NEWS PARADE ...

Wars used to be comparatively simple affairs in the old days when two countries got mad at each other, went to war with tangible weapons, fought on actual fields of battle. In those days you could tell which side had won which engagement, and who was likely to come out on top in the end. But in the twentieth century, with the introduction of the economic battleground and high-powered propaganda weapons, warfare has become a thing of infinite complexity, fought with ideas, threats, diplomatic coups — and few can understand and interpret the course it takes. Small wonder then, that, as the second Great War came to the close of its fourth month, nobody knew which side — Germany or the Allies — was winning.

Naval Objectives

To many, however, it seemed during the sixteenth week that Germany was losing out on the sea. The scuttling of the Columbus and the Graf Spee, the sinking of a large number of submarines, undoubtedly weakened Germany as a sea power. But let us look at the situation in the light of the belligerents' naval objectives: The Allies are working for the complete domination of the seas, cutting off all traffic by sea, to and from Germany — an ambitious undertaking; Germany's naval objective — the crippling of the British mercantile marine and the intimidation of neutral ships to the end that supplies reaching Great Britain by sea may be seriously curtailed — is more modest, but its attainment would be no less damaging to the Allies than attainment of the Allied objective would be to Germany, because of the greater dependence of the British Isles on seaborne traffic.

In the air, too, nothing conclusive had been proven up to the end of 1939. Air operations on both sides have been defensive; or used as an aid in obtaining naval objectives; or in reconnaissance.

How long would the war last? Highly-placed staff officers of the French army ventured a prediction that it would continue another 18 months, (the Germans, they said, must make some spectacular move, probably in the spring, to keep up the Nazi morale. "They will make some blunder and the war will be over"). On the Western Front, perhaps, yes. But should the conflict become wider, assume new shape and scope, who could guess when it might end?

"On Christmas Day in the morning," King George spoke to the Empire . . . Helsingfors was bombed again . . . Canadian troops woke up in hospitable British households . . . Prime Minister de Valera of Eire urged a peace conference now, instead of at the end of an exhausting war . . . all leaves were cancelled from the Norwegian army . . . . Italians throughout Italy thronged churches giving thanks for peace in their own country . . . Pope Pius XII read a letter from President Roosevelt, pledging his aid in early peace moves . . . Stalin formally thanked Hitler for birthday congratulations received. . . .

In Ottawa, preparations were under way for the opening of the Parliamentary session, January 25, when a program of taxation to finance Canada's war effort will be introduced. A war loan will be launched, but in addition increased revenue will have to come from a rise in the sales tax and in income tax rates, from restoration of the old sugar tax, levying of "nuisance" and luxury taxes that were employed in the last war.

Small Number Actual Fliers

Many More Technicians Are Necessary

There's more to the flying game than pilots. This is being well illustrated as intensive training of men in the Royal Canadian Air Force swings into high gear. As a matter of fact, the number of actual airmen in the force is a definite minority.

The R. C. A. F., to put men in fighting 'planes, needs hundreds of skilled tradesmen. Just a few of the types that go to make up the force are aero engine mechanics, airframe mechanics, armament artificers, clerks, cooks, disciplinarians, electricians, fabric workers and tailors.

Many Never Off Ground

Many of these aircraftsmen have never been off the ground. Many of them never will be. Flying is the job of the pilot. Their work is to make this job possible.

These men are being drilled, put into fine physical shape, given elementary training and then moved to air bases in other Ontario centres for instruction that will bring them to a high point of efficiency.

Stalwarts of Canada's First Division Land In England

Arriving at an unnamed port in the British Isles, soldiers of Canada's first division are shown as they stepped ashore. The ships that carried them slipped into their docks and the Canucks disembarked before news of their arrival was made public.

Thinking Lags Behind Science

McGill Expert Urges The World to Catch Up With New Scientific Developments Hope for Civilization Lies In Knowledge

"One of the reasons for the troubles of the world today is that we are living in a scientific civilization and we don't live or think scientifically in it," Prof. C. Leonard Huskins, head of the department of genetics at McGill University, last week told a Montreal audience.

He urged that there should be a more general adoption of the scientific attitude and a wider appreciation of the value of pure science as a method of training, a means of obtaining knowledge, and as an end to the development of a balanced philosophy of life.

Implications Clear

Quoting Sir Richard Gregory, Professor Huskins said that "The view that the sole function of science is the discovery and study of natural facts and principles without regard to the social implications of the knowledge gained, can no longer be maintained. It is being widely recognized that science cannot be divorced from ethics, or rightly absolve itself from the human responsibilities in the application of its discoveries to destructive purposes in war or economic disturbances in times of peace."

Man Should Know Himself

Whatever hope there is for the future of civilization, he said, lies in knowledge, the scientific method of getting it, and particularly in biological science which will ultimately teach man to know himself.

MICKIE SAYS—

Army's Biggest Feet Located In Montreal

A claim of having the soldier with the biggest feet in the Canadian army has passed from Toronto to Montreal.

The new record holder is Cpl. C. A. Mallette of the Canadian Dental Corps. He has been in the army nearly two months, and a uniform to fit him has yet to be found. He was especially measured for his boots—size 15. Sapper Robert Barnes of the Royal Canadian Engineers, at Toronto, took a mere 14½.

Freak Accidents Cause Laughter

U. S. Safety Council Reports Odd Cases

Each year the National Safety Council of the United States makes a round-up of odd, but not fatal, accidents and publishes them in its magazine, "Public Safety." This year brought the usual bumper crop of freak accidents. Here are some samples.

Joseph Fayder, Jersey City, N. J., scrubbed his teeth so enthusiastically one day that he swallowed hard in sheer exhaustion. Suddenly he discovered the tooth brush was missing. Hospital X-rays revealed the regulation-size brush reposing in his stomach.

An Embarrassing Experience

Then there was the embarrassing experience of Frank Miska, Temple, Tex. As he stepped off the curb to cross the street, a car whizzed by and brushed him off. Miska took inventory. He didn't suffer a scratch, but there he was standing in his long underwear. The car had ripped his pants off. P.S. The driver provided a new pair and all was well.

New Radium Mine In Ontario Is Rich

Will Soon Be Producing In The Wilberforce Area

Canada is soon to have another producing mine. Definite intimation that a mine in the Wilberforce area of Ontario, will soon be producing the world's richest element was given in Toronto last week.

Construction of a 100-ton mill building is completed and the balance of the crushing equipment is being installed with the least possible delay. The company has been informed that the separation unit, which employs the electrochemical process for breaking down the ore and extracting the various metals and oxides in commercial form, is rapidly nearing completion.

Other Rare Elements

Laboratory tests and analyses on samples from the property it is reported reveal the presence of tantalum, beryllium, gold, tungsten, and some of the other rare elements, as well as uranium, the maternal ancestor of radium.

The Book Shelf

"LAND BELOW THE WIND"
By Agnes Newton Keith

Agnes Keith is the American wife of an English official in one of the furthest outposts of the British Empire. The story of her life in that Far Country, Borneo, is told in her prize-winning autobiography, "Land Below the Wind." She has lived in Sandakan, the capital, she has accompanied her husband on his expeditions deep into the jungle and far up the rivers. In this book she makes her readers enjoy the timeless days, the exotic nights of Borneo. We see her house in the beauty of a tropical moonlight and also when it is drenched and leaking in a monsoon. We see her compound with its Chinese cooks, its Murut houseboys, and its assortment of monkeys and mongooses. We see what the jungle can do to break down the fortitude of a woman who is both curious and courageous.

Nora Waln (famous author of "Reaching for the Stars," "House of Exile") says: "Land Below the Wind" is one of those happenings that make life worth while.'

"Land Below the Wind" ..... by Agnes Newton Keith ..... Toronto: McClelland and Stewart..... $3.00.

VOICE of the PRESS

SECOND-HAND BUREAUS

With all these bureaus being established at Ottawa it looks as if the Government will have a lot of second-hand furniture on its hands at the end of the war.—Montreal Gazette.

—o—

WHAT THE TOURIST WANTS

Pleasant eating and sleeping places, offering service at reasonable rates, are as important in attracting tourists as interesting country and good roads.—Edmonton Journal.

—o—

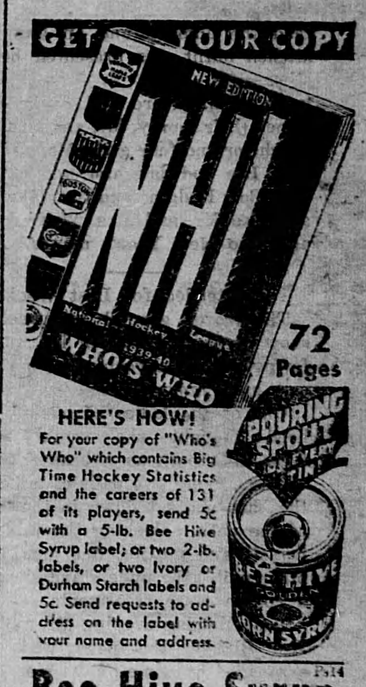
ELOQUENT TRAFFIC SIGN

Something new in road signs which has a deep significance is one that is found in a small Ontario town. The sign reads: "Slow; No Hospital." Not a bad traffic sign at that.—Fort Erie Times-Review.

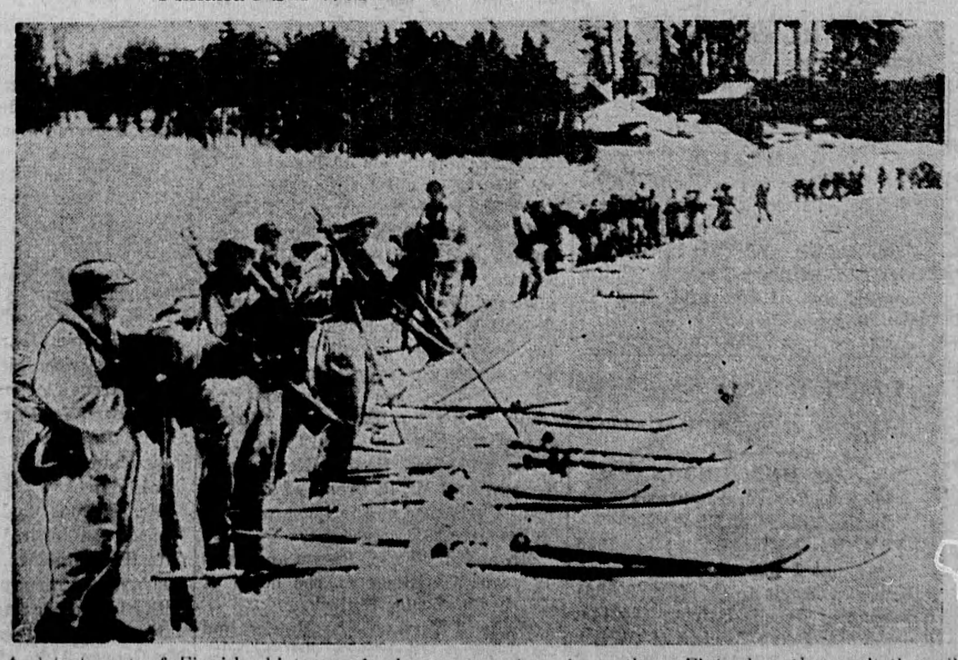
—o—

RAISE MORE SHEEP

When the Hon. P. M. Dewan spoke recently in Brantford he pointed out that farmers could make no mistake in raising more sheep. Now the Canadian wool administrator declares that Canada is 8,000,000 pounds short of wool to fill her requirements at the present time. The needs of the war offer a fine opportunity to develop the sheep raising industry in Canada—Brantford Expositor.



Finland's Ski Warriors Await Call For Action In The Field



A detachment of Finnish ski troops is shown somewhere in northern Finland as they wait the call for action against the Red invader. Armed with light machine-guns, rapid-fire pistols and deadly hunting knives, these men have spread terror and confusion in their swift and deadly raids on Russian patrols. This is one of the first photos to reach Canada from the war zone near the Arctic circle. It was flown from Helsingfors to London and radioed to New York.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"Good Morning, Am I Speaking to the Lady of the House?"

REG'LAR FELLERS—Very International — By GENE BYRNES