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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11, 1940.

Britain's Ordeal

Terrible scenes are being witnessed in London, which the Nazis are now bombing indiscriminately, without regard to any objective...

War prisoners are being scattered pretty well over the Empire for internment. Over 400 Italian prisoners, including 20 officers have just been landed at Bombay for the duration.

Air Training Progress

Shortly the air training schools in the vicinity of Charlottetown and Summerside will be completed. All over Canada similar work is going on...

Passport Bungling

At the end of the summer holiday season, says the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) it might do Ottawa no harm to contemplate the ruin it has brought upon holiday plans of hundreds of Canadians...

A Legal Tangle

The law is still "a mess" in the opinion of at least one judge. In Montreal barbers are compelled to submit and report to the joint committee of the Barbers' Industry under the Collective Labour Agreement Act of the Province.

before Judge Monet at the Arraignment Court. He explained that he thought the apprentice should have been mentioned in a later report, and the judge accepted his excuse and let him off with court expenses. But he reckoned without the counsel for the Committee who pointed out that the minimum fine was \$200 or four months in jail, and the following transpired: "It is not for one in my position to criticize the law," remarked the judge, "but it would appear ridiculous to me on the face of it. When an accused appears before me on a serious charge, such as attempted murder or the like it is within my powers to exercise my discretion. I can reduce the sentence to one hour in jail if the circumstances warrant it. But here is a man found guilty on a technical offence and the mandatory sentence is \$200 and costs. He's worse off than the bootlegger who is found with 100 gallons of liquor in his possession. He only gets a fine of \$100." Turning to the accused, Judge Monet explained that he was obliged to give him the minimum penalty. "I want to assure you that is the judgment of the law and not the judgment of this court," he said. "I would never render an imbecilic judgment like that." Accused made an application for a delay in which to find the money. "Perhaps 20 years or so," suggested his counsel. Judge Monet was about to grant the request when the attorney for the joint committee pointed out once again that under the law the judge did not have the discretion to grant such a delay. "In this case I am going to grant his request whether or not I have the discretion," Judge Monet replied, giving the accused two weeks in which to raise the money.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Alberton Exhibition and the opening of the Great Western Highway today.

War prisoners are being scattered pretty well over the Empire for internment. Over 400 Italian prisoners, including 20 officers have just been landed at Bombay for the duration.

The Bank of England has proposed to the Bolivian Government the payment of 50 per cent in metallic gold in Ottawa for Bolivian tin exports to Great Britain. The issue was raised by the British royal decree of July 18, under which imports were to be paid for two-thirds in gold and one-third in paper money and one-third in British manufactured products. It is generally held that the new proposal conforms with the present financial set-up in Bolivia, which has abandoned sterling in favor of the United States dollar as an exchange medium.

Viscount Byng of Vimy born this date, 1862. After a distinguished military career in the Sudan, in South Africa, in Flanders, in Gallipoli was appointed in 1916 to the Canadian Corps ("Byngs Boys") which he led at the Somme and at the famous capture of the Vimy Ridge (April 9, 1917). In 1919 was created a baron and voted \$150,000 by parliament. Subsequently was appointed Governor-General of Canada and raised to a Viscountcy. Premier Mackenzie King differed from him with regard to dissolution of Parliament, and made the question an election issue.

In Cuba politicians rob the taxpayers just as any burglar and hold up-man would, not through graft and manipulations. Domingo Carlos Ramos, acting Mayor of Guanabacoa, across the bay from Havana, was shot and killed in a gun battle with military authorities as he was trying to rob the tax collecting office. A companion, Daniel Garcia Llerena, was arrested and is said to have confessed. According to army officers, Ramos offered several days ago to aid the police on duty in the tax office. Suspicions were aroused and a trap was laid. When Ramos and Garcia arrived, a policeman permitted them to enter the office. The army men surprised the two as they were opening the safe, it is alleged, and Ramos opened fire.

According to the crop report of the Bank of Montreal, in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick an average crop of hay has been harvested, but the aftergrowth is light and pastures are in poor condition. The cutting of grains is well under way and, while reports vary, it is estimated that the yield will be up to average. Although potatoes and other root crops are suffering from lack of moisture, satisfactory yields are anticipated. Apples are sizing slowly, owing to dry weather, and the crop will be below average. In Prince Edward Island grains are being harvested under favourable conditions. Root crops are satisfactory and a heavy yield of potatoes is indicated. Pastures are still good, but more rain is needed.

Over \$35,000 per fortnight is paid in wages at the Charlottetown Airport—that means about \$2 per head of the city population. When Beach Grove opens for training there will be a steady \$2,000 to \$3,000 per week paid out in wages, besides about \$8,000, \$12,000 per week in supplies. The airport in operation as a training school will represent a weekly expenditure here of over \$100,000. In Summerside also, the airport there represents an expenditure of over \$30,000 per fortnight, with corresponding expenditure when actual operations of the training school commence. Merchants and citizens, therefore, have every reason to count their blessings and make hay while the sun shines.

Over the border they do not believe the army to be a substitute for the penitentiary. The U. S. A. War Department announced that in the enlistment of the men needed to bring the regular army to its authorized strength its policy will be to refuse to enlist men who have been convicted of crime or of persons who are at liberty on parole. The War Department explained its position in this way: "The War Department consistently directs its efforts toward building the Army into a cohesive organization of right thinking men who can be depended upon in times of stress to display courage, fortitude and idealism of a high order. One of the strongest inducements held out to prospective recruits is the opportunity of associating with other young men of excellent character and good repute."

NOTES BY THE WAY

War correspondents returning home from the conquered countries bring many little problems with them, not the least of which is their expense accounts. We know one editor who was set back on his heels when his star correspondent itemized one sum as "cost of 10 water cloths abandoned at the fall of Paris." The item was wanted to tell you about some of the horrors of the war, though. At the end of a lengthy list of full-bodied expenditures was "Camberlain crisis—30c." — The New Yorker.

In tensile strength, nothing can beat the wood of the evergreen. But for multitudes of purposes, for siding and inside finish, stressed, and treated with preservatives, hemlock and spruce are fully as serviceable as fir. In fact, for some needs, where alternately wet and dry conditions exist, cedar is wood to work with. It is soft and pliable—but enduring. — Vancouver Sun.

It is an old rule but still a good one that vacationists, tourists, week-enders and half-days do their best to leave the country as beautiful as they found it. For the wonderful holiday-makers search had to be made to discover a road for the flowers they had seen in the days of boyhood's early summer it may be said with point that the disappearance of many of these is due simply to the fact that holiday-seekers passed that way before them. — Guelph Mercury.

Although the House of Commons decided that the measure shall expire at the conclusion of the war there seems no good reason why the new Treachery Act should not remain permanently on the statute books of Canada as a warning to all who would overthrow the nation by treachery. The Criminal Code contains a section on treason which provides that "everyone who commits treason is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to suffer death." In the Code and in the Criminal Code in the event of a prosecution being brought under it, the trial judge has either to impose the death penalty or allow the accused to go between these two extremes. It is a section of the Code covers the treason machinations of aliens. For these reasons something stronger than the Code's treason section was than necessary. In the new act dealing with treason against the alien enemy the State may be treated with severity equal to that which may be meted out to a treacherous subject of His Majesty. The House of Commons has decided that Canada temporarily or clandestinely in the purpose of doing damage by the use of sabotage or otherwise shall be held liable to court martial and upon conviction to death penalty. — Toronto Telegram.

Efforts of scientific farm and fruit men have hitherto been directed toward the production of making two blades of grass grow where one grew before. It is of unusual interest, therefore, to learn that the great South Carolina has made a contribution to the welfare of mankind by developing a water-proof refrigerator without being out at an attempt to jam it not bulk of the eaten by a small boy same time—although that is, perhaps, the only method to which small boys do not object. The weighing machine is cantaloupe size. The rind is not so thick as the ordinary fruit, so there is a saving in the outside to begin with. It is an important merit of fitting the apartment dweller who has a kitchenette with hardly enough room to turn around, the prospect of having a watermelon for dessert is almost appalling, the whopper taking up so much room that the housewife has no place to stack the dishes. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

For exactly a century and a half, or ever since Congress in July, 1790, empowered the first President to pick the site, men have been making grand plans for Washington as the capital of the United States. They have seen through wars and depressions, as Government structure assessed at \$400,000,000 after the war. They have created the greatest series of public buildings in all the world, limestone and sandstone to overawe the dozen more great buildings are being added; and more are being planned. The men who are planning and building Washington do not expect their work to reach that stage where Washingtonians can begin to get an idea of what their city will look like in the future. The prospect is breathtaking, even for residents accustomed to seeing whole blocks of red-brick slums disappear almost overnight take the place of a new, under the governing plan, not only the present vast stretch of Government area west of the Capitol to be further developed but new areas to the east are to be opened, so that eventually the great city will become the centre of official Washington instead of merely one end. — Exchange.

One of these days, Hon. J. G. Gardiner, who has served for five years at Ottawa as Minister of Agriculture, will have to hand over his portfolio to some other Minister, because the exigencies of his new Department of War Services will require all his time. For the portfolio of agriculture, the name most prominently mentioned is that of Hon. G. Taggart, Minister of Agriculture, Saskatchewan. The mention of Mr. Taggart's name is a reminder that it is nearly 20 years now since Canada has had a Minister of Agriculture who was not a Saskatchewan man. And it is nearly 30 years since the portfolio was held east of the Great Lakes — an admission, surely, that the nation's agriculture has moved to the west. Mr. Gardiner's immediate predecessor in the portfolio was Hon. Robert W. R. Melfort, and before that Hon. W. R. Motherwell. The late Dr. S. F. Tolmie held the office during the last year of Sir Robert Borden's premiership, and in the two short-lived Meighen governments, and before him the late Hon. Martin Burrell served for eight years. — Vancouver Daily Province.

Officer Boys

(Montreal Gazette) "May the Saints carry a blessing where it shud go, for the outstanding young officers,"—Munivastny, in Soldiers Three.

On a historic site in the vicinity of Montreal a battalion of Canada's Active Service Force is encamped, where the chivalrous De Levis burned the Colors of several of the regiments of the King of France, to avoid the sorrow of surrender.

The setting of the camp is superb. To the east stretches the fair Province of Quebec and to the north the City of Montreal rises in gradual slope with the mountains as a background. Three hundred years of Canadian history look down from the summit.

The men of the battalion go about their various occupations, superintended by the ensigns. These young officers are a most interesting study. One thinks of their past lives (how short they are), of the present, and of what the future holds in store for them. They are sturdy, self-reliant, and gay in speech and bearing. With unflinching gaze their clear eyes look into yours as they question.

They are taking their new profession seriously, giving long hours of study to the various branches of military knowledge, firmly resolved that they will study the human element of war, observing their men, their characters and capabilities, and above all they wish to show those under their command that they are not merely their officers, but comrades. For this endeavor they will reap a rich reward in the devotion and loyalty of their platoon, which will be worth more to them than the confidence of their men is better than any honor.

They have their plans and dreams for the days to come after that vague "but in some times they will become definite as they steel themselves for the adventure which may be theirs. However much they may think about it if they speak but little of the future, except in a light-hearted way, except in a faint, tall and powerful built, young lieutenant, observing that one of Joe Louis, after the war. A proper combative spirit.

There is no loud talk of what they intend, only a sort of cool determination to get on with the job, to do their best in all circumstances, and judging from what one has seen, that best will be very good.

T. W. N. Crossland wrote the following lines in praise of subalterns: This for the cheery Optimists, His Majesty's Second Lieutenants, With a snik on their mouths and the time on their wrists, His Majesty's Second Lieutenants.

About as wise as the unlicked cub is written in Heaven of the average, But they all belong to the Suicide Club, His Majesty's Second Lieutenants. A sort of medicine for the soul, Yet pledge them deep in the flowing bowl, For they spread the honor thick on the Roll, His Majesty's Second Lieutenants.

One of their own kind, Hugh Preston, 2nd Lieutenant, Royal Berkshire Regiment, wrote for them: O Fortunati, O happy to have lived these epic days; To have seen unfold as doth a dream of gold, These glorious chivalries, these deeds of glory, The glory of whose splendor gilds a death's ways As a rich sunset fills dark woods And blinds the traveller's eyes. Our eyes are blind With flaming heroism that leaves our mind Dumbstruck with pride. We have had our hearts desire. We salute our ensigns and all the young officers of Canada's Active Service Force, who are going to a great adventure fearlessly, with enthusiasm.

The land which can count them among its sons is indeed fortunate, as they are fortunate themselves, to have had granted their heart's desire to serve their country. F.S.M.

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Navy Ways

(Special To The Guardian) "SON OF A GUN." Naval men use an expression, "Sun of a Gun." They did not derive the term from the gunner of the Middle West, where it is a term of insult. The phrase is meaningless today, and generally speaking is used as a pleasantry. Up to Nelson's time the expression had a definite meaning, and was only applied to one class of individuals.

A naval captain in those days had much more license in his own ship than is now the case, and it was quite common for the commander of a warship to give permission to several women to live on the lower decks with the men when the ship was at sea. These ladies did the officers' washing and mending and many other useful jobs, and tended the wounded or even served the guns in action. Many captains believed that female society on the lower decks, even if anything but refined, tended to make the men better under the harsh conditions of service. Naturally, it was not uncommon for these ladies to become mothers aboard the ship. The guns in those days lined the quarters where the crew lived and often these children were literally born between the guns. A boy born aboard was referred to as "son of a gun." Since these children, generally without legal parents, grew up afloat, and knew no other life, followed the sailor's calling, and they almost formed a class of their own in the Navy.

DEPRIVED OF CITIZENSHIP

VICHY, France, Sept. 7.—(AP)—It became known today that Edouard Jonas, Paris art dealer, was among 13 prominent French men and French women deprived of citizenship by an act of the Petain Government yesterday. By mistake Edouard Grenat, a journalist, was included in the first listing of names instead of Jonas.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "ENGLAND" England, England, England, Girded by ocean and skies, And the power of a world, and the heart of a race, And a hope that never dies. Yes, England, England, England, Till honor and valor are dead, Till the world's great hopes are dust, Till the world's great hopes are dust, Till wisdom and justice have passed, To sleep with those who sleep in the many-chambered vast, Till glory and knowledge are charnelled dust in dust, To all that is best in the world's unrest, In heart and mind you are wed. —Wilfred Campbell.

FINLAND'S PRESIDENT IMPROVED

HELSINKI, Finland, Sept. 8.—(AP)—The Scandinavian radio broadcast Saturday report that President Kyylos Kallio of Finland, was considerably improved after being seriously ill for several days. The radio said reports published abroad that the president is dead were "at least premature." It added that recent high temperatures had disappeared and that his heart was functioning satisfactorily again. Kallio suffered a heart attack on August 9.

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