Are We Likely To Be Invaded?

We Are Not Inaccessible — Far From It Says Jean-Chas. Harvey, Editor of Le Jour

At a time when the real war session of the King Government is sitting and when Germany is hurling all her forces of destruction against our allies, France and England, after having violated the neutrality of all the small nations along the Baltic and the North Sea, we believe we express the wish of an immense majority of Canadians when we ask the leaders of the country to take all the necessary measures in order to ensure the security of our people and our institutions, writes Jean-Charles Harvey, editor of Le Jour (Montreal).

Last year, in these very columns we wrote that Canada was not exempt from the danger of invasion. Some sceptics laughed in our faces and held us up to ridicule. Days and months have passed. September came with the declaration of war. Even then, our pacifist know-it-alls declared that Canada would not be directly concerned with the bloody adventure. Even the most ardent supporters of participation did not dream for a second of the possibility of the invasion of Canada by the Nazi forces. The Government, the very one that declared war, did not seem to be aware of the immediate peril that the country might run. It believed in the danger, yes, but like millions of Canadians, it did not imagine that the day would come when our shores, our cities, our industrial centres, might be attacked and blood spilled.

A WARNING TO US

That which is now happening in Europe should nevertheless be a tragic warning to us. What will the morrow bring? Nobody knows. And what we do know is that we have to do with an implacable enemy, who has already laid to waste a portion of Europe, an enemy who respects nothing and who was, at least in the beginning, infinitely better prepared to destroy and to conquer than any other country in the world, an enemy who has shown clearly enough his determination to dominate the universe. President Roosevelt himself said so, in a moving speech recently before the Members of the Pan-American Scientific Congress. And for the first time in the history of this Continent, a President of the greatest American power expressed the fear of an invasion of the two Americas.

Our prophets declared, at the beginning of last summer, when the conflict appeared imminent, that there was no danger whatsoever for Canada, it being understood that, should a defeat of the allies take place, the United States would defend us; but this large republic would have to look after its own defence and we know that if we wanted to save ourselves, we would also have to look out for ourselves. After what has happened in the Netherlands and in Belgium, we know that the United States, with its present armaments alone, cannot, by itself, fight to advantage against the combined forces of an all powerful Germany and an aggressive and war-like Japan.

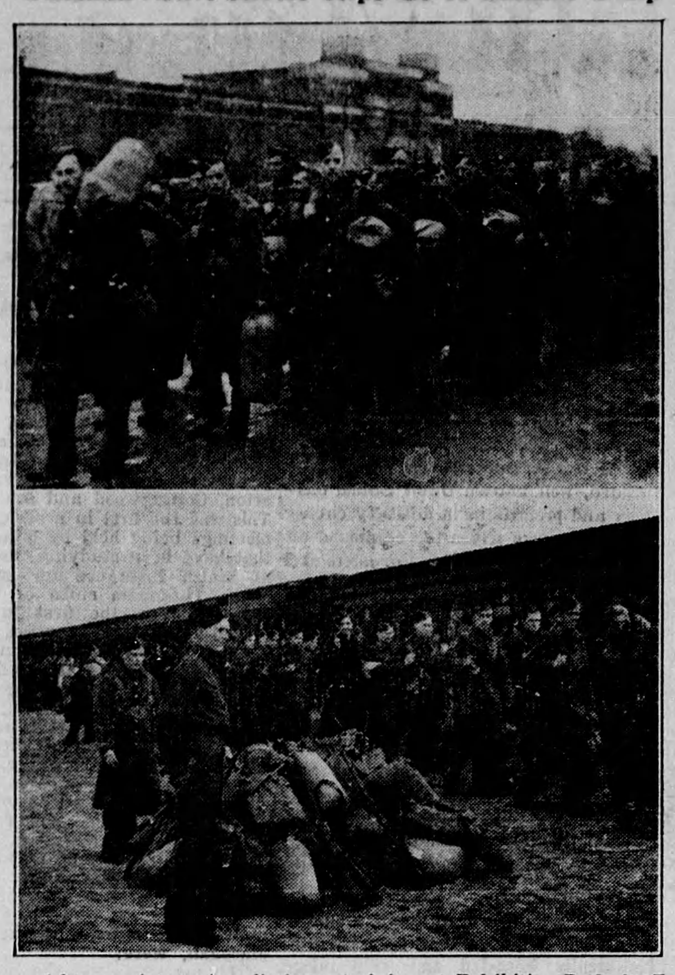
FORESIGHT IS NECESSARY

That is our position. No one can deny this disconcerting reality. We are not inaccessible, far from it!

To govern is to foresee. If ever there were a time when foresight was tragically necessary, now is that time. We shall need every ounce of our intelligence, our courage and our energy to perform acts essential to the safety of our institutions, our peace, our culture and our liberties.

MICKIE SAYS:

Canadian Active Service Corps Go To Summer Camp



After a winter of preliminary training at Exhibition Park in Toronto troops are pictured here taking their departure for summer encampments. Included in the seven thousand men who occupied several of the big buildings are many former residents of countries over-run by Hitler's hordes. The Canadian corps impatiently await the call that will bring them to grips with the Hun. The Federal government has stated that it will have no use for Exhibition Park during the summer months. The sixty-second consecutive Canadian National Exhibition will be held before the Department of National Defence takes over again in the fall.

THE WAR-WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

New Western Front Battle Is Deciding France's Fate

"On June 4 Dunkirk fell after bitter fighting. The first chapter of this campaign is ended." (Official communique of the German High Command).

On June 5 the second chapter in the war to the death between Germany and the Allies began. Evidently having decided to settle the score with France first before attempting invasion of Britain, the German army on that date launched a terrific offensive against the new Weygand line, throwing 600,000 men into the fight, supported by dive-bombers, artillery; tanks and motorized vehicles were in the background. The issues at stake were tremendous — the fate of France, of Britain, of the whole of Europe was to be decided. But Hitler was evidently gambling everything that he and Germany had in a bid for a quick-crushing victory. (Hitler had told his troops that he would rather lose 1,000,000 men in a short war than fewer in a war dragged out over many months. He had told them they would be "home by August").

Gambling All

The outcome of this super-battle nevertheless was seen last week to depend upon the entry of Italy into the war. Were Mussolini to attack from the south, France would be ground between an upper and lower millstone; should he strike also in the Mediterranean, the scope of the conflict would be increased to include possibly the whole world.

BRITAIN: In an epic speech before a hushed House of Commons, Prime Minister Churchill of Great Britain declared that Britain "will fight on, if necessary for years — if necessary alone," to final victory, despite the "colossal" defeat in Flanders in which he said the British suffered 30,000 casualties, rescued 335,000.

"We Will Fight On"

Moving words were his: "We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches and the landing grounds, in the fields, in the streets and on the hills. We shall never surrender. And even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British fleet, will carry on its struggle until, in God's good time, the New World with all its power and might sets forth to the liberation and rescue of the Old."

Although the commencement of a new battle on the Western Front removed for the time being from British hearts the fear of an imminent invasion by Germany, the people of the Old Land nevertheless remained prepared. If it came, they did not expect the invasion via the Channel ports, but from Dutch and Belgian ports, from Norwegian beach-heads, and perhaps from Eire. Experts expected landing parties to concentrate on the south-east lowlands of England — Kent, the Thames valley, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk — with diversions in the Scottish lowlands and in Wales, for the Germans' main target would doubtless be the munitions-making Midlands.

Invasion Doubted

Hope for the frightened Britons came from a voice in the U. S. Admiral Harry Yarnell, retired, expressed scepticism that Germans could invade England. Said Admiral Yarnell: "They can bomb various points and drop parachutists, but you need infantry for an invasion. And infantry can only be transported by surface ships. The British fleet will never permit that."

MEDITERRANEAN: Events in the Mediterranean basin moved fast during the week. The Allied fleet units off Alexandria were further increased . . . Egypt sped new defense measures, closed museums (the mummy of 3,000-year-old King Tutankhamen, snugly wrapped in cotton wool was removed to the basement of the Cairo Museum, to a secret, bombproof tomb) . . . the premier of Turkey warned his people that they might be compelled to "take up arms" at any moment to defend themselves against attack (Turkey, guardian of the strategic Dardanelles, is allied to Britain and France by a mutual aid pact, operating against all enemies except Soviet Russia); and the Turkish general staff finished mapping their final defense plans . . . reports had it that General Franco, of Spain, would shortly order his countrymen into the fight against the Allies; dispatches from Madrid told of growing insistence that the British relinquish their hold on Gibraltar . . .

Balkan Tension Subsides

BALKANS: The Balkan pot dropped from boiling-point to just plain hot during the week. Soviet Russia, in a southeastern peace move, withdrew troops from the Hungarian frontier and Hungary in return suspended plans to call more reserves to the army; at the same time Russia opened the way to Rumania for out-of-court settlement of the Bessarabian question (Bessarabia, a Rumanian Province, was a part of Czarist Russia seized by Rumania in 1918). A Soviet announcement in London helped further to dissipate the Balkan tension — that Russia views her interests in the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean as parallel with those of the Allies. (Russian sources also hinted that in particular view of Italian pressure there was at least a good possibility of diplomatic co-operation between the Kremlin and the Allies in the Near East).

FAR EAST: A Foreign Office authority, in a radio speech to his country last week told the Japanese people, and incidentally let the world know, that Japan's policy of non-involvement in the war between Germany and the Allies might soon become one of involvement "in the sense of preventing the spread of the European war to Asia," i.e., in the sense that Japan would grab the rich Netherlands East Indies; and possibly Singapore and French Indo-China if and when they became weak enough to need "protection."

"South of the Border"

UNITER STATES: A veritable war hysteria was seen sweeping the U. S. during the week, following a wave of reports of Nazi fifth column activity in South America and in Mexico . . . fears of a Nazi uprising south of the border gave rise to the belief that the United States might have a war on her own doorstep shortly, before she had a chance to jump in on the side of the Allies in Europe, or stop Italy from participating.

Following by fifteen days his original emergency request for $1,182,000,000 for expansion of the nation's armed forces, President Roosevelt submitted to Congress a supplementary program boosting defense expenditures to nearly $4,500,000,000.

This latest enlargement of the military program was necessitated, Mr. Roosevelt said, because of "almost incredible events" in the past two weeks of Europe's war — particularly as a result of the use of aviation and mechanized equipment. The one most obvious lesson taught by the conflict raging overseas, declared Mr. Roosevelt, "is the value of the factor of speed." He asked for action without delay, and got it.

Parliamentary Battles

CANADA: The war-week in Canada was featured by the attempted "blitzkrieg" on the part of the Conservative party to run Prime Minister Mackenzie King out of office. Fierce political battles were waged on the floor of the House at Ottawa as every verbal weapon permitted by parliamentary procedure was used against the King administration, accused of "complacency" in the war effort. In the midst of an uproar that had dozens of M.P.'s shouting accusations, Hon. C. G. Power, minister of national defence for air, charged Rodney Adamson (Con., West York) across the floor of the Commons with "sabotage of Canada's war effort." Mr. Power at white heat declared Rt. Hon. Ernest Lapointe, minister of justice, should "intern that fifth column over there."

Prime Minister King made an official statement to the House, after the atmosphere had calmed down, on Canada's part in the struggle abroad. Steps had been taken, he said, to place Canadian military, naval and air forces at the complete disposal of the British Government. Twice, he declared, the First Canadian Division overseas had been ready to embark for service on the Continent, but had been recalled by the Allied general staff. He announced that a contingent of Canadian troops had taken over garrison duties in the West Indies; that destroyers of the Canadian Navy were operating in United Kingdom waters in co-operation with the Royal Navy; that a fighter squadron of the R.C.A.F. was ready for overseas.

Heard during the week: that thousands of European refugee children were coming to make their homes in Canada; that the British Government might ship Nazi prisoners of war over here to be interned; that the possibility of evacuating British children to Canada and Australia was under urgent consideration by the British government; that an agreement with the U. S. was shortly to be reached regarding the St. Lawrence seaway (whether the project could be proceeded with during the war had not been decided).

INDIANAPOLIS RACE Again WON ON Firestone FOR THE 21ST CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Into the gruelling 500 miles, over a rough, hot, brick track at the Indianapolis Speedway, are packed all the strains and wear of 50,000 miles of ordinary driving. Tires have to withstand quarter-ton blows, not only once but *hundreds of times* per minute!

With this proof there can no longer be any question of which tire is *safest*. One tire—*and only one*—has the exclusive safety features to withstand punishment of this kind—Firestone—the tire that has been on the winning cars at Indianapolis *for 21 consecutive years!* Have the nearest Firestone Dealer put Firestone Champion tires on your car now. Specify Firestone when buying your new car.

When Life Depends on Safety—it's Always Firestone

Canada's Apathy Towards Poetry

J. Murray Gibbon, of Montreal, pleaded "the case of the Canadian ballad" before the Royal Society of Canada, deplored Canadian apathy towards poetry and suggested fuller appreciation could be gained if its teaching were allied with music, particularly in high schools and universities.

Mr. Gibbon, prominent author and research worker in folklore and music, suggested educational authorities in charge of schools for teachers could specify that in the teaching of English literature, the study of lyric poetry and the ballad should be coordinated with the study of the music identified with the lyrics and the ballads.

SHOULD COMBINE TWO

He said such a course might not work out in Great Britain, "but Canada is a pioneering country and is entitled to make its own precedents."

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"If I hit the next one over the fence, d'ya mind if I run from third to second to first base and then home, just to break the monotony?"

REG'LAR FELLERS—Take Your Choice — By GENE BYRNES