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

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 1940

The Refugee Problem

Parliament has been discussing—academically so far—the question of providing aid for a portion of the millions of refugees driven from their homes in Belgium and France by German bombing planes and harried along the highways as they sought shelter...

Such aid as the French and British can provide can be only temporary. But the problem is one which is not temporary at all. It will last as long as the war lasts and longer. Here, it has been suggested, is an opportunity for Canada. Canadians have been roused during the past few weeks by the crisis which has come to France and Britain...

A World-Wide Conspiracy

There was news from Washington the other day that in Pan-American circles, the possibility was being discussed of common action by the twenty-one republics to sever diplomatic relations with Germany. The suggestion, it was stated, came from South America; and the purpose behind it was, by this device, to get rid of Nazi Ministers and Consuls who conspire ceaselessly against the governments of the countries in which they are stationed...

Trade And Scandinavia

The economic effects of the severing of trade between the Scandinavian countries and the outside world are discussed in the current Monthly Review of the Bank of Nova Scotia. The Review states that Scandinavia is faced with a tremendous and almost insoluble problem of readjustment, for over two-thirds of its foreign trade was with countries which can no longer be regarded as accessible. It adds that however anxious Germany may be to absorb the exports of these northern countries, she is not in a position to provide many of the imported materials, such as feedstuffs and petroleum, which are necessary to the maintenance of their export industries.

Britain, the largest market for Scandinavia's exports, is also faced with a problem of readjustment, but as the Review points out she has lost nothing that she cannot do without or get elsewhere—that her losses in imports are unlikely to weaken her war effort. In one important respect, indeed, German aggression has increased the Allies' war potential, for their merchant marine are the larger by several million tons of modern shipping.

Although only 11% of Britain's total imports came from the Scandinavian and Baltic countries, these imports were confined to a small number of commodities for which the area was a leading source of supply. Half or more of Bri-

tain's imports of bacon, eggs, fish and soft-wood lumber, almost all of her pulp imports, more than one-third of her butter and paper purchases and about one-fifth of her iron ore and scrap imports came from the northern countries. The Review points out that the necessary readjustment to this loss of imports is being facilitated by government machinery for controlling wartime trade and consumption: indeed the gap left by the cutting-off of Scandinavian imports is in most cases being met more by curtailing consumption than by drawing upon alternative sources of supply.

For butter and bacon, the two chief foods concerned, consumption has been sharply curtailed by rationing and other means. At the same time increased supplies from Canada have been provided for under the Bacon Agreement while the butter supplies of Australia and New Zealand have also been assured by contract. It is in pulp and paper that the supply problem is most acute. Nearly two-thirds of Britain's imports of paper have been from countries which are no longer accessible, and her large domestic paper production was mainly based on imports of Scandinavian pulp.

Canada is the greatest alternative source for a number of the leading exports of Scandinavia and has already been called upon to provide larger supplies. The Bacon Agreement, the large contracts from the British Timber Control, recent purchases of newsprint and reported negotiations for pulp are cases in point. It should be remembered, however, that Britain is also reducing her consumption of these commodities and that this country is required to provide for only a limited part of the supply formerly coming from Scandinavia. In the case of bacon, butter and cheese, for example, there has proved to be little justification for the optimism shown a short time ago.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Andre Marie Ampere, physicist and mathematician, died this date, 1836. His fame rests on his physical researches, especially on his development of electro-dynamics and demonstrations.

Fokker who designed and manufactured the war-plane of that name for the Germans died recently, and has left in the hands of New York bankers surpluses upwards of \$500,000. He left his fortune to his mother and sister in Holland, and because of the invasion of his native country by the country he supplied with planes, his executor in New York cannot close the estate and have the money transferred to the heirs.

One of the greatest mass movements of gold in history is now under way, the movement of reserves of Britain and France to Canada via New York together with Netherlands and Belgian metal for New York Reserve Bank. An estimated \$286,720,000 of gold was received at the bank on one day, an unprecedented daily amount. The gold was shipped from London and Paris to Canada under heavy convoy, some of it presumably being carried on warships. The actual movement to the Reserve Bank began last Monday night. Based on the individual truck deliveries, it is estimated that close to \$500,000,000 of gold arrived in New York in two days destined for Canada.

Four large branches account for 60 per cent of the production of the chemical industries of Canada. The largest of these is medicinal and pharmaceutical preparations, with paints, pigments and varnishes a close second. Third place is held by acids, alkalies and salts, and fourth comes soaps, washing compounds and cleaning preparations. The latest returns for these industries (1938) showed a combined output value of \$87,573,000 out of a preliminary total for the chemical and allied group of \$145,074,000. The consumption of chemicals in Canada for the same year—production plus imports minus exports—totalled \$160,784,000. Both imports and exports of chemicals recorded gains in 1939.

The elimination from British commercial life of all traces of German imports and business associates and associations has brought to the Supply Ministry the full realization of the meaning of "peaceful penetration" in directions other than those taken by fifth columnists. In arranging for mass production of many vital pieces of war equipment it has been found that minute parts or machines necessary to make these parts in any quantity are exclusively in German hands or are manufactured abroad by firms under German control. Before the war small instrument makers, often working in single rooms in various parts of the country, were able to supply the military, air force and naval departments with all their requirements on a "custom-built" principle, but when the departments suddenly demanded instruments by the thousands the manufacturers replied that neither the needed precision machines nor skilled labor were available.

The Boston Traveler received a letter from Kurt Bohme, German Consul in Boston, saying: "The consulate has read the editorial 'Let Us Be Realistic' published in your paper of May 28, in which the head of a nation, with whom the United States of America entertains diplomatic relations, is insulated in such uncivilized expressions, that this consulate in the future must refuse to give your paper any information in whatever matter it may be." The Traveler's editorial had said: "This creature Hitler will never be beaten by the rules of civilized warfare." Somebody has got to get right down in the gutter with him and fight the way he fights, only more cruelly. This is no time to prate about humanitarian ideals. The Allies are dealing with a wild beast. Yes, worse; dealing with a monster utterly lacking in principle. His word is no good, his methods are satanic. In the night he murdered Belgium and Holland. Hitler is merely an ex-guttersnipe, a mediocre little man with a mediocre mind, acting just as any fanatical, sub-standard person would act if given unrestricted use of modern instruments of science. We should set American science to work devising the most hellish instruments of defense the mind can conceive."

There is always a "human interest" which, from time to time, trickles into Dominion coffers. A sum of \$57 was received from a resident of Saint John, N.B. The accompanying note, unsigned, read: "Enclosed please find \$57 being duty which should have been paid on a fur coat brought into this country." — National Revenue Review

NOTES BY THE WAY

We may assume the United States secretary of the navy, Charles Edison, spoke in the full knowledge of this war's naval side when he told a Senate committee in Washington that he could not conceive that the Germans "will be able to damage seriously the British fleet." The battle of the Bismarck Sea, the battle of the Bismarck Sea, the battle of the Bismarck Sea, the battle of the Bismarck Sea...

The Russians have a serious nuisance value for us in the case of war with them. Their air force is not to be despised, as the Finns have found to their sorrow, and our oilfields round Mosul and at the head of the Persian Gulf can be attacked by Russian aircraft. A Russian expedition into the Black Sea would need naval vessels, troop transports, and ships, oil tankers. We have none too many of these, and certainly none to spare.

On an evening in the month of May, the radio station, broadcasting war news, suddenly the sound of an air raid siren, even though the closed windows of the Paris studio. Men and women and little children run for shelter from the men dealing their death. The news of the air raid, as it comes from the printing press, tells the story of how four young deer, in the forests of Yugoslavia, were left by a five-year-old baby, who, after playing in the woods on his way home, was sledging, the child told this to his parents, when on the following day he was found him, and started into flight as the geese protectors; that as he was crying bitterly the deer approached him, and pressing their bodies close to him kept him warm through the night. — Christian Science Monitor

Punning is an art at which I have never been adept. Sometimes I think it isn't an art at all, but an inborn propensity, like blue eyes or curly hair. Born punners are unable to control themselves in this respect, and some of them commit double and triple puns without any apparent effort. The best pun I ever heard was that of some concern which sold buckwheat flour, and called their product "The grain that makes the butterfly." It is hard to believe that this was thought up, punning, by some advertising expert. It must have been the full-formed to the lips of its creator without any conscious thought on his part. He had probably said it before he realized that he had perpetrated a masterpiece. — John O'Ren in Baltimore Sun

What Hitler pledges one day he cynically disregards the next. His propaganda chiefs invent lies so postposterous that the whole world laughs at them and by repeating and repeating them, they convince his own people. Perhaps he can. But what a tragedy for the human race that one of its great peoples should be thus blinded! Here is not simply killing and waste, but the denial of faith, of honor, of human decency. The issue is not victory or defeat in a military sense but the abasement of a continent of a civilization, beneath a terror of which the vast cruelties now dispersing and exterminating the Polish people are the sign and symbol. — New York Herald Tribune

No interest has the right under any condition to paralyze the community by depriving it of essential services such as gasoline. If these methods are permitted, two or three men, controlling large public utilities, could suddenly plunge the community into chaos. This happening is unthinkable. Mr. Pattullo is quite right when he says that the law must be obeyed and he is right in seeing that the companies should have announced their plans before suddenly enforcing them, with the obvious intent of taking advantage of surprise, and of public inconvenience. — Vancouver Sun



JONAH AND THE WHALE

He sported round the watery world. His rich oil was a gloomy woeless lake. Within the waves, affrighted seamen hurried. Their weapons in his foaming wake. One old corroding iron he bore. Which hurried through his flesh but yet he did not. Found out his life. Another lance he wore. Outside his pricking in a tender spot. So distant were his parts that they sent but a dull faint message to his brain. He knew not his own flesh, as great kings may. Not know the farther places where they reign. His play made storm in a calm sea. His very kindness slew what he might touch. And wrecks lay scattered on his angry sea. The moon roared to and fro his watery couch. His hunger cleared the sea. And where he passed, the ocean's edge lifted its brim. He skinned the dim sea-floor to find if there some garden had its harvest ripe for him. But in his sluggish brain no thought. Ever so, his law was instinct blind. No thought or gleam or vision ever brought. Light to the dark of his old dreamless mind. Until one day sudden and strange. Half-hints of knowledge burst upon his sight. Glimpses he had of Time, and Space and Change, And something greater than his might. And terror's leap to imagine sin; And blinding Truth half-bare unto his seeing. It was the living man who had come in. Jonah's thoughts flying through his being. — Viola Meynell

Gandhi's Faith In Britain

(Stratford Beacon-Herald) Mohandas K. Gandhi has only to crook his little finger and the masses of India will obey his will. He may not be the official head of the Congress Party today, but he is in the position of the Scottish minister of whom it was said that wherever he sat was the head of his country in the hollow of his hand. If he orders them to fight or to engage in passive resistance, or if he tells them to have patience, they will do so. Writing in his own paper last week, Mr. Gandhi said the British stand in no need of sympathy from a subject people, for they already are that. The British, he declares, are a brave, proud people and they will not be demoralized by half a dozen setbacks like North India. "The Indians," he added, "should make a timely, human gesture when Britain is up against a barbarous aggressor. The great gesture of this Congress is that it refrains from creating trouble in India." Like a lot of big talkers, Gandhi is a realist. He knows that the worst disservice his people could do to India is to take advantage of Britain's desperate situation to fight with the war to stir up trouble and cause the British Government into granting them complete self-government. To embroil Britain in another Indian mutiny on a national scale would almost certainly cause Britain to lose the war. And if Britain lost the war and lost India— which she governs wisely for the good of the Indians— it would simply mean that instead of India gaining her independence from

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THE TWO MACS

"This Phony War"

(New York Times) This is the war, let me remember, that many Americans—some of them in high places, at least a few of them in the Senate of the United States—were calling a "phony" war only a short time ago. It was a true description in the sense that the war began with a truce on the Western Front while the two conflicting forces felt each other out. It was never true in the sense that the cynics meant it. For it was never true that there was no deep moral issue in the war; never true that Hitler was at bottom merely a good German who would be content to re-establish the Fatherland in part of Poland; never true that the Allies went into the war intending only to make a mock show of resistance. For the record, and then to negotiate another Munich. To the last cynic it must be clear by this time how untrue these implications were. For the "phony" war that began in Poland has now witnessed successively the brutal conquest by German imperialism of Norway, Holland, Luxembourg and Belgium; and the phony war that has yielded place to furious attack and a sickening spectacle of blood-letting. As the war has changed, American opinion about the war has also changed. We can find one measure of this change in the wholly objective studies made by the Princeton Public Opinion Research Project through the fact-finding machinery of the American Institute of Public Opinion. Three months ago these studies led to the conclusion that 58 percent of the American people believed they would be personally affected in some way if Germany won the war; by mid-May, a few days after the German invasion of the Low Countries, the figure had risen to 65 percent, and the estimate not the slightest doubt, after Hitler's victory in Flanders, that it is higher now. Three months ago, when Americans were asked if they thought we were giving too much help, about the right help, or not enough help to the Allies, 50 percent answered "About right," only 15 percent said "Too much" and 13 percent said "Not much." By mid-May only 20 percent said "About right," only 6 percent said "Too much," and the great majority of 71 percent said "Not enough." This too, was before the German victory in Flanders. American opinion has changed, swiftly and impressively, with a clear realization of the character of German aggression and the consequences of a German victory. It will change more.

C. N. R. READY FOR TOURIST TRAFFIC

MONCTON, N. B., June 9—Never has Canada been so well organized and equipped to handle such a large volume of tourist traffic and convention business as this year, stated M. F. Tompkins, Canadian National manager of the regional tourist bureau here. According to reports from the United States railway agencies, he believed that the possibilities for a splendid tourist season were excellent. "The cordial relations established by the Prime Minister and the Dominion government to American visitors, coupled with the excellent arrangements made by the customs and immigration departments to facilitate entry into Canada at all points, have created an ideal situation and we feel sure that these arrangements will be thoroughly appreciated by tourists from across the border." Mr. Tompkins added that while a large volume of tourist business is anticipated, it must be remembered that the actual forecast must be one of mixed possibilities, the volume depending largely upon the course of international events and also upon general weather conditions during the summer. He pointed out that so far as it is possible to judge, at the moment, there is every indication of a heavy tourist movement. All railway agencies and bureaus report unusually heavy inquiries and the management of Canadian National Railways Hotel department have prepared for an unusually heavy season, both at their regular hotels and summer resorts, including in which the new Nova Scotia Hotel at Halifax, N. S., and the new Hotel at Pictou, N. S., on the southern shore of the Strait of Northumberland.

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