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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1939.
A Precious Pair

It was on March 19—just nine months ago—that Soviet Russia in a note to Germany refused to recognize Hitler's absorption of Bohemia-Moravia and Slovakia as legal, condemning it as "arbitrary, violent and aggressive."

Signed by Stalin's Foreign Commissar Maxim Litvinoff, and addressed to the German Ambassador at Moscow, this pious condemnation of Nazi aggression applies equally, of course, to Soviet acts of aggression since the war, particularly the unprovoked attack on gallant Finland.

"In Hell," wrote the poet William Blake, "all is self-righteousness. . . . They do not so much envy one another; they condemn and despise one another." The war-mongers at Berlin and Moscow are, by the same token, fully aware of each other's guilt and treachery.

Canada And The War

"It may in the end paradoxically prove true that Adolf Hitler, without intending any such consummation, has done more than any other force in the world to make Canada a nation."

This arresting thought comes from a recent book, "Canada, Europe, and Hitler," by Prof. Watson Kirkconnell, published by the Oxford University Press. Much of the material has been gathered from an extensive study of the forty foreign-language newspapers in Canada and from astute appraisals of the Anglo-Canadian and French-Canadian viewpoints.

"There emerges," says the author, "a most variegated mosaic of European-Canadian opinion, which shapes itself nevertheless into a pattern of quite astonishing unanimity on the issue of supporting Canada in its armed opposition to Hitlerian aggression. The great majority of our Germans are loyal Canadians. The conscious nationalists among our Ukrainians, Poles, Czechs, Croats and Magyars have no sympathy today with Nazi expansion. Even some of our Communists of foreign stock tend to condemn not only the violence of Hitler but the predatory nationalism of Stalin. British and French Canadians have demonstrated their sense of our national unity; and our two and a half million European-Canadians give heartening assurance of their loyalty to the Canadian nation. Canada is more united than ever before in her history."

Those War Debts

The United States has sent out its annual notices to the European powers which, during the Great War, borrowed sums of money totalling about \$10,350,000,000. There is some talk of remitting Finland's contribution, but that gallant little land is not asking to be excused, promising that the quarter of a million dollars will be sent over on due date. When the money comes it will be used for the benefit of Finland, however. The other Great Powers, notes an exchange, are not in a position to follow Finland's example, and it is too little understood why, especially by United States' creditors. In the first place, no money was supplied the Allies, but goods, which were taken at war prices. A total of \$4,277,000,000 was lent to Britain; \$3,405,000,000 to France; \$1,468,000,000 to Italy and a little over a billion to other countries. By funding agreements, Britain is asked to pay back \$11,100,000,000 before 1980. She has, as a matter of fact, already repaid no less than \$2,025,000,000, on principal and interest. France has repaid \$380,000,000; Italy \$101,000,000, and the other debtor countries combined \$136,000,000.

Why cannot the balance be paid off from year to year? The large amounts being spent on armaments are pointed to by the creditors, and the suggestion made that debts of honour should take precedence over such expenditures. Armaments are paid for mainly in the countries which manufacture them, by taxation and internal loans. The difficulty in the case of war debts arises from the fact that, though the Allies received goods, the United States is unwilling to take goods in return. A settlement might be made in gold, if there were enough gold available for the purpose. But that method, too, would not be acceptable. The United States already has more gold than is economically good for her. Moreover, in the case of Britain, the understanding was that the debts would be paid from reparations money collected from Germany. But that country has long ceased to pay anything. As a matter of fact, Britain collected only \$565,000,000 from Germany of the more than two billion dollars she has paid back to

the United States. On the other hand, Germany borrowed in excess of two billion dollars from the United States, out of which she made her reparations payments.

Seeing that these financial obligations were incurred in a common war effort, there is a feeling that they should not be treated like ordinary hard-and-fast business bargains. The Christian Science Monitor quotes Mr. Neal A. Stanford to the following effect: "Washington's refusal to accept less than all due it may be legally correct, but it isn't collecting anything on pay day. That 'all or nothing' attitude has forced Europe to reply: 'All right, nothing.'" It is suggested that a half, or even a tenth, of a loaf is better than none, and that what is wanted, above all, is a stable and peaceful world. "The monetary and economic value of such a condition would be worth many times the value of all European debts," in the opinion of that commentator.

EDITORIAL NOTES

George Washington died this date, 1799—"To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

The City Council from now, henceforth, and, we hope, for ever, are determined to collect revenue by all means in their power without respect to persons.

Until the general election there is to be no politics in Prince County, and, meantime, no doubt, patronage will be impartially distributed through the medium of Senator Creelman MacArthur.

The Hon. Mr. Ralston already appreciates some of the difficulties we are up against here, when he found it impracticable to leave Summerside to get acquainted with some of the leaders of his party in other parts of Prince County.

The King's Birthday. The Dominion pledges "all faith and constant obedience with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God by whom all Kings and Queens do reign to bless the Royal Prince George the VI with long and happy years to reign over us."

According to the Commercial Intelligence Journal, Brazilian importers are becoming more interested in Canada as a direct source of supply of furs and pelts and during 1939 Brazilian buyers visited the Dominion and made substantial purchases.

Canada's October imports of living animals fell off considerably, the value being \$12,349 compared with \$51,688 in September and \$101,385 in October, 1938. The total for the first ten months of the year was \$836,206 compared with \$935,385 in the same period last year.

Wool price control, established by the Wartime Prices Board has already produced results in that large quantities of wool needed for domestic requirements have been released to the market and it is stated that more is soon forthcoming so that the threat of an actual scarcity of this important commodity both for military and home uses may soon be removed.

The City Clerk of Outremont, Quebec, is recovering from a shock he received on reading a letter—from a satisfied taxpayer! It was in the following laudatory terms: "Enclosed find cheque for my taxes. It is a pleasure once again to congratulate the management of the city on the good work they are doing and for again being able to lower our taxes. I am sure that every property-owner appreciates the reduction—instead of an increase—in times like these. My best wishes for a continuation."

Canada imported 70,231 cwt. of hides and skins in October compared with 38,829 in September and 32,420 in October, 1938. Imports during recent months have been heavier than in 1938, resulting in a gain in the ten month total to 324,246 cwt. from 190,369 a year ago. Domestic exports of hides and skins declined in October, totalling 12,777 cwt. compared with 35,236 in September and 38,536 in October, 1938. The ten month exports amounted to 367,378 cwt. in comparison with 250,017 in the corresponding period last year.

Necessity still being the mother of invention, Germany in 1938 produced about 1,300,000 metric tons of synthetic gasoline from such raw materials as coal, alcohol, and compressed gases. In 1939 this figure probably will reach 1,500,000 metric tons, or 12,750,000 barrels. In 1938 Germany imported about 1,357,000 metric tons of gasoline, or slightly more than 50 per cent of her total consumption. A new plant is being constructed at Stettin which is expected to have an annual capacity of about 350,000 metric tons. This plant is expected to be in operation about the middle of next year. Germany has been dependent upon imported gasoline for about half her normal peace-time supply of gasoline, and since September 1, when the war broke out her supply from abroad has been virtually eliminated. In war time she would normally need more gasoline than in peace time.

Purchases of German goods by Latin America accounted for over one-sixth of all German exports during 1938, according to a report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the current issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal. The report, covering in full this trade with Latin American countries shows that exports from Germany in 1938 to Latin America, however, were down by 3 per cent from 1937. Their value was \$257,000,000 in 1938, being more than total purchases by the whole of Asia from Germany, three times as much as purchased by Africa, and almost fifteen times as much as purchased by Australia. Latin America took almost four-fifths of the total German exports to North and South America. Just as Latin America has been an important export market for Germany, so have German supplies formed a large part of total imports into Latin America. In 1938 German exports to Brazil exceeded those of the United States by a slight margin. For Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela, Germany was the second country of supply; for Argentina and Uruguay it was third.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The British Government has arranged to take the entire Canadian output of lead for the duration of the war. It will be used to sink the Nazi regime. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

It is costing every man, woman and child in the United States one dollar per month for defence expenditures and Hitler is the cause of it all. Even neutrals cannot avoid war expenditures. — Chatham News.

The Dutch premier warns his people against fatalistic beliefs that Germany is all ready to invade Holland and he suggests it is not likely to happen. But there is no letup in Dutch preparedness for such a blow from only one quarter, Germany. The same is true in Belgium and in neither country is there the slightest indication that there is an exception of neutrality being violated by the Allies. — Niagara Falls Review.

Of all the foreigners the British are the most popular in Italy; even the proverb "inglese italiano diavolo incarnato" shows an affectionate understanding of our eccentricities. "The most spontaneous demonstration I have ever seen in Rome," an experienced journalist told me, "after that of the crowds who cheered the fall of Addis Ababa, occurred when Mussolini announced the signature of the Anglo-Italian Gentlemen's Agreement. — F. Yeats-Brown in "European Jungle."

Not only is the French Army the strongest in the world today, but it has the enormous advantage of having incomparably the best thinking-machine—that is, the best staff of any army. Its command is equally remarkable. The enormous advantage the French have in this respect will be readily understood when it is realized that a single general in the German army would hold a position of responsibility during the war, whereas every French general has had experience in leading troops in war. — London Telegraph.

England's aleconners, who practised their profession of testing ale and beer up to a few years ago, determined the sugar content by pouring some of the liquor on a wooden stool and then sitting on it. If their leather breeches stuck, they considered the brew satisfactory. — Freling Foster in Collier's, New York.

On his visit to America, George Bernard Shaw was invited to one of those lethargic lionizing parties. During the evening the hostess approached the noted cynic and said, "Are you enjoying yourself, Mr. Shaw?" "Yes—and that's the only thing I'm enjoying," he retorted. — Harry Hersfield in Liberty, Toronto.

In South Africa the natives say "He is speaking English" when they mean that a man is drunk. The expression originated in the time when the English first began to colonize Africa. Their language sounded so comical to the Negroes that they compared it to the babble of a drunken man. — Das Illustrierte Blatt, Frankfurt.

Heywood Brown's own newspaper, The Connecticut Nutmeg, recently conducted a short story contest for unknown authors. In the usual rejection slip, unsuccessful contestants received an Admiration cigar. On its cellophane wrapper were these words: "Rejection implies no lack of Admiration." — The Open Book, Cleveland.

The impressive size and appearance of vigor of many young people today is a subject for comment by those who have been observant enough to notice these characteristics. It is evident that the human race, as represented by young Canadians, is increasing in stature. It is not uncommon for Canadian youths of 18 years to be six feet or more in height and to weigh from 150 to 180 pounds. This kind of development has come largely in the last half century and it is apparently becoming more general. The condition applies to girls as well as boys. Girls are growing taller than was the case fifty or a hundred years ago and generally they are stronger and healthier. Looking around for a reason for this interesting development of the human race, we find that scientific feeding is perhaps the most important factor. The environment in Canada and the United States as regards food and hygienic living is perhaps better than in any other country in the world. Our people have rapidly acquired an intelligent grasp of the fundamentals relating to health and sanitation. They have mastered the secret of simple food, adequate sleep, good ventilation and requisite exercise and the outcome is quite noticeable in the appearance of the young people of our time. Their appearance gives an impression of robust health and clean living. Despite plenty of disease and premature death among our population, the fact seems to be outstanding that this country is producing men and women of exceptionally fine physique and general attractiveness of appearance, due to increased knowledge as to proper feeding and the necessary care of the body. There is no reason to believe that the stature of the race is unlimited. Scientists believe that we cannot proceed much farther in that direction, but they are convinced that ideal diet and clean living will bring the average up to the stature of the best examples today. — Woodstock Sentinel Review.

INDIAN TROOPS ABROAD

BOMBAY—(CP)—The Times of India published a despatch assuring that all "troops that have recently left India" have safely reached their destination and "all rumors to the contrary are without foundation."

Shop - Keeping In Pioneer Days

THE STORY OF BEDEQUE'S FIRST STORE
By E. S. D.

From the Day - Book of William Schurman merchant and "on the Island of St. John," begun 1784

(Continued from yesterday's Guardian)

Who was the first school teacher in Bedeque? How was he paid, and where was the school? There seems to be no information available which will answer these questions but William Schurman has one nappy entry made when Bedeque set up a school. He was barely sixteen years old. It is dated April 17 1800, and reads "I was Schurman paid to the School Master 0: 13: 7 1/2. A pay the name of the master is omitted, for this entry doubtless concerns one of the early school masters on the Island, and probably the earliest in Bedeque.

Books did not figure largely on the shelves of the pioneer store. The first book entry was in 1786 when William Wright, the father of all the Bedeque Wrights, was charged with "1 bible 1: 3: 0." One pound three shillings (\$4.60) was a tidy sum in those days to be spent on a book by a man who could not read. The rare book which probably had to depend on some of his family to read to him. In 1795 a Testament was charged to William Murray's account at 1: 0: 0. The books listed are "1 bible 1 schooling" (no prices given for either) charged against John Baker sometime in the period 1786-1800. Writing paper sold from twenty to twenty-five cents the half quire. Ink, imported in powder form, was always homemade, and a paper of ink powder sold from ten to twelve cents, three cents less in 1798.

The literacy rate on the Island at this time was rather high. Probably 50% of the women could read and write, and at least a third of the men were equally ignorant. Those who did write, spelled with the care and accuracy of those to whom inventive spelling was a joy and a delight. Schurman himself, most certainly belonged to this class. In his account book he often spelled Baker in the conventional way, but for variation he as often spelled it B-a-c-o-r. James Allen's name is given as a fanciful long written name. Gams Allen, Arsenault, hard name for a Quaker merchant unacquainted with French is written mostly Arsen, Arsenet, and Arsenow. The surname Connor is spelled either "Connah" or "Connows," which definitely shows the soft "r" in Schurman's pronunciation of the King. Even the spelling of the merchant's phonetic spelling of French names is seen in the spelling of Doucette and Gaudet, written "Duseet" and "Gaudy." Other good examples include Moys written "Moise", MacKenzie spelled "McCluse" and perhaps best of all Montgomery made into "McGomerry."

(To be Continued)

The Poet's Corner

DAY IN THE DESERT

Along the dry coast of Arabia I heard the quail and the hard rattling line. Distant, as untuned bells by a mere-side, Gaunt, palm-fronds clanked, trouble on the air. And bitter morning air. Then Azrael called to Ithuriel. Flashing his brass wings yellower than sand. Ithuriel with a golden horn replied. Out of the resonant land. Noon passed and evening died. —Sherard Vines.

GRAD FINDS GOOD JOB

ROSEHILL, N. C. —(CP)—William D. Herring, 23, who graduated from college last spring was elected mayor here without opposition and becomes the youngest mayor in North Carolina.

Advice From The Past

(Manitoba Free Press)

A bulletin recently published by the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, under the editorship of D. G. Harvey, brings once again to public attention the importance of preserving the past, for the lessons it may give us in the present, that we may direct the future to our material and spiritual profit. This bulletin is composed of a series of letters written by the Rev. Norman McLeod between 1835 and 1851.

The letters are, to be sure, engrossing in themselves, as mere literary compositions; but they are notably more valuable as documents that vividly recreate a past that was once as living as the present—out of which, indeed, our present sprang, and from which some of the problems we have with us today surely generated. How did they generate? What were the social, individual, intellectual flaws a century ago that sowed the seeds of some of our present discontents? These questions are answered, in part at least as far as Nova Scotia is concerned, in passages from the Rev. Mr. McLeod's letters.

And reading those documents makes us acutely aware that some of the difficulties about us never have arisen, had moderation and generosity been used. Therefore it is not a far cry to the position that having such voices speaking out of the past we have advice that will enable us to avoid similar mistakes in the present!

It is a fine thing to have a provincial department of archives so thoroughly keen on the preservation of historical documents, even private and apparently unimportant letters, and in the wide dissemination of those letters in bulletin form. The other provinces might profitably follow this example. The modest governmental outlay necessary for the printing would bring abundant returns.

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Whose Business? (Christian Science Monitor)

The trial of Fritz Kuhn, American Bund leader, on charges of misappropriating funds of the organization he heads, underscores the point. Whether members of the Bund held Mr. Kuhn responsible or no, the State could take no cognizance of their attitude, according to Judge Wallace. "It is often stated erroneously, that crimes are committed against individuals. That is not so. Crimes are committed against the State." One might paraphrase that statement: "It is often stated, erroneously, that international crimes are committed against individual States. That is not so. They are committed against the community of nations."

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