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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."
 MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1942.

The Plebiscite Must Carry

It is evident from the appeals being made by Prime Minister King and his cabinet colleagues for an affirmative vote on the manpower plebiscite, that the Government is now convinced that it cannot make its utmost contribution to the war effort without a free hand. This is a fact which was long ago realized by many thinking Canadians, who regard the taking of a plebiscite as a waste of time and money at this critical stage. Nothing, however, can now be gained by arguments as to the merits of the plebiscite. The point is that all who believe there should be no reservation in our war programme, no hampering commitments of any kind, must vote in the affirmative. There is no other choice. "We are fighting," says the Prime Minister truly, "to preserve our freedom and our national existence, to defend our homes and our families from an enemy drawing ever nearer." But "We would do well to remember that against the piratical ambitions of Germany and Japan alike, the one sure shield of defence of actual combat is the front line of battle, whether on land, at sea or in the air." Canada would place itself in a despicable position indeed if it depended on its allies to do what it would not do itself.

Mr. King still declines to say that release from the pledge will mean conscription for overseas; but the implication is that this will come if the Government considers it necessary, after its hands are freed. An affirmative plebiscite verdict must come first, and the duty of patriotic citizens on April 27 is clear and unmistakable.

Organizing Salvage

The need is so generally recognized of creating an efficient salvage organization in Canada—scrap metal being obviously the primary objective just now—that it is surprising no scheme has yet been worked out that would do away with some of the difficulties that still exist. Mr. Stanbury, salvage organizer of the Maritimes, in his address here on Friday night cleared up many points on which there was misunderstanding; but apparently there is still much confusion. The Winnipeg Free Press cites, for instance, an advertisement which appeared not long ago in the newspapers of Canada. "Army Salvage for Sale" was the heading, and the advertisement went on to say that every Military District had quantities of salvage, including scrap metal. "Address all enquiries to the Chairman, Army Salvage and Disposal Board, Cartier Square, Ottawa."

This, says the Free Press, appears to many people to be departmentalism run mad. It is easy to see the reason for it. The Army knows it is spending millions of public money. It feels it has a duty therefore to get as much for its salvage as possible. To do this a special army department has been set up, organized from and centralized in Ottawa, though the salvage itself is spread out over the 3,500 miles of Canada. Does this seem like an efficient way of working things out? We doubt it. How long will it take for those interested in buying salvage to write to Ottawa, to get a reply to inspect the salvage, to put in a bid, to wait for further reply? Why should not this small item of business be disposed of quickly? We don't know. But the present system looks cumbersome in the extreme.

Tell U. S. Our Story

Canada's war publicity in the United States is most inadequate. Yet, according to the Financial Post there is no evidence that anyone at Ottawa is doing anything about it. Can this be because the matter is falling between different stools? If so, the Prime Minister could quickly get action by stating whose responsibility it is.

Until the United States entered the war, Canada "leaned backward" on information crossing the border, lest it be accused of trying to propagandize the United States into the war. Now the two countries are Allies and only good could come from providing machinery to supply the American people with those facts of Canada's war effort that they are hungry to get.

At the present time there is no machinery in New York or Washington able to cope with the problem of supplying facts to American newspapers, speakers, writers and radio commentators; answering their question, and correcting them when they get off on the wrong track.

The isolationists, the Anglophobes and the friends of the Axis are busy circulating their version of Canada's war effort to Americans. We should have a well staffed bureau to tell real facts.

Why Japs Must Hurry

"The Japanese will not necessarily be 'pushovers,' but they are vulnerable," writes Leonard Engel, aviation writer. Engel maintains that because of fundamental aeronautical weaknesses,

Japan cannot win the war. "An Allied offensive should turn the tide," he says.

He lists five reasons why Japan's air industry is handicapped: (1) shortage of aluminum; (2) the peculiar organization of Japan's industry, with a great deal of production handled in extremely small shops almost devoid of modern power tools; (3) perennial shortage of machine tools; (4) lack of engineering tradition—the accumulated "know-how" of modern industry; (5) introduction during the last eighteen months of many new plane types, necessitating manufacturing delays.

Engel estimates that, despite intensive expansion efforts over a period of several years, Japanese plane and engine factories now are turning out not more than 4,500 aircraft yearly. "A fair guess for present employment in the industry is 75,000 to 125,000," he says. "The main factor handicapping Japanese plane output," Engel explains, "is the lack of aluminum. Even the capture of Johore, Java and Sumatra, will not altogether solve the Nipponese problem, for capture of these sources does not close the gap between source and plant. The sea haul is long enough and exposed enough to put a heavy burden on the Japanese merchant marine."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Business as usual is no longer the slogan, but "business better than usual."

There should be no further hold-up in salvage disposal with an organizer, office, telephone, telephone operator, salvage dump all ready for action.

There are 20,000 Canadians of Military age in the U. S. A. who must make the choice of serving in either the Canadian or U. S. A. Army.

A fortnight from today we shall all be marking our plebiscite "Yes" even if it will imply according to the Minister of Works, belief in the "integrity" of the King Government.

Though the Spring is alleged to be early, the 10th of May is still soon enough for farmers to begin operating the land.

Major David Stewart writes home from "over there" that the boys "are all in fine shape, still lonely at times; still need lots of letters telling us about the local intimate doings, and just waiting for the word to go." Good luck and good going to them.

The fall of the East recalls Erasmus who cited the conduct of administration there as the essence of stupidity: "Oh! dense intelligence; I suspect it was Batavian." Dizzy likewise used the expression as a term for dalliance—"Batavian grace."

Premier M. F. Hepburn of Ontario, is making an all-out production effort on his Bannockburn Farm St. Thomas, this year, despite the handicaps of the existing farm labor situation. In addition to his usual field crops he is planting 100 acres of potatoes and onions and a large acreage of soya beans.

The Second Battle of Narvik took place this date 1940; gave a glorious victory to the British flotilla; H. M. S. Warspite and strong force of destroyers sank eleven German destroyers, three British destroyers being damaged but not seriously. This was the last good news to be received from Norway, the British gradually withdrawing from there to meet the aggression of the Huns in the Netherlands.

One never knows where lightning is going to strike. In Lacyville, Pa., the cow Mrs. Peter Champluvier was milking was struck by lightning and killed while she was pinned beneath the animal on the barn floor, which ignited from the bolt. Mr. Champluvier extricated his uninjured wife before the barn burned down, destroying his feed and grain supplies. The milk was spilled as the cow "kicked the bucket."

What we have to fear most in the Spring Hun offensive is the risk we run of losing control of the oil fields. If you take the region of the Caucasus, Persia and Iraq—the Middle East with the Caucasus on its flank—you will find that the annual production of oil in that region is between 40,000,000 and 50,000,000 tons a year. If Hitler could only secure control of that region, he would be able to sit down, so far as oil is concerned, and carry on the war for an indefinite period of time.

"Take care of the cents" says the popular proverb, "and the dollars will take care of themselves." Acting on the excellent advice of this old saw, the British Civil Service authorities have decided to open a Whitehall economy campaign by issuing an order that civil servants' pencils henceforth must be kept blunt. Not only have they issued the regulation to this effect, but also they have given orders that all sharpening machines in Government offices are to be withdrawn. In this way it is hoped to cut down the consumption of pencils by one-half.

This from The Spectator: "Malayan planters have come under a good deal of criticism one way and another the last few weeks, but the charge that they are receivers of stolen goods is rather new. You will find it in John Gunther's new book, Inside Latin America. Giving various reasons why Brazil, which was once the only rubber-producing country in the world, has now hardly any rubber-industry at all, Mr. Gunther observes 'most important, British traders stole Amazon seedlings, smuggled them out of the country, transported them to Malaya, and set up a rival industry there.' The word italicized (in the original) seems to embody a rather far-fetched allegation. The rubber-trees grew wild in the Amazon jungles. They were no one's private property. They could hardly be called the Brazilian State's property. Some of the plants were undoubtedly sent to Asia, as coffee-plants and tobacco-plants and potatoes have at different times been spread over the world from their countries of origin. It is not customary to call this stealing." No, it is merely the sequel to the iniquitous policy pursued by the Manchester School of politicians—"buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market" irrespective of consequences.

NOTES BY THE WAY

King's conscription policy, it is said, can be interpreted to mean that the Government is not in a hurry to conscript the country. But its tragic weakness is that it suits Japan, too.—Toronto Telegram.

To the consternation of Vichy, defendants at the Roon war guilt trials continue to testify ad lib, instead of hunting for their places in the script.—Winnipeg Tribune

When the defendants, Blum and Daladier, spoke out against "the real betrayers of France," the court at Roon was agitated, as a hasty examination reveals no such sequence in the scenario.—Detroit News.

Adequate precautions are no doubt being taken about the settlement of Japanese moved from the Pacific coast in work camps in Northern Ontario, but may we emphasize that the precautions must be good. No doubt among the Japanese who are being moved are a number who have a genuine love of Canada and perhaps no loyalty to Japan. But events have shown that no chances of any kind can be taken with the people of at least one of the world's races.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

There will be a showdown on internationalism after this war. The bitter debate between those who favor internationalism was really an extension of the fundamental conflict between the national spirit (which is in practically everyone) and the international spirit (which is in some but not in all). Nationalism has two fatal charms for its devotees; it pre-subs local self-sufficiency, which is a pleasant and desirable condition, and it suggests, very subtly, a certain personal superiority by reason of one's belonging to a place which is neither as small nor as remote. — E. B. White in Harper's Magazine (New York).

There are two features of the greatest encouragement which we have seen in the conduct of the war. One is the absence of the usual, and perhaps by which we find ourselves criticized. One that cannot be the bedlam of some one's own mind, and which we hear, no voice, no whisper, has suggested any doubt, as to final victory. If here a few people in this country are not prepared to fight to the end of their days rather than make any sort of compromise with the enemy they have been properly and prudently silent. It is only the fact that the social certainty that victory must rest with us.—The Navy (London).

War must be based upon the necessity of recapturing the excess of money which is released by war production. Guns and tanks and other military equipment are not money; money is paid out in wages and other disbursements in connection with their output. This money has no place to go—except into higher production. This is the only way to prevent precisely this kind of inflation that Secretary Morgenthau addressed his tax bill. In his own words, taxes must be levied "so as to withdraw the great possible volume of purchasing power. Where is this purchasing power? Government figures just released show that in 1941, the total national income paid out amounted to \$89,400,000,000, an increase of \$13,700,000,000 over 1940. Of this increase, salaries and wages were about 70 per cent of the national income, and were responsible for \$10,000,000,000. That is to say, 70 per cent of this increase went into salaries and wages. Washington Post.

The Emergency Conservation Committee of New York City, a conservation organization which has been campaigning in recent years for stricter regulations to curtail wildfowl shooting, has seized on the war situation as an excuse for its campaign. It has all duck shooting until after the war. "With every ounce of explosives needed for the defence of our country, thousands of quackies were wasted this year in duck shooting," they ask. "It has been estimated that one duck season will do as much for the restoration of our waterfowl as a year of regulation of hunting. This is the year when everybody, conservationists and hunters alike, should be shooting ducks." Duck shooting now benefits only our nation's enemies. Their argument is sound and one deserving of consideration. Why should wealthy hunters be allowed to use up tons of powder and lead shot during the duck shoot next Fall, when it is lead and powder which will decide whether we become Nazi slaves or remain free men? — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

This year's Toronto estimates include for war purposes, \$20,000 for A.R.P. services, plus an amount, not entirely segregated, for salary bonuses to civic employees existing. And that is all. If nothing unforeseen occurs, Toronto's total war expenditures from September of 1939 up to the end of the present calendar year will be less than \$300,000, including the A.R.P. services, salary subsidy, and estimates' salary grants. This approximate \$300,000 compares with municipal war costs for 1941 of up to 1917, and the corresponding year of the Great War. These costs included \$1,736,500 of provincial war tax which was levied directly on the taxpayers; \$4,364,000 of general war expenditure which the city met by bond issues, and a further \$1,190,000 which was unprovided. The total added to the city's next year's levy which reached the unprecedented total of \$4,816,750, including debt charges. These were the days when a war really cost Toronto money.—Toronto Star.

Writing about the activities of the noted Soviet architect, Boris M. Yofan, designer of the Soviet Pavilion at the New York World's Fair, the Palace of the Soviets and other notable buildings, Anna Louise Brown describes how he camouflaged Moscow and fooled the Nazi bombers. What has an architect to do with an army? Plenty, it seems. Yofan's first job was the camouflaging of the city of Moscow, a task which fully used his ingenuity and sense of perspective. He was accustomed to creating giant figures on tops of buildings whose proportions would seem natural when viewed from far below; now he produced strange shapes in the Soviet landscape which changed great cities and forests and fields when viewed from far above. The German air bombing of Moscow was strikingly ineffective.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

"We're fighting for everything," says W. C. Woodward, Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

WARBLE FLY MENACE

Sir:—Will you please give me a little space in your paper, as I have been asked to give some details of the extermination of the warble-fly, which causes a loss of several million dollars to the farmers of Canada annually. Our production of dairy and beef products is cut down to a large extent by this insect. Very often, in summer, we see herds of terrified cattle, with nostrils distended and tails erect, running along the fences. We may be sure the warble-fly is the cause of this and all this may be prevented and the warble-fly exterminated from our province altogether, with a little care on the part of cattle owners.

At this time of year, when the warble-fly is appearing in small numbers on the backs of the cattle, some Derris-powder should be used, four applications, four weeks apart, at a cost of only four cents per animal.

Two years ago, our own group, in this community, I've been very successful and I would suggest that the forty-five Prince Edward Island Dairy Producers' Farmers' Institutes, Dairying Committees, and the Department of Agriculture, begin a campaign against the warble-fly at once. By one farmer waiting for someone else to go ahead and call a meeting to organize a campaign, it may be too late, so why not be the one to start this movement yourselves? By doing this you will not only help your neighbor but also help to overthrow Hitlerism.

Several P.E.I. firms have in stock a very effective derris-powder preparation.

Publication #64 which may be obtained on application to the Department of Agriculture, gives the life history of this terrible insect, as well as the treatment for its extermination.

I am, Sir, etc.

Bedouque, P.E.I.

Rural Plebs - Opt In New England

(Harriet Smith Hawley, in the Christian Science Monitor)

Like many other New England villages, tucked in a wide farming area, we have had our first test of bright lights. Turning out our own lights from the Sunday evening, we watched, from our porch, the friendly lights blink out where here, now every day, the lights from the colored lights along the elm-lined streets, lights in the farmhouses across the valley. The occasional street light, every glimmer gone as the church bell ceased ringing and the newly installed siren no longer screamed its electric wail.

Thus did war suddenly come home to us though we heard no bombers and looked out upon no devastation. White came the moon on hill and dale. On March-a-wakened fields where pools of water caught the pure white light. Tall stood the shadows. In the stars, the dark sky shone Jupiter, Saturn and Mars. No auto passed. No trucks on the hills. Back in dim vesterdays we seemed before machines despoiled our countryside. Machines? And now the airplanes. Would they come to us as they have come to those in villages who loved their peace as much as we?

Air wardens alone patrolled our winding roads, riding like Paul Revere with the nation's fate fast riding, too. Old men, young men, and women dashed over every mile to see all lights were blacked out. And one, a high school lad doing his rural beat on bicycle, stopped still when he beheld a white gleam of light. He saw the light flash out from a large stock barn. "What's this?" he cried rushing into the barn now warmed by heat of fire. He saw a pair of Guernsey cows, he sped down the row of stanchions, until in adjoining stall he saw the reason for the light. For here a calf was being born. The farmer shook his head. "Must have light," he said.

Here was the first wavering. He had the light and the future of the nation. He nodded. Then flew out to speed his brief report. "Just one light and welcome to our town one little blacked out."

The Plebiscite

(Ottawa Journal)

"God help Canada," says Mr. R. B. Heald, if the April plebiscite fails to show a majority of the Canadian people in favor of relieving the Government of its pledges against conscription for overseas service.

The great enemies of an affirmative majority are, probably, lack of understanding of exactly what is involved, and a feeling in many quarters that the best way to express disapproval of the Government's course in taking this voting is to ignore the whole thing. We may be sure the anti-conscription vote will be polled heavily, and if the outcome is unsatisfactory the reason may well be the indifference of those who hold that total conscription is essential to total war.

The importance of "getting out the vote" this time becomes clear, and this time there are no candidates to serve as rallying points, no party organizations with office and funds, and a keen interest in the balloting. This being the case, and the issue being of such tremendous importance to the security and future of this country, steps should be taken in every community to acquaint the people with the facts and to persuade the people to mark their ballots.

It is futile now to argue that the plebiscite should not have been ordered. We have to deal with a practical situation and not with a theory. The fate of the Government is not at stake—but the fate of Canada may be.

Reclaiming Rubber Waste

(A Rubber Chemist in Manchester Guardian)

The increasing Japanese thrusts in the Far East are daily menacing fresh areas where plantation rubber is grown, and while there has already been much talk of the necessity of conserving supplies of raw rubber, rubber manufacturers have long been concerned about the less obvious (to the layman) but extremely important question of scrap.

Three first class independent reclaiming plants were in operation in this country before the war, and the question of adequate supplies of scrap is of high importance to them and to others who are already or who may be operating by "independent" plants. It means plants independent of control by any rubber manufacturing company, for surprisingly few users of reclaimed rubber have shown practical interest in reclaiming their own waste. In peacetime these companies preferred to sell such waste to scrap merchants or to have it reclaimed and returned to them.

Such reclaim as is made by a few rubber manufacturing concerns is not of the same high quality as that of the established reclaimers, because high production of first quality reclaim involves a heavy expenditure on plant. For the average manufacturer this is not an economical proposition. A further explanation is that British manufacturers are less interested in reclaim than their fellows in the United States, where consistently higher proportions of reclaimed rubber to new rubber are employed. Indeed, in certain branches of British manufacture, such as cable-making, reclaimed rubber is barely tolerated. It is inadvisable under war conditions to disclose the British output of reclaims, but it is capable of much wider extension and steps have already been taken in this direction. Reclaimed rubber, of course, has to be combined with natural rubber, whose supplies set a limit on the expansion of the reclaiming industry.

The process of reclaiming rubber is broadly the same in all countries where it is carried on. Naturally enough, it is a mass-production job. Were this not the case reclaimed rubber would hardly have survived the slump years of 1931 and 1932. Discarded tires, which easily form the bulk of the scrap used, are first sorted. They are then stropped of wire in a de-banding machine and chopped by large knives into sections. "Cracking" or rough grinding on large mills, is carried out and metal (such as nails picked up during the life of the tire) removed by powerful magnets. The scrap is then digested in rotating autoclaves, using hot alkaline solution under pressure, the effect being to destroy and dissolve the tire fabric, free sulphur, and remove impurities. The rubber after this stage is true reclaim. It is washed, dried, passed through fine screens to remove further impurities, and still naturally enough, it is a mass-production job. 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