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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1943

Political Skeletons

An amusing incident occurred last week in the Ontario provincial election campaign. The Liberal Premier, Hon. Harry Nixon, was addressing a party rally at Timmins. From the same platform one of his supporters, forgetting Mr. Nixon's former political connections, launched a blistering attack on the defunct U.F.O. (United Farmers of Ontario) and its administration under Premier Drury. He cited the U.F.O. government as an example of what happens when inexperienced people are elected to important office. He is reported as follows: "There was going to be an end to corruption. What happened? There were charges of graft, and one man went to Kingston penitentiary. He was a member of that government which was going to give the people the millennium."

Mr. Nixon is not the only Liberal Premier who has had associations with other parties. Premier Jones, like his cabinet colleague Hon. Horace Wright, can recall when he ran as a Progressive, and had little but criticism to offer about either of the old-line parties.

Air Force Priority Needed

No more convincing proof of the inadequacy of the King Government's manpower policy could be imagined than the revelation last week that Air Force officials contemplate having to close down a number of the Air Training Plan schools because of lack of recruits.

There have been hints of an ebbing of the flow of Air Force recruits for some months now, but the Financial Post publishes long quotations from what is obviously an official (but confidential) Air Force memorandum—a memorandum that is apparently a warning to the Air Minister that the end is in sight.

The post says that unless more recruits are forthcoming the Air Force anticipates having to close down Initial Training Schools, Service and Elementary Flying Schools, Wireless Navigation and Gunnery Schools. Deadline seems to be towards the end of this year.

According to the Post, the R.C.A.F. made this report to Air Minister Power and Air Minister Power did not get very far with the matter at "a very acrimonious meeting of the War Cabinet last week."

Scathing comment is made in the memorandum about the wastage of manpower involved in keeping 59,000 "A" category "R" recruits on home defence service in Canada. The need for making these men available for universal service and permitting them to transfer to the Air Force if they wish to do so is strongly stressed.

The Air Force document points out that Australia and Great Britain and the United States grant a priority to the Air Force for the enlistment of "A" category men. But in Canada there's nothing to prevent "A" category men enlisting merely for the defence of the St. Lawrence river. Canada alone, it is pointed out, despite her tremendous commitment in respect of air training and air manpower, has so far refused to grant such a priority.

Old In Story

Sicilian history goes back into the twilight of Mediterranean legend. It has been the cockpit of innumerable wars. There raged the long and bitter struggle between Greek and Asiatic ideology. St. Paul spent three days at Syracuse, a city truly "half as old as time," and may have viewed the fortress where, centuries before Christ, sentries wore away the solid stonework by their methodical tread.

Tourists used to admire these traces of antiquity, and also the rough halting-places the Greeks carved from the stone for their horses. Not far away is the Cave of Dionysius, wherein the tyrant placed important prisoners, and, in a seat carved from the solid cliff hundreds of feet above, listened-in to their careless talk through a natural telephone.

Romans, Vandals, Goths, Saracens, Normans, Bourbons, Spaniards, British, Russians, aye, and mediaeval German mercenaries nearly as brutal as Hitler's own Huns, have fought in Sicily in years gone by. In 1282 the famous Sicilian vespers disposed of the Bourbon garrison, and the vesper signal was rung in a church, one of the oldest in existence, where St. Paul actually worshipped.

The London correspondent of the Ottawa Journal says that the hotel San Domenico, where the enemy's Sicilian G.H.Q. was destroyed by our air forces, was calculated to stand up against almost anything except the modern bomb "I stayed there several days while I was visiting Taormina," he writes. "It was originally a monastery, and the monks knew how to build."

When Mount Etna was in eruption, and the whole of Taormina was covered inches deep in red hot cinders, and again when Messina was destroyed by earthquake, the old monastery came unscathed through both ordeals. I remember there was a minor earthquake while I was there. The building shook, and things fell from the mantelpiece and dressing-table in the monk's cell in which I slept. The only other thing that happened, however, was that the blind covering the narrow slit of a window spread out over the bedroom like a canopy, and remained fluttering until the terrific wind set up by the earthquake gradually abated.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Contrary to Axis reports that Pope Pius XII would move to the Palace of St. John Lateran, former residence of the Popes, to fulfil his episcopate as Bishop of Rome and by his presence in the capital preclude the probability of further bombardment, Vatican sources announce the Pontiff will remain where he is "maintaining that impartially neutral attitude from which neither belligerent will gain an ell."

Many members of all parties of the House of Commons did not wait for the close of the House, but left Thursday, some of them to take part in the provincial contest in Ontario, others to care for party interests in the four federal byelection contests scheduled for next month, and others to attend to private affairs, which have been more or less neglected for many weeks while attending, more or less, to the country's business.

In the Senate, Senator Hugessen made public for the first time figures on the first two years' operation of the Unemployment Insurance Fund. There now are more than 2,250,000 workers participating in the scheme, he said. Receipts from employers and employees for the two-year period totalled some \$108,111,000 with the Government contributing an additional \$21,622,000. The fund had been further increased by \$3,182,000 earned in interest. Benefits paid under the Act totalled \$1,078,000 to June 30, Senator Hugessen said.

Otto Eduard Leopold, Prince von Bismarck-Schonhausen, the statesman more responsible than any other man for the unification and militarizing of the numerous Germanic states into an aggressive German Empire, born this date 1815; he discovered that only by "blood and iron" could this be accomplished; he fostered the ideal of the strong effective man, "the Aryan Superman" idea, encouraging historians like Mommsen, who preached Caesarism, and a new school of philosophers (of whom Nietzsche was leader) whose standard is merely the amount of energy a man possesses; the fruits of this philosophy are being reaped today.

The long standing grievances of the rural mail carriers was once more aired in Parliament when a plea on their behalf was made by Mr. Gordon Graydon, Progressive Conservative House leader, during consideration of non-war estimates of the post office department. He asked for consideration of the added costs of rural mail carriers in maintaining their routes in wartime on the low income they receive under contracts with the post office. He said the rural mail-carrier problem was a long-standing one and he said he would "condemn" the government for not even seeking to solve it. There was every justification for Postmaster-General Mulock to ask parliament to set up a special committee on the rural mail carrier problem. It was too late to do it this season but if the postmaster-general could not make some progress in putting the carriers in a position at least comparable to that of other public servants he should ask for a committee next year.

To find Churchill among the Liberals is like the appearance of Saul among the prophets, only Winston did once vort from Tory to Liberal for a short period after the South African War. The other day he received a great ovation from the National Liberal Club, London, where a portrait of himself, which was damaged by a German bomb early in 1941 and later was restored was unveiled. The portrait, which shows him as a young man, the work of Ernest Townsend, was consigned to the cellar during the Liberal Party quarrels that followed the last war but it was reinstated in its original place on the wall several years ago. When the club was hit by an enemy bomb two years ago the bottom portion of the picture was damaged. It recently underwent skilful restoration by the original artist, Mrs. Churchill was with her husband at the formal unveiling, which was presided over by Lord Crewe, and attended by other notables, including Lord and Lady Simon, Sir Archibald and Lady Sinclair, Ernest Brown and Mrs. Brown.

An average person will faint in less than 30 minutes if he is held motionlessly upright, says The Coronet. The new recruit may feel dizzy and weak while waiting stiffly for the inspecting officer. Later he learns that by inconspicuous toe wiggling and leg muscle contractions he can drive enough blood back to the heart to keep him from blacking out. The contraction and relaxation of any body muscle is in this sense a heartbeat. In fact, it is called "periphery heart action." There are about five quarts of blood in the body. The capillaries alone could hold nearly nine quarts were they all wide open. During quiet standing the heart pumps out only four and one-half quarts a minute because no more blood is forced back to it from the outlying capillaries. But with the lightest exercise, such as arm and leg raising, nearly eight quarts are returned to the heart each minute, and, therefore, pumped out again. In strenuous action, more quarts may be forced around the circuit per minute. This speedup of delivery service supplies the greater demands for oxygen in exercise.

Notes By The Way

The restrictions prohibiting fur trimming on women's and misses' hats have been removed by the administrator of women's misses' and children's wear. —Prices Board Bulletin.

Touching epitaphs are often inscribed by comrades on the graves of men who fall in battle. Referring to the sacrifice of every hero who gives his life in this conflict is the inscription on the grave of an American soldier in Guadalcanal: "Where he fell, may freedom stand." —Hamilton Spectator.

Since before 1590 a sermon (or sermons) has (or have) been preached before the mayor and corporation in St. Mary Redcliffe at Whitson, by competent ministers such as the stipulation attached to the money left for that purpose. At the centuries-old Rush service on Sunday morning the bishop will be that "competent priest," and all members of the services and strangers to the city will have the attraction of walking in the atmosphere of this time honored custom over the thickly strewn rushes. —Bristol Post (June 10).

Handicapped by the vulnerability of their lifelines to their Allies the best of which was severed when Burma Road was closed by Japanese action, the Chinese nevertheless are showing great resourcefulness in finding new ones. The latest of these supply routes, as has been revealed by Mr. Tseng Yung-shu, Minister of Communications, will have a terminus in Iran. This one, long known, it is offers promise of enduring, and recent developments have enhanced its potential usefulness. With the enemy evicted from the Middle East, and the Mediterranean once again a safe sea lane, Iran no longer is as far away as it was. Already, it is an important link in the transshipment of supplies to Russia. China has a right to look for increasing help through Iran, and its admirers everywhere will feel that it cannot come too soon. —Windsor Star.

In the technological millennium the scientists have promised civilization. Albert Parr, director of the American Museum of Natural History, believes that at last something can be done about the weather. He thinks that cities can be planned with built-in climate control. Addressing the graduating class at the University of Chicago in the field of Meteorology, Professor Parr observed indignantly that scientists have done practically nothing about the weather. "Our relations to the forces of weather and climate," he said, "are still in the most primitive cultural stage. Parr's own ideas on climate control are still in a sketchy stage, but he offered meteorological and provocative suggestions: they might "create a city of calm in a windy locality by means of windbreaks and shelter-belt plantings; cool or warm a city by the use of 'heat-generating or light-reflecting facades in city buildings'; colligate the effects of the sun by intelligent planning of light and shadow.—Exchange.

It is only natural that the shackling of prisoners of war, and most particularly our own men in Germany, has aroused indignation. It is exactly the kind of subject to bring down questions in parliament, and it has done so both in Ottawa and Westminster. Our prime minister has, however, said quite all he can when answering that the governments concerned feel they can do nothing about it. He has usefully taken note, and that what action should be taken after the war will be for the government and the public to be aware of the situation between belligerents. He has not received much sympathy from the recipients. A nation in the wrong is always a stubborn. In this instance reprisals were ordered by many of our own people and certainly did little good; the German hands, should we are aware that we intend to impose penalties on the criminals as soon as they can be brought to trial. The continued shuffling of the deck, however, can be done only by the —Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

High brisance may become a familiar term in this war as high octane has already become, says Science Service. It is the quality that makes the bazooka's little rocket projectiles so deadly even to the biggest German tanks. Brisance is the scientific name for the explosive power of an explosive. It is the force that is slow in action. Its brisance is low. The bazooka, America's new rocket gun, already has scores of new military uses. The action of the bazooka is its two-and-a-half-inch diameter. It contains an undisclosed explosive material, but it is not TNT. This explosive has extremely high brisance; so high, indeed, that it is not safe to burst outside even the thickest of tanks. It is a hole in its, shooting white-hot tongues of flame through the opening to set off the tank's own ammunition supply and perhaps also its fuel tanks as well, and reducing the whole business to a fiery wreck.

When General Montgomery was asked for his estimate of himself, he answered: "I probably am the most despicable person to deal with." That because he doesn't eat meat, doesn't drink, and doesn't swear, and insists that his men shave regularly—even though they have to use their tea or beer for soap, when water is scarce. When the German general, Von Thoma, surrendered, and Montgomery invited him to dinner, this invitation was criticized in the House of Commons. A protest was lodged by Winston Churchill, who answered: "Poor Von Thoma. I too have dined with Montgomery." General Montgomery was a stickler for adherence to the rules no matter how hard his men fought, and no matter how successful the pleasure. You Montgomery, the retreat in defeat, indecisive, indomitable in victory. —Hamilton Spectator.

POST-WAR PLANNER
Illustration of a man sitting at a desk with a large calendar or planner open in front of him, looking thoughtful.

YOUNG BILL is doing his own post-war planning. Every week he calls at the Royal Bank, buys another War Savings Stamp and sticks it in his book. He has his own ideas of what he wants to do when the war is over—so he's saving for it now.
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PUBLIC FORUM
SECOND STEAMER
Sir—What arrangements are our Dominion representatives making about the transporting of merchant ships and passengers across the Straits for the coming winter? The car ferry is on the job doing good work, but this is summer time, and the ice forms and the storms rage. Should the Government not have some information about what progress has been made towards securing another steamer to be available should anything happen our present boat? I am, Sir, etc. MERCHANT.

MAMMON, AND CHRISTIANITY
Sir—It is noted with sorrow that certain expressions of opinion have of late appeared in the press which seem to be attempts to defend plutocracy and to bolster up a foul regime of Mammon, destined to perish of its own rottenness and injustices. One even presumes to invoke the Christian ethic in support of the Satanic system of so-called "enterprise", where in the past the only freedoms have been for the plutocrats to plunder, and the poor and helpless to slave for the profits of the rich, or else stand in bread lines.

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