THE WAR-WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

Determination One of Britain's Greatest Weapons: Canada's Training Plan

GREAT BRITAIN: The German offensive against Britain became somewhat stronger last week and bombing in streets and congested areas resulted in many casualties in the south of England. Reports say that the Nazi have cleared zones across the channel along the coast of France as military operations extend some hundred miles inland. This zone of activity extends from Dunkirk to Brest, opposite Plymouth, and the southeast corner of England. In spite of heavy bombing raids Britains are prepared to deal with the enemy and anti-aircraft batteries and the R.A.F. have been in constant combat with effectiveness, downing satisfactory percentages in every encounter.

NAZI UNEASY

Britain's blunt rejection of Hitler's "peace" advances were followed by the preparation of an "eight-point peace program" by Hitler and would indicate that Nazidom is more anxious to end hostilities than it cares to admit. The best offer Hitler can make therefore, is a return to the pre-September status quo, perhaps with some concessions to the Czechs. This, though a far cry from the eight points which would leave his boundaries as they are at present, would assure Herr Hitler of continuing as Fuehrer. It is not rash to assume that he is ready, if not eager, to strike a bargain with Britain somewhere between those extremes.

However, the determination of Britains to rid Europe of the Nazi power will not tolerate such ideas.

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THE BALKANS—The German warning to King Carol of Rumania leads us to wonder whether he is or is not King. He has been playing both ends against the middle for so long that there is little left for him to attempt further. He must settle differences wih Hungary and Bulgaria before September 15th, so say the Axis Powers. Failure to meet this deadline, authoritative quarters say, may result in intervention by these powers to impose their own settlement.

Reports of the German warning were circulated as Juliu Maniu, leader of Rumania's powerful peasant party, arrived at Bucharest from his home in Transylvania to oppose any concessions to Hungary or Bulgaria. Sources close to the government had indicated that Rumania might try a compromise solution of Hungary's claims to Transylvania by offering to cede the three border cities of Satu-Mare, Oradea and Arad and arranging an exchange of populations in other districts. Maniu pointed out that Rumania's chief strength in opposing Hungarian and Bulgarian demands lay in Germany's desire to maintain peace in the Balkans.

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THE MEDITERRANEAN—The hard-handed briskness with which Hitler and Mussolini are extending their domination down the Balkan peninsula increases the threat to Britain's great interests in the Near East and makes it more than ever imperative that she should maintain her control of the Mediterranean which Italy is challenging. Bombs over England tend to obscure the fact that the Battle of Britain reaches far beyond the British shore. Gibraltar (gateway to the Atlantic), Malta and the Suez Canal are vital to the existance of the British Empire.

The British are guarding the Suez canal as zealously as they are their own home shores. Indeed, if it weren't for the necessity of maintaining such strong naval and air forces in Egypt, Gibraltar and Malta, the home defenses would be much mightier than they are now.

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CANADIAN DRAFT FOR HOME DEFENSE: The details of Canada's Home Defense Policy were outlined in the House of Commons on Monday, July 29th by the Hon. J. L. Ralston. One of the most important of our war efforts is rapidly taking shape and the present plan is to train 300,000 men for home defense yearly at the rate of about 30,000 a month Mr. Ralston explained. These men will be trained in thirty or more training centres across Canada, each of which will handle about 1,000 men each month. The 300,000 figure for a year set by Mr. Ralston is apparently predicted on doubt whether training can be carried on during the two midwinter months. "It is unlikely that married men will be called during the first year," he stated. There are to be no exemptions from service. Physically fit men, regardless of their occupation, are to report when their classes are called. The first class is to report about October 1st.

RECRUITING FOR OVERSEAS SUSPENDED: Mr. Ralston indicated that during the period when Canada was mobolizing a new army for defense, recruiting for overseas service would be stopped. "It must be remembered," he said, "that there is at the present moment no shortage of manpower in England; the real demand is for equipment."

POLICY TO CAUSE THE MINIMUM DISLOCATION TO INDUSTRY: There are difficulties in withdrawing so many men from the normal life of the community even for the comparatively short period of thirty day's training, but difficulties cannot be allowed to obscure the goal to be reached. The plan has been worked out so that it can be speeded up or slowed down as events require.

NO DISTINCTION TO BE MADE BETWEEN NEW RECRUITS AND REST OF MILITIA: It is important that from the outset of this training plan these men drafted be regarded as members of the Canadian army. As recruits they will pass directly into the militia regiments. No distinctions shall be made except than the men called under this plan will not be available for duty outside of Canada unless they volunteer for such service. As part of a mighty Canadian army which will be available to defend the county, they will share its traditions and be the custodians of its honor.

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THE AMERICAS TO PREVENT AXIS POWERS FROM CONTROL IN COLONIES

Students of history will now have another date to memorize in the future. The plan to protect territory in the Western Hemisphere now belonging to European powers, was embodied in a draft resolution last week, called "The Act of Havana" and provides that The American Republics may establish "regions of provisional administration" in any areas now held by non-American nations which are in danger of becoming the subject-matter of exchange of territories or sovereignity. Thus the 21 American Republics have prepared to back up the Monroe Doctrine with whatever force is necessary to prevent American territory ruled by European powers falling into the hands of Germany or her friends.

Its implications mean that for the first time in history the armed forces of the United States can be used to protect any part of the hemisphere without incurring any liability or charges of imperialism, since the United States Government would be acting on behalf of all other republics. Since the United States is the only Republic in this hemisphere with a navy strong enough to prevent an invasion or to prevent any power from taking over the French and Dutch possessions, the resolution was considered to nominate the United States as the hemisphere's defender.

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THE FAR EAST

CHINA: Foreign quarters close to the Chungkin government asserted a few days ago that China had rejected unconditionally recent Japanese overtures to halt hostilities and conclude an all-embracing settlement between the two nations — largely at the expense of third powers' interest in Eastern Asia. These informants said the Japanese proposals included the following:

1. Outright cession by China to Japan of five provinces, Hopei, Charhar, Shantung, Shansi and Suiyuan.

2. Recognition of Wang Ching-Wei, Japanese sponsored puppet, as president of a Chinese republic made up of the remaining provinces and also British Burma, French Indo-China and Thailand (Siam), in which China and Japan would share economic opportunities.

3. The status of Manchukuo would be left in abeyance indefinitely.

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JAPAN: In the meantime some dozen British subjects were arrested in Tokio by Japanese police and are being held in connection with Japanese military secrets. The reply to Sir Robert Craigie's protest said the arrests were "the first step" against a British espionage network covering the entire country. Authoritative sources said they understood that Craigie in protesting against the arrests had touched "on the fact" that a strong German Nazi party organization exists in Japan, "well instructed" in propaganda and political activities.

Indignation is being expressed in London and demands are being made for the re-opening of the Burma Road whereby China received many of her materials for carrying on her war against Japan.

"The most effective reprisals," suggested the Daily Express, owned by Lord Beaverbrook, Minister for Aircraft Production, "would be the arrest of fourteen Japanese citizens in Britain. A ban on trade with Japan would be even more effective and the Japanese deserve it."

Prince Bernhard Engaged In London

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, whose wife, Crown Princess Juliana, and children are at present in Canada, is pictured here shaking hands with the mayor of Falmouth during a good-will visit to that community. Prince Bernhard is actively engaged in London with representatives of the Dutch government.

Farm Notes . . .

SHOULD CHOOSE BEST FERTILIZER

The "best" fertilizer for Fall Wheat is not the same for all the soils and conditions, writes Prof. Henry G. Bell, of the O.A.C., Guelph. The most suitable fertilizer is determined from modern Rapid Soil Tests supplemented with a record of previous cropping and manuring.

All Ontario Agricultural Representatives are equipped with instruction sheets as to How To Take Soil Samples. These may be obtained either from the local Agricultural Representative, or from the Division of Soils, O.A.C., on request.

TAKE SOIL SAMPLES

Soil samples should be taken as soon as summer work will permit. These may be forwarded to O.A.C., or to any of the other testing stations. The test will show the level of phosphoric acid, potash, nitrogen and whether or not the soil is in need of lime. With the aid of brief notes as to previous cropping (which are called for on the soil sheets) soil-chemists can give highly valuable help in the matter of the choosing of the most suitable fertilizers.

Potato-Tomato Plant Discovered

U.S. Grafting Expert Gets A Single Vine to Bear Double

A single fruit tree, and a scrawny one at that, becomes a veritable orchard when Thomas Glover, of Stonington, Conn., a gardener for 30 years, gets his hands on it.

HE PERFORMS MIRACLES

Glover, who has conducted many experiments in grafting and budding, has for example, taken one tree and caused it to produce 20 different kinds of apples, as well as a quantity of Bartlett pairs.

Back in 1925 he began notching stocks of various other trees on the trunk of a Baldwin apple. Today the tree produces Baldwins, Greenings, Gravensteins, McIntosh, Golden Sweetings, Denison Reddings, Gillyflowers, Kings, Russets and no less than eleven other popoular kinds.

THEY'RE OF SAME FAMILY

The basic principle of grafting, Glover explains, is to keep the different fruits of a family together. A pear might do satisfactorily on an apple tree for a few years, while a peach or a plum is not likely to do well. In other words, fruits of seed are of one family and should be kept together, while those with stones are of another family and should not be crossed with a seed species.

Potatoes and tomatoes are of the same family and Glover has gone nature one better by having a and the acid fruit above the ground. single vine produce "spuds" below

College Is Opened For "Ghost" Town

Big Educational Achievement In Western Area South of Regina

In a derelict ghost town of the west, once a historic centre of a wealthy wheat-growing area until drought and the depression wrecked havoc, there has sprung up a college which is the envy of the educationalists from coast to coast.

The town is Wilcox, 28 miles south of Regina in Saskatchewan, and the school is Notre Dame College with a Catholic padre as its dean, but with a non-sectarion outlook.

IN DEPRESSION DISTRICT

The dean, short, twinkling-eyed Father Athol Murray, recently told the story of the founding of the college to Montreal Star reporters.

While in Regina he formed the Argonaut Boys' Club and after the Archbishop's death, decided to found the college.

It took shape in 1930. Buildings worth thousands of dollars were picked up for a mere song, and two former bank buildings were requisitioned.

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Today the school has 200 students, 75 of them being girls.

BOYS DO ROUGH WORK

The boys do all the rough work around the school, including the heavy household chores, and they have just completed a $4,000 bungalow for the Arts girls.

The boys live in bunkhouses, once used by wheat threshing gangs.

He considers sport as important as academic training, and in hockey and baseball the college has an enviable record. Last year the hockey team travelled 30,000 miles and it has already given 11 players to the National Hockey League.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

WHERE'S THAT SUGAR

In all conscience, what happened to all that sugar which was hoarded in the first week or two of last September? — (St. Catharines Standard.

SAID ENOUGH

Politicians say, columnists say, radio commentators say, experts say. No wonder Confucius quit saying. — (Brandon Sun).

FAIRS MUST CHANGE OR DIE

There is no good reason yet for cancelling a fair, but there are plenty of reasons why the small township fairs should be reorganized, rejuvenated and made to reflect the agricultural activities of their constituencies. Times have changed tremendously. The township fairs must change or die. — (Farmer's Advocate).

FARM LABOR SHORTAGE

One of the pressing problems at the present time is a shortage of farm labor throughout Ontario. According to an official of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, many hired men have enlisted in the army thus leaving their employers without adequate manpower at a very inopportune time. Farmers' sons have also deserted the farm for the army. The department is endeavoring to meet the situation by rushing school boys, registered with the department as available for farm work, to the localities most in the need of help. All along it has been contended that it takes longer to train a man for farm work than for soldiering, so that the seriousness of the situation facing the farmer should not be minized. — (Simcoe Reformer).

British Prefer Canada's Cheese

They're Crazy About Our Cheddar — Increased Production for Export Is Looked For Here

The beleaguered United Kingdom will take all the cheese Canada can supply, Government dairy officials say.

Cheese it is explained, is in its way just as valuable for fighting as guns. A man can survive on cheese for a long time. The United Kingdom wants it in quantity because of its high nutritive value, because it is comparatively easy to ship and will keep and because the British like Canadian cheddar cheese.

Production is believed to be stepping up a little in Canada, but it is still far below what it was 35 years ago. In 1940 Canada shipped 234,000,000 pounds of cheese to the United Kingdom. In contrast to this figure the whole production of the Dominion in 1939 was not more than 122,772,000 pounds.

Early in the year the dairy products board made a deal with the British food ministry to ship 1,500 long tons in May and 3,000 long tons in June, but upon representations from the ministry moved June shipments toward the 6,000-ton mark.

Wants Bridges With "Oomph"

Woman Expert Claims Spans Should Have More Beauty

It's accepted in the best engineering circles that bridge building is a job for men but:

Sarah Ruth Watson, 30, and pretty and a bridge expert with a Ph.D., is out to make some changes.

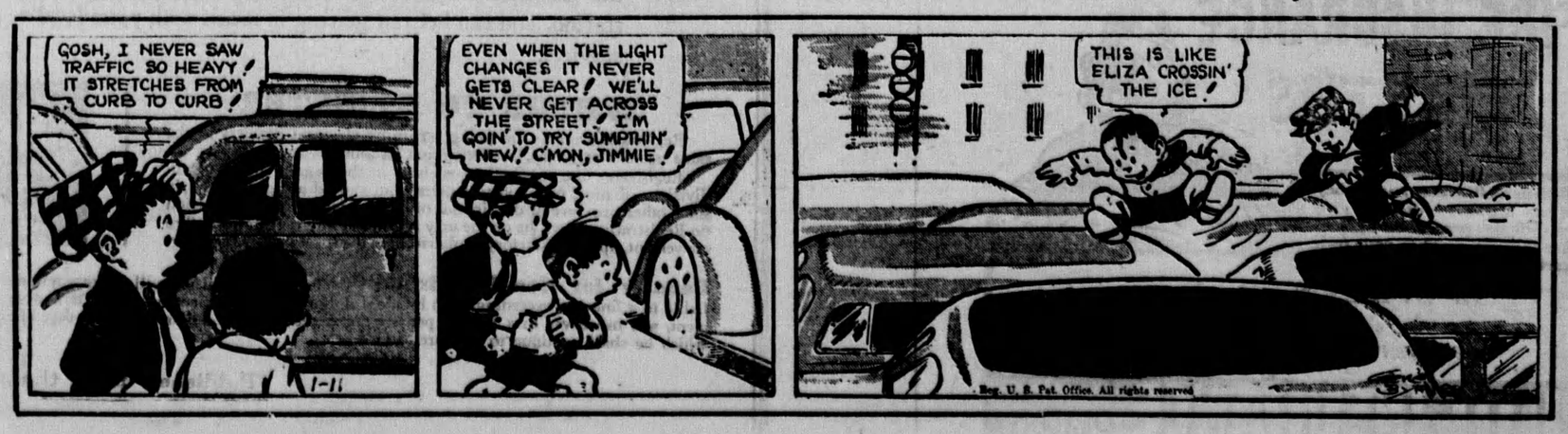
Cantilevers and trusses, suspensions and bascules — they all need more "oomph". She's confident that she can give it to them.

Dr. Watson has taken her ideas on bridges and beauty before engineering groups over the entire U. S. and is a convention speaker much in demand. A petite figure, wide blue eyes and long Alice in Wonderland bob don't make her task any harder.

In between times she does historical research at Western Reserve University and writes poetry. Next fall she will teach "the history of structural engineering" at Fenn College, the first course of its kind.

Daughter of a prominent engineer, she wants to "bring aesthetics into bridge building and makes it an integral factor; to make the big spans of the future as much a matter of beauty as of stress and of strain." Her self-appointed task is to induce engineers to give up the "standard practice of calling in the architects for adornment purposes after the plans are all drawn.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"Oh, please, I'm havin' company this afternoon!!"

REG'LAR FELLERS—Traffic Problem Solved — By GENE BYRNES