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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1941

Many Sacrifices Ahead

It is becoming increasingly clear that civilian war effort cannot be safely left to the voluntary spirit. All of most of us talk about "tightening our belts," but the fact remains that there has been little belt-tightening during the past year.

The dark prospect, as the best-informed observers view it, is for a terribly long war. What, for example, if Hitler should decide against invasion? What if he should determine to consolidate his admittedly mighty gains on the European continent and wait for the Allies to attack him?

Dragged Into War

The opponents of the anti-Hitler bill in the Washington congress have helped to intrude some opinion in the United States that Great Britain wants to drag the United States into the war. There is no Briton who desires that, high or low.

It must be remembered that only 18,000 communists made the ghastly war for Spain. The United States are not greatly perturbed by the communists within. They were active in all the conquered countries of Europe, every one a Quisling.

Spirit Of Freedom

This war, says an exchange, has brought home to us many truisms we had been apt to overlook and depreciate. One of these has been the power of the spirit of man to triumph over material obstacles and disadvantages.

In recent weeks there has been formed in Britain and in the United States a "Free Italy" movement also. In our own country we have a "Little Holland" in Stratford, and a "Little Norway" at Toronto, units composed of expatriated

men, who are using their exile in the Dominion to train, work and fight for the day of their deliverance. In Britain there are Polish infantry and flying units. This spiritual union of men of different races is one of the most encouraging developments of the past 18 months.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"Everybody is doing it, doing it now," buying War Savings Certificates.

Letters from overseas this week indicate that the boys expect the crisis this year, and a victorious return home for Christmas 1942.

Just think of it! Were it not for "the cursed blood profits" of Government liquor sales, Nova Scotia Government would have had to report a deficit of \$1,311,044, instead of a surplus of \$946,337.

Premier Campbell has to quote the Opposition leader for the information that this province has the greatest enlistment per 1,000 population in the Dominion. How come? Is he in the "outs" with the Minister of Defence who represents his county in Parliament?

Alessandro Volta, Italian physicist, born this date, 1745. Copley medalist of England, 1791; interviewed and pensioned by Napoleon in 1801; director of the philosophical faculty of Padua; pioneer of electrical science; electric "volt" named after him.

Leadership does not begin in the great but in the small; leadership in the hamlet, in the parish, in the town, leadership in the county, leadership in the province, leadership in the Dominion. Who has the gift of leadership in the city, for instance, one capable of getting the other leading citizens together and putting our main city industry in the limelight sufficient to attract Federal patronage for war work?

A number of Canadians have returned since the U.S.A. adopted conscription. For a time the States proved a welcome refuge to youths too proud to fight for their native country, or too anxious to follow the policy of "safety first". Now the Military authorities over the border are inquisitive as to what they are doing there when their Mother Country needs them.

Another correspondent writes with reference to Robert Burns and dictators, citing an extract from his note to George Thomson as follows: "Have you ever felt your bosom ready to burst with indignation on reading and seeing how these mighty villains divide kingdom against kingdom, desolate provinces, and lay nations waste out of the wantonness of ambition, or often from still more ignoble passions?" These words are equally applicable today.

Mr. Howe admits he has many departments of government to look after but says he is not complaining. Certainly not—that is the trouble; the complaining is being done by the country at large. It is ridiculous for any man to claim he can give efficient supervision over half-a-dozen organizations. He should bear in mind that the most successful pioneer and spiritual warrior in the world's history, declared "This ONE thing I do," and he made a worthwhile job of it. Mr. Howe and other pluralists might with advantage take a leaf out of Paul's book.

It has been intimated from Ottawa, though unofficially, says the Gazette, that the decennial census scheduled for this year may be postponed in deference to the protests of those "saboteurs" who think that a count of heads at this time would mean a wasteful expenditure of \$2,800,000. Unquestionably the Government would be fully justified in a decision to save this money and use it for war purposes. It would not be justified in spending this or any other sum upon a census which would serve no useful purpose either now or in the future. Opinion in this respect appears to be practically all on one side, and each day brings new evidence of its universality.

After causing a rumpus politically from coast to coast by sending in a report on airplane progress, or lack of progress, and heing him off to Vancouver, Mr. H. R. MacMillan reports that he is returning to Ottawa forthwith and has no comment to make on the situation he occasioned. "The only person entitled to speak under the circumstances is the Minister," said Mr. MacMillan. "Such controversial issues between the Government and other parties can be discussed only by the Government or the minister in charge. I am a servant of the Government and must leave any explanation of Government policy to the minister. I cannot discuss it. All I want to do is help win the war." Exactly, that is what the Financial Post and Ottawa Citizen also say, but Mr. MacKenzie King does not look at it in that light.

According to Lord Woolton, Food Controller, after the 10th of this month it will be illegal to have a meal in a British hotel or restaurant or other catering establishment, consisting of more than one course of the following: Meat, fish, poultry and game, eggs, cheese. Typically British caution is taken to preserve some meat combinations honored in tradition. Thus steak and kidney, veal and ham, and bacon and sausage will be permitted. Bacon and eggs suffers to the extent of having only one egg allowed, although more than one can be used for scrambling or for omelets. Violations by a customer or caterer will be punishable by a maximum of two years' imprisonment or £500 fine, or both. Milk is falling off in some parts of the country, but the situation is not serious and would improve within a few weeks, Lord Woolton said. The campaign of encouraging people to eat oatmeal has resulted in a sharp increase in the demand, which is being met, he said. Native supplies of meat are said to be slightly better.

NOTES BY THE WAY The Sawdust Caesar

A Conservative declares that his party needs as leader a man with a punch. There are others who think the need is for a man with a... (Toronto Star).

For the information of people who are in a dither about it, we should say that the principal war aim at the moment is the seat of Mussolini's pants. And it hits the spot. — Ottawa Citizen.

A Toronto doctor has demonstrated that the taking of Vitamin B-1 for a week will enable a person to hold his breath 15 seconds longer than ordinarily possible. The discovery should be invaluable to us who dwell in the midst of so many breath-taking happenings. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

It is reported that the Winged Victory of Samothrace, once inlaid at the head of the staircase of the Louvre, has been transported to Germany, where it has been set up in the Chancellor's office. The way, however, has been paved with which Adolf Hitler thus associates himself lost its head? — Christian Science Monitor.

Admiral Takahashi makes no bones about the "demand" of Japan for Manchoukou, China, Burma, the Straits Settlements, New Caledonia, New Guinea, the Philippines and Indo-China, with Australia and the Dutch East Indies to be included later. So, at one fell swoop, Chinese, Malaysians, Filipinos, Burmese, and others are to be transported to the whole coveted region to pass under the permanent pressure of the Japanese yoke. — British Asiatic Press.

Mussolini's most valuable promise, namely to restore Italy to her former position of a powerful empire, has also faded. Much territory in Africa has been lost to Italy, and he is now placing his people under the heel of the Nazis. The promise to give Italians dignity, independence, is in the air, but it is only a faint, signifying nothing.

The position of Italy today shows not only that Mussolini as a leader has failed, but that the Fascist system has nothing to offer for war and insecurity. Indeed it can keep itself going only by perpetuating the war spirit. Thus both Mussolini and the Fascist system are in the highest expression of mankind's folly. "War alone brings up energy and puts the stamp of nobility upon people who have the courage to meet it."

Three Polish officers, on Christmas Eve, were thinking of two men in France. These three men had been together in scenes and right at the front of the stage in the European drama that had led up to the war. They had met their death by bullet and fought throughout that bitter campaign. And finally, they had escaped across Europe to France.

The position of making supplies of rice available to a large section of the population who depend on this commodity for their subsistence boils down to a question of supply and demand. The demand for rice in the Colony has not increased over that which has been for the past two years. The means of supply, therefore, become faulty — not because there are no stocks in the Colony or because further imports are not available, but because those who have hoarded stocks have taken advantage of the delay in bringing new supplies into Hong Kong to hang onto what they have and let it dribble on to the market at bigger profits to themselves. The fixing of prices will not bring this about, because the market. The only alternative left to the Government must be to either acquire these stocks or buy them up in the market and release them to the public at fixed and equitable prices. Other governments have tried it with success, and there is no reason why it should not be done in Hong Kong. — Hong Kong Press.

The past few months have seen the development of a spectacularly circumscripted boom in shipping freights. The bulk of the world's merchant shipping is not being built from now on, and the shipping market. The only alternative left to the Government must be to either acquire these stocks or buy them up in the market and release them to the public at fixed and equitable prices. Other governments have tried it with success, and there is no reason why it should not be done in Hong Kong. — Hong Kong Press.

How Are Your Eyes? If you are having symptoms of eye-aches, sore eyes or dizziness — consult a specialist. At your service with years of experience and a thorough refracting service. Call in and discuss your difficulties. G. F. Hutcheson G. F. HUTCHESON G. F. HUTCHESON

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.

THE GAME ACT

Sir,—We were pleased to read Mr. Morrison's explanation of the Game Act. The trouble is that farmers as a class are adverse to going to law and will put up with almost any indignity before doing so, and feel it should be made illegal to trespass on private property with a gun unless with the consent of the owner. As conditions are today we think farmers should be given every consideration and not be put to any more trouble and expense than necessary. To adequately post a district costs money and press notices unless large numbers join together soon run up.

I am, Sir, etc. FARMER.

Belgium And The Nazis

Upon the drive to break the British blockade by getting food into Belgium under auspices that would be at least nominally American, an illuminating light is thrown by a book which has just been published in the United States with the title "Under the Iron Heel." The writer, Lars Mosen, an American chemist did not leave Belgium until October, and thus for five months saw what the "protection" of Belgium by the Nazis—which was the reason given for the invasion—has meant. His story shows that Hitler has "protected" Belgium by placing the country on a next-to-starvation diet, looting his "protégés" of all their reserves of food, raw materials and trucks; forcing them to eat tainted meat in storage houses before permitting butchering; confiscating user bank assets and making the inhabitants the objects of British bombing attacks by stationing troops, tanks and airplanes around their churches, schools and homes. Shipments of food into Belgium, while it is subject to these controls, would be to give the Nazis further opportunities for looting and would be equivalent to a bonus to the Nazi war effort. The United States State Department has ruled that the obligation to feed the countries it has elected to protect rests upon the Nazis, and this is doubly the case where the food shortage is the direct result of the theft of food reserves by the invaders.

A Cheerful Gesture

The historian of the future, looking back over the record of the troubled times in which we live, will be cheered by an entry upon the journals of Hansard for February 17, 1941. On that day, in the House of Commons, Mr. MacNicol, Conservative member for Davenport, Toronto, moved a bill respecting a National Bird Day.

Unfortunately, due to the pressure of war business, Mr. MacNicol's bill is foredoomed to failure. But the fact that a member of Parliament should have desired, in times like these, to set aside one day of the year as a national bird day, that Parliament should have paused for a long enough time to give the bill a first reading—this fact will emerge as a credit item in the ledger of our civilization. There will be people in Canada who will be impatient with Mr. MacNicol. Why talk of a national bird day with the war to be fought, with a thousand and one important matters clamoring for attention? The reason is not too obvious, but it is none the less good. There is comfort in the thought that representative Canadian men have time to think of birds, of nature, of the world of things apart from war which matter. Lord Grey, it may be recalled, was late for an important conference in the Foreign Office during the last war while he pursued a strangely marked stalling up Piccadilly.

Mr. MacNicol, of course, could have refrained from moving this bill. That would have been a pity. There are far too many members of Parliament who refrain not only from expressing their ideas in bills but from expressing their ideas at all. There are members of the

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THE TWO MACS

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Senate, for example, who have been full-fledged parliamentarians for decades, who have drawn their pay, who have never contributed a syllable to Hansard. Mr. MacNicol, of course, is no silent member. He takes his place in the thick of the fight. On this occasion he spoke not as the political warrior but as a lover of birds. It is to be hoped that he will move his bill in subsequent sessions. Some day Parliament will have time to think about it.

Mr. Lapointe

(St. Catharines Standard) In a speech in which he bitterly attacked the movement for broader national government in Canada and in which he mentioned starting his 38th year in Parliament, Minister of Justice Lapointe concluded: "I pledge myself to employ the years that remain to me to fight any diabolical conspiracy of malicious, narrow and despicable microbes which should seek to destroy the work of beauty which is Canada." Which is strong talk in any man's language. It is the privilege of Mr. Lapointe and any other Crown Minister, to oppose the formation of National government. It is the privilege of

the Prime Minister to naturally applaud such speeches when he hears them in the House. But that does not remove the reason why public men and many newspapers in close contact with the trend of public opinion are supporting the national government movement. That reason lies in the impotence of the government in its war effort. In brief dissatisfaction with the government's conduct of the war there is reason to believe that the people of Canada do not care who the country is under Liberal, Tory, or Hottentot rule provided the war is prosecuted with vigor, with efficiency and with success in all its various phases. And with due economy. If Hon. Ernest Lapointe can remove the reason for national government advocacy, the country will owe him a debt of gratitude. As long as the reason or reasons exist, the advocacy will continue and will gather strength. Those who propose a government in which all parties participate and share, are not in any "diabolical conspiracy" and they are not "malicious, narrow and despicable microbes" trying to destroy the beauty "which is Canada." Such unrestrained invective does no credit to the Minister of Justice of Canada. It is the utterance of a firebrand.

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