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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink.
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Christmas Seal Campaign

While the response to date in the Christmas Seal campaign has been gratifying, it is worth noting that this is the last week of the campaign and that it is the final effort which counts.

The \$64 Question

As Guardian readers who have followed the detailed Hansard report of the questioning of General McNaughton in the House of Commons are aware, the whole subject of overseas reinforcements was very thoroughly gone into by members of all parties during the discussion on the conscription issue.

"In view of your former position, does not the changed policy of the Government and the fact that you have not changed your position to which you now adhere, to the greater interest of the people of Canada whose interests I know you have at heart, and the welfare of Canada and the best interest of the war, if you gave way to a man who believes in the policies to be carried out by the Government, who can tell us flatly that he is going to do everything he can to carry out the policies of the Government, and whose whole record will be behind carrying out the new policy?"

Farm Prices Over 62 Years

No better example of the fluctuation of farm prices over the years can be had than in the report just issued by the Statistics Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, giving the history of farm prices for 62 years. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture passes some of these figures on because of the interest in planning for stability in post-war years.

German Oil Resources

The tremendous Nazi drive against the U. S. 1st Army lines into Belgium may be the last desperate attempt at an offensive by the enemy on the western front. It is well not to be too optimistic in this regard, but as the year 1944 draws to its close we can afford for a moment to glance at one vitally important factor. That factor—oil—is to mechanized warfare what blood plasma is to wounded soldiers. It is being expended in vast quantities in the recapture of a few miles of ground at the present time.

been closed down and the enemy's bomber force has been practically abandoned, General Eaker relates. German tanks and trucks have been captured in perfect condition, but with their gas tanks dry, as the Allies advance across the German borders. The loss of the Ploesti oil fields in Romania was the bitterest blow of the war for the German oil supply, General Eaker says.

Germany has much in store yet, according to General Eaker. Armed with more big bombers than his force ever had before, "German targets are due for the greatest weight of bombardment they have ever received, and the winter weather will not protect them."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The USSR established this date 1922, the outcome of the revolution begun in 1917, and continued until all the various nationalities or rather nations, within both European and Asiatic Russia were combined in one Soviet republic.

The enemy counter-offensive has created an immediate reaction in the hard metal industry. Orders for commercial purposes have been cancelled and war industry manufacturing resumed. In Montreal there are queues for almost everything, people being lined up for banks, stores, railways, vendors, etc.

Little progress has been made with new Car Ferry plans as expert advice seems against a 70 ft. larger ship negotiating ice conditions at existing piers. The Board of Trade's recommendation of two ferries of the S. S. Charlottetown dimensions and two piers with double crossings seems to be commending itself to the powers-that-be at Ottawa.

It is not generally realized that United Kingdom lend-lease arrangements with the U. S. A. occasionally operate in the reverse direction. An example of this aspect of lend-lease was given when the Minister of Food announced that, between now and December 31st, the United Kingdom is going to build up the U.S.A. raw cocoa stocks, which will otherwise fall 46,000 tons below the normal working minimum.

In the Dutch paper "De Gelderlander," published in liberated Nijmegen, where Canadians are stationed at present, the following striking example was quoted of the difference between billeting German and Allied soldiers with the people of Holland. "An official of the Allied Military Administration was in for some extraordinary experiences when he recently made the round of our town to pay out billeting money for Allied soldiers. At the first house he visited, the housewife shook her head and said, 'Oh no!' She would not accept a single penny. She had enjoyed the company of the Allied soldiers and felt that what she had done was only a trifle compared to what the Allied troops had done for them. No—the money was to go to the Red Cross, or to those hurt during the days of battle. At the next house the reception was practically the same: 'You'd better give this money to the Red Cross.' Throughout the day this refusal to accept payment was repeated: in one case the official was told, 'My son is in a German prison camp—so I could not possibly take a cent for lodging a few Allied soldiers.' The official had retained about one hundred dollars at the close of his work; next day this amount was practically doubled."

England has recently been celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Bank of England with pardonable pride but a curious reluctance to admit that the institution owes its existence to a Scot. No doubt the Bank would have come into being sometime in any case, but it was William Paterson's idea that was the germ of the conception, and Paterson himself was for the first year one of its directors. To-day a Scot, Lord Catto, is its Governor. The Bank of England came into being in 1694. The Bank of Scotland, constituted in 1695 by act of the Scots' Parliament, was not indebted to Paterson for its existence, although he was very much to the fore at the time and had in fact just floated another corporation, the Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the Indies, soon to become first famous and then notorious as the Darien Scheme. By a curious coincidence it was another Scot, John Law of Lauriston, an Edinburgh silversmith, who was responsible in 1716 for the founding of the Bank of France, and who thereupon proceeded to embark upon a trading adventure, the Mississippi Scheme, which brought as much disaster to France as William Paterson's Darien Scheme to Scotland. As a further matter of interest it may be recalled that the first two Banks of the United States owed their origin to two men of Scottish blood, Alexander Hamilton in 1791 and Alexander J. Dallas in 1816.

Notes By The Way

"What counts in the long run," Goebbels philosophizes, "is which side makes the fewer mistakes."

War Correspondent Eleanor Packard has been expelled from Yugoslavia. The reason, she says, is that she remarked in a dispatch upon the numerous pictures of Marshal Tito and Stamen in Belgrade shop windows, and the absence of pictures of Messrs. Roosevelt and Churchill. (Kitchener Record.)

Goebbels has been telling the German people that they are now "armed with stoicism." That promises to be a poor substitute for aircraft, tanks, guns, battleships, ammunition, bombs and all the other requisites of modern warfare. (Brookville Recorder.)

People in Canada who know something of the difficulty created in this country by the shift of population to manufacturing centres, can have some slight idea of the condition must be in England where a similar industrial concentration is multiplied a thousand-fold by the destruction of homes by bombs. (Galt Recorder.)

The Port of Antwerp is now being used by ocean-going liners. That means a continuous flow of the biggest and heaviest stuff which an army needs, with unloading facilities at hand, with operating inland and free from storm. The Canadian Army gave an accolade to make all this possible. (St. Catharines Standard.)

Children of all ages for many years have been thrilled with the story of The Three Bears. Now comes the news from Finland that a hunting party has shot three bears, and brought home the skins. It is to be hoped that these were not "the" three bears so dear to all children's hearts. (Owen Sound Sun-Times.)

If even half of the time wasted in asking other people to do things were saved, those things could be done twice over and the better for it. It is a personal opinion. It has become so in public opinion that a letter is necessary to open a window or close a door. That letter man again, by way of reply. In time there is a two-inch file on the most trivial of circumstances including the lost art of saving paper. (Victoria Colonist.)

One of the most astonishing records of the war is the movement of 10,000,000 British Army personnel, including the end of September only 1,978 lives were lost by enemy action, a number which makes up only 0.02 per cent of the total size of the Army. Considering the elaborate preparations the enemy had made for the big start it had in both submarines and airplanes, and an astonishing achievement, and that was due not only to safeguards but to the R.A.F. but to good planning at the War Office.

The only bit of British soil the Germans ever managed to occupy were the Channel Islands. And as Allied forces moved through the wester of the Reich's border defences after freeing thousands of square miles of territory, those islands still remain under Nazi occupation. To many Britons it is a painful anomaly. Militarily, however, the islands are not important and there is a possibility that that swastika will be flying there until the end of the war. Under international law, the occupying authority is responsible for the care of the civil population. But with the islands, and the regular German communications, the supply situation has been deplorable and the British population of sixty to seventy thousand needs food and medicines. Today British parliament was informed that arrangements have been made for relief ships to take in cargoes for British civilians. The fact is, however, that the Germans in no way mean to let the enemy become tender-hearted over the plight of natives. Liberty, they proclaimed. Fraternity— Nations which proclaimed. Nations which have proclaimed rights— Nations which have proclaimed the God of Love and called Him Father of all— Nations which have proclaimed the prevention of cruelty to animals, Nations with hospitals and foundling homes and homes for the aged and charitable institutions. Nations with the Red Cross and the cross upon their churches. Kindly nations—sensitive nations—civilized nations.

These were the nations which disobeyed the injunction. Irreversible as the pulsing of stars. And the heaving of the seas: "You are your brother's keeper!" The Eternal said: "Let there be justice!"

And the little killers Killed by the tens and the fifties And whipped the aged and robbed the shops; And the middle-sized killers Killed by the hundreds and the thousands And wiped out villages and burnt small towns; And the big killers Killed by the tens of thousands and the hundreds of thousands And ravaged great cities and flourishing provinces And destroyed nations and uprooted civilizations, And was mightier than God, And more majestic than the phenomena of Nature. And was hailed at morning, And hailed at noon, And hailed at night, And hailed at birth, And hailed at death And there was justice.

Now the dead understand— The dead of all nations— The dead of the nation of the White Paper. The dead of the nation of the Quota. The dead of the neutral nation, The dead of the nation which professed the Master Killers,



And There Was Justice

(By Paul Hirdidge) (Reprinted from The Answer Magazine)

The courts are in session— The little killers are dragged in— Those who killed by the tens and the fifties, Who whipped the aged and robbed the shops; Soon the middle-sized killers will march forward— Those who killed by the hundreds and the thousands— Who wiped out villages and burnt small towns; Escorted with dignity the big killers will follow— Those who killed by the tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands, Who ravaged great cities and flourishing provinces. And the day will come when with thunderous fanfare, Tolling of bells and shouts of hallelujahs— The Master Killer will goosestep before the bar— He who killed by the million and the tens of millions— He who destroyed nations and uprooted civilizations— He who was mightier than God— More majestic than the phenomena of Nature— Hailed at morning, Hailed at noon, Hailed at night, Hailed at birth, Hailed at death.

There will be long display of the vast knowledge Of the law and the commandments. National and international, Ancient and modern. There will be passionate pleas— There will be eloquent oratory— There will be solemn and severe warnings of magistrates— Fearful of uncharted precedents— There will be postesters and venturers of words— Whining about the quality of mercy and the glory of forgiveness— And judgment will be pronounced— Some will be sentenced to prison, Some will be shot in the back, Some will be hanged.

An eye for an eye, a limb for a limb, a life for a life— But how shall we have a thousand eyes plucked out? How shall one have a hundred for a thousand limbs torn off? How hang one on a million times ten million times? Human justice can be meted only by man against man. Human justice is puny and frail and evanescent. And those who will go to prison will say: "What are five years or ten years or twenty years of our life compared to the five thousand years and the ten thousand years and the twenty thousand years of those whom we hurled into prisons?"

And those who will be shot or hanged will say: "One must die sooner or later. What is an hour's torture, compared to the millions of days of torture We have perpetrated? It was worth while, wasn't it? And the killers of the future will read about the trials, And laugh and be stirred to action— "So little for so much! It is worth while!"

Before the bar of the Eternal Three million ghosts— Ghosts of those burned in colossal furnaces, Ghosts of those asphyxiated in trains and caves, Ghosts of those seared in lime and buried alive, Ghosts of those starved and flayed and gassed and gut-ripped— Ghosts of infants, Ghosts of boys and girls, Ghosts of old and laden with living fruit, Ghosts of men, White bearded men, And men in the midst of life, Grandfathers and fathers and sons— Three million ghosts— The nations of the world . . . These were great nations, Mighty and rich and cultured, Nations which proclaimed Liberty, Fraternity— Nations which proclaimed. Nations which have proclaimed rights— Nations which have proclaimed the God of Love and called Him Father of all— Nations which have proclaimed the prevention of cruelty to animals, Nations with hospitals and foundling homes and homes for the aged and charitable institutions. Nations with the Red Cross and the cross upon their churches. Kindly nations—sensitive nations—civilized nations.

And all the dead— They who are buried in the mud, And they who are buried in the waters, They who are blanching upon the sands, And they whose ashes are tossed by the winds— All call to the living of the Earth: "You are your brother's keeper!"

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The dead of the nation which harbored the shamed silent ones, The dead of the nation which invoked vengeance For a crucifixion two thousand years old— The dead of the villages— The dead of the small towns— The dead of the great cities— All the dead understand.



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