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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.
FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 1941.
Canada's War Financing

No war in history has depended so much on the "home front" as the struggle in which we are now engaged. The industrial expansion in progress throughout Canada is but one evidence of the activity necessary to insure victory. Behind this expansion lies the great problem of wartime economics, of finance. It is with this vitally important subject that President J. A. McLeod of the Bank of Nova Scotia dealt extensively in his address at the Bank's annual meeting at Halifax on Wednesday last. In doing so he performed a valuable public service as the topic is one which, to the layman, is beset with difficulties and misunderstandings. We talk of war finance in terms of money, but as Mr. McLeod says, it is fundamentally a question of human effort and sacrifice. We have committed ourselves to raise, not just what money can be raised conveniently, but all the money that can be spent effectively for the war.

The Dominion's overall requirements for its own war expenditures, for ordinary outlays and for financing British purchases in Canada during the fiscal year ending March 31 next is estimated at about \$1,500,000,000. The bulk of this money has been raised; but for the requirements of the coming year a total of \$2,000,000,000 would seem to be a conservative estimate. On the basis of the present rates, taxation may be expected to yield perhaps as much as one-half the required funds. The remainder, except to the degree that taxation may be increased further, will therefore have to be raised by borrowing. And in this connection Mr. McLeod makes a strong appeal for support of the War Savings Campaign now in progress. "Some may feel that they have carried their full share by paying the higher taxes," he says, "but the truth is that after the taxes have been paid there will still remain enormous and growing sums to be raised from the citizens of Canada through borrowing of one sort or another. And if inflation is to be avoided, there is only one way in which Canadians can find the necessary money—that is by strictly limiting their expenditures and thus increasing their rate of savings."

The assistant general manager, Mr. H. D. Burns, also emphasized the importance of economic sacrifices in the course of an address in which he reviewed the Bank's operations financially, and paid warm tribute to the staff, 183 members of which are on leave of absence for military duty, while another 99 officers have volunteered for service and are subject to call at any time.

Winter Car Traffic

Notwithstanding that the snow plow is in almost constant use on the city streets, the exceptionally heavy snowfalls have made car traffic exceedingly difficult this winter. The deep ruts formed by this traffic, coupled with the activity of the plow, have left street crossings in a still worse condition for pedestrians. Formerly it was the chief concern of the civic authorities to keep these crossings clear. Car owners, for the most part, were content to use other means of locomotion in midwinter, with consequent saving to themselves in car upkeep and fuel, and at less expense to the city. This year one rarely hears the jingle of sleigh-bells; cars are almost as much in evidence as in mid-summer, while pedestrians are left pretty much to their own unaided efforts in navigating hazardous intersections. The change has meant expenditure of a good deal more money; but what, in practical value to our citizens, does it amount to?

So long as the streets and roads are kept open to the hospitals, the airport and service training centres, there seems really no necessity for using the plow to encourage heavy midwinter car traffic. A return to the use of sleighs, as of old, would mean some curtailment of government gasoline revenue; but after all, gasoline is a vital war requirement and its conservation may have to be enforced before the war is over. The possibility of gasoline rationing has been hinted at by Finance Minister Ilsley. The argument that this would affect our tourist trade does not apply to present conditions. The fact that we are war should be kept in mind. It would be no great sacrifice to dispense with the unnecessary use of cars, at a time when the elements themselves are against their operation with any degree of comfort or convenience. Certainly the expense involved in facilitating this traffic, to the neglect of other traffic interests, is out of proportion to any value which our taxpayers, as a whole, are receiving.

Tobruk And The Linbergs

Colonel Lindberg is again in the limelight, reiterating his increasingly unpopular opinion that the United States should seek to effect a "negotiated" peace with Hitler instead of aiding Britain. He professes to be "in sympathy" with the British people, but the whole tenor of his evidence before the U. S. House of Representatives committee on foreign affairs betrays his pro-Nazi bias. His amazing suggestion that the United States, while leaving Britain to her fate, should at once proceed to the concentration of aviation bases "in Newfoundland, Canada, the West Indies, parts of South America, Central

America, the Galapagos Islands, the Hawaiian Islands and Alaska" throws a revealing light on the Lindberg mentality. His preference for totalitarian methods is fully shared by his wife, Anne Morrow Lindberg, whose recent book, "The Wave of the Future" lauds the "surging" and "dynamic" manner in which the dictators have overrun Europe.

An apt retort to the Lindbergs is furnished by the New York Times in an editorial in which it says: "The fall of Tobruk again fixes attention on the peculiar behavior of Italy's portion of that 'surging wave of the future' on which President Roosevelt spoke in his inaugural address. This alleged wave began its reputed surging in Italy on Oct. 29, 1922, when King Victor Emmanuel sent for Benito Mussolini to form a cabinet and the future 'marched' into Rome in a first class railway carriage. It has therefore been surging in Italy for nearly 18 1/2 years. No one in Italy under the age of 21 remembers anything but Fascism. The masses of Mussolini soldiers, who have been fighting in Albania and in Africa, have been educated in Fascism from infancy. If there is a 'wave' they have been riding it. The result is plain to read. The 'wave' in Albania was turned back by the Greeks. Fascism has failed in Egypt and Libya, is weakening in Ethiopia and Eritrea. The 'wave' in short, has everywhere wavered—and retreated."

And so it will do in the countries now under the Nazi heel, thanks to British pluck and endurance.

In A Nutshell

Premier Campbell's commentary on last week's demonstration of Liberal "harmony" and capacity for re-writing Confederation in terms of the half-million-dollar Sirois Report, as quoted in our afternoon contemporary: "Asked regarding the Conference, he said it speaks for itself."

A masterly answer to a fatuous question!

EDITORIAL NOTES

Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett has been elected to the Council of the Royal Society of Arts, and is taking a very active interest in its affairs.

Now that the Hon. member for Prince County has returned safe and sound from the centre of the Empire, we may look for the formal opening of our airports—weather permitting.

U.S.A. retiring Ambassador Kennedy's vision: "If, and God forbid, England were to be defeated quickly and the Germans succeeded to the British navy, this country now is not prepared to defend its own shores, let alone the North American Continent." Not to mention civilization, of course.

Those Britishers, can you ever plumb the inwardness and depth of their true Christian spirit, even when they are being cruelly bombed and blasted! The inscription "To Some Mother's Son" was on an anonymous card tied to a solitary bunch of flowers at the funeral of a Nazi airman buried at Barking, England.

A busy time for army and domestic nurses is anticipated in England, Health Minister Malcolm MacDonald declaring "we shall want fever fighters as well as fire fighters in the next few months." He said there is a definite shortage of nurses and they must "see to it that the dramatic appeal of the war wounded does not make them neglect the more normal but equally important work of defending the public health against disease."

Funeral by wireless is the latest. A Leduc, Alta., woman, unable to attend the funeral of her husband in Edmonton because of illness, heard the ceremony in her home over a telephone hook-up arranged by the Alberta Government telephones. From the funeral home, the burial service was carried to the woman and was audible over a loudspeaker. Microphones were concealed in the funeral chapel to pick up the funeral sermon, music and details. All details of the service were clearly audible and distinct. No one in the service knew the ceremony was being carried outside the building.

British Columbia killed two birds on one visit to Ontario—the Sirois Federal-Provincial Conference, and the idea that it could not raise loans "on its own." Hon. John Hart, British Columbia Finance Minister, proudly announced the successful marketing of \$5,051,000 Province of British Columbia four per cent bonds through a Toronto financial syndicate. Of the loan \$3,000,000 is in refunding maturities of last March and \$2,000,000 is for capital expenditures and road surfacing. Mr. Hart said the success of the loan reflected the high standing of British Columbia's credit.

The man who organized the first blackout system for the Midlands was fined 20 shillings plus 7 shillings 6 pence costs for violating blackout regulations by carrying an unscreened flashlight at Countesthorpe, Leicester. The defendant pleaded not guilty, saying that his flashlight was a regulation government issue and properly screened. The magistrate said the fine would have been bigger if the bench had not recognized the good work the defendant had done regarding blackout precautions. The regulations require two thicknesses of tissue paper over flashlight bulbs when used while no air raids are going on. Flashlights are absolutely forbidden during raids.

Battle of the Dogger Bank this date, 1915. A German battle cruiser squadron under Rear-Admiral von Hopper was encountered in this vicinity by the British battle cruiser squadron under Vice-Admiral Beatty, and a running fight ensued. At 9 a.m. action was opened by Lion which fired on Blucher at a range of 10 m.; at noon Blucher sank, the British rescuing 120 of her crew while bombed by a German aircraft. No British vessel was lost, while the Germans besides the Blucher suffered severe damage to Derfflinger and Seydlitz, the others escaping to Heligoland.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The New York Post finds it worth noting that only one president of the United States has died below the age of 50—James A. Garfield, who was assassinated at the age of 49. But there is nothing remarkable about that, for only six of the 32 presidents (including Garfield) were under 50 when inaugurated, and only one of the six (Theodore Roosevelt, 42) was under 46. There is, however, a really remarkable longevity record with respect to Canadian premiers. Of the eight who have passed away, none died under 72: Bowden, 82; Laurier, 77; Tupper, 94; B. well nearly 94; Abbott, 72; Mackenzie, 72; Macdonald, 77; and the three who survive, Mr. Bennett, 79, and Mr. King and Mr. Meighen are both in good health at 66. — Toronto Star.

The Nazi bombs have shattered old London. Many of the buildings that were trade marks, as St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Middle Temple, a heartbreaking list of other historic buildings. But London adversely has had a more important change and one of the most important will be the night of bombing of common dangers and common triumphs have disclosed a common unexploited strength. Edward Hulton, a young London publisher, in World Review: "He who walks in London is no longer lonely in a great city. He has nine million friends, and if he keeps this new comradeship, we can do anything." — Winnipeg Tribune.

We must not make the mistake of thinking that the break-up of the Sirois Report Conference means break-up of the unity of Canadians. If one man, placed by accidental circumstances in the position of speaker, has been able to represent a conference, we still know that the unity of Canada remains; that to reckon with this man — Mitchell — is to reckon with the Sirois Report. The things that bind Canada together and that will go on binding it, are too tenacious to be broken by any single man. Therefore, while we may lament the thing that came yesterday, we need not lament it too much. With the right heart in our country, the right spirit of our people, the right will, it will be stayed by a temporary reverse. A lost battle is not necessarily a lost campaign. — Ottawa Journal.

The net result is that from the standpoint of national unity conditions are considerably worse now than they were before. Nevertheless, if the long view is taken, the acrimony of the present, the mutual jealousies which must be attributed to the holding of this conference, will lose much of their significance when set against the significant fact that for the first time at least, confederation has been preserved. For that preservation the heads of the provinces, Premier Hepburn of Ontario, Premier Pattullo of British Columbia and Premier Abernethy of Alberta, though their motives may not have been identical, and in some respects might be regarded as selfish, have given credit, the 10% share of the Finance poorly fulfilled Mr. King's promise of no taxation by warning the conference of an alternative to the commission's recommendations, a notice of new financial requirements for which the provinces will have to be prepared to meet the presence of such an alternative is proof enough that the R. well-Sirois recommendations are not needed at this time so far as the federal government's war finance is concerned. — Montreal Gazette.

Since Mr. Ernest Bevin became a member of the Government he has made a number of speeches expressing the hope we all feel that more will come out of this war than the mere defeat of Germany. Such a vast upheaval as war on the modern scale produces cannot but affect very profoundly the social and economic structures of the countries involved, and, indeed, also of those countries not directly implicated in hostilities. It is a common wish that the opportunity for reforming and re-organizing our institutions and ways of life which the revolution of war presents us should be used to the very best advantage; and it is not only right but essential that the leaders of public life should at this time begin to think about the sort of world we want to inhabit once we have secured the peace. — Glasgow Herald.

From the strictly military point of view the creation of a defense against unlimited night bombing would have the insuperable importance of establishing a relatively firm front in air warfare, which has seemed impossible. The German Luftwaffe raided England by day almost at will for a time. Then the R.A.F. created a defensive front. Now a night defense is being the same, the purpose being the same, to make the enemy pay so heavily as to discourage the practice. If it should work out that way the effect would be a stalemate in the air, perhaps forcing resort to other methods in order to bring the conflict to a conclusion. It should be kept in mind, however, that whereas England presents a concentrated target difficult to defend under present circumstances, Germany and the occupied countries may present a diffuse target difficult to defend later. — Providence Journal.

Amid the preoccupations of the most threatening war in the history of our Empire the British Government has yet found time to effect changes in the Constitution on lines similar to those recommended by the West India Royal Commission. These changes, which will not await the new elections scheduled for the beginning of 1943 but are to take place in the near future, will strengthen the elected side of the Legislature without weakening the Government's power to pass measures which it deems essential for the welfare of the Colony. They are intended to be a step along the road leading to greater democratic privileges, the conferment of which must depend upon the progress made by the people themselves in improving their opportunities. Further advances, which in any case are not to be made before 1946, will have to be carefully weighed, for experiments in pure elective government in certain spheres so far have not been as happy in their results as we could wish. From this point of

The Forests Of P. E. Island Their Value To The Province

By H. D. Long

At the present time the forests of Prince Edward Island do not contribute very much to the wealth of the province. The following figures (Canada Year Book, 1939) show the volumes of timber cut and the value of this timber for the years 1935, 1936 and 1937.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Volume (board feet), Value, and another Value column. Data for 1935, 1936, and 1937.

Unless economic conditions change greatly in the next twenty years, it would be very poor policy to allow this forest depletion process to continue at its present rate. Under proper management, forest land is capable of producing at least 1 cord of wood per acre per year. This has been proved by Canadian management of woodlands carried on by the Dominion Forest Service. One cord per acre per year is not the maximum production possible, two cords and even three are possible under intensive management on good soils. Statistics for 1935 show the area of forest land in this province as follows: productive forest land (approx. 200,000 acres); area of merchantable timber (approx. 100,000 acres); area of young growth (approx. 100,000 acres); unproductive forest land (approx. 300,000 acres).

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The Poet's Corner

TRAVELLER'S DITTY

Come day, go day, There's sorrow at the end of it. Turn road, wind road, There's mystery in the bend of it. Oh, all the winds of all the worlds That lose themselves in starry spaces Can never blow the secret off That stares at us in common faces. Life long, life short, There's live to meet in tears or laughter. Die soon, die late, There's Grandair Death to walk with, after. And be you great or be you small, There's no way out but going through it. Oh, curious fate that makes us live, But will not teach us how to do it! —Miriam Allen DeFord.

view the proposal to establish advisory county councils throughout the Colony on the basis of universal suffrage is to be welcomed, as a means of providing further education in democratic procedure. — Trinidad Guardian.

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