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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1940.

Necessary Projects

A recent despatch states that contracts have been called for construction work at Moncton, Halifax and Truro by the Canadian National Railways. The contracts, three in number, entail an expenditure of well over a million dollars and comprise a locomotive erecting shop, a locomotive terminal and an embankment for yard extension. No doubt these are all necessary undertakings and are in line with transportation needs and requirements. They are, however, no more necessary than the improvements to the Railway wharf at Charlottetown, which have been held up on the plea of wartime economy after the contract had been let and many thousands of dollars worth of material had been brought here for the work.

The absolute necessity of improving shipping facilities at Charlottetown has been brought to the attention of the Dominion Government and railway authorities on many occasions. A survey of the harbour, in preparation for the work, was commenced by the Bennett Government in 1935. That survey was completed in 1937 and in the same year, at the annual meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade, a strongly worded resolution was passed concluding with the following paragraph:

"Having in mind the improvements made to other ports in the Maritimes and the great benefits accruing therefrom and the urgent necessity for harbor and dock facilities at the port of Charlottetown, we, the Maritime Board of Trade, in convention assembled in Moncton, this 13th day of October, 1937, do go on record and strongly urge that the said recommendations as contained in section 18 of the Duncan Report of the year 1926 be completely fulfilled and that action be taken without delay to modernize the docking facilities at that port so as to enable it to become a port of call for the larger class of freight and passenger boats."

The need of these facilities for the capital of an agricultural province such as Prince Edward Island is surely more apparent in wartime than it was when this recommendation was made. In any case, the work should not only have been started, but completed, long before the outbreak of war. Yet it was only after further insistent pressure that a vote was put through Parliament, and another year elapsed before the project got under way. Then the war intervened and provided the excuse for postponing it indefinitely.

Good luck to our energetic neighbors in Moncton, Halifax and Truro who are able to bring sufficient pressure to bear upon the powers-that-be to obtain what they want in the way of railway improvements! Had we alert representatives at Ottawa, and energetic co-operation from our Provincial administration, there is no doubt that the long-delayed wharf improvements at Charlottetown would also be recognized at Ottawa as a necessary wartime undertaking.

Rapid Industrial Expansion

In the last few months, industrial operations in Canada have expanded rapidly as business has become organized to meet increasing wartime demands, says the current Monthly Review of The Bank of Nova Scotia. Indicative of the general situation, the Bank's Index of Industrial Activity rose sharply in April and May, and for the latter month was nearly 8 per cent higher than during the first quarter of the year and was at the highest level ever recorded.

The Review states that business has reached a third phase in its wartime transition—one of pronounced expansion. The first phase was the immediate and partly speculative upswing last Fall, which to an important degree reflected the course of events in the United States. The second was the pause which lasted throughout the winter, during which the influence of the American recession was largely offset by the effects of increasing war expenditures and heavier exports to Britain.

In the present phase, which dates from the spring, Dominion expenditures for war purpose have reached such a scale as to provide the leading stimulus to production and employment. In addition, Britain has increased her purchases of foodstuffs, minerals and other raw materials, and has actively prepared the groundwork for heavy purchases of arms and munitions in this country. More than that, the slump in the United States proved short-lived and has been followed by a notable industrial improvement. Canadian exports have increased substantially and the rise has been accentuated by the cutting-off of European sources of supply for a number of basic commodities, such as pulp and paper, and lumber.

During Recess

Now that Parliament has adjourned, hope is expressed by the Ottawa Journal that members of the Government do not withdraw into monastic seclusion, shrouding their acts and thoughts in silence. The reports given by Mr. King and his war ministers just before adjournment should not be regarded as conclusive. In these days, when events move with remorseless speed, information must be a continuous process. It must be given regularly, enabling the country to know from day to day how Canada's war effort is progressing.

In England, where the national will has been

forged into steel by leadership, they hear from their ministers. One day it is Mr. Churchill, the next Mr. Duff Cooper, the next Mr. Bevin or Mr. Greenwood. They are at it constantly, informing by facts, inspiring by exhortation. They understand democracy.

We in Canada, says the Journal, need that British way. Our ministers in this war have been all too inarticulate; there have been few voices to arouse and inspire, to challenge heroic effort. As a consequence, and perhaps inevitably, there has been too much of confusion, too much doubt and hesitation.

"If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, Who shall go forward to the conflict?"

Two suggestions are offered by our Ottawa contemporary:

1. That during the parliamentary recess Prime Minister King should hold a weekly conference with the press.
2. That Minister of Defence Ralston, accompanied by Minister of Air Power and Minister of Naval Affairs MacDonald, should also hold weekly press conferences.

At these conferences representatives of the press could get war effort activities outlined for them; could get answers to questions that the public keep asking, could get (what is equally important) the sort of "background" off-the-record information which prevents false reports and harmful, misleading speculation.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The celebration of Montreal's Ter-Centenary in 1942 is likely to be abandoned for lack of funds. Already \$40,000 has been spent in preliminary preparations, but the new regime at the City Hall, having voted \$10,000 for work till October, intimate that no further funds will be granted for the purpose.

John Galsworthy, novelist and playwright, born this date 1867. Has shown himself as much a skilled psychologist as a writer of fiction; skilled in the analysis of character and social relationships. "I drink the wine of aspiration and the drug of illusion. Thus I am never dull."

The Hon. the Speaker and Mrs. Glen, who left for Pictou yesterday, enjoyed their visit here immensely. As a politician, Mr. Glen had a distinguished predecessor from the same place in Scotland, Renton, Durbartonshire, in the person of Tobias Smollett the novelist, whose masterpiece was "Humphry Clinker" and "Peregrine Pickle." His chief political lampoon was "The Adventures of an Atom."

It is now suggested that the Italian campaign in North Africa is part of Hitler's plan for a major operation in the basin of the Mediterranean. Arguments against the plan are the following: First, local successes, however spectacular, cannot provide a decisive advantage because the British imperial position possesses immense depth, and second, success in the Mediterranean cannot alter by an iota the British system of blockade against Germany.

There is not going to be a war-time Imperial Conference in London, as some anticipated. Lord Davies in the House of Lords interrogated, Lord Caldicote, Secretary for the Dominions, on the subject, and was told the Government considered the present time inopportune "for inviting Dominion ministers to London for an Imperial war conference or other discussions, but they (the Government) will certainly welcome such discussions if an occasion offers."

Twelve million laying hens, or about two-thirds of the Netherlands stock, will be slaughtered before Sept. 15 because of a shortage of chicken feed. Reports from abroad recently revealed that Denmark, too, was undergoing rationing of butter and increases in the price of eggs, and had had to slaughter much of her poultry and a large part of her livestock. Normal imports of 1,500,000,000 feed units annually from the United States, in the form of cottonseed-oil cakes and various kinds of grain, have been completely shut off, necessitating rigid restrictions in Denmark's normally bountiful economy.

More than two hundred French-women domiciled in Britain have addressed in French and English an open letter to Prime Minister Churchill and to General de Gaulle, who is organizing a French legion in Britain. The English version reads: "In this hour of sorrow the women of France now resident in England desire to convey to you-how deeply they associate themselves with the sentiment expressed in your statement issued after the disaster which has overtaken our beloved country. Already many of us have experienced the loss of nearly everybody and everything we held dear. Nevertheless, our resolve is unshakable to work at all times and in all ways to help England to win the struggle for freedom, in the result of which, under your leadership, we have supreme confidence. We fully realize that the ruthless war which France has recently experienced will now fall upon this country, which we consider our own, and we wish to play our part in the struggle in front of us and so destroy the ambitions of these cruel and perverted dictators."

The war is beginning to deprive the Germans of their beer. Hops and other ingredients are hard to get, so the authorities have declared that a substitute, which has the virtue or otherwise of being non-alcoholic, must take its place. The new German war-time beer is made from syrup, sugar, apples, carbonated water and beer coloring. In a recent trial case the Reich's Finance Ministry, investigating whether it belonged to the category of "beer-like drinks" decided that it did and that it should, therefore, be subject to the same taxes as beer. This decision was not rendered because of the striking similarity to beer of this beverage but because it has already attained a degree of popularity that makes it distinctly worth taxing. The brewers have raised a kick—which is more than the new beer does—because it costs them much more to produce than ordinary beer and must be bottled instead of barrelled. Quite a ferment has been created which, of course, is different from fermentation.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Don't think that civilians do not count in wartime, and that the fate of the country depends entirely on the professional soldiers. It is easy enough to say that the amateur inventor and the armchair strategist. But in the last war amateur soldiers invented the tank, the machine gun, the hydrophone, the instrument used for hunting down U-boats. Politicians saw the importance of high explosive while some professional soldiers, with memories of the Boer war in their minds, relied on shrapnel. Lloyd George described Monash, the Australian leader as "the most remarkable general in the whole of the world, not only in the British Army." He was a civilian turned soldier. So was Currie, "the brilliant military leader" of the Canadians. So were George Washington and Oliver Cromwell. This war may be won by a civilian, or other Cromwell to save the liberties of his nation. — London Daily Express.

An American magazine, paying tribute to the statesmanship of the British Ambassador to Washington, wrote: "In this city of strain (Washington) the last week moved less like the city of the Ambassadors, presenting his country's desperate case, than like the spokesman of a cause that will never be defeated and an ever-swelling avalanche of revulsion will overwhelm those who built a machine so big, so unwieldy and so ruthless that it becomes unmanageable. The mechanized automation will run amok, to what end we know not-time will tell that."

The rumblings of the thunder of discontent unmanageable, of hate and the inner growing of the desire for revenge against the Nazi murderers in the dominated countries, will be heard when the pangs of hunger and a greater starvation drive in desperation those who listen to the cries of famished and perishing women and children, when they cannot help, to such a extent as to give the results will be far reaching: isolated sectors at first, later leading to a general turmoil, a bitter winter it seems is ahead of Europe.

Further Germany and Italy reach out the greater will be the devastation, more countries will become involved, some seeking to gain prestige they would never hope to attain at any other time. Spain is now paying the debt of her aid at Germany and Italy; to what end? Seeking expansion for a people who are in a minority of numbers, the account of their recent civil war.

Italy and Germany, not France are setting the pace there, dictating to another puppet what he must do and what he must gain. Will poor Spain! Those enemies within thy gates who helped their mouths, your leader, will ruin you and uprisings will again be the order of the day. How long? Disease such as you have never known nor are able to cope with will thin out your population already thinned by war.

Gibraltar and doubt Portugal are behind this latest move of Germany and Italy, the extending coastline for further submarine activities right on the open Atlantic. The future of the world is being decided in front, they would recoil with horror.

Germany reaching out with blood stained hands, stealing the food from the widows and orphans, that she has made— from the helpless, the innocent, the women and children, the babies in those lands overrun by her heartless and sneering hordes, yet even from the soldiers she has disarmed who for the moment are helpless to aid in their own defence when they would, better far that they had fought on, than exist worse than slaves; in a state of semi-starvation already, with an even worse outlook ahead in winter descends upon the countries of devastated Europe.

Three definite motives would seem to be inspiring the Nazis in the occupied countries. Unarmed populations are easily handled by Nazi ruthlessness even to the extent of mowing them down with machine guns occasionally as examples of what is to be the result of any attempted adverse action to their rule of terrorism, such as was the case in Poland. The continuous and forced transferring of populations from territories where they are known (mostly male) to Germany proper, or other parts of her overrun and dominated nations, to do forced manual labor of a military nature for their food; their lives for the time belong to Germany—where they are reversing all the fortifications and entrenchments and other military preparations to point away from Germany—in other words the Nazis are forcing those peoples at the point of the gun to build up within their own or other countries, their life and security for Germany, whilst at the same time those unfortunate people being in a strange location would be much less liable to create any serious uprising, knowing not those whom they would be mingling with, nor being able to trust them.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

PAYING THE DEBT

Sir—To those nations who are trying to destroy what the Lord God commanded to be build up, there shall be a horrible ending. Europe, that has been their awful way through gore of innocent victims, worse than Caesar, worse than Herod; the present situation is worse than anything in the annals of the world, nothing such as we have before us at the present time, has ever been chronicled.

Stand firm Great Britain, thou wert not named thus in vain, fight on! Fight on! and great will be thy victory. Clear as the clarions call, strong as the sound of the trumpets beat, Europe, thy help, thou fightest not in vain.

The days of miracles are not past by any means, though what we might term a miracle would not be out of the question. His people on to fulfill a vast purpose. Great Britain will fight on against most awful odds, when He, the Great God of Israel will sound the trumpet of His anger and a swelling avalanche of revulsion will overwhelm those who built a machine so big, so unwieldy and so ruthless that it becomes unmanageable. The mechanized automation will run amok, to what end we know not-time will tell that."

Check The Refugees (Windsor Daily Star)

Within the past few weeks a number of refugees have come to Canada from Germany or German-occupied countries, such as Austria and Czechoslovakia. Unavoidably these individuals turn up with a great deal of wrath against Hitler and the Nazis. They call down all sorts of maledictions on the head of the Führer, and in various terms of what they would do, if only they could meet Hitler face to face.

Maybe all of these refugees are genuine and their expressions of wrath against Hitler may be spoken from the heart. It is to be hoped they are.

On the other hand, what assurance has Canada got that some of these refugees are not Nazi agents who are being planted in Canada by the Germans? How do we know that the hot statements against the Nazis are not just a lot of camouflage?

These are matters of grave concern for the general safety of the people of this Dominion. We cannot afford to have our sympathies exploited to the extent of receiving enemy agents with open arms. It is our job to check all these people, but we must be vigilant.

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More Marching Feet

(Halifax Chronicle)

The sound of marching feet will grow still louder in Canada, within a few weeks, as the government calls up 30,000 men a month for military training. Thirty-nine training centres will be established to accommodate the new millions, separate from the regular camps of the Canadian Active Service Force. These 39 centres will be busy as the awkward squads begin to learn the rudiments of soldiering.

The plan is to train each group for a 30-day period, but how thoroughly the men will be trained in that period depends on the efficiency of the arrangements and the general co-operation which the authorities receive. There must be few, surely, who hold any doubt as to the importance of general military training. Grim and startling events of the past seven months must have impressed everyone with the need for military strength in Canada, the best military strength we can produce.

The happy, blissful days of letting things move along, without much regard for what is happening across the ocean, have gone. They will never return in the lifetime of most of us. When peace comes, we shall have to continue more military activity than we did during the past twenty years. This country must be a nation of trained fighting men who can be mobilized at short notice for immediate action.

General training is a step in the right direction. It is a fact, regardless how disagreeable, that every man in this country must be ready to play some part in the war effort. Whether he can help by carrying a rifle, working a lathe, or cooking in a ship's galley, is something which he and the authorities should determine. The coming registration should help to settle such questions.

But everyone must be ready to do what he can when called. It is better to be trained now than to be rushed through a hasty and sketchy preparation when an immediate emergency arises.

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ing Hitler a madman but none for calling him a fool. He knew, none better, that speed was vital if Britain were to be successfully attacked. He knew every week every day, gave the British more chance to mend the gaps in their fortress walls, replace the material abandoned to the Dunkerque, reform and rearm their disorganized battalions, draft a new strategy for battle alone. No mere oversight let him into the nearly two months delay during which Britain has accomplished these things, and built up a strength that has changed the people's portion as he made ready for this greatest, and this last exploit of a metric career.

Now, we are told, it is coming from both British and German sources yesterday came forecasts of "the big push" would start any day now. Very well, says Britain, let it come.

The Poet's Corner

WILD PLUM

They are unholly who are born To love wild plum at night, Or as though a cloud of stars Perched like ghostly birds.

It is as though the darkness had Speeched silver words, And in less in men's sights, Perched like ghostly birds.

They are unpitied from their birth And less in men's sights, Who love, better than the earth, Wild plum at night.

—Orrick Jones.

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SALISBURY, ENG. Aug. 12—(CP)—The Bishop of Salisbury, Dr. Crisp

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