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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."
SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1941.

Voice Of The West

Now that Mr. King is back at Ottawa, the Vancouver Province expresses the hope that it is a different Mr. King. "The Prime Minister" it says, "is a shrewd and competent observer. No one in Canada is more adept at sizing up the currents and trend of public opinion. Surely his visit to the Western provinces must have impressed on him the fact that there is grave dissatisfaction with Canada's war effort and keen anxiety to make it more effective."

"When a party leader travels he is as a matter of course almost constantly in the company of his own party supporters, except for those public appearances in which for the most part he talks to the people rather than hears from them. But on this tour of the Prime Minister there was unmistakable evidence that the people were trying to break through the party barriers to speak directly to the leader of the government. That was evident in Winnipeg, in Calgary, in Vancouver, and, in fact, everywhere Mr. King travelled. Mr. King is shrewd enough to realize it."

What did "the voice of the people" say to Mr. King in the West? It was, of course, not a united voice. In many ways there was divergence of opinion—clear indication that it was not a manufactured, but rather an obviously spontaneous, expression of views. The main theme could not be mistaken. It was an expression of Canada's needs: A stronger, younger, non-party government, to direct an all-out war effort involving calling to the nation's service every resource, in men, materials and money.

Western Canada was trying to tell Mr. King that it was prepared to accept any sacrifice of personal security or comfort without reservation to meet the challenge of Hitlerism, and believes that only if that spirit prevails in every measure the nation takes can the challenge be met.

Draft Horses In Demand

With the emphasis now being placed on restriction of gasoline sales throughout Canada, perhaps Old Dobbin will come into his own again. This has been the result in England, where the war has gradually increased the demand for the heavier types of draft horses because of the necessity of economizing on the nation's gasoline supplies. Whereas before the war a campaign was on to ban horse-drawn traffic from the main thoroughfares of London, today horse-drawn vans may be seen in large and ever-increasing numbers. In the suburbs where tradesmen cover considerable distances delivering their goods, horses are said to be replacing the motor vans which were formerly used. In the countryside thousands of acres are being ploughed up for the first time. Frequently they are in country in which it is difficult for motor tractors to operate and the demand for heavy draft horses has thus risen considerably, so have the prices at which they are being sold.

For instance at the recent Ipswich spring sale Suffolk Punch geldings, one of the many famous breeds of British draft horses, fetched the highest prices in their history. Fourteen sold at figures in Canadian money at from \$470 to \$520 each, and 34 others averaged over \$425 each as compared with an average of \$240 at last year's sale.

At a sale of Percheron horses at Histon, Cambridgeshire, equally high prices prevailed. Many of the British farmers have a preference for Percherons, owing to their great pulling power and activity. The breed was first introduced into Britain from France, its country of origin, during the last war. It was found to be the best type for heavy transport in the front lines. The Percheron is the oldest breed in France and probably the purest in existence. During the middle ages these horses were popular as mounts for heavy armored knights in the battlefield and in the jousting ring. In the period following the invention of firearms the same type was used to draw the artillery. Between the years 1800 and 1860 they drew stage coaches and post chaises, and with the advent of railways they became exclusively heavy draft horses and the breed increased in size.

Equipping Service Men

No fewer than 337 separate contracts have been awarded to companies scattered across Canada from coast to coast for the manufacture of components of the personal equipment of the Canadian soldier. While no accurate figures are available, possibly 75,000 to 100,000 workers in some 70 Canadian communities, large and small, are employed at least part time in the making of what the soldier wears or the equipment he carries.

The equipment of a single soldier for service in the field—his battle dress, steel helmet, gas mask, rifle and bayonet, haversack and contents, web equipment, eating utensils, water bottle, ground sheet, greatcoat, cap, boots, socks, shirts, gaiters, knife, cartridge pouches, pay book, iden-

tity disc, and a number of minor items—costs in the neighborhood of \$120. Almost every item is made in the dominion.

A respirator, for example, is a much more intricate piece of equipment than might be indicated by outward appearance. The type worn by the Canadian soldier is of Canadian design. Lieut.-General A. G. L. McNaughton, commander of the Canadian forces overseas and president of the National Research Council, and the late Sir Frederick Banting carried out a great deal of research in connection with it. The mask comprises more than 40 components, which are manufactured in 67 plants and assembled in a central factory in Quebec.

The steel helmet, too, was designed in Canada and is said to be one of the best in the world. The helmet is stamped from a light, special alloy steel plate. It will repel a .45 calibre special jacket bullet fired at a range of three feet. The helmet is fitted with a carefully designed anti-shock lining.

A set of web equipment consists of 22 pieces. Never manufactured in Canada before the war, web equipment is now being made in two plants in the dominion. The pioneer manufacturer; whose plant is situated in an Ontario town, employs 1,500 persons and makes nothing but web equipment.

Why couldn't some of this work be done in Prince Edward Island? Echo answers "Why?"

EDITORIAL NOTES

Defeat of the Spanish Armada this date 1588; the beginning of Britain's sea power, which she has never lost, and never will, if Briton's to themselves be true, the Cubs, as well as the Lion.

"Friendly Alien" doctors may soon be allowed to join the Australian Army. A number of them, with high qualifications, are at present in Australia, where in both army and civilian life there is a shortage of doctors.

Belief that the ultimate outcome of the war will be "silently and fatefully decided in 1941" was expressed by the Australian Minister to the United States, Richard G. Casey, in an address to the Institute of Public Affairs, Charlottesville, Virginia. He stated that in his opinion the salvation of the civilized world was dependent on co-operation between Britain and the United States.

Field Marshal Lord Ironside predicts "the war will finish a good deal more quickly than many of us imagine." Addressing a War Weapons Week audience, the former Chief of the Imperial General Staff said: "Thank God America is behind us. After Dunkerque I sent a call to America for equipment and I immediately received 900,000 Springfield rifles and over 160,000,000 rounds of ammunition. That was what defended England at that moment."

The Hon. Col. J. L. Ralston, Minister of Defence, will be in his constituency next week. It might be well for the Charlottetown Board of Trade to interview him re the Borden Ferry as well as the Wood Island Ferry, pointing out the seriousness from a military as well as a civil point of view of our present condition. Anything happening to the Borden Ferry would leave us actually stranded, as the other Ferry is only complementary to our Confederation service.

According to Saint John Telegraph Journal prisoners are now working regularly at the Municipal Home farm and a shelter had been built for the men employed there at a cost of \$250. Dinners are put up in the jail kitchen and taken out to the home in dinner pails, "potatoes to be cooked and tea made at the shelter." The men do not work on Saturday, which is reserved for them for their laundry. Hours of employment at the farm are 8 a. m. to 4.30 p. m., and they are transported to and from the home in closed vans.

Sales of radio receiving sets in Canada during the first quarter of 1941 numbered 77,121 sets valued at \$4,450,692 at factory list prices. A year ago the number was 71,503 sets. The following were the sales by provinces, with the corresponding figures for 1940 in brackets: Maritime Provinces 7,511 (7,454); Quebec 13,956 (14,348); Ontario 38,437 (32,292); Manitoba 5,736 (6,051); Saskatchewan 2,948 (1,803); Alberta 3,277 (3,684); British Columbia 5,256 (5,871). There were 9,777 sets imported during the first quarter of 1941.

Response to the request of the British Red Cross for "Doctors for Britain" has been lagging. The original request, made some months ago, was for 1,000 physicians, but although more than 1,000 inquiries have been received from physicians, so far only two men have reached the stage of passing physical examinations, the Journal of the American Medical Association reports. This rather ungratifying response is explained as due to frequent statements in medical journals of the shortage of physicians and the apparent imminence of U. S. A. entrance into the war. The American Red Cross and the special committee of the National Research Council are continuing their efforts to meet the British request for doctors.

According to the Canadian Press Bureau, because he took to beer, Barney, a white Angora goat and the most photographed mascot in the Australian fighting forces, has been discharged from the Army. For a year he had been mascot of a garrison battalion. Barney brought disgrace upon himself when he undertook a tour of North Sydney hotels with a man. After several beers, Barney dashed from the hotel and climbed a shelf in a confectionary shop. He swept bottles of candies from the shelf, then bolted into a vegetable market, where he feasted on tomatoes. He was "arrested," taken to a police station and locked up for three days. When members of the garrison located him, they were presented with a bill for \$30 damages. He has now been given to a man who has undertaken to give him suitable food.

NOTES BY THE WAY

A classic story is told about Gerald Lyons, former Deputy Gov. of Ontario, who demonstrates that Uncle Sam never forgets a debt. Lyons was battling in France in 1918 with the A.E.F. He was given two medals by an army officer and ordered to do a job. In the midst of his assignment a German shell killed one of his mules. Lyons thought no more of it when he returned with one mule. Years later he accepted a job with F.C.A. His first cheque was some \$40 short. A notation said "claim deducted." Lyons investigated and discovered that the G.A.O. had made him pay for the mule the Germans shot. — Washington Post.

There have been reports current in Ceylon and we are told in India also alleging that the German radio news broadcasts which even the local press was forbidden to publish. The question was asked how Berlin succeeded in learning of events which could not possibly have got out of the country through newspapers or by cable. In the first place it has yet to be established whether the German radio did give out the secret news with which it has been credited. It is always difficult to find the person who actually heard the spiss-sima verba of the German broadcast. One is told of a second or third hand, and all trace of the original hearer is lost. Moreover, even if it is established that censored news has been retailed by the enemy radio, it need cause no surprise. As has already been pointed out in this newspaper, there is nothing to prevent enterprising news-gatherers in neutral ships in the Indian Ocean from sending out radio messages when they get outside our territorial waters. This is a more reasonable explanation than the theory that Hitler has his secret agents in Ceylon who keep him informed by means of private transmitters. There is nothing to support such a fantastic hypothesis. — Times of Ceylon (Colombo).

Bitterness against the Soviets and desire to recover the territory lost to the Russians, who in turn claim that Finland permitted its territory to be used as a base for German attacks, the Finns have joined the German war against Russia. The Finnish government and the Finnish people have been in a most difficult position. Nobody could have expected them to fight on the Russian side. The most that was hoped for was that they might maintain a precarious neutrality between their old enemy and the new one. The attitude they wanted to take. The wounds of last year's struggle are not yet healed, and physical and economic exhaustion, plus a stubborn allegiance to democratic principles, made them profoundly reluctant to participate in the present conflict. Like all small nations, all they wanted was to be left alone. But now they are being asked to fight for the Russian side. 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