Members of Second Canadian Division Arrive In England

Hon. J. L. Ralston recently announced in the House of Commons that members of the Second Division, C.A.S.F., had arrived safely in England under the leadership of Major-General Victor Odlum, who is shown, ABOVE, receiving the cheers of his troops as he boarded the transport for the voyage to England.

THE WAR-WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

Italian Drive In Africa Aimed at Capturing Suez

Italy's long-awaited attack on the British in Africa came last week, giving the harrassed people of Britain something else to worry about besides an imminent German invasion. Should Mussolini's legions succeed in their objectives, it was realized, Italy would gain a complete semi-circle of holdings that stretch from Tripoli to the middle of Africa's east coast, a stranglehold on the Suez Canal and an open road to India. Should Germany act successfully in concert with Italy, striking through the Balkans, the Axis powers would be in a position to seize the principal sources of the British oil supplies in the Near East, cut off the communication lines of the Empire.

(The new southern war zone was seen to extend about 5,000 miles along the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, and hundreds of miles inland in the northeast and east corner of Africa. Specifically. Italy appeared to be striking at Egypt, through Libya; at British Somaliland, in a 3-pronged advance from Ethiopia; and at the vast interior regions of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Kenya, again approached from Ethiopia).

The noted British correspondent "Augur" in a wireless to the New York Times expressed the opinion that the Axis plan is to gain control of Africa, cutting that continent in two.

Starvation Tactics?

Speculation concerning the manner of Germany's move against the British Isles alternately favored rumors that feverish military activity was going on in German-held zones opposite England in preparation for armed invasion at the word "go"; and opinions expressed by such foreign sources as Count Ciano's "Il Telegrafo" which said: "The Germans' new tactic is starving the British. The German generals want to conquer London by isolating it from the nearby arteries which every morning unload in Covent Garden, in Billingsgate and on the docks tons and tons of foodstuffs that London does not produce and without which the 7,000,000 inhabitants of the city could not resist one month."

The Nazi press itself was silent on the invasion plan although official German quarters intimated that preparations were being made for the final battle, saying, "Germany will strike at the right hour and in the right place, not before."

Air Offensive

Seizing the air initiative, British bombers and fighting planes during the week wrought widespread havoc in a series of systematic attacks on more than 100 Nazi cities. Included among the objectives were the Krupp munitions plant at Essen, supply depots and airdromes in northwest Germany, the naval base at Kiel, air bases occupied by the Nazis in Holland and France. The planes bombed and machine-gunned troops, truck and armored car columns and armored trains moving up just across the English Channel.

Rumania Carved

BALKANS: After twenty-seven years of territorial controversy, Rumania and Bulgaria were seen last week to be on the verge of reaching an agreement whereby Bulgaria would get back southern Dobruja. (Dobruja went to Rumania in 1913 after Bulgaria's defeat in the second Balkan war). It was also expected that King Carol would very shortly cede a strip of western Transylvania to Hungary, who had long been clamoring for territorial revision. These settlements were obviously part of an Axis plan to establish a new order in southeastern Europe, dominated of course by Germany and Italy. But where did Turkey stand? Where did Russia come in?

The Christian Science Monitor correspondent in Istanbul reported having learned from a high Turkish diplomatic source that a tacit Turko-Russian accord had been arrived at under which Turkey agreed to shift its military concentrations westward in exchange for a Russian guarantee of inviolability of the Caucasus frontier. Such a move would effectively block any further Axis expansion eastward.

Says War Will Spread

RUSSIA: An address on Russia's foreign policy last week by Soviet Premier and Foreign Minister Molotov cleared up a number of mystifying points. After predicting that the present war would spread to include the whole world (with the U. S. on Britain's side), he told the Supreme Soviet that the "Soviet Union must enhance its vigilance in the matter of its external security, and in the matter of strengthening all its positions, both at home and abroad." Behind his exposition of policy could be seen the fear that the "imperialist" (anti-socialism) war would be turned against the Soviet Union.

Generally suspicious of Great Britain, Premier Molotov nevertheless said that London had shown a desire to improve her understanding with Moscow by the appointment of Sir Stafford Cripps as ambassador to the Soviet. With regard to Germany, relations with whom he declared had improved, he expressed the opinion that the Reich had failed in its objective — to bring the war to a close on terms which it considered desirable.

Japan's New "New Order"

FAR EAST: A Japanese foreign policy which seeks domination not merely in "East Asia", as formerly, but in "Greater East Asia" — including French Indo-China and the Dutch East Indies — was announced to the Japanese people last week Premier - Prince Fumimero Kon-Premier—Prince Fumimaro Konoye. Obviously widening the breach between the Japanese Empire and Britain and the United States, the government statement disclosed these intentions: 1, creation of a "new order for Greater East Asia" with the ultimate aim to "establish a stabilizing force for a self-sufficiency embracing not only Japan, Manchukuo and China, but also Indo-China and the East Indies;" 2, re-armament on a scale sufficient to take care of the new developments; 3, construction of a government in which every person must serve the State, with national economy planned toward strengthening national defense; 4, changes in the Japanese educational system, to emphasize service to State; 4, end of "toadyism" to other powers (Great Britain and the U.S.)—"and henceforth we will not make a vain effort to grasp the hands of those countries which cannot be turned into friends."

At the same time that Japan moved to extend further control over Indo-China, Chinese troops of the Central Government were reported to be marching toward the frontier of Indo-China. A Japanese thrust through from the Indo-China coast would directly menace the southwestern provinces of China, Chiang-Kai-Shek's main stronghold.

Two Opinions

UNITED STATES: The split in U.S. opinion over the policy to be followed toward the war in Europe was thrown into bold outline last week by two widely divergent speeches by prominent Americans, the one (General Pershing) urging immediate and strong aid for Great Britain, the other (Colonel Lindbergh) calling for an American peace effort and preparations to live with a victorious Germany.

As a representative of the first school of opinion, Senator Key Pittman of Nevada, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, underscored the suggestion that the United States trade fifty American destroyers for British battleships.

No Food for Belgium

During the week the Secretary of State called upon the people of the U. S. to prepare for sacrifices and hard services in this critical time. Though referring to the conclusions of the Havana Conference, it was believed Mr. Hull's words implied approval of the compulsory military service bill, then before the Senate.

CANADA: The biggest sensation in some months was created in the Dominion last week when Montreal's mayor Camilien Houde was whisked off to a concentration camp and interned — for urging his fellow-Canadians to disregard the law requiring all citizens to register.

The best news in some months came when the British Government agreed to buy 100,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat.

The House Adjourns

Parliament adjourned, during the week, until November 5, having passed the unemployment insurance bill and placed a new 15c processing tax on wheat (going into flour for domestic human use) . . . Before the House rose, Finance Minister Ilsley revealed that Canada's actual and anticipated financial commitments for war services in the present fiscal year, ending March 31, 1940, amount to $950,000,000.

Following a meeting in Ottawa of the supervisory board of the Commonwealth Air Training plan, it was announced that the training time for airmen would be cut in order to speed matters. Three weeks less training will be the new requirement for pilots, six weeks less for wireless operators.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

CHANGE OF LOCALE

Wild life used to be confined to the forests; now it's at the beaches.—Kitchener Record.

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LIFE OF THE PARTY

Now the life of the party is the one who can talk louder than the radio.—Brandon Sun.

—o—

TEMPERAMENTAL M.P.'s

Members complain of the draughts and sudden changes of temperature in the House of Commons at Ottawa. Can it be due to those fellows who blow hot and cold?

—Hamilton Spectator.

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PRISONERS COULD DO IT

Canada needs transcontinental motor roads. Germany has a wonderful system of wide, cement highways. Many of the German roads were made by prisoners, taken by Germany in the last war. There is a proposal to send German prisoners from Britain to Canada, for internment. A few thousand men could be kept, safely, in camps north of Lake Superior, and they could earn their keep by building a much-needed road.

—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

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ONE THING LACKING

To the farmer has come in recent years the telephone, the motor car, the radio, hydro-electric energy, the rural mail delivery and other conveniences to make his life less lonely and to remove many of his disadvantages of living in the country. Among many of the advantages that have not yet come his way except in a few communities, is protection against fire. And we wish to point out that there is no reason why this should be long delayed.

—Guelph Mercury.

Dry Edition

An American magazine prints two editions, one for people who drink beer or wine and one for teetotalers. The features are the same but readers on the dry list may have the edition with all advertisements for alcohol omitted.

Light-coloured clothing is more comfortable in hot weather because it tends to reflect the heat which dark objects absorb.

Study Of A Princess

Princess Margaret Rose, who celebrates her tenth birthday on Aug. 21, is fond of painting and is seen here engrossed in her work. Britain's rulers have declined to send their children to safety of Canada.

In Ontario, in the face of an acute farm labor shortage, a controversy raged over the Hepburn scheme to put city schoolboys to work on farms. Of course, the farmers didn't care much for the idea — the boys would be "more bother than they're worth" . . . rural school trustees generally thought the "relief situation" should be cleared up first.

The "Marseillaise" Started As A Royalist Hymn

Origin of France's Stirring Song Comes to Light

Until recently, most if not all London theatres played the "Marseillaise" at every performance, and the B. B. C. used the same stirring song to introduce its Sunday evening news bulletin. The British people began to ask questions about the French national anthem and learned without surprise (does not most of their China come from Staffordshire?) that Rouget de Lisle's celebrated composition derives, not from the south of France, but from Strasbourg.

A BATTLE SONG EMERGES

It was while the French armies were assembling on the Rhine in April, 1792, to meet the forces of Austria, says a letter to The Times, of London, that de Lisle wrote his song, which was first printed under the title of "Chant de Guerre de l'Armée du Rhin." Not until a few weeks later did a party of volunteers from Marseilles marching on their way to Paris sing the song, and give to it name and fame.

As Gulliver's Travels began as a political satire, and became an entertainment for children, the "Marseillaise" started as a Royalist hymn, and developed into the battle-song of the Republic. Today the Republic itself is undergoing strange and sad vicissitudes, from which it is the confident hope of all democrats that it will emerge as triumphantly as the "Marseillaise."

Dentists Invent New Toothbrush

A tooth brush which works like a fountain pen, its dentifrice coming through a hollow handle into the bristles, has been perfected by two South Carolina dentists.

Its object, they say, is to appeal to some of the 91,000,000 (that figure is right!) Americans who never use a toothbrush. This figure is based on estimates the American Dental Association made on manufacturers' figures.

For Better Desserts

Durham Corn Starch

Product St. Lawrence Starch Co. Ltd. D20

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"We're givin' it away to the person asking the sanest question this week."

REG'LAR FELLERS—Mom's Lucky Day — By GENE BYRNES