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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1940.

Defeat In The Desert

History affords few more ironical instances than the advance of the British columns from Egypt to Libya along the "Via Vittoria"—Victory Way—a highway laboriously built by the Italians from the Libyan frontier to Sidi Barrani during their three months of occupation.

One is reminded of Shelly's magnificent sonnet on the vain ambition of another dictator:—
I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them on the sand
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown
And wrinkled lip and sneer of cold command
Tell that the sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,

The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal these words appear:
"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away

Overlapping Taxation

emphasizing that the Dominion Government depends solely for its financing on taxes and public loans, the Montreal Herald says:

In view of the heavy federal taxation, and perhaps still heavier taxation to come, it is necessary to hold provincial and municipal taxation not intended for war effort to a minimum or the total load will be unbearable and the "goose that lays the golden eggs" will not longer be able to function normally.

By the law of diminishing returns the financial pressure on trade and industry might seriously react on war and local taxation purposes through the reduced revenues of trade and industry.

This situation is already developing. Provincial and municipal income taxes, which are levied on the basis of from 20% to 50% of the amounts collected by the Dominion Government from income, are a serious form of interference with war purposes.

If still higher income taxes are to be imposed by the Dominion Government, and provinces and municipalities continue to super-impose on these local income taxes for non-war purposes, the time is approaching when retail and other business and the individual citizen will be too badly crippled to provide in the measure of which they are potentially capable for the defeat of the Axis powers.

Apart from this, provincial and municipal sales taxes, super-nuper-nuper water taxes, radio taxes, telephone taxes, tobacco taxes, and other forms of diverting taxation from the purpose of winning the war to local purposes which have no relation to the pressing objective.

This unending duplication of taxation on business inevitably means less business. There is a definite limit to taxation beyond which the law of diminishing returns inevitably begins to operate.

That limit, it is contended, has been reached in many quarters, not because of our war effort, but because of destructive competitive taxation resulting from the unsound system, or lack of system, of overlapping taxation.

Evacuee Children

More than 2,500,000 applications have been received by the British Government for evacuation of children to Canada, according to Mr. R. Keith Jopson of London, representative in Canada for the Children's Overseas Reception Board. The people of this Dominion, mindful of the toll of indiscriminate bombing raids over the British Islands, will welcome the assurance that the British Government has every intention of continuing the movement in the spring. Apart from the humanitarian aspects, it is difficult to overestimate the beneficial effect which a sojourn of large numbers of British children in Canada will have upon Empire relations and development.

The Government of Canada is strongly in favor of providing safe refuge for as many British children as can be transported. The Department of Immigration set out to provide placement for 50,000, which is nearly ten times the number that have already moved to this country. Thus far, only 1,532 have come on assisted passages and approximately 4,500 who provided their own transportation. So far as children who pay their own way are concerned, there is no hindrance. Canada is prepared to accept all who can obtain steamship passage. The movement of this class is dependent on the willingness of parents to take the risk which attends travel through submarine-infested waters. With respect to those coming on assisted passages, the movement will depend upon whether the British Government can provide ships to carry and war vessels to convoy them.

About fifty thousand homes are available for the 25,000 children who have passed their final tests to be evacuated under the overseas scheme,

some 75 per cent of whom are destined for Canada.

It is not inconceivable, says an exchange, that once the menace of Hitlerism has been removed, British industries will be established in Canada and opportunities for the investment of British capital and the settlement of British families may be possible on a scale we have not witnessed since before the Great War. Canada will march with the world's great nations and maintain her proud place as the senior Dominion. In anticipation every possible preparation should be made to provide a haven in this country for all who can come.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Now it shant be long!

That last little purchase must be made today in time for Christmas Eve.

Christmas at the Post Office, Express office and Railway is somewhat of an ordeal.

Did you ever see so many fine young fellows in uniform as are about town this season?

By the way, did you send that cheap cable to your boy overseas? He'll be mighty glad to get it.

A good lady, who has always the welfare of others at heart, pleads for the observance of Boxing Day as a holiday, if for no other reason than to give the store clerks a well-earned rest. It is up to the stores to set the pace.

Sir Hugh Percy Allen, musical conductor and composer, born this date, 1869. Director of the Royal College of Music; Professor of Music Oxford University; conductor of London Bach Choir and Oxford Bach Choir, created Kt. in 1920. C.V.O. in 1926. K.C.V.O. in 1928. Has many honorary degrees from various universities.

U.S.A. is at last beginning to exclude doubtful aliens. The Justice Department denied the application of Maria Waldenburg, the Princess Hohenlohe of Hungary, for extension of a visitor's permit, and ordered her to leave the country by December 21. At the same time, Attorney-General Robert H. Jackson announced his approval of a recent Immigration Service order refusing to extend the temporary visitor's permit to Karl Scheuring, 18, described as "a citizen of Germany and avowed Nazi," who is a student at the University of Denver.

The first estimate of Canada's 1940 honey crop shows a total production of 22,633,400 pounds. This is 21.6 per cent smaller than the 1939 crop of 28,873,100 pounds and 23 per cent smaller than the average production of the previous five years. Although production was curtailed by unfavourable weather conditions, the crop on the whole is of fair quality. A large proportion has already been marketed at prices averaging 2 to 3 cents higher than in 1939 and prospects are that the entire supply will be disposed of before the 1941 crop comes on the market. Production follows by provinces in order of magnitude, with the revised estimates for 1939 in brackets: Ontario 9,500,000 (11,500,000) pounds; Manitoba 3,767,500 (5,400,000); Saskatchewan 3,682,000 (4,262,000); Quebec 2,200,000 (4,355,000); Alberta 2,002,000 (2,178,000); British Columbia 1,264,000 (1,004,000); New Brunswick 124,000 (82,800); Nova Scotia 75,000 (77,000); Prince Edward Island 18,000 (12,400).

No more classes of gentlemen cadets will be entered into Royal Military College at Kingston, Ont., until after the war, National Defence Headquarters announces. Accommodation and training facilities made available by the decision will be used to accommodate courses for about 150 officers, the announcement said. Such courses will include a senior officers' course, a company commanders' course and probably a junior staff course. The two former courses will last about two months each, and the latter for about three months. Courses for company commanders have been conducted at the Royal Military College since last July. Beginning in July, 1941, the company commanders' course will be extended and the two other types of course will be started. Two classes of gentlemen cadets now are at the college. One class of about 50 cadets graduates in June next year, and the other class of about 100 cadets in June, 1942. Both these classes will remain at the college and complete their two years' course on the dates scheduled "unless war conditions should require an earlier graduation."

Moving to strengthen restrictions on non-essential use of foreign exchange for travel abroad, the Dominion government announces that effective Jan. 1, 1941, all resident Canadians travelling to a non-sterling area must have a permit from the Foreign Exchange Control Board whether or not they are taking money with them. These travel permits will be issued for legitimate purposes but the board's order is prompted by evidence that a number of residents were taking advantage of previous regulations by crossing the border with no money in their pockets but arranging by illegal means to have money placed at their disposal in the United States. It was also the belief of the board that residents who obtained a permit for proper use were taking other residents with them and spending more money than necessary for the real purpose of their travel. The new order requiring travel permits for people leaving Canada will not apply to those going by direct steamship to a sterling area or Newfoundland, nor will it apply to any members of the Armed Forces departing for duty abroad. Travel permits will be granted those travelling for pleasure when their expenses, including transportation, are paid by friends in the United States, providing the money has been sent to the resident while he or she is still in Canada. It is not permissible, however, for Canadians to borrow money in the United States to cover a journey for which they would not be able to obtain exchange from a Canadian bank.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Admiral Sir Andrew Browne Cunningham's name is becoming known to the general public through his frequent offensive moves with the Mediterranean Fleet and the fighting spirit he has shown. The Navy knew all about "A. B.'s" pugnacity long ago. He won the D.S.O. and two bars for destroyer work at the Bantres and in the Dover Patrol when he was a lieutenant commander. It is an interesting coincidence that our two chief commands that should be held by destroyer men, Admiral Cunningham is essentially a salt-water man. Office work is not his strong point, and almost alone among the senior officers of today he has had only one brief spell of office at the Admiralty. His career and that of Admiral Tovey, the new Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, have been curiously parallel. Both have been captains in command of flotillas, both have been captains of the battleship Rodney, both have been Admiral commanding destroyers in the Mediterranean, and both have been Commodore of the Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham in the early days of the war.

A desire that Commonwealth and Dominion should be organized as a single defence unit to protect their own and British interests in the East, was expressed by the Minister of Supply in all classes of the community in Australia. The desire is probably just as universal in this country. It is reasonable that neither country could remain secure and independent if the others were subjugated. A common defence policy is a necessary foundation upon which any system of security can be built. In recent years too many small nations, and even some large ones, have succumbed to the piece-meal, easy prey for lack of a firm, common front. Of the fighting quality of the personnel the two countries could train for mutual security there is no question, nor of the wide range of natural resources they can command. The business now is to train the men and exploit the resources so as to produce the maximum defensive power in the service of ourselves and the Empire. In young countries, such as the chief of the states by industrial capacity, Portugal, Australia's secondary development since the last war has been phenomenal and she is now in a position to supply arms and munitions, even to the lighter classes of warships. And in the production of military aircraft, moving in the direction of self-sufficiency, except in the matter of engines.—Auckland Weekly News (New Zealand).

It is interesting to note, by the way, that although the war has killed almost all of what are known as traditionally English sports, the only one that has not been completely destroyed is cricket. All through the Summer angling has been immensely popular. In industrial areas, where longer hours of work have made sport a rare luxury, the relaxation and the escape imperative, the membership of angling clubs has greatly increased. In remote districts, where there are few clubs, many soldiers have spent the long Summer evenings by rivers and ponds and the lakes of local parks. On the Medes and Xerxes, the Kentish factory enthusiasm was most beautifully manifest in the private who arrived with what appeared to be a rather ordinary length of packing string, a cork and a safety pin.—London Spectator.

"You ought," someone whose advice is worth following said to me the other day, "to find out who was responsible for deciding to adopt the metric system in 1925. I am a fighter, because the man who did that—those that machine rather than any other—has some claim to be called the saviour of his country." I don't know that that language is much too strong, provided the Hurricane's bracke-ed with the Spitfire, and there is no doubt that the man to whom credit must be given is Lord Swinton, for he was Minister for Air when the Spitfire was adopted in 1936. Mr. B. Mitchell, the designer of the machine, which is a lineal descendant of the seaplane which won the Schneider Trophy in 1927, 1929 and 1931, died in the following year. The diminishing Greek force later formed a compact body on the hillside, but were finally surrounded and slain.

Leonidas fell early in the engagement, and four times his followers repelled the Persians to recover the body. Bottled up between the two parts of the Persian force, the Greeks retired to the narrowest part of the pass, fighting with their swords after their spears were broken. The diminishing Greek force later formed a compact body on the hillside, but were finally surrounded and slain.

war, and its leaders are men who have watched the mistakes being made or who have even themselves contended with them. What then is the true answer to the Church's perplexity? It seems clear that the authoritative Church will for some time to come, still adhere to the State may properly call upon its citizens for its defence.—The Rev. R. A. Edwards in The Hibbert Journal (London).

New York.—Archduke Otto of Austria said in an address here that when King Leopold of Belgium ordered the Belgian army to surrender last May he believed his allies knew of his intent and were prepared. Otto, now staying in the United States with other members of his family, said Geny, Billotte of the French high command visited Leopold in Flanders as the King's request. Billotte was entrusted with a message which explained the situation and informed the Allies of the King's intention. On his way back to Paris Billotte was killed, and the message never delivered. Otto said. The Archduke said London did not learn of Billotte's death, nor did he realize that his Allies were unprepared for the surrender of Belgium. He said that the British Expeditionary Force and France's finest military divisions, Otto predicted France would remain in the war on the side of Great Britain.—The Canadian Press.

People today watch the Church as they certainly did not watch it in 1914. The Church of the last few months do not lessen the need for earnest examination of the issues raised. Then everyone knew that it was a matter of life or death. They have watched the movements of the long controversy in which churchmen have criticised the world's sorry activities on Europe's bloody, blood-soaked, and which Christianity has been challenged for its failure to accept wholeheartedly its mission to reach Christ today. It is true that for the Church every hour is the eleventh and every crisis the last; but to the Church in our generation there is beyond question being presented an opportunity of a kind that has rarely been presented before, for it comes at a time when the tragic mistakes of the recent past are very fresh in the memory, the Church is being asked again about its attitude so

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

A CALL FOR STEWARDS

Sir,—I have an 18-year-old boy (my only one) in training at Debert, N. S., who writes me he has a chance to go to your city at Xmas, that your good citizens are entertaining 200 of the boys. This is very splendid of you and is particularly interesting to me as my boy's grandfather came from P.E.I. I don't know much about the family but thought if I gave you what I do know, you might help to locate some relatives who might like to meet my boy. His grandfather was Daniel Stewart, a ship's carpenter, who married Isabel McKee, of McKee's Bay (pronounced MOKI, I am not sure of the spelling). They moved to Richibucto, N. B. where the boy's father, Hugh Stewart was born and later to Dallas, Maine, Oakland, Cal., and then here. The boy's name is Pte. Hale K. Stewart, D. Div. 1st. Battery, 16th Company, Scottish, C.A.S.F., Debert M.P.O., N. S.

I am, Sir, etc. (MRS.) HUGH STEWART. P. S. The family must have left the East about 70 years ago. Courtenay, B.C., Box 331.

Thermopylae

The Greek-Italian conflict has resulted in repeated reference to the Battle of Thermopylae, because of the heroic stand made by the invaders, and because Thermopylae has remained through the centuries a symbol of Greek valor and self-sacrifice.

The historic struggle at the Pass of Thermopylae took place in 480 B. C., between an invading army of Xerxes and the Greek forces, and the defending Greek army under Leonidas, king of the Spartans, says a bulletin from the National Geographic Society.

The invading hordes of perhaps 180,000, far outnumbered the Greeks. In addition to his personal following of 300 Spartan warriors, all fathers of sons, Leonidas was at the head of an allied Greek army made up of contingents totalling 5,000 to 10,000 from a dozen other city-states. These troops varied in number and in loyalty during the three days of battle.

Despite the disparity in numbers, the Greeks stoutly resisted the barbarian invaders who were unable to bring their full force to bear upon the defenders because of the narrowness of the pass between the mountains and the swampy seacoast. The Persians, however, sent against the Greeks his crack soldiers whom he called the "immortals." They made no more impression against the Greek wall than did the Medes, and successive efforts failed, with great losses.

After two days of unsuccessful fighting, Xerxes ordered some of his troops, particularly one named Ephialtes, who revealed to him the existence of a way over the mountains to the other end of the pass. That night Ephialtes led the 10,000 "immortals" up the mountain trail.

At dawn a small Greek force of 1,000 unexpectedly confronted the Persians at the top of the trail, but the Greeks were driven up the mountain side and the invaders descended the trail to the south end of the Pass of Thermopylae. The Greeks remaining loyal to Leonidas advanced to a wider part of the pass and came into conflict with the Persians, driven by the whips of their officers.

Leonidas fell early in the engagement, and four times his followers repelled the Persians to recover the body. Bottled up between the two parts of the Persian force, the Greeks retired to the narrowest part of the pass, fighting with their swords after their spears were broken. The diminishing Greek force later formed a compact body on the hillside, but were finally surrounded and slain.

Africa

(Exchange)

Should the British invade and conquer Libya—a contingency by no means improbable—it would mean the loss to Italy of nearly half her territory in Africa. Should the loss of Ethiopia follow, not more than one-tenth of Mussolini's "Roman Empire" in Africa would remain for British mopping-up activities.

The Continent of Africa consists of about eleven and a half million square miles, divided among the nations as shown below, the territories under mandate being included in each case.

Table with 2 columns: Country, Area (sq. miles). Includes France (4,200,000), Belgium (3,984,000), Portugal (788,000), Italy (1,030,000), Egypt (350,000), Spain (140,000), Liberia (40,000).

Germany of course has no territory in Africa, all her holdings having been forfeited and created into mandates under other powers. France, credited in this division with the largest area of all, really stands second to Great Britain. These spheres of influence include Egypt's 850,000 square miles. Before Mussolini attacked and annexed Ethiopia, Italy's holdings and mandates in Africa were less than those of Belgium or Portugal. When Ethiopia passed under the Italian yoke in 1936, more than 350,000 square miles of territory were added to that nation's area in Africa.

One thing that may be taken for granted is that there will be a new deal in Africa when this war ends and the treaty of peace is drawn up. The outstanding feature of the post-war readjustment will almost certainly be a general devolution of autonomy, in varying form and degree, to African races now held under rigid subjection by European powers. Ethiopia's independence is already guaranteed by Great Britain. Less than those of Belgium or Portugal, when Ethiopia passed under the Italian yoke in 1936, more than 350,000 square miles of territory were added to that nation's area in Africa.

Butter

(Eastern Chronicle)

Is there a racket in the butter business? If not what keeps the price so jittery? One reading of the market and butter is a drug on the market. There are heavy stocks and the Up-Per Provinces' warehouses are bulging with the quantity. The price slumps with the slump reaching right into the farmer's milk pail. He finds himself in a hopeless jam between the butter market and the price of mill feed, over which he has no more control than the town clock has on the weather.

The Poet's Corner

WHITENESS
The little betrothed has washed her linen—
And hunks it out to dry.
It puffs and blows into mists and clouds
Under the April sky.

Her arms are white as the white pear-blossom—
Her throat is as white as may;
And her heart, like a song on a New-born and sweet as they.

She will walk in white to church on Sunday
Through orchards where birds sing;
And the bridesroom, taking her home at evening,
Will think he weds the Spring.

—Isobel Hume.

Here's Some Suggestions Of—

PRACTICAL GIFTS FOR HER

- Keystone Toilet Sets
Yardley's Gift Sets
Perfumes
Max Factor Gift Sets
Toilet Water
Compacts
Ashes of Roses Gift Sets

Solve Your Gift Problem In An Easy Way!!

FOR HIM

- Men's Military Sets
Yardley's Gift Sets
Rolls Razors
Colgates Gift Sets

ALSO

- Xmas Wrapped Cigarettes, Tobaccos and Cigars.

Pick your Chocolates from our large display of Moirs Packages and Chests Xmas wrapped.

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Ground Meat 50's — 5c lb.
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Calf Tripe 50's — 3 1-2c lb.
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Pick your Chocolates from our large display of Moirs Packages and Chests Xmas wrapped.