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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1941

Allied Man Power

The Census Bureau at Washington has just issued some striking statistics as to the manpower available to the Allies and the Axis respectively for war service on land, in the air and on the ocean. The tally shows an advantage of two to one in favor of the Allies, who can muster, 56,643,000 men between the ages of 18 and 35, as against a potential Axis total of only 28,560,000. Even these estimates do not include the enormous potential man-power resources of China, India, and the Netherlands Indies.

But this two-to-one advantage would soar to six-to-one if it were possible to mobilize the entire Allied reserves, including those of China and India, but without taking the Netherlands Indies into the reckoning. For then the total Allied strength would reach the tremendous total of 163,887,000 men between 18 and 35 years of age.

The reservoir of man power in these age brackets is estimated at 22,796,000, and is barely surpassed by that of Russia, which totals 23,574,000. Great Britain and her Dominions,—but still excluding India,—have 10,273,000 men in the same age group. As against these totals, Japan's potentiol man power is placed at 10,839,000, Germany's at 11,281,000 and Italy's at 6,440,000.

The preponderance of the Allies in material resources,—raw materials, industrial organization and equipment, transportation facilities and potential war supplies,—is even more marked, although precise figures are in the nature of the case impossible to obtain. In steel and iron the Allied advantage is at least two-to-one. In oil and gas, it is more than five-to-one. In base metals it is seven or eight to one. The American industrial machine has a potential capacity exceeding that of all Continental Europe, and Great Britain's alone is about equivalent to that of Germany, while that of Russia rivals closely that of either of the great European powers. If this is to be a war of endurance, the superior staying power of the Allies is hardly a matter of serious question.

Hindsight Not Sufficient

Would that we had at Ottawa a government with foresight equal to its hindsight! An exchange notes the fact that we had a great call to arms AFTER Dunkerque, and AFTER Greece fell we were told our recruiting system would have to be strengthened. And now AFTER Japan has moved in the Pacific we are told that the Government is planning to set into motion a scheme of selective service.

Similarly we are told now that the gasoline supply situation will be weakened by the events in the Pacific and that we are to have gas rationing next April. Next April sounds like years away in this war of fast movement. If there is even a possibility of gasoline shortage for our essential services and for our armed services, why haven't we been building up a reserve all these last many months in which the Government has been mumbling about saving gasoline but saving scarcely enough to have brought any inconvenience to even the most lavish of consumers?

We know how fast the Japanese moved on December 7. And we know how slow will be the execution of the Government's long overdue selective service scheme. Our pace of war is obviously outmoded; and our long-range planning is either non-existent or bogged down once it reaches the desks of those in high places. If we continue to act AFTER the other fellow has jumped, we'll prolong this conflict into an affair of so many years and so many reverses that not even the last battle which is traditionally ours will be worth winning.

Ships In Six Months

Britain's shipbuilders are winning the race with the U-boats.

Large steamers and motorships of 10,000 tons, says the British Industries Bulletin, are now being completed, from the laying of the keel to the final coat of paint, in just under six months. Indeed, by making parts of the hull and so on in distant workshops inland and assembling them at the shipyard, the six months have been reduced to five and a half.

Never before has Great Britain turned out ships at such a speed: and it is speed that has decided the peace-time controversy about whether the hulls of big merchant ships should be riveted or welded.

Welding is not only quicker but it saves steel, so welding has won. More steel is being saved by the use of concrete for small craft. Hundreds of ferro-concrete barges have been built, releasing hundreds of skilled shipbuilders from the barge building yards to work on ocean-going tonnage.

There they are concentrating upon the well-tried standard "economy" types of vessels which many famous British shipbuilders had already evolved.

The shipyards were prepared when war came for an expanding production. The Admiralty passed the word to them for so many tankers, refrigerated cargo liners, coasters, deep-sea tramps, and standardization has triumphed.

Bagpipes In Libya

While regimental anonymity is still observed with regard to the Battle of Libya, says an exchange, it is learned indirectly that there are Highlanders in the fray. As a matter of fact there have been Scottish battalions in all the North Africa campaigns, down as far as Ethiopia. It is in this great struggle in Libya, however, that the presence of the Scots has become known through incidental reference to the bagpipes.

A dispatch from Cairo stated that between lulls in the gunfire, the sound of the bagpipes could be heard putting fresh heart into their comrades. A later dispatch told of the joy with which a Highland regiment heard the skirl of the pipes coming from up in front. That was a prearranged signal that a certain point had been captured.

In olden days, it is recalled, bands used to play the regiments into action. The colours of the regiments were carried into the fight, too, and the music and the colours were great sources of inspiration. When these customs were abolished, the bandsmen either went into action, too, or acted as stretcher bearers.

It seems, however, that the Scots' pipers go into action still, to inspire and encourage their comrades. And probably there is no sound the Italians and Germans more dread to hear.

Army Costs Increase

A graphic picture of the startling increase in the cost of fighting, as compared with the last war, is presented by Victor Sifton, head of the ordnance branch of the Defence Department. He states that in the last war the transport equipment of an infantry division consisted of 4,300 horses and 153 motor vehicles; this time it is no horses and 3,500 motor vehicles of 160 different types; the cost plus upkeep of the equipment in the last war (for infantry division) was $2,000,000 for a year and this time it is $12,000,000. A year's cost of a cavalry brigade in the last war was $3,500,000, and of a tank brigade in this war $32,000,000. A year's cost of an armoured division in this war is $155,000,000, while the total cost of the Canadian Corps in the fiscal year 1916-17 was $143,000,000.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

We enter the last lap of Nineteen Hundred and Forty One.

* * * *

Welland County, (Ont.,) Liberals have refused to allow their candidate Miss Helen Kinnear to withdraw her candidature in favour of the newly appointed Minister of Labour, Hon. Humphrey Mitchell.

* * * *

They have no patience with so-called conscientious objectors across the border. At Newark Norman A. Chilquist, 32-year-old actor who issued statements of objection instead of registering for the Selective Service Act, was sentenced to three years in a Federal penitentiary and rebuked by Judge Guy L. Fake for lack of patriotism.

* * * *

Badges bearing the emblem of the Maharaja of Mysore, distinguish the pilots of one R. A. F. squadron from all the others. The emblem represents Gandabherunda — mightiest bird ever known. In a cable to the members of the Mysore squadron the Maharaja said: "I beg you to wear the badges for my sake. I wish Jaya, or victory, in all your contests. Happy hunting among the Nazis."

* * * *

In Sydney, N. S. the stores for the most part observed boxing day as a holiday, among those closing being: Merchant's, McCurdy's C. D. S., Jacobson Ladies' Wear, Wright's, Bonnell's, C. Roy Mason, MacDonald and McKnight, Brown's Jewellery Store, F. C. Bezanson, C. P. Moore, Robert Simpson (Eastern) Limited, Vogue Furnishings Limited, Bishop's Shoe Store, Thompson and Sutherland. Here the Provincial Government Offices closed.

* * * *

Britain has informed Japan that she will abide strictly by the terms of the poison gas protocol of the 1925 Geneva Convention and has asked Japan's assurances that she intends to do the same, it has been disclosed authoritatively. The Washington Conference of 1922, in which Japan as well as Britain, the United States and several other powers participated, provided in a treaty for abolition of poison gas in warfare. The Geneva Protocol of July 17, 1925, further extended the prohibition to all "bacteriological methods of warfare." The prohibition against poisonous substances first was embodied in international law in the Hague Convention of 1907.

* * * *

That Roumanian royalty is continuing to be democratic in affairs of the heart is evident from the report that twenty-year-old King Michael has lost his heart to eighteen year old Irene Malaxa, daughter of Nicholas Malaxa, the Roumanian armaments millionaire, and friend of his father, ex-King Carol. "As Crown Prince, Michael was often seen driving in his sports car with Lulu (his pet name for Irene), Carol encouraged his friendship with the girl. But when Carol fled Malaxa was arrested by Iron Guards and has not been heard of since. And Michael has gradually been cut off from all his other early associations.

* * * *

Rt. Hon. William Ewart Gladstone, British statesman, born this date 1809; commenced his political career as a Tory under Peel who appointed him Vice President of the Board of Trade; had the distinction of being Chancellor of the Exchequer in both a Tory and a Whig Government; as such he has never been equalled in his ability as a financier and as a matter of exposition; he became Prime Minister in 1868 but was defeated at next election and retired from politics until the late 'seventies,' in 1880 elected member for Mid-Lothian, and his party having been successful he again assumed the Premiership and tried in vain to settle the Irish question; his social policy was highly successful; and when he died, the Conservative Leader (Mr. Arthur Balfour) spoke of him as "the greatest member of the greatest assembly the world has even seen." Today Winston Churchill may be described as a greater than he: "Decision by majorities is as much an expedient as lighting by gas."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Great Britain has asked Japan for assurances that poison gas will not be used. She may receive the assurance, and it might have some value as a curio. — Globe and Mail (Toronto).

Britain's shipbuilders are winning the race with the U-boats. Large steamers and motorships of 10,000 tons are now being completed, from the laying of the keel to the final coat of paint, in just under six months. Indeed, by making parts of the hull and so on in distant workshops inland and assembling them at the shipyard, the six months have been reduced to five and a half. Never before has Great Britain turned out ships at such a speed; and it is speed that has decided the peace-time controversy about whether the hulls of big merchant ships should be rivetted or welded. Welding is not only quicker but it saves steel, so welding has won. More steel is being saved by the use of concrete for small craft. Hundreds of ferro-concrete barges have been built, releasing hundreds of skilled shipbuilders from the barge building yards to work on ocean-going tonnage. There they are concentrating upon the well-tried standard "economy" types of vessels which many famous British shipbuilders had already evolved. The shipyards were prepared when war came for an expanding production. The Admiralty passed the word to them for so many tankers, refrigerated cargo liners, coasters, deep-sea tramps; and standardisation has triumphed.

Vivid pictures of the new military and air forces used in the drive across Libya will soon be shown here in two short films made by Pathe and British Movietone News. Opening with shots of weary mud-bespattered troops foot-slogging in France during the last war, "The Empire's New Armies" passes on to the immense variety of swift mobile weapons with which the fight in North Africa is being waged to-day, and includes shots of the parachutists now being trained in the United Kingdom. Among the artillery weapons shown are the latest "ack-ack" guns, with A.T.S. women manning the indicators. The other film, "R.A.F. —Action!", traces the development of Britain's air arm since the last war. To see the flimsy Sopwith Camels of the early days of air fights is to marvel at the spirit of the pilots of these "old buses." Later sequences show the evolution of fast planes, such as those which won the Schneider trophy permanently for Britain, leading up to thrilling pictures of actual battles, taken in the air with a miniature film camera.

Britain has made herself responsible for the welfare of 50,000,000 people in the Middle East, supplying them from various sources with industrial raw materials, coal and oil for transport and public utilities, fertilisers for crops and foodstuffs—100,000 tons of cereals are now on their way there. The work is carried out by the Middle East Supply Centre, which, with headquarters at Cairo, serves an area of 2,500,000 square miles, twenty-five times the size of Britain herself. The Centre co-ordinates the supply of all goods and makes the best possible use of shipping facilities. It works in close co-operation with the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation, which has branches in ten countries—Turkey, Persia, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and the Sudan, as well as in Spain, Portugal and Iceland. The Corporation has a representative on the Middle East Supply Centre, which in turn maintains close touch with Mr. Oliver Lyttelton, Minister of State in the Middle East, and with the Intendant-General of the British armies in that region. Agents of the U.K.C.C. in Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Palestine, and South Africa have recently met in Cairo, under the chairmanship of Lord Carlisle, to discuss the important questions of transport and co-ordination.

Hostel towns are springing up throughout Great Britain around the new factories, some of them covering a square mile of land, for making munitions and other war material. The factories have to be built well away from congested areas, and, instead of travelling long distances backwards and forwards, can now live on the spots in huts built in parts elsewhere and assembled where required along with canteens, rferigerated stores, emergency hospitals and shops. After the war, all these buildings can easily be taken down and put up again where wanted. They are a considerable item in Britain's building bill of £1,000,000 a day. Army camps and aerodromes are also going up all over the country, and for the "Home Front" there are air-raid shelters, first-aid posts, rest centres, emergency housing and feeding centres. Even temporary shops are put up in "blitzed" towns to carry on without interruption the distribution of food and other essentials. In Coventry whole rows of these shops were run up for the bombed-out traders. Practically all this wartime building is under the direction of Government departments, working through the Ministry of Works and Public Buildings set up about a year ago under the direction of Lord Reith.

Britain's farmers are obtaining excellent resulst with the fodder now being produced by the new caustic soda straw-pulping process on over 250 farms in the United Kingdom. Experiments at the Midland Agricultural College with eight pairs of Dairy Shorthorn steers weighing between 5 and 7 1-2 cwt. showed that those fed with processed straw achieved over the 71 days of the trial an average liveweight increase of 1.79 lbs. a day, an advantage of .7 lbs. per day, or of 64 per cent., over those receiving untreated straw. Even more striking were the results from a test with 20 young dairy cattle, 7-20 months old, at the National Institute for Research in Dairying. Each of the animals given soda processed straw with the ration increased 1.17 lbs. a day, against .47 lbs. for each one fed with straw soaked in cold water only, a gain of no less than 148 per cent. Similar results have been obtained in other experimental centres, and trials confirm that pulping so improves the feeding value of cereal straw, chaff and cavings that the products can be used to replace part of the hay corn or roots in rations for meat and milk production. The processing plant of concrete or brick can be erected by local builders at a cost of about £30. Running two batches a day it will produce 1,400 lbs. of straw pulp from 400 lbs. of straw, enough to supply 28 animals with 50 lbs per head daily, and it only takes an hour's light work to put through each lot.

The Casgrains

(Vancouver Province)

Hon. P. F. Casgrain, secretary of state in the Dominion cabinet for some years, has been appointed to the Quebec Superior Court to succeed. Hon. Alexandre Chase Casgrain, who has died. Now, it is reported from Ottawa, he may be succeeded in the House of Commons by his wife, Madame Marie Therese Casgrain, who has been offered the Liberal nomination in Charlevois-Saguenay.

It is not easy to follow the Casgrains through Canadian political history. There have been a lot of them in public life and they have not all been on the same side politically.

There was, for instance, Hon. Charles Eusebe Casgrain, who sat for many years in the Canadian Senate, representing an Ontario district. He was a Conservative. And there was his brother, Philippe B. Casgrain, a noted historian, who represented L'islet in the House of Commons from 1872 to 1891. He was a Liberal, indeed, for many years the only seat in Quebec below Quebec City.

Hon. Charles Eusebe had a son, Thomas Chase Casgrain, a distinguished lawyer, junior counsel for the crown at the trial of Louis Riel, attorney-general of Quebec in two administrations, chairman of the International Joint Commission and postmaster-general for two years in the Borden cabinet. It was his son, Hon. Alexandre Casgrain, who was a member of the Quebec Superior Court.

Philippe B. Casgrain also had a son, Joseph Philippe Baby, a well-known civil engineer and financier who was called to the Senate in 1900 by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and sat there until his death in 1940.

Hon. P. F. Casgrain was a member of the Conservative branch of the family and read law in the office of Hon. T. Chase Casgrain. But when he first tried his hand at politics in the general election of 1917 Quebec was almost solidly Liberal, and it was as a Liberal that he was elected for Charlevois-Montmorency, a seat his father-in-law, Sir Rodolphe Forget, had held as a Conservative for 13 years.

Now, Madame Casgrain, who helped her father win the seat as a Conservative and helped her husband win it as a Liberal, is expected to campaign for herself. She is a colorful and vivacious figure and a lady of progressive ideas. She led the fight for women's rights in Quebec and won. Whether she wins or not, this time, she will add liveliness and sparkle to the campaign.

German Disaster

(Winnipeg Free Press)

No commander-in-chief is ever dismissed until things are going very badly indeed, and this is what makes Hitler's dismissal of Field Marshal von Brauchitsch an event of outstanding importance. It is now apparent that the retreat of the German armies on the eastern front is not a calculated manoeuvre of the Nazi high command. It is a disaster to German arms, the end of which is not yet in sight. Hitler's statement that he is himself assuming command, together with Goebbels desperate appeal to the civilians of Germany to provide warm clothing for the army, is proof that Germany has suffered its first major defeat.

In 1936 Hitler got rid of von Blomberg and von Fritsch, because they were not loyal to the Nazi party. They were replaced by von Keitel and von Brauchitsch, the former as head of the high command, the latter as commander-in-chief. Both were up to a point "political" generals, chosen more for their fidelity to the regime than for their skill. Von Keitel is nothing but a yes-man. Von Brauchitsch was said to have ability and, on occasion, was brave enough to talk back to Hitler. Now only the yes-man is left.

It does not do to attach too much importance to the move which, in all probability, means that von Halder, chief of the general staff and said to be the ablest military mind in Germany, is taking over. But this in itself is important, for it means that the "political" generals have been found wanting, and Hitler has been forced to turn back to men whose value to him is not based on party fidelity. Nazi dominance in Germany is probably weakened, as the nervous protestations in Hitler's message to the army clearly shows. But both Nazism and Germany have suffered a staggering blow.

Let us not be misled by this news. Germany is still strong. But let us be greatly and justly cheered by the proof that there is trouble in the German camp as we watch the frost-bitten legions staggering back from Moscow. This is not the first time in history that a little corporal has led an army in retreat over the Russian snows.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War

"Some people foolishly say that time is on our side. It is not. Rather time is on the side of the Germans."—Grattan O'Leary.

Equality Of Sacrifice

(Halifax Chronicle)

On Monday President Roosevelt signed the bill extending the provisions of the United States selective act to all men beween the ages of 18 and 64. Under the new law, all men between these ages must register, and all men between 20 and 44 are liable for active military service. The only persons unaffected by the new provisions are those aliens who have not yet taken out their first papers.

This is compulsory military service with a vengeance! The military draft in the United States is obviously for service anywhere, not merely within the territorial confines of the country.

In Canada, the Government's strongest argument against compulsory military service overseas has been the urgent and fundamental need for preserving national unity. The theme is one with which we are all familiar. Nor can there be any Canadian worthy of the name who would do anything that would threaten or harm the national unity of this country. The point on which many people do differ is whether or not the immilitary service would really constitute a threat to national unity, or whether it would cement more closely han ever the bond which binds us all together in the face of a common danger.

Some days have passed since the Air Minister announced the Government's intention of setting up a system of national selective service for Canada. Under the law as it now stands it is clear that national selective service for Canada cannot mean the sending of Canadians to fight overseas against their will.

From this basic distinction between our own law and the law that is being put into operation in the United States springs the seed of possible friction, discord and recrimination between the people of our two country. Unless there is equality of sacrifice as between Canada and the United States, there can be no truly successful coordination of the military and economic might of the two countries.

Canadians are now faced with the grave choice of deciding between a policy which will almost certainly create problems in our good relations with the United States, and a policy which, many believe, will result in internal discord here at home. In such circumstances it will require real leadership and truly statesmanlike qualities to decide which course to adopt. Will the Government continue its "no compulsory military service out of Canada" and risk endangering Canadian-American understanding, or will they adopt selective service measures such as those adopted by Washington, at the possible risk of injuring our own national unity?

Royal Bank of Canada Figures at New Peak

Total Assets Reach Record of $1,075,000,000 — Public Deposits Up $97,500,000 — Profits Slightly Higher

The Annual Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account of The Royal Bank of Canada for the year ending November 29, 1941, was issued to the shareholders and shows substantial gains under practically all important headings.

Assets increased almost $120,000,000 and have reached the record total of $1,075,000,000. As usual, the liquid position is strong, with quickly realizable assets totalling $651,918,309. This represents 69.56% of the bank's liabilities to the public. Included in this total of Liquid Assets are notes of and deposits with the Bank of Canada of $86,542,227, Cash and Bank Balances of $101,285,122 and Dominion and Provincial Securities valued at $371,231,959.

Total public deposits likewise reached a new high figure of $902,000,000, an increase during the yearof $97,546,128. In spite of a large volume of withdrawals for the purchase of Victory Bands last summer, public savings in Canada, it is understood, have since not only regained their previous high point, but actually show an increase over the figure of a year ago.

Commercial loans in Canada during the period under review totalled $241,782,846 as compared with $229,451,217 shown in the previous year. Call loans are up $6,187,000. Foreign loans and loans to cities, towns and municipalities show slight contraction.

Profits were well-maintained notwithstanding increased operating costs due to larger staff, increased taxes, cost of living bonuses and other factors.

After providing for taxes, and appropriations for bad and doubtful debts profits totalled $3,536,000. Out of this amount the usual dividends totalling $2,800,000 were paid, $325,000 was set aside for the Pension Fund Society, and $400,000 for depreciation of Bank Premises. The balance of Profit and Loss carried forward amounted to $3,209,074 an increase of $10,928.

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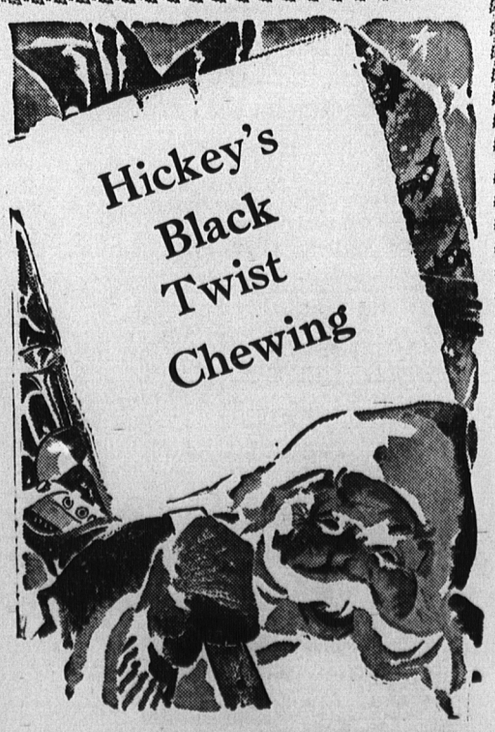

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