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

Hitler's Uneasiness

Hitler's speech yesterday was, as usual, largely a tirade against Great Britain in particular and the democracies in general. It was said the British Broadcasting Corporation, the most defensive speech of his whole career, and it brought less enthusiasm from his audience than previous ones. It was noted as significant that Hitler spoke no word about the "new order", or about offensive action of any kind, except for one vague statement that England would get "heavier blows every week."

The "Saguenay" Heroes

Prime Minister Mackenzie King yesterday paid a fitting tribute to the gallant men who are feared to have perished when the Canadian destroyer Saguenay was torpedoed. The victims include two Charlottetown boys—the first casualties from the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve from this city. Our citizens will join wholeheartedly in Mr. King's expressions of sympathy to all the next-of-kin.

Christmas Shopping

It is encouraging to note that Christmas shopping is brisker than usual. A survey by the Canadian Press of the main centres shows that shopping started several weeks ago in preparation for the bundles of parcels that have since left for both active service and civilian giftsees overseas. Since then the picture has remained bright. Generally the reasons advanced for good Christmas business are related to the war, the industrial boom of war production, building, construction of training camps, more people working and more money in circulation.

Mr. Pouliot's Protest

No one, when so inclined, can make more partisan speeches than Mr. J. F. Pouliot, Liberal M.P. for Temiscouata; but prior to the Parliamentary recess last week Mr. Pouliot forgot politics long enough to give the King Government some sound, non-partisan advice. "I am amazed," he said in the course of a speech on the Draft Address, "that a small number of cabinet ministers should think this is their own war and their own business, and that they can lord it over us. It is time they realized that it is our war, the war of all of us; our business, the business of all of us; our money, the money of all of us; and our future, the future of all of us."

life, even from the back-door, has no right, whenever it suits him, to retire under the shelter of his private life so as to escape criticism. To give the reason that it is ungentlemanly to criticize the actions of the experts whose advice is blindly followed by the Government is ridiculous. As members of Parliament we are exposed to such attacks. When they are unfair we are at liberty to justify ourselves. If one is afraid of them, then there is only one thing for him to do, and that is to stay at home."

Mr. Pouliot cited the example of Westminster. The rules of the British House of Commons are not numerous, but the practice has been established by traditions of freedom and real democracy. Men there have an opportunity to discuss questions vital not only to Great Britain but to the whole of the Empire. "They do so freely. They are not afraid to speak, nor do they use the language of sissies. They talk like men, and man to man. The atmosphere of Westminster is not that of a pink-tea room, but that of the oldest parliament in the world, one in which the members show that they are men, that they are worthy of the confidence placed in them."

It is not recorded that this homily was received with any particular enthusiasm by Government members; but there was no doubt as to its applicability and relevancy.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Hitler has drawn this Island directly into the casualty list; the blood of the heroes be upon his already accursed head.

Under the National Housing Act 18 loans have been obtained in this Province totalling \$97,834, or an average of \$5,435 per dwelling.

Many people know more about our Confederation rights and privileges now than they did a month ago, and this should strengthen the hands of our representatives at the Dominion-Provincial Conference.

It may be taken for granted that Premier Campbell knows exactly the attitude he is going to adopt at next month's conference, although he does not choose to take his fellow Islanders into his confidence.

The Governor-General and Princess Alice, will send Christmas cards to friends, a reproduction of a photograph taken of the viceregal couple under the arch of the Peace Tower of the Parliament Buildings on their arrival in Canada last June.

In modern warfare it costs from \$42,000 to \$63,000 to kill a man, compared with about 75 cents in Caesar's time, it is estimated by Mr. F. E. Wood, chief accountant of the Department of Munitions and Supply. The cost was about \$4,000 a man during the Napoleonic wars, rose to \$5,000 in the American Civil War, then to \$21,000 a man in the Great War. Mr. Wood didn't say how he arrived at his figures.

In Toronto the streets and footpaths are so blocked with snow that the Gerrard Business Men's Association passed a resolution condemning the City Council for gross negligence, donned overalls and ski suits, went out and filled a truck with snow to dump in front of the City Hall. When they got there the Police prevented them carrying out their plan. But they had the support of Premier Hepburn who ordered the government offices to be closed 20 minutes earlier in order to permit government employees to avoid the rush-hour traffic jam due to snow laden thoroughfares.

Canadian industrialists and contractors generally are "putting the public interest before private gain" in connection with government contracts, Mr. F. E. Wood, chief cost accountant of the Federal Department of Munitions and Supply, said in a recent address. "They realize, as we should all do, that every dollar saved legitimately will be another dollar available to extend and improve the war effort, to the end that victory shall be won and a permanent peace secured at the earliest possible moment." Mr. Wood said orders placed by the Department of Munitions and Supply from the outbreak of war to November 27 totalled \$1,000,000,000. Of this amount, \$691,000,000 was for Dominion account and \$318,000,000 for British account.

His Most Excellent Majesty George the Sixth (Albert Frederick Arthur George of Windsor), by the Grace of God of Great Britain, Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, Sovereign of the British Orders of Knighthood, Admiral of the Fleet, Field Marshal, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Colonel-in-Chief of the Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, 1st The Royal Dragoons, Royal Regiment of Artillery, Corps of Royal Engineers, the five Regiments of Foot Guards, The Royal Marines, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, The King's Royal Rifle Corps, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, The Royal Tank Corps, The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry (T.A.), The Officers' Training Corps, 16th Light Cavalry, 1st Punjab Regiment, 13th Frontier Force Rifles (Indian Army), Captain-General The Honourable Artillery Company; second son of His late Majesty King George V, and of Her Majesty Queen Mary; born at York Cottage, Sandringham, December 14, 1895; married, April 26, 1923, the Lady Elizabeth Angela Marguerite, daughter of the 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne (Queen Elizabeth, born August 4, 1900, Lady of the Garter, Lady of the Thistle, Dame Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order and of the Order of the British Empire, Doctor of Literature, Colonel-in-Chief The Queen's Bays, 2nd Dragoon Guards, The Black Watch, Royal Highlanders, The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, Honorary Colonel 14th London Regiment, London Scottish, (T.A.); succeeded to the Throne this day, 1936; crowned at Westminster, May 12, 1937. Their Majesties have issue: H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary of York, Heiress Presumptive to the Throne, born at Royal Lodge, Windsor Great Park, April 21, 1926. H.R.H. Princess Margaret Rose of York, born at Royal Lodge, Windsor Great Park, August 21, 1930.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Minister of the Army McBride states that not a single horse was sent overseas with the Australian Cavalry. In this respect the Canadian Cavalry is not unlike the famous horse marines. — Montreal Gazette.

A group of big oil men in Washington were talking one evening about government taxation. "There is no telling where we will be by the time the tax bill is settled," said one. "Our status is as uncertain as that of an old Negro slave I once heard of. He belonged to a man whom he belonged to. 'I don't know, suh,' he replied. 'Old Marse, he's upstairs playin' pokah!'" — Wall Street Journal.

Algoma residents who have had occasion lately to travel the Gordon Lake-Portlock road, where a considerable stretch of the highway is submerged as a result of water backed up by a beaver dam, will be glad to hear that the lament of D. J. Taylor, deputy minister of game and fisheries, in which he intimates that the beaver dam at times is a "dam nuisance." — Sault Ste Marie Star.

The success of the new long range weather forecasting is bringing satisfaction to those responsible for it, and the public too, is becoming impressed. It is claimed since the time the forecasting was started a few weeks ago in co-operation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, that the accuracy of the forecasts is 50 per cent. Of course the forecast takes in Boston and New England and mapping out what the day is to be for those areas is quite a task. No doubt, the forecast will be even better as the service becomes older. — Boston Post.

Canada's trade has reached, for the 12 months of the war, \$2,149,000,000, an all-time high. It was a reminder of the fact that the trade in peace time on the trade with countries with which we are new at war. — St. Catharines Standard.

It is no wonder that the British are rejoicing over the transfer of 26 huge bombers from the United States. If these giants of air warfare are properly armed and armed, they should give the Royal Air Force a real boost. The fact that it has lacked now in striking at distant targets. With full bomb loads they can fly more than 1,500 miles, and they can carry more than 10,000 lbs. of bombs. They can climb as high as 34,000 feet, where anti-aircraft guns of existing types can't touch them. The most modern of German fighters and even her conquered territories in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, can be brought within range of effective bombing when these planes are in active service. The effect on Britain's fortunes, and on our own, may be great beyond price. — New York Times.

I recently read in the New Statesman and Nation that the conversation, which once trickled shyly in British railway carriages, now flows in spite. Air-raid shelters are prominent in the streets, and people to address each other without introduction or invitation. Some may welcome this sudden lowering of the social barrier, but the lowering of the slushy Island tongue. But for me the talkative and knowing neighbor holds a prominent place among the most notable of war. He is so free with what I do not in the least want—his information. The trouble is that the fell w no one knows, but in the meantime knowing that he knows. He knows where the bomb fell last night, and whether it was an aerial torpedo, a land mine, or a mere misdeed. He knows what Hitler told Goering yesterday and what they will both be doing tomorrow. He knows, by looking at a scarred, visible speck in the sky, what type of airplane that is, whether bound, and on what business. He knows by his nature, a buzz or a droning sound in the night, whether that is a German bomber, whether it is a German bomber, whether it is a German bomber, whether it is a German bomber, whether it is a German bomber.

For many years the British manufacturer has encountered numerous obstacles in the way of placing his Canadian sales on a satisfactory footing, and his difficulties are accentuated by the conditions arising from the war. Too frequent failure to make a product conform to Dominion standards is a source of disappointment. The last war opened up a fresh realization of Canadian market possibilities, and the opportunities presented of building an increased, solid and lasting trade. A condition of particular hardship is the fact that the Canadian tariff is based on normal home selling prices and not on prices charged in the Dominion itself. Raising prices at home involve higher duties which hamper, and in some cases render impossible, the export trade to Canada. Representations to the Dominion Government might succeed in inducing them to assess duties on British goods on pre-war prices in the United Kingdom, an action which would be of real help in expanding inter-empire trade and increasing the volume of credits available abroad for the British Treasury. — The Statist (London).

A lot of people are hoping Mussolini will come a complete cropper in Greece on the theory that he may then be overthrown by his people, and Italy will get out of the war and out of the Axis and Germany will be weakened. There is no question that the Italians are fed up with the war and that especially since German-Russian manoeuvring took the spotlight, they feel Mussolini is no longer the fallback on Hitler's team, but only a water boy. — Minneapolis Star Journal.

This country drinks enough liquor to pay a decent pension to its old people four or five times over. There are enough cocktail parties held in Vancouver every week to keep all our old people in liquor. British Columbia alone drank two or three times the cash value of the old-age pension received by its people, and more than a third of the pensions bill for all Canada. Don't mistake us. We have nothing against cocktail parties. In any case, they are only one of many things of indulgence which, added together, would make the "atomical" pension figures look like a Sunday school collection. — Vancouver Sun.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of importance to the Charlottetown Guardian and its readers. Correspondents' names are not published unless they so desire.

RE POTATO BONUS

Sir,—I noticed some time ago a letter written by Frank B. Clarke, saying he was informed that Mr. J. W. Boulter and Hon. Horace Wright were going to Ottawa to try and get a bonus for the farmers on their potato acreage. It seems neither the potato dealers nor the farmers were consulted. After giving the matter consideration, I began to ask the farmers their opinion on this great idea. The first man I talked to had about 30 acres planted this year. I said to him: "If you get, say, \$5.00 per acre bonus that would amount to \$150.00 for you. His answer was: 'I do not want it. I have sold potatoes at as low a price before and pulled through.' But said he, if he would leave the potato growing to the farmers, then the production would be lower, and prices higher. It was then I began to see the point. It was not farmers alone who were growing potatoes, but dealers, lawyers, merchants, and last but not least some clergymen. And then I wondered who wanted the bonus. Now I understand these gentlemen have been to Ottawa and have returned. We are not concerned so much about the bonus, but what did it cost to send them there? It seems too bad, but it is just like this. There were many men last fall who could not attend Old Home Week, as they did not have the price. But we must pay the fare for those in big business. I think it is about time to get busy, and get busy we will. I am, Sir, etc., W. WELINGTON THOMAS, North Tryon.

FARMERS' PROBLEMS

Sir,—My purpose in writing the letter re potato bonus (which Mr. Frank B. Clarke so generously referred to as "newspaper writing") was simply to bring before the public the views of the ordinary common or garden variety of farmer.

In expressing what I felt to be their views, I considered it more appropriate to sign a name that would be common to all of us rather than to sign my own name. I shall feel the same about it, and in the future when matters of such importance to the farmers are being discussed publicly, I may be tempted to use my feeble pen to interpret the feelings of the farmers on these matters.

In judging the merits of the letters which appear from time to time in this forum, I have been guided by the common-sense of the opinions expressed, and the logic of the arguments advanced therein, rather than by the signature over which they were written.

LOOTERS PUNISHED

MANCHESTER (CP)—Two A.R.P. workers were sentenced to 12 months in jail for stealing \$53.40 in notes left exposed by enemy aircraft.

Workers of Finland are demanding wage increases equal to the rise in living costs.

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ROMANCE IN SHELTER

LONDON (CP)—A Liverpool girl and a Free French pilot officer, evacuated from Dunkirk, became engaged in an air raid shelter and were married a few days later.

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Decimation

(Toronto Star) "Decimation" the shooting of every tenth man, which has been reported by the Italians to check the flight and desertion of their soldiers in Albania, is an old Roman custom. About 450 years before the Christian era the aristocratic Roman consul, Appius Claudius, surnamed Crassus, decimated the rebellious who refused to fight under him and fled before their enemies. But decimation has been practiced in many countries in more modern times, sometimes as a punishment for mutiny, sometimes for cowardice; sometimes by shooting every tenth man; sometimes by lot, sometimes by number in line. The tenth man in each company was shot when the Saxons mutinied against Blucher before Waterloo. Decimation was also undertaken by Lord Essex at Dublin in 1599, by the Austrians at Lepsic in 1842, and by the French at Treves in 1875.

A Light in Athens

(Calgary Herald) Above the Acropolis in Athens there must be a light shining these early winter nights, for the glory of Greece has returned. No one can predict the end of the campaign, but the first chapter has been clearly written. The armies of Greece have been the avenging sword. The hordes of the bawling dictator of Rome are routed and fleeing through the gorges of Albania. Any Greek with a warrior's heart, looking at the sky above the Acropolis, would see the light tonight, glowing.

The Poet's Corner

QUANTITY AND QUALITY The poor have childer and to spare. But with the quality they're rare. Where money's scarce the childer's many. Where money's thick you'll scarce find any. Some wanted here, too many there— It's queer.

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