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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1940.

War Critic Menace

There are here, as elsewhere critics of the British war policy who, quite unintentionally, may become a menace to the Allies. They harp upon "Imperialism" and "Imperialistic Wars," as though in the present life and death struggle the British Commonwealth Governments, one and all of them, together with France were leagued with the devil incarnate.

The London Spectator, one of the most advanced of the English weeklies, deals with them kindly and considerately in a recent issue. It says these anti-war, anti-Government dissidents, with the exception of a handful of unteachable extremists, whom no reasoning will touch, are not impervious to simple argument. And very simple arguments indeed should suffice to convince any honest sceptic that Britain, and the British Commonwealth, have never been more utterly disinterested in any war in history than they are today, that to describe this conflict as an "Imperialist War" so far as France and Britain are concerned is mingled ignorance and folly, and to speak of it as the inevitable outcome of the Treaty of Versailles is hardly less misguided.

"Those who hold and utter such delusions," says our contemporary, "are neither to be derided nor denounced. For the most part they have allowed a quality laudable in itself, self-criticism, to develop till it degenerates and blinds them not only to proportion but, what is worse, to fact. They feel it almost a virtue to be wrong, and in a genuinely tragic bewilderment at finding themselves the prisoners of a civilization that is so demonstrably plunging to destruction they turn on the only institution within reach, their own Government."

But one count in that analysis is false. Civilization, even European civilization, is not yet doomed irrevocably to destruction. The British Commonwealth and France can save it yet. But every ounce of effort and sacrifice and devotion will be needed. Dissident minorities, however right it may be to tolerate and not suppress them, are a weakness, and no endeavour must be spared to persuade them that minorities are sometimes wrong.

No issue is ever clearer than the issue in this war. For Britain and France it is not a war about capitalism or inspired by capitalists; it is not a war about colonies or any other territory; it is not a war for markets; it is solely and simply a war against the brutal and aggressive ambition that has substituted terror for ordered government in Germany, spread that terror over the five independent States which it has eliminated from the map of Europe, and threatens to spread it, in whatever form or intensity may seem requisite, over other States still clinging in well-founded apprehension to their precarious neutrality.

Let British and French faults in past and present be recognized. Let discontent with much in the life of the community today be maintained, for it is fully justified.

Let any showy and shoddy manifestation of patriotism be condemned as it should be.

Let the resolve to build a new and better society when the war is over become a pledge which even the classes for whom it must mean most sacrifice will accept.

But as the basis of all things let vision be kept clear and truth prevail over the perverting impulses to which a rebellious discontent with circumstance gives rise.

And the truth is this, on the one side that the victory of the Germany of Adolf Hitler would imperil every liberty and every right that both the contented and the discontented in our Commonwealth enjoy, and on the other that with all our faults we and France stand, with other lesser States, for something inestimably precious which we may call Western civilization or Christian civilization or what we will, and without which life for ordinary men and women may well seem not fit to live.

In all that gives life its values we stand, not indeed where we should or might, but on a level incomparably above that on which Nazi Germany stands and to which she is striving to drag down her neighbours.

No man not wilfully and perversely blind will ignore our heritage or underrate it.

Is there nothing in that worth defending? Let one of the ablest spokesmen of organized Labour in Britain today give the answer.

"The fundamental issue," wrote Mr. Arthur Greenwood in his recent book Why We Fight, "is a moral issue. That is why we fight, Labour in the British Commonwealth has no imperial aims. It will not lend itself to such aims... Its determination is to keep its spiritual values, to retain those achievements which have widened the bounds of human freedom, and to assist in creating those essential conditions of civilized life in which alone the spirit of freedom, in all its manifestations, can thrive."

Those are in fact not merely Party but national aims, both French and British.

In them stands declared the fundamental truth about "this Imperialist war."

The Printed Word

If in future times racial barriers and hatreds are to be broken down, and Tennyson's dream of the day when "the battle flags are furled in the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World," is to be realized, the printing press will be one

of the great powers that will make the dream come true. Ald. J. Alex Edmison told more than 1,000 representatives of the printing and publishing industry at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, where they had assembled to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Gutenberg's invention of moveable type. "If civilization is to progress in the future," Ald. Edmison said, "there must be a new advance of democracy. The progress of the world must necessarily be made along democratic lines. Totalitarianism is not progress, but retrogression. It is printing that has made democracy possible, by supplying the knowledge of affairs which enables the voter to participate in his own government; by making possible that education which enables the voter to make intelligent use of his power; and by forwarding that scientific advance which does so much to raise the standard of life and liberate the mind."

Printing is not something that belongs only to the past and the present, the speaker continued; it belongs even more to the future. Great has been its service to civilization in the past, its services in the years to come can be greater still. Civilization itself is not complete, and as it has depended upon printing in its past progress, it must depend even more heavily on printing for the advance that must be made in the difficult period that lies ahead.

The Late Mr. MacPhee, M. L. A.

The death of Mr. Angus MacPhee, M.L.A., reported in today's issue, leaves the Second District of Queen's without any representation in the Legislature. Apart from this regrettable fact, there will be general regret felt at the passing of a gentleman who was held in respect and esteem by all classes. Mr. MacPhee entered politics in 1927 as one of the Liberal representatives for Second Queen's. Defeated in the following general election along with his party, he was returned in 1935 and again in the elections held last year. Conscientious in the discharge of every duty, he was rarely absent from his seat, except owing to illness during the present session. He thoroughly understood the business of farming, and took active part in the debates on agricultural subjects in the House, as well as on other issues with which he familiarized himself by reading and study. He possessed a fund of humor as well as of sound common sense. He was a strong temperance advocate, and in this and other matters which he regarded as of importance to moral welfare, was an outspoken champion. The old-time virtues of thrift and industry he regarded as of paramount value and made many effective speeches in their defence. On the hustings he was a vigorous fighter, and enjoyed the give and take of party warfare. A contest once over, however, he bore no grudges. Nor was it possible to know Mr. MacPhee intimately without recognizing and appreciating his merits, which were those of the sturdy pioneer stock from which he came. His community is the poorer for his passing, and the Province for an example the younger generation could follow with a good deal of profit.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Births registered in the 67 cities and towns in March numbered 7,944 as compared with 7,316 in March, 1939, a gain of 8.1-2 per cent. The number of deaths recorded was 4,606 as compared with 5,422 a year ago, a decline of 15 per cent.

H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, third son of Queen Victoria and great uncle of His Majesty the King, born this date, 1850. Entered the army in 1868; commanded 1st Brigade in Egypt, 1882 and was present at Tell-el-kebir; an efficient, practical soldier, he has held various commands and important military appointments. As Governor-General of Canada, 1911-16, his tact, gentility, and devotion to duty made him exceedingly popular.

Taxing gasoline means taking the money out of the consumer; fixing the price as British Columbia is attempting to do, and which the Supreme Court now asserts they have a right to do, means that the producers and refiners cannot charge back on the consumer the amount of the tax collected from them. It will be recalled in the Maritimes a mutual arrangement to that effect was reached between the governments and the oil interests. Now it is proposed to make the arrangement compulsory.

The sharp increase in the registration of marriages during the past few months was augmented in March when 3,192 ceremonies were registered in 67 cities and towns having a population of 10,000 and over as compared with 1,686 in March last year, a gain of 89 per cent. This brought the total number of registrations in these cities during the seven war months to 35,058 as compared with 22,331 in the same period a year ago. In making comparisons, it should be remembered that the Lenten period ended this year on March 23, whereas last year it extended into April.

One of the lesser evils suffered by the War is the abandonment of the Olympic Games for this year. They were to have been held in Helsinki in September, but the organizing committee have decided to cry them off. Although the partially completed Olympic stadia and buildings, erected at a cost of some \$8,000,000, were not damaged by bombs in the Russian invasion last winter, Finnish officials decided the war made holding the Games impossible. They decided to petition the International Olympic Committee for permission to organize the Games when peace comes.

Prelates of the Holy See have a great burden of work and anxiety these days but they have not forgotten how to laugh. There is one joke going the rounds now which has caused great amusement in the Secretariat of State, and from there has gone into Roman diplomatic circles. It is told thus: Chancellor Hitler was dissatisfied with the results of Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop's visit to the Vatican, so he sent Field Marshal Hermann Goering down. A few days later he got the following telegram from his Field Marshal: "Have placed Holy See under German protection. All prelates in concentration camp. Pope has fled, Vatican in flames. Cardinal's robe suits me beautifully. Signed, Goering."

NOTES BY THE WAY

More than 20,000 national international, state, and regional conventions are expected to be held in the United States and Canada during 1940. A survey indicates approximately \$280,000,000 will be spent on hotels and rooming houses at these gatherings - Christian Science Monitor.

Germany is boasting that she can get along regardless of the blockade; and only a few months ago, when there was no blockade, was complaining that she couldn't get along because she was one of the have-nots, without raw materials or living space - Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Mexican secret police have discovered a plot by Nazi and Communist agents to assassinate the directing genius of which is believed to be a known Gestapo representative. As Mexico does not use silk gloves when handling plots against the Nazi and Communist schemes are being reported with rather severe punishment when apprehended and convicted. - Mont. Gazette.

There cannot be the slightest doubt that the Allies are visibly stronger than they were seven months ago. They have used those seven months to strengthen their defences on the west. There have been seven months of training, seven months of assembling man power, seven months of day and night manufacturing of war materials and of importing supplies from all parts of the world. The German "Luftwaffe" has not had time to sit and wait while Hitler makes up his distracted mind what to do. - St. Thomas Times-Journal.

People of limited outlook imagine that it will be enough for Canadians of French speech to confine themselves within the narrow borders of their own province in order to enjoy perfect happiness. They want us to put on a ruff the heavy chain of isolation, so that we may remain tied to the lonely solitudes of the most barren and desolate mountains more than prisoners are to the ball which they drag around. They do not stop to think that, in thus depriving us of motion, they are putting us in the class of corpses - we do not move. - Le Jour (Montreal).

The United States Bureau of Aeronautics, which for some years has enjoyed high regard as a bureau of the most progressive in the world, is now being used to promote the sale of a new type of airplane. It is being used to promote the sale of a new type of airplane. It is being used to promote the sale of a new type of airplane.

THE MEDITERRANEAN MOVE

Sir - What may happen in the Mediterranean whilst the present European struggle goes in progress is a matter of conjecture.

It would seem that Italy's aims are not in Europe so much, as in northern Africa; meantime merely waiting to see which side will gain the upper hand in the present European conflict, or if its intensity will leave such a weakened condition on the Nations now involved, that it will be able to dominate that section she has long been watching with envious eyes.

Is Italy secretly preparing to enter the place her aims are in individualistic; if she can gain what she wants by taking advantage of a situation where the other nations and stop her are so situated, that their main forces are employed in other quarters she will no doubt try to secure for herself further territorial gains when she considers the present moment arrives which she can turn to her greatest advantage.

If we glance back over the military undertakings of the big three, Germany, Russia and Italy during the present conflict and through the past few years the following would not seem misplaced, "What is the end game?" reviewing the actions of those three nations in their overrunning of territories to which they had no right, either spiritually or technically. Expanded by the greedy, seemingly, are the motives behind. Each new move or successful annihilation of the national standard by other peoples by one power has been an added incentive to the others.

Italy has been studying closely every move carried out all too successfully by her co-partner Germany; every inch of the extending battle line has been taken into consideration where the Allied British and French have had to hold their own lines to protect other countries, not to help themselves, and where every hour was like gold, where speed has been concerned, to save other countries from the same fate.

The fact that the extending lightning bolt from Denmark in order to have a base of supplies close to her troops now overrunning Norway is apparent to everyone, and whilst operating there, they are strengthening every possible line of communication the entire length and breadth of Denmark.

We see that the whole operation, that of seizing Denmark, and striking at Sweden simultaneously was a master stroke, precision in forethought well beyond the military tactics of the German military operation to camouflage or cover up the other.

Italy has pledged herself to build the Roman Empire greater than ever, looking back to the time when the Roman Empire embraced both sides of the Mediterranean sea, one can readily see what would happen if the light once again made this their inland sea, controlling the outlets both to the Atlantic and the Suez as well.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charter of the Guardian does not necessarily enter the opinions of correspondents.

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THE COST OF ANIMAL FEED

Sir - Maritime farmers, particularly in this Province, are seriously agitated over the high cost of animal feed as compared with the cost in the Central and Western Provinces, particularly when same is used for the raising of hogs, the selling price of which has been maintained on this Island, something must be done without delay to land western Canadian grain in Prince Edward Island at prices much lower than it now the case.

The latter is a matter entirely beyond the control of the farmers of this Island. There is, however, another phase of the question which rests more nearly with our own people.

Denmark, now ravished by Germany, has for years made a remarkable success of agriculture, particularly by a Government assisted and controlled co-operative system, upon which Prince Edward Island might well have itself the success of agriculture in which Denmark's methods as closely as our local conditions will permit.

Particularly is this the case because of the fact that the last year have direct ocean transportation facilities almost equal to those enjoyed by the northern European countries, also a better chance than at any time in the past to import over the British market for bacon, ham, butter, cheese, eggs and poultry.

In Denmark most of the farms are quite small, four to five acres, and yet the people live in far greater comfort than is the case with the majority of our Island farmers with their fifty to one hundred acre farms. How do they do it? Well, in their opinion their land is too precious to be used for the growing of grain and they have made it a practice to import the same from this country, being one of Canada's larger customers. They have been using their land mainly in the raising of livestock, upon which a much larger profit is obtainable, not only that, but as a result of this practice they have maintained the fertility of their soil in having ample supplies of manure.

Now so far as Prince Edward Island is concerned, there is another feature in this connection and an important feature at that, viz. that as a result of years of careful research work in the Canadian Experimental Farms it has been proved that Western Canadian grain can be laid down in the Maritimes at figures well below the cost of the same grains grown on our farms. The average farmer is not apparently willing to admit that the above is the case because, when figures his costs, he does not include in same a number of overhead expense items, which nevertheless are each year piling up their debts against his net profits and which will have to be paid for some day either directly or indirectly. I refer to such items as the cost of manure, the wear and tear upon machinery and implements, the feed in the grain fields, his own labour and that of his hired man, the maintenance of buildings, fences, wells, etc. Take, for example, the cost of growing an acre of oats.

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products, in strength of man power and in area of square miles. Where would Portugal stand if it always aims regarding extension would mean an Atlantic coast line or if her programme in the Mediterranean would include over-powering Gibraltar; no doubt as a partial repayment for her help in Spain she would be granted the passage of troops through that country for either move, whilst their fleet would be occupied on the Atlantic side of Portugal.

This country's depth is not great, so that quick concerted action from both sides and in the air would make this a very short campaign. Should the passage of troops be allowed through Spain, Gibraltar would be vulnerable.

The sealing up of the bottle shaped sea with a drain at the Suez, and a stopper at the Atlantic neck is something that will have to be guarded against Italy's aims are of such magnitude she dares not make a false step. She must be certain that Great Britain has such a programme of defence and protection on hand that she cannot adequately further stretch out her lines without vitally weakening some quarter, that is the opportunity Italy anticipates.

Great Britain has always been equal to every occasion. The Lions guns may yet roar out their message of defiance and penalty at Gibraltar.

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I am, Sir, etc., H. K. S. HEMMING.

OFFER U. P. RAILROAD BONDS

NEW YORK, April 29 - (AP) - A new issue of \$81,600,000 United Pacific Railroad Company refunding mortgages 3 1/2 per cent bonds was offered for sale today by Kuhn, Loeb and Company, underwriter, at \$1,020 per \$1,000 bond.

The offering was preliminary to one of the biggest refunding operations by a railroad in recent years.

CONVERT YOUR OLD CAR INTO A HALLMORE TRACTOR FOR ONLY THE PRICE OF ONE HORSE. It will pull a three bottom Tractor plough in sod in high gear. POWERFUL - FAST - ECONOMICAL HALL & STAVER 34 Queen Street Charlottetown

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Table with 2 columns: Location and Price. Includes Ottawa (\$30.66), Charlottetown (27.07), Kentville, N. S. (28.88), Fredericton, N. B. (26.99), Cape Rouge, Que. (26.40), Lennoxville, Que. (23.89).

The following figures will be found on page 13, bulletin No. 168 of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, which bulletin can be obtained free of charge from the Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

The cost shown by the seven Experimental Farms differ chiefly in the cost of manure and labour. They are as follows: Ottawa \$30.66, Charlottetown 27.07, Kentville, N. S. 28.88, Fredericton, N. B. 26.99, Cape Rouge, Que. 26.40, Lennoxville, Que. 23.89.

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