain as many jute bags for packing their product as in other years and as the war continues fewer jute bags will be available. Jute comes almost entirely from the Bangal district of

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