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

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27, 1940.

When The Sirens Sound

The long arm of coincidence brought the two following despatches to the news desk yesterday.

"Berlin, Sept. 26—(AP)—Every night when an air raid alarm screams through the German capital Hitler retires immediately to a spacious air raid shelter under his palatial new Chancellery and remains there until the all clear signal is given."

"London, Sept. 26—(CP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill's conduct during air raids is drawing complaints. The Press Association said his friends are worried over his habit of donning a tin hat and sauntering out into the streets to watch the nightly German attacks and the anti-aircraft barrages."

Mr. Churchill, of course, shouldn't do that. He should set a better example. But somehow this parallel between the air raid conduct of the two chief figures in the war makes us feel better. We like to think that it is Hitler that does the scurrying for cover, and Churchill the sauntering in the open, when bombers are overhead. And when we consider that bomb shelters are said to be fewer in Berlin than in London, and not available at all in the poorer sections of the German capital, the contrast becomes still more interesting. It goes below the surface to fundamental differences in type and character, not of the two leaders only, but of the people they represent and the traditions for which they stand.

Bad News For Hitler

"After more than a year of war,' reports a New York correspondent of the Associated Press, 'British reserve buying power in the United States market remains largely untouched.' The statement, issued yesterday, was based on an analysis of trade and banking figures and gives the following reassuring information:

So far as the available figures show, Britain still has laid by for a rainy day most of the gold and American securities she held at the outset of the conflict.

British purchases of war supplies in the United States have been stepped up since the fall of France and the intense bombing of the British Isles.

Nevertheless, it appears Britain could continue buying at an accelerated pace for many months before the war chest is scraped bare of reserve gold and other liquid assets.

Newly-produced gold, rubber and tin from British Empire sources or clearing through London are giving Britain more than $1,000,000,000 annually in dollar exchange to toss into the trade scales, it is figured.

Helping increase the British supply of dollar exchange are the United States purchases of rubber, tin and other strategic materials for war reserves. These come chiefly from British Empire producers and from the Netherlands East Indies, now clearing trade by way of London.

Among visible items in the British-United States balance, it seemed Britain in the first year of the war was almost able to balance off her Empire merchandise deficit with newly-mined gold.

The Empire is estimated to be turning out around $700,000,000 in gold yearly, chiefly from Canadian and South African mines. Advances of capital for building of aircraft and munitions plants in the United States, together with such items as ships, required substantial amounts of dollar exchange not shown in the trade figures.

However, treasury data indicates the United Kingdom has liquidated only a minor part of British holdings of American securities.

Changed U. S. Attitude

London, without a doubt, is suffering heavily as a result of Nazi air raids. Yet, on the impartial evidence of a trained United States reporter—RAYMOND DANIELL of the New York *Times*—it has sustained no vital military damage. Recently he cabled:

"Notwithstanding two weeks of bombardment of its docks...it can be said tonight that ships are still putting in here and unloading cargoes, just as most of the capital's eight millions are carrying on...By luck or bad aim on the part of the high-flying raiders who have been seen by few but felt by many, the country's war machinery is almost unimpaired."

It is no secret that, a few weeks or month ago, many people in the United States all but took it for granted that England had no chance. In July and August most United States military critics gave England less than a 50-50 chance.

They are thinking differently now. They have watched the British stand up, and much more than that, against the worst that the Nazis have been able to do, and they have begun to admit that these British are a lot tougher than they thought, and perhaps too tough for HITLER. It is interesting to note the changed tone of United States writers and commentators during the past few days. Most of them are saying now that the "blitzkrieg" will fail.

But, suggests the Ottawa *Journal*, if the Germans are preparing for a "let-down", let none of us imagine that this means an end of this war, or any speedy end. HITLER may give up his grandiose dream of an invasion, may taper off his bombing raids, but that won't necessarily mean that he has abandoned the war, or that Germany is licked. HITLER well knows he can't sue for peace and get away with it. For the Nazi Crew it is victory or ruin; and knowing this, realizing that defeat must mean the end for him and for all his works, he will fight on as long as he can. There will be, of course, the possibility of revolution, of an uprising of the German people; but it would be foolish to bank upon it. The more likely prospect—the more realistic, sensible expectation—is for a long war no matter what coming weeks bring. When MR. CHURCHILL spoke of a "campaign in 1941", he probably knew well what he was talking about.

A Poet's Death

A former tramp and worker on Atlantic cattle boats who rose to international reputation as a poet, died yesterday at his home in Gloucestershire, England. He was William Henry Davies, Doctor of Literature of the University of Wales, whose early adventurous life on this continent is recorded in his own "Autobiography of a Super-Tramp." In 1905, at the age of thirty-four, he wrote his first poems, which attracted the attention of George Bernard Shaw. Their charm lay in their unaffected simplicity and lyric freshness, qualities which his work continued to retain, as in the following typical example which is entitled "A Great Time":

Sweet Chance, that led my steps abroad,
Beyond the town, where wild flowers grow—
A rainbow and a cuckoo, Lord!
How rich and great the times are now!
Know, all ye sheep
And cows that keep
On staring that I stand so long
In grass that's wet from heavy rain—
A rainbow and a cuckoo's song
May never come together again;
May never come
This side the tomb.

Davies' works include "The Soul's Destroyer," "Songs of Joy," "The Birds of Paradise," "The Hour of Magic", and "Jewels of Song." They are, like his autobiography, a record of his own emotions and experiences, and are most successful when expressed in the seemingly artless style of which he was a master. No modern anthology of poetry is complete without two or three of his poems.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

The Clerk of the Weather will have to do better to merit appreciation at Thanksgiving.

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Had it not been for the hard-surfaced roads would it have been practical for anyone to have gone to Souris yesterday by car?

* * * *

"All parties," says our local contemporary, "are now uniting in helping along war activities." That being the case, it was unfortunate that on his recent visit here, Defense Minister Ralston's address on the progress of our war activities should have been confined to a Liberal political meeting.

* * * *

The British Association for promoting scientific research founded this date, 1831. Meets annually; divided into twelve sections, subdivided into departments, each of which submits reports of their preceding year's transactions. Applies its surplus revenue to grants for special researches.

* * * *

Mr. Hemming makes a strong point in his letter in today's Forum when he claims the Federal Government having failed to keep their promise to complete our harbour improvements, should pay the freight to Halifax on all Island shipments to Britain, and thus place us on a parity with other provinces, the rail freights to Halifax being double the ocean freight to Britain. Yet there are those who claim our interests are not prejudiced by a supine Government.

* * * *

Hitler has just got a new Axis partner in the shape of San Marino, the smallest and oldest republic in Europe. It has an area of 38 square miles embraced in the confines of Italy; has a population of 14,000, a parliament of 60 members, and an active army of 935. It has been nominally at war with Germany since 1915, but now in view of the fact that Italy has declared war on Britain, San Marino has made terms of peace with her old enemy and declared war on Britain. That's the worst of being a puppet in a big circus.

* * * *

"It's more important to squelch Hitler, Goering and Goebbels than it is for insurance companies to earn a high rate of interest," Mr. E. A. Macnutt, vice-president of the Sun Life of Canada told the Life Underwriters of Canada. He had been discussing at some length the course of interest rates and their importance to insurance companies. He pointed out that low interest rates are good for the country but rather hard on insurance companies, but in the long run it is to the best interest of insurance companies that this war shall be won at the lowest possible cost to the Dominion. Mr. Macnutt condemned the defeatist who declares capitalism is on its last legs and talks of confiscation and the end of the present financial system.

* * * *

The call of ancestry is strong in Aircraftman Alonzo McKee Hargarett, jr., a former practising physician of Jessup, Ga., who is in the Royal Canadian Air Force because, he said in an interview he had to "satisfy an inner restlessness caused by the war that threatens the security of all English-speaking peoples. I probably would have been drafted before very long into the Medical Corps of the United States Army, but I preferred to come to Canada to get into service as a combatant," said the 24-year-old doctor. He owned a small plane and had 140 hours in the air before giving up his practice and coming to Canada to enlist. He signed up at Niagara Falls, Ont., and this is his first trip to the Dominion. He hopes to become a pilot member of an air crew because "that beats doctoring in wartime." His fiancee, Miss Doris Miller, of Screven, Ga., is in Toronto at the present time on a visit.

NOTES BY THE WAY

People who think they have no faults have at least one very obvious one. They are blind to their own shortcomings. — Kitchener Record.

Toronto has its fourth amnesia victim within two months, a fact upon which some cruel Montreal joker will be sure to pounce. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

A baby girl, born in a Suffolk village while bombs were falling during an air raid has been named Bombastine. Surely that child will have a lifetime grudge against Hitler! — St. Thomas Times Journal.

In far-away Libya, a Canadian flyer has brought down more than thirty Italian planes. In peacetime the young men of this Dominion may be found doing well important work in all parts of the world; and turning their hands to war is merely a variation in occupation. — Globe and Mail.

Evidently having heard a British broadcaster charge that the Nazis were dropping bombs at random, a German station boasted that Nazi airmen had bombed "Random, a suburb of London." This recalls the newspaper announcement of many years ago that "the Zulus have taken Umbrage." — Toronto Star.

Democracy surely can serve us infinitely better than it has done up to the present time. If we have not, in these hours of trial, the courage to correct our politics — above all, our political economy — democracy will become the despair of our country, and it may well be demanded whether it merits to endure. In preparation for the post war period, genuine efforts should be directed to replace a narrow mischievous party spirit with a broad, veritable public spirit, inspired by sound social sense, patriotism catholicism and the political qualities essential to justice, prudence and force, the whole impregnated by the virtue of charity without which collective life is not possible. — L'Action Catholique.

Cardinal Villeneuve appealed for the co-operation of the population of the province in the campaign for raising Canada's second war loan. How perfectly that appeal is in order is immediately apparent when one reads the reasons he gives why his fellow-citizens should strive to assure the complete success of the loan. Let us constantly bear in mind the warning His Eminence gives, to put us on guard against the enemy — the enemy which menaces the liberties of our country, the existence of our religious traditions and our French civilization, and all that is good in our national life — its force, its splendor and its fruitfulness. Cardinal Villeneuve had multiple reasons to speak to us of the importance of subscribing to the war loan. — Montreal L'Illustration Nouvelle.

Heartening paragraph from the Daily Times, of Watertown, N.Y., a strong friend of British and Canadian ideals: "If anyone thinks Great Britain is a beaten nation, certainly the evidence of the last few days should show how mistaken they are. Britain's striking power is increasing daily and this is evidenced, particularly in the air, with British bombers carrying the war into Germany with an intensity and effectiveness which certainly must be a revelation to Hitler and his advisers." — Stratford Beacon Herald.

Some months ago an effort was made to revive the St. Lawrence seaway project on the pretense that the seaway should be constructed as a war enterprise. That pretense exploded in face of two facts, one that the United States was a neutral country and could not use the seaway for war, purposes, and the other that the work could not be completed in time to serve the Dominion of Canada as a war agency; it would be a physical and engineering impossibility. The talk died down then, as has happened many times before. Now it has been revived and official circles in Washington are reported to be discussing actively the joint development of the river and the Great Lakes for power development purposes. The talks are said to extend to Ottawa and back again. The communications are said to be frequent. So far there has been no apparent attempt to hitch this project up to any scheme of international defense, but the revival of discussions at this time is significant, coming so soon after the establishment of a Joint Defense Board. Of course it may mean something less. It may signify no more than friendly co-operation on the part of Mr. Mackenzie King in order that the proposal may be kept warm for Mr. Roosevelt's election campaign purposes. — Montreal Gazette.

Despite widespread publicity prior to the national registration and warnings of penalties for neglect, there is increasing evidence that many individuals do not know anything of the obligation, or scorn to obey it. Others plead that their cards are lost. In Toronto police court yesterday four persons were fined for failing to produce cards. They had not registered or claimed the cards were lost. One man said he had given his card as security for a 25-cent loan. It is significant that these men were charged with lawbreaking in other ways. Fines imposed may convince these—and there are offenders in other communities — of the folly of neglect to register and of carelessness with the cards. It was reported from Montreal recently that applications for new cards averaged 300 a day; generally, it was claimed the original had been stolen. There is something wrong about this. No individual with a registration card need steal another one. If cards are being stolen on this large scale, it must be for the protection—likely by sale—of those who did not register. This is a serious business, and as criminally disposed persons appear to be involved may mean trouble for the original registrant. There has been ample warning that these cards must be carried at all times. Any citizen may be asked for his at any time or place. This may be regarded at any time or place. This may be regarded as a nuisance, but its justification is revealed by the number of persons still to be rounded up; and by the fact that many of these are being discovered in police courts. — Globe and Mail.

This is the spirit we need to cultivate in Canada at this time. We need to believe in the unity of the Empire as never before and at the same time we need to have this deeper realization of the righteousness and nobility of the Allied cause. It is this which will make personal contribution to the various forms of aid appear a pleasure instead of a sacrifice and it is this which will spur our people to loan to the government their financial resources to meet every demand to bring the war to a successful conclusion. It will be a notable day for Canada if announcement can be made by the Finance Minister that the loan has been oversubscribed by hundreds of millions.—Amherst News.

Navy Ways

(Special To The Guardian)

EXERCISE AT GENERAL DRILL

When a squadron is warned by its Admiral that he is about to issue this order the air becomes electric with expectancy. The honour of every ship is at stake, The Captain is seen pacing about with a grim, worried look. The men know that they are in for a hectic and possibly a not unamusing day. This is really a squadron competition to see which ship can carry out any conceivable order the quickest. Strings of flags creep up the Flagship's yardarm, as one order after another is given to the squadron. Each ship runs up a flag when the order has been executed, and of course the first flag to appear denotes the winner. The crew with the best team work wins. A good deal of intelligence is called for from the officers and petty officers. A good crew can be trusted to "Furl Quarter Deck Awnings"—"Clear Upper Deck" — "Away all Boats" without much telling. These are regulation ship's duties. But "Send cook with poached egg aboard Flagship", and unexpected orders of that ilk, require iniative. There may be as many as four or five drills going on aboard a ship at the same time. One is started by the vicious crack of a twelve pounder as the signal is hoisted to fire gun. Rockets rush into the air. The ship's syren screams. Landing parties bristling with weapons rush to the boats. Some people are swearing badly. For many years past now the Navy has exercised itself in this way from time to time to find out the weak spots.

An Old Story To Kent

(New York Times)

Kent County, some of whose 400 towns and villages have repeatedly felt the effects of German bombs, is Britain's leading gateway to the continent and has borne the brunt of battle since the days of Julius Caesar.

"Caesar's galleys were repelled from the chalk cliffs of Kent when the Roman leader saw the brow of the cliffs was lined with Britons,' says a bulletin from the National Geographic Society. "It was on this second invasion, in 54 B. C., that Caesar crossed the country, but in his commentaries he records the valor of the Britons of 'Cantium.'

"Near Aylesford, on what has been called Kent's oldest battlefield, the forces of Hengist and Horsa clashed with the ancient Britons in 449 A. D. At Otford, Henry VIII encamped with his 4,000 followers while on his way to the Field of the Cloth of Gold near Calais, France.

"When threatened by the great Spanish Armada, one of Queen Elizabeth's two armies was stationed in Kent to repel possible invasion. In the World War many of the forty or fifty windmills still standing in Kent were used for observation and signal purposes, some being located on sites where, at the time of the armada, warning beacons had flashed to London news of the Spaniards' approach.

"Said to be the garden of England, where roses bloom at Christmas time, Kent also has mines estimated to contain 9,000,000,000 tons of coal and iron deposits of 100,000,000 tons."

The Poets' Corner

AN EMPIRE SPEAKS TO BRITAIN

This is that bastioned rock where dwell the Free,
That citadel against whose front in vain
Storm up the mad assaults of air and sea
To shatter down in flaming wreck again.
This, this is Britain, bulwark of our breed,
Our one sure shield against the hordes of hate.
Smite her, and we are smitten; wound her, we bleed.
But firm she stands and fears no thrust of Fate.
Stands she, and shall; but not by guns alone,
And ships, and planes, and ramparts. Her own soul
That knows neither to bend nor break—her own
Will, hammered to temper—keeps her whole.
She calls. And we will answer to our last breath,
Make light of sacrifice, and jest with Death.

—Sir Charles G. D. Roberts, in Maclean's Magazine.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

WHO KNOWS?

Sir:—It would no doubt do the public of Prince Edward Island no small favor if the person or persons responsible for telling visitors to our province, among these the Polish Consul, that the Lake of Shining Waters, relative to Green Gables is located at Cavendish, while the creator herself claims it to be at Park Corner. Now we will await the answer of the wise folk who for their own reasons have attempted to challenge the word of none other than L. M. Montgomery herself on this question.

I am, Sir, etc.,

—J. C.

BRITAIN WANTS CANADIAN FOODSTUFFS

Sir:—The cable from London under the above heading published in Thursday's Guardian, is one of the utmost importance to this Island.

Apart from bacon, cheese, butter and eggs, mentioned in the cable, all of which we produce of the highest quality, there is no reason to suppose that the Mother Country will not require large quantities of all the staple vegetables so long as the war continues. In the case of roots such as beets, carrots, potatoes and turnips, and also cabbage, cauliflower, beans of all kinds, chard, etc., we can, I believe, grow more per acre and of decidedly superior quality than can be produced in any other part of Canada, and possibly in the whole continent.

Our potatoes are universally admitted to be "the best on the continent," but have never been shipped to England because of the Colorado beetle. Under strict Government supervision this difficulty could readily be overcome by washing, chemical treatment and special packing.

Prince Edward Island is not only the one province of Canada in which food for Britain can be produced at the lowest cost and of the highest quality, but this Island is nearer to Britain than any foreign country not under German control, or than any other part of Canada. Had our harbour improvement contract not been cancelled, we should by now have been in a position to accommodate ocean vessels to make trips direct to Britain, or possibly sail along with others in convoys. There is one way in which Ottawa can make amends, and that is by **paying the freight to Halifax on all Island shipments to Britain** and thus place this Island on a parity with the other provinces, the rail freight to Halifax being double the ocean freight to Britain.

Canning factories are now working double time in Ontario on shipments to England. Had we started the canning on up-to-date lines of fruits, vgeetables, soups, meats, and fish, as has for years been urged, we should today have been employing hundreds of people of both sexes in our factories, while our farmers would have been producing canning materials at a return per acre far in excess of anything they are now able to market.

It is not by any means too late to act in this matter. Canning factories can be built and equipped in ample time to take care of the 1941 spring, summer and autumn produce, and during the winter months contracts could be entered into with the farmers of the Island to grow the required vegetables, etc. A fish cannery could start in the spring, as our fishermen are amply equipped.

What will our Government do in this matter? What will our Board of Trade do? What will Carry on Canada do? This is an opportunity of a life-time, and a pressing war measure. Are we going to let it pass?

I am, Sir, etc.,

H.K.S. HEMMING

BAD MONKEYS REFORMED

Bad monkeys of Durban, South Africa, are being cured by kindness. They have ceased their impish and sometimes ferocious tricks. Timid women living at the beach collapsed in hysteria at sight of monkeys using their cosmetics and grimacing into mirrors. For nights they slept with windows closed. Small schoolchildren panicked when troops of monkeys waylaid them and stole their lunches. Daring monkeys invaded the town, sweeping from roof to roof. Fierce monkeys wounded visitors who ventured to feed them with bananas and nuts. All this has been changed. When there was an outcry for extermination of the animals the S. P. C. A. stepped in and offered to feed them systematically. Now the monkeys are behaving themselves perfectly.

WHEAT EXPORTS INCREASE

In spite of the loss of markets in Scandinavia and the Low Countries, Canada's exports of wheat and wheat flour during the past crop year totalled 207.9 million bushels, which was the best volume exported since the 1935-36 crop year when 254 million bushels were exported. The Dominion entered the 1940-41 crop year with a carry-over of almost 301 million bushels.

JOURNALIST KILLED

LONDON, Sept. 23—(CP)—Arthur F. B. Portman, 79, one of the best known European sports journalists, was killed in a London air raid last week, it was learned today. Portman was editor and senior director of "Hare and Hound", for which he had written articles signed "Audax" for 50 years.

CALLS BY-ELECTION

TORONTO, Sept. 24—(CP)—Premier Mitchell Hepburn today called for a by-election in the riding of Simcoe Centre, left vacant by the recent death of Dr. L. J. Simpson, Ontario Minister of Education. The Liberal nominee for the seat will be Dr. Duncan McArthur, named to the education ministry by the Ontario Cabinet following the death of Dr. Simpson.

Nominations will be made in Barrie Oct. 23, and voting, if necessary, will take place Oct. 30.

OPPOSES "MATRIMONIAL" PLAN

TORONTO, Sept. 25—(CP) — A. G. Slaght, a leading Ontario lawyer and Liberal member of Parliament for Parry Sound, today recorded his disapproval before a legislative committee of a proposal to appoint one judge in Ontario to handle nothing but matrimonial cases. "He'd have an awfully strong stomach or he'd break down," Slaght commented.

DENTISTS TO HAVE MUCH WORK

MONTREAL, Sept. 25 —(CP) — The practising dentist in Canada will henceforth be asked to do much more oral surgery than before because so many specialists and surgeons are now serving with the Dominion's armed forces. Prof. H.S. Dunning of Columbia University's dental faculty told the Montreal dental club today.

Capt. L.E. Kent, president, who welcomed about 300 delegates as the club's annual clinic opened, and 20 other members wore the khaki of the Canadian Active Service Force.

LIVERPOOL COTTON EXCHANGE SUSPENDS

LIVERPOOL Sept. 25.—(CP) — Directors of the cotton exchange today announced suspension of trading in futures for the next three trading days, Sept. 26, 27 and 30.

The decision to close was made "under existing circumstances." No further official explanation was given.

(Private advices to the New York cotton trade indicated the move to halt trading was due to the seriously tight freight situation rather than to last night's bombing attack on Liverpool, as was at first inferred.

NEW LING COD BANK DISCOVERED OFF B. C.

Discovery of a new ling cod bank in the Gulf of Georgia, off Galiano Island, British Columbia, was recently reported by the resident Inspector to the Dominion Department of Fisheries.

Commercial ling cod fishermen from Active Pass, in the course of four days fishing in the Galiano district, recently took no less than 40,000 pounds of cod.

Ling cod in Canadian waters are taken only off the British Columbia coast. Most of the catch is marketed though sometimes a part of it is smoked. Ling cod livers and liver oil are also marketed. In 1939 a total of 47,497 hundredweights of these fish were landed with a marketed value of $30,783 This includes 788 hundredweights of livers valued at $33,287 and 145 gallons of liver oil valued at $3,625

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