Presentation of Portrait

A Portrait of J. S. McLean, Esquire, President of Canada Packers, painted by Wyndham Lewis was recently presented to Mr. McLean by the employees of the firm to mark the Fortieth Anniversary of his entrance into the packing industry.

Mr. McLean was recently appointed Principal Trade Advisor of the United Kingdom Food Mission to the United States. The Food Mission is part of the British Purchasing Commission now at Washington. Mr. McLean has already assumed his duties.

THE WAR WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

CANADA, UNITED STATES COMBINE WAR PROGRAMS

"It was agreed as a general principle that in mobilizing the resources of this continent each country should provide the other with the defence articles it is best able to produce, and, above all, produce quickly, and that production programs should be co-ordinated to this end."—Joint statement issued at Hyde Park, N.Y., by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister King.

An agreement of momentous importance in the history of this continent and of vital concern to all Canadians was last week reached at Hyde Park, N.Y., by the chief executives of the United States and Canada, under the terms of which the two largest countries of the New World merged their economies, to most practical purposes, for the production of war materials for British aid and defense of the hemisphere.

Economies Merged

In brief, the agreement amounted to: 1. An undertaking by the United States to buy between $200,000,000 and $300,000,000 worth of defense and war material from Canad during the coming year, this to help out Canada's unfavorable balance; 2. A further undertaking by the United States practically to include in the Lease-lend arrangement with Britain all unfinished war material which Canada imports from the United States and re-exports or transfers to Britain, this making current payments by Canada unnecessary.

Total Union Inevitable?

Many and far-reaching would be the results of such a pact. Numerous thinking Canadians, taking the long-range view, saw in in the agreement a big step toward the ultimate union of the Dominion with the United States — Toronto's late Goldwin Smith's dream brought to fruition. Total co-operation was sure to follow economic and productive collaboration, they averred.

But of more immediate consequence would certainly be a vast shipbuilding and armaments manufacturing boom in Canada. Industrial leaders last week estimated that, with the United States now needing many things of which Canada has a surplus, an employment step-up of forty per cent might be necessary, drawing more women into industry and more western farmers off the land.

Over the Border

The foreign exchange situation which for Canada had been growing increasingly critical was taken care of by the agreement; one of the minor offshoots would be the lifting of restrictions on travel to the United States by Canadian citizens.

Joint Defence

Two days previous to the Hyde Park declaration had come the announcement from the Permanent Joint Defence Board of Canada and the United States, that strategic plans for the military and naval defence of the eastern and western coasts of Canada and the United States had been completed down to the minutest detail.

June, Peak Month

The question most commonly discussed last week by Washington officials was reported to be not whether the United States would go to war but WHEN. Preponderance of authoritative opinion seemed to be two-to-one that the United States would get into belligerent war. The time and incidents precipitating it were still uncertain. Some guessed 30 days, some 60 days, and very few placed the date any later. The month of June was coming to be thought the peak month of the war. If Britain could hold on till then, United States' weight would surely be able at that time to help turn the tide.

No Slackening

There was a certain amount of feeling in the United States last week following the Allied defeat in the Balkans that shipment of American war materials to Britain might drop off if the administration believed itself backing a losing cause. But to scotch this wave of rumor, President Roosevelt at his press conference declared that the Axis victory in the Balkans neither would win the war for Hitler and Mussolini nor result in any slackening on Lease-Lend deliveries.

* * *

Semi-Final Round

That the defeat in Greece was not decisive was the opinion held by most military experts on this continent. Major George Fielding Eliot pointed out that the setbacks in the eastern Mediterrancan by no means meant that Britain was losing the war; for the Germans to win, he said, the British Isles must be conquered. Associated Press' Dewitt Mackenzie pointed out once again that the Battle of the Balkans was only a phase—important but still far from decisive—of the general conflict. Should Hitler become master of the entire Mediterranean, he postulated, he would only have copped off the semi-final round of the contest with the Battle of Britain still to be won.

Decision In Atlantic

Writing from Washington, Kirke L. Simpson, military expert also with the Associated Press, declared that it was in the Atlantic that the war would still be lost or won. And "provided British morale can endure the strain," he said, "there is nothing definite to imply that the crisis in the Atlantic will come this year." Of the same mind apparently was Prime Minister Churchill when he said last week that Britain was in for an "undoubtedly long and formidable war."

But no one really could prophesy with truth what would happen before the end of 1941. Russia and Germany might go to war and the entire world picture would be changed.

* * *

Six-Nation Pact?

Things appeared to be shaping up according to a new pattern in the Far East last week, if the sensational reports of the Osaka (Japan) Mainichi were to be credited with any degree of correctness. This newspaper stated that a military and naval pact had been concluded between six nations—United States, Britain, China, British India, Australia and the Netherlands East Indies—which pooled their entire military and material resources in the Far East for the purpose of strengthening their defenses and opposing Japan's southward advance, while protecting the communication lines linking South Africa, British India, Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila, Australia and the United States.

Under this pact, which this column believes to be largely authentic, Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, Commander-in-chief of the British Forces in the Far East, is supposed to assume the supreme command of the combined land and air forces, while Admiral Thomas Hart, Commander-in-Chief of the American Asiatic Fleet, is supposed to assume supreme command of the combined naval forces, the headquarters of both being in Singapore.

Russia and Germany

The same paper reported another sensational, if true, development. According to it, Russia was demanding the right to ocupy the northern Provinces of Iran (Persia) in order to protect the Baku oil fields, as well as to obtain a possible outlet on the Persian Gulf in the event of a German drive to the Dardanelles, and that to back up these demands Russia was concentrating troops around Tiflis.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"It all started when they tossed the coin for goals!"

VOICE OF THE PRESS

CAN PLANT TREES

Every farmer could plant at least 500 trees. That can be done some day after a rain when the land is not in a fit condition to work.

—Farmer's Advocate

—o—

RUNNING OUT

It is said that German generals are taking over the Italian army. Apparently either Italy is running out of generals or the generals are running out of Italy.

—Galt Reporter

—o—

A DIFFERENT LAW

Down in Gananoque the police clamped down on slot machines and as a result 18 men charged with keeping slot machines, pin ball games and punch boards paid a total of $1,298.48 in fines and costs. It seems there's a different law for slot machines in each section of Ontario.

—Amherstburg Echo

—o—

THE WHEAT POLICY

The disappointment and concern that the announcement of the Federal Government's 1941 wheat policy has caused throughout the Prairie West were inevitable. But they are much more acute because of the easy optimism in regard to the situation that has been expressed in recent months by many who ought to have been fully conscious of its realities and have been impressing the painful necessity of adopting public measures in accordance with these.

—Edmonton Journal

The Book Shelf..

"UP AT THE VILLA"
By W. Somerset Maugham

This short novel of a beautiful woman's indiscretion and its effect on the lives of three men who love her presents as enthralling a situation as Somerset Maugham has ever created. It is the dramatic story of Mary Panton, a widow at thirty, who finds herself in a situation which threatens to jeopardize her future life and happiness.

The author of "The Letter" and "Of Human Bondage," Somerset Maugham is the dean of living novelists; the clarity of his style, the perfection of his form, the sublety of his thought, have made him an international figure in the world of literature. "Up at the Villa," so full of his shrewd observation of the human animal under stress, is a fine example of this brilliant writer's mastery of his craft.

The title is borrowed from a poem by Robert Browning.

"Up at the Villa" . . . by W. Somerset Maugham . . . Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, Publishers . . . $2.00.

Turkeys on Farms

Turkeys on Canadian farms to the number of 2,715,600, states the second bulletin on the December 1, 1940 live stock survey, showed an increase of 2.8 per cent on the 2,641,800 on farms at December 1, 1939. The large increase in Saskatchewan from 880,300 in 1939 to 1,013,300 in 1940, together with the increases of 1,700 in Prince Edward Island and 800 in Nova Scotia, offset the declines in numbers in the other provinces.

GAINS SEEN FOR AGRICULTURE FROM WINE IMPORT LOSSES

Replacement of foreign wares follows trade ban

Result Was Foreseen

St. Catharines, April 24—Collapse of French and Italian trade with British countries as a result of the war promises to bring some beneficial results to one branch of Canadian agriculture, with native-grown grapes finding a greater use in the production of vermouth. Supplies of Italian and French vermouth have been exhausted and already Ontario vermouth has taken their place in government stores throughout at least one province.

Long-sighted wine producers in Canada, it is stated, began the purchase of heavier quantities of the compound of herbs from which Italian and French producers made their vermouth. For years a small quantity of vermouth had been produced in Canada, with the result that considerable experience had been gained long before the need for increased quantities was felt. As a result, large stocks of the herbs had been gathered in Canada, and before the demand arose Ontario producers had begun production of extra supplies.

Vermouth is produced from sweet or dry wines, each native to Italy and France respectively. Because Canadian grape-growers, mostly in Ontario, produce grapes from which both types of wines are made, Ontario growers stand to benefit from the increased production of vermouth. Excellence of the Ontario product, it is claimed, is reflected in the readiness with which Canadian wine connoisseurs have adopted the domestic vermouth. Grape-growers also claim that this indicates the extent to which the Ontario wine industry has gone in raising the standards and improving the quality of their wares in recent years, inasmuch as purchasers of vermouth were mostly in the class of buyers who bought imported wines.

Sarah Churchill Learns Gas Mask Technique

Wing Commander Hodsoll, Inspector General of Civil Defence Services in Great Britain, shows Miss Sarah Churchill, daughter of The Prime Minister, how to don a gas mask in a demonstration of anti-gas measures. Top, the first step is to put the thumbs under the tapes of the mask. Centre, the chin is jutted forward and the mask lifted to the face with the thumbs in the tapes. Lower, the mask over the face. It is held in position by drawing the tapes back over the head.

REG'LAR FELLERS—New Style — By GENE BYRNES