

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 1940.

One Sure Defense

Speaking in the House of Commons the other day on the war situation, Mr. T. C. Douglas, M.P. for Weyburn, concluded with the following words, which will strike a responsive note in many hearts at this time.

"We are recognizing that this is a black hour. There is very little use in the optimism type of optimism. Most of us remember March of 1918. At that time I was a boy thirteen years of age. I stood on Buchanan street in Glasgow in a drizzling rain, together with hundreds of other people. Soldiers of the Canadian corps who spent their leave in Glasgow will remember the Maple Leaf Building. There was a great map, on which were flags denoting the various armies' lines. On the particular morning to which I refer there was a gap in the lines; the bulletin announced that an entire British army had been wiped out and that the German military machine was on its way to Paris. That was probably the blackest day in the history of Great Britain, until this moment. There was not a sound, although there were hundreds upon hundreds of people in that square, and the silence in front began to sing, and the soldiers, together with the people, sang the British national anthem, 'God Save the King'."

"As I looked around at those people I came to realize something of the inner reserves that have made the British people great in the hour of danger, and that strength is still with us. My plea, Mr. Speaker, is, with firm faith in the divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will; with confidence in one another and with firm determination to do the right as we see it, let us, the Canadian people, stand shoulder to shoulder in this grim hour until at last the blackness of the night shall give way to the promise of a better day."

Official Silence

One of the strangest features of Canada's war effort, notes an exchange, has been the silence which it has been carried out. Rarely has the public been taken into confidence, and then only to hear a long roll of figures in defence after a fresh barrage of newspaper criticism.

There have been no rousing addresses by our leaders. No speech that could in any way be called inspiring. This despite the fact that months have passed; that the news is now bad and requires to be offset by determination born in pride and emotion.

Science Steps Ahead

While Hitler was launching his grey battalions against two of the most civilized countries in the world, scientists in America were announcing a series of extraordinary discoveries which are thus summed up in The New Republic: High on the list comes the new treatment for syphilis, which cuts down the period of medical care from nearly two years to only five days.

It was announced that a combination of vitamin C and calcium holds out an impressive promise of relief for sufferers from hay fever, asthma and other allergies. A carbolic-acid derivative, united with sulfanilamide, has aided cases of animal tuberculosis. A new compound, sulfadiazine, which is half vitamin B and half sulfanilamide, has proved highly effective against pneumonia and streptococcus and staphylococcus infections.

The hormones, on the production of which life depends, are now created synthetically from coal, water and limestone. A new and powerful antiseptic has been discovered. There are recent derivatives of sulfanilamide and sulfapyridine which in the test tube are 70 to 200 times as active as the original forms of these miracle drugs.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Roger W. Babson of statistical fame may run for President on the Prohibition ticket. In view of the party's record, there is a chance that the walls of the White House will be covered with figures. — Toronto Telegram.

If Hitler bombs children, it won't disturb the faith of American Nazis. They will believe his story that the little things were about to attack him. — Buffalo News.

Queen Wilhelmina and her family took refuge in London, but the former Kaiser refused to "dig in" in Berlin as a refuge. — Christian Science Monitor.

At the inauguration of Sam Houston, Texas Governor, a thousand bees were being roasted in a giant barbecue. That is an improvement on the Huey Long method of throwing the bull. — Windsor Star.

Recently I reported the sad news of the excellent revival of John Drinkwater's "Abraham Lincoln" had proved a failure. The Westminster Theatre and that the management, which was the cause of serious drama since the beginning of the war, had announced it must close down. During the week, however, the situation has changed as if by a miracle. The King and Queen dropped in to see the show, and this example now is being followed by a satisfactory number of loyal subjects. "Dropped in" is the right phrase here. The Westminster is just across the street from Buckingham Palace. Not more than two hours' notice was given to the management, and a party consisting of the King and Queen, an inquiry and a lady-waiting came along without fuss, ceremony, pomp or circumstance, and sat in the stalls. The audience was taken up admirably, although it was played under the most adverse conditions. The evident wish was that the King and Queen should be considered a private occasion, and so relieved the Royal household of the embarrassment of being made the centre of attention. Royalty, when it goes to the theatre formally, is ushered respectfully to the Royal box, from which the seclusion is able to see much of the play. Not only the "Abraham Lincoln" itself but the naval experience of seeing it properly gave the King and Queen a real evening's enjoyment, and they told the manager what they thought of the theatre. This was not the first time Their Majesties have given friendly assistance to a deserving theatre for they paid a similar visit to the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, not long ago when a repertory company was trying to establish itself in public favour there. The King and Queen had the effect that receipts in the box office station then have doubled. — From the New York Times.

Reindeer Increasing

The Dominion Government's reindeer husbandry in the Far North continues its successful operation. Not only are the animals in a generally healthy state, but their numbers are also increasing most satisfactorily. Moreover, the experiment of creating a subsidiary herd entirely under Eskimo management has turned out well indeed.

The main herd is on Richards Island, while the present native herd is at Anderson River, some 120 miles east of the primary group. This latter herd is, of course, much smaller. But it is growing. It began in 1938 with 900 beasts; it now has something like 1,200 head in it; and with the 1940 fawning period at present under way is expected to increase still more.

The success of this experiment with native-operated herds is so encouraging that steps will soon be taken to start a second native group at Horton River, which lies a little east of Anderson River. In this manner will the gradual dissemination of the Government's reindeer proceed, until practically every Eskimo band has a herd on which to draw for food and skins.

EDITORIAL NOTES

St. Joan of Arc died this date, 1431. "I shall only last a year; use me as long as you can."

Prime Minister Mackenzie King's popularity in Toronto is at a low ebb when the veterans call for his resignation.

National Government is near at hand, the Prime Minister having been in conference with the Conservative leaders in the Commons and later with the C.C.F. and New Democracy leaders in the Commons.

One way to help win the war is to get solidly behind the drive the Dominion Department of Finance is making and purchase War Savings Certificates to the full extent of one's means.

Rogers and Howe are experiencing heavy sleighing in their attempt to prove an alibi for their gross unpreparedness in providing the necessary equipment for overseas forces. The more they explain the deeper in the hole they send themselves and their expert advisers.

Admiral Keyes, who lately attacked the Chamberlain Government for alleged ineffectiveness in aggression, comes to the defence of King Leopold and asks the public to suspend judgment on him until further light has been thrown upon his surrender.

Hon. Dr. Bruce has urged Mr. Mackenzie King to resign in favor of Hon. Mr. Ralston, member for Prince. Mr. King intimated he was to absent himself from the House owing to pressure of business and that not Mr. Ralston but Mr. Lapointe or Mr. Crerar would act for him.

The sensation of the hour is the disclosure of the fact that last fall the King Government advised of the absolute necessity for tanks in modern warfare were offered the service of a British expert for their production. The Government's sneering reply that the expert could return to England and offer his services there has roused the greatest indignation in political and patriotic circles.

The Prime Minister has given the country his assurance that Canada is really in the war and that new demonstrations of participation are in progress, says the Montreal Gazette. Mr. King must have found himself somewhat handicapped by reason of the fact that he could not promise a greater effort without confessing that heretofore the Government had done less than it could, and less than the people of Canada were demanding. He could, of course, attempt to justify the administrative record, and he did, but his explanations and assurances have never been very convincing in the past and the public are inclined to look a little critically at them now. The invasion of the Netherlands and Belgium and the presence of German troops in a large area of northern France are a reason for the greatest and most intensive effort that Canada can make, but the fact that they are recent developments does not excuse the Government for participation upon a moderate rather than upon a maximum scale before those developments took place. If the Government did not know that a total war was coming, and was likely to come soon rather than later, it was alone in the lack of knowledge.

The Crisis We Face

(London Free Press) The British Empire is today facing the greatest crisis in its history. An enemy which has built up the most formidable and terrifying war machine the world has known, and which stops at nothing in its brutal and cruel methods of carrying out hostilities has driven through France until today it is within striking distance of the channel. If it succeeds in establishing itself on the channel, the British and French armies now in Belgium will be in grave danger and the Germans will prepare to invade Britain.

Britain is the enemy which Germany wants particularly to crush. Britain is locked upon as the stumbling block in the way of Germany's ambition to dominate Europe and the world. If she can overthrow Britain, then Europe is hers and Hitler can then proceed to march towards world power.

The defeat of Britain is inconceivable. If she falls, then the progress towards a better way of living will be wiped out. Britain and Germany stand for totally different standards of life. The one is a struggle for individual liberty and the right of man to govern himself. In the other, the state is all powerful. The individual means nothing. The law of the land is might is right.

In the face of this crisis, the British people stand firm and courageous. They are determined with all their power to meet the threat of invasion. John Bull is pulling in his belt. He is girding up his loins. It is our part in Canada to remain cool and at the same time to prepare to meet a crisis which is just as serious and vital for us, as it is for the British people.

It is time that all the peoples throughout the world who believe in democracy should mean particularly the United States—should stand together to meet this brutal and savage enemy. This mechanized Atlantic which is sweeping like a scourge over Europe. Hitler will win in Europe, not a free nation will be left on that continent and it is certain that no one in North America could live long in peace. It is a crisis not only for Europe, for the British Empire, but for the world.

Mons

(Toronto Telegram) Belgian and French place names forever familiar to our ears from the exploits of British and Canadian soldiers in the last war are in the news again.

There is Mons! The spot of the Old Continent made famous with the sanguinary action against the Prussians.

Mons! The spot where four years later a Canadian Brigade, J. A. Clark, at head of the Seventh Canadian Brigade received the keys from the Mayor of a grateful Frenchly cheering populace.

Mons, 1940! A British and French army crossed the Belgian frontier near the city yesterday. At the spot where the last war left off 21 years and 185 days ago British Tommies marched forward to a final "There up the quarrel with the foe."

What must be the disillusionment of the people of Mons who thought of the best had been adequately chained in 1918.

The Poet's Corner

Saint Michael, of the flaming sword,
Great Archangel of Christ the Lord,
Leader, whose legions glorified,
Conquered the rebel hosts of pride,
Look to our world of warring men;
Power of Hell are loose again;
Justice is strangled — Freedom slain,
Life is burdened with dread and pain;
Lands are bleak where the ruthless tread,
Come to our aid, we fight for God,
Call up your winged hosts, and call
Warrior saints, ah, call them all;
George of the dragon—Joan—
Maid,
Give them command in this crusade,
This dark hour is your hour to lead,
Never had earth a greater need;
Lost in our night His star grows dim,
Stumbling we grope and yearn to Him,
Show us the way, oh, MAKE us see,
That prayer is the path to victory,
Holy Michael, your sword shall bring
Peace to the world for Christ our King,
—Luey Gertrude Clarkin, in St. Dunstan's Red and White.

They have for years had no real employment. Some have never had employment. It would be entirely unfair to make these words of the municipalities. The municipalities have no real responsibility for their plight and have a hold for every dollar of their restricted revenues as it is. — Vancouver Province.

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Rapid Awakening

(Halifax Chronicle) The United States has just awakened from its pleasant dream of isolation. The country is aroused to the peril of the war. From wily sections of the nation come indications of a new appreciation of the Allied war effort. Some spokesmen and some newspapers in the United States openly advocate immediate participation in the war on the side of the Allies. Others, who still oppose sending troops overseas, favor greater assistance to the Allies by permitting the purchase of war materials on credit or by making out and out gifts of aircraft and other necessities to Great Britain and France.

A sense of emergency has gripped the nation. A new unity prevails. The country has become suddenly aware of the need for strong defenses. Congressional committees have shown an amazing readiness to act swiftly on proposals for strengthening the nation's fighting forces, in some cases even increasing the suggested expenditures.

Congress, indeed has adopted a policy of general cooperation with the president in the emergency. And that cooperation extends beyond the Capitol. Famous Republican figures have voiced their willingness, albeit conditionally, to co-operate with the president and there are persistent reports of a coalition government in which some of the Republican leaders would undertake important tasks.

The political scene in the United States has undergone great changes—and the end is not yet.

Mental Blackouts

(Moncton Transcript) For years, because of the strict censorship of the newspapers and all other agencies by which the people of Germany could learn the truth, the people of the Reich have groped in mental blackout. The same darkness has now settled on the "Empire" of Il Duce. Italians are told by the censored press that the British navy has been sunk, the French army has been trooped.

The bright flame with which the Vatican newspaper, the Osservatore Romano, lit up the growing darkness of an Italian mental night has been suppressed, and Count Torre is no longer permitted to write editorials. Temporarily, might has overcome right.

When other Italian newspapers printed only what Il Duce desired, the Vatican newspaper's circulation climbed to 90,000 and the flame burned still higher May 11 when the Pontiff's message to the sovereigns of Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg was printed. The circulation was 190,000. Today it has a circulation of a few hundreds for the clergy and it discusses strictly clerical affairs.

Daily War Survey

(By The Canadian Press) The Norwegian port of Narvik has been taken by the Allies after a stubborn fight. This victory comes in the midst of a desperate struggle of the British and French armies surrounded by the Germans in Northern France and can have little influence on the outcome of the huge battles in progress.

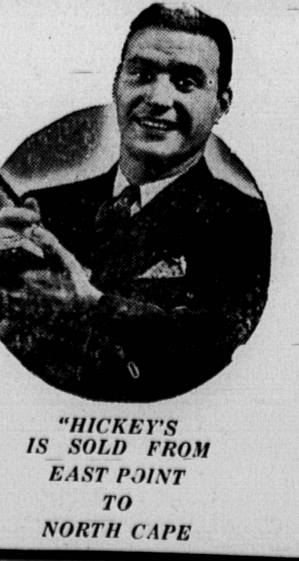
It has some importance, however, from the long range point of view because it blocks off German supplies of iron ore over the regular northern route from the Swedish iron mines and it gives the British an air and naval base in the north. German efforts to hold Narvik may appear out of all proportion to the value of the port in view of the drive to win the war quickly in the south but they may have been influenced by psychological factors. The loss of Narvik is the first defeat German forces have suffered on land since they invaded Poland and started the war.

It may have been a desire to keep this record of victory unblemished which led them to throw men into the struggle for Narvik. Only yesterday it was revealed that seven German troops were sunk by British naval units while attempting to land reinforcements for the beleaguered Narvik garrison and throughout the struggle attempts, some of them successful, to land troops and supplies by parachute, have occurred. In these attempts and in air raids on the Allied forces attacking Narvik the Germans have lost a large number of aircraft.

Playing the Game

"Do you love me, Charles?" she asked.
"Of course I do," he replied.
"Do you think only of me night and day?"
"Well, I'll be frank with you. Now and then I think of cricket."

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TENDERS
Tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned, up to noon on Friday, May 31st, 1940 for placing concrete paving on space between sidewalk and curb on the following streets—Queen Street from Kent to Grafton, West side; Queen Street from Dorchester to King, West side; Queen Street from Sydney to Dorchester, East side.

Specifications to be seen at the City Surveyor's office. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

J. A. FULLERTON, City Clerk. L-20-5-30-21

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