Mackenzie King In Great Britain

Canadian Newspaper Comments on Prime Minister Mackenzie King and Canada's War Effort Pro and Con

"For months past there has been unending criticism that Canada's war effort was not being pushed to the fullest degree. In the earlier days of the war that criticism had some basis in actual fact, though it was unfair and unjust when applied to our war effort as a whole," says the Montreal Star.

The Ottawa Journal says: "In London Lord Beaverbrook, returned from a visit to Canada and the United States, told interviewers that Canada's production of war supplies is on a much larger scale than during the last war, and that 'probably it compares for population with any country in the world.' The Montreal Star further says that the Canadian war program is excellent; that marvellous results have been obtained; and that munitions production in almost all branches is being carried on

"That is what the Canadian people want to know; that is what they authorized the present government to do when they sent it back to office. It is encouraging to hear from so exacting a taskmaster as Lord Beaverbrook that Canada's war effort is so satisfactory.

"But he does not mean that we can now rest on our oars. He definitely says Britain will never be satisfied with the amount of material she is getting, because she needs every possible thing she can get both from Canada and the United States."

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"Lt. Gen. McNaughton, commander of the Canadian Corps," says the Ottawa Journal, "spoke to reporters 'somewhere in England,' praised the equipment being sent to Canadian troops. Everything, he said, from boots and battledress to Bren guns and carriers, had proved of the highest quality."

The Montreal Star asks, "Is it too much to hope that this declaration, from the one man who is in a better position than any other man living to speak with authority on these matters, will give the quietus once and for all to the insinuations which, though not so vocal as formerly, are still heard in some political circles, suggesting that the Canadian soldier is not adequately equipped? Even regarding the battledress, which has been the subject of considerable adverse comment here, Gen. McNaughton says it is unquestionably the best fitting, most enduring, and warmer."

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The Ottawa Journal goes on to say "Most of us have but small realization of the tremendously increased tempo of Canadian industry during the past year; know little of the vast plants that have sprung up clear across the country; of the tremendous quantities of all sorts of munitions and war supplies that are coming from new streamlined factories. How many Canadians realize, for example, that up to some months ago this country had the largest automatic gun plant in the world? Or that Canada had one of the largest chemical plants in the British Empire? How many know that we are turning out anti-aircraft gun barrels for the United States? How many have much conception of the scores of thousands of transport trucks that we h ve shipped overseas?

"This country, in its war effort, must not grow complacent. And this country, for the same reason, must never surrender its right to criticize. At the same time it is but just and decent that we be fair and give due credit to those who, compelled to begin from scratch and to work under the inevitable handicaps of democratic processes, have been providing for Canada a creditable war performance. It would be a poor—and unprofitable—sort of party warfare that would fail in such recognition."

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The Stratford Beacon-Herald says "Boos tossed at Prime Minister King by troops overseas will echo pleasantly to some Canadians, and will be heard with indifference by others. The reaction, to a large extent, will be determined by where you sit, and what you want to believe."

"It would be a mistake," says the Windsor Daily Star, "to minimize the significance of the demonstration staged at the military sports day. It would be an even worse one to conclude that serious trouble is brewing, and that our armed men are bent on trouble and are unwilling to listen to reason."

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"Taken all in all, Mr. King's trip to London should be all to the good for our war part," says the Ottawa Journal. "When he comes to Parliament in November he will have more prestige, more authority, more information. That should enable Parliament to act more decisively."

"Prime Minister King in England will see:

1. Conscription of men and women, high and low, and their consecration to the common cause of defeating the tyranny of Hitler.

2. Conscription of labor. He will not witness slow-down or sit-down strikes in the Kingdom. He will find miners working at high tempo to produce coal, and stevedores under compulsion to unload ships at any and all hours necessary.

3. Conscription of wealth to a degree in taxation which just about amounts to socialism in our day.

4. Equality of sacrifice, equality of service, the untiy of a great race of people cemented by inspired, far-sighted and aggressive leadership in Churchill.

5 A war government not confined to one party, but made up of the best men of all parties, and the best governing brains of the Kingdom.

Those are among the things which Prime Minister King will see or ought to be able to see, so that when he returns, Canada's war effort will be sanctified, reconsecrated and strengthened for the annihilation of those evil forces now shadowing the whole world."

ELSIE THE COW TRAVELS IN STATE

One of the outstanding features of the Canadian National Exhibition was the presence from New York of Borden's famous "Elsie the Cow", and, during the entire fourteen days of the Exhibition, her ladyship was collecting funds in her Victory Chest for the Evening Telegram's British War Victims' Fund.

In the picture "Elsie" is seen leaving the Canadian Pacific Express car in which she slept at night, for her special "boudoir" in the Food Products Building, accompanied by her bodyguard, friend and counsellor, Clovis Wells.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

"War Sweeps World Like Black Untethered Wind"

Two years ago this month Hitler said "I have put on my old soldier's coat, and I will not take it off until we achieve victory . . . November of 1918 shall never be repeated in the history of Germany." Even as this declaration was brought by radio to a tensely waiting world, the German legions were closing in on Poland and the second World War had begun.

Within three weeks the conquest of Poland was complete. Full of confidence after this devastating Blitzkrieg success, Hitler offered "friendship" to England, declared to the French that he had no "interests in the west" and assured Moscow that the new accord between Russia and Germany excluded "the use of force for all time."

Answer To Hitler

Britain's reply was an Anglo-French ultimatum to Berlin, demanding the withdrawal of German troops from Poland. The Royal Navy was cleared for action. France reported that "everything was ready." She was calm and secure behind the fortifications of the Maginot Line.

The little lands of Europe—the Balkans, the Low Countries, Norway, Sweden—made haste to proclaim their neutrality. Italy cautiously adhered to her policy of "non-belligerency." Russia remained aloof and Japan watched and waited. In the United States the Labor Day holiday crowds went merrily on their way while President Roosevelt anxiously considered the war bulletins and replied to the question "Can we stay out of it?" by saying "I not only sincerely hope so, but I believe we can, and every effort will be made by the Administration to do so."

That was the world of Sept. 1, 1939. On Sept. 1, 1941, the scene is vastly changed. The New York Times says, "This is a war that moves from one point of the compass to the other like a black, untethered wind. All the belligerent and non-belligerent Powers have tried to limit it, and their efforts have been defeated by the very nature of the struggle.

Hitler sought desperately to contain it within set bounds, but every dam he erected burst in process of construction and added to the force of the flood that drove him on and on.

The British tried to hold it to the seas; the Atlantic and the Mediterranean are their chosen battlefields.

Russia strove to build walls against it in the East and in the West.

By pacts with Berlin and Moscow Japan attempted to fend off attacks in two directions while she advanced in another.

Before and since the fighting started the United States has acted time and again to localize the conflict.

But the storm sweeps on with a certain inevitability. No power has yet proved strong enough to wage this battle on its own terms either of time or place. The first World War had fixed boundaries; this war jumps frontiers and oceans, not simply because it is fought in the sky or with mechanized forces, but because it is more universal. It literally shakes the central pillars and the farthest outposts of the whole world.

The fighting that flooded the plains of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, has poured across Europe, swept into Africa and Asia, until last week it engulfed the remote and dusty plateau of Iran. More than a score of nations have been involved in hostilities—almost as many as the greatest number locked in the 1914-18 struggle. Those still nominally neutral, like the United States and Japan, have an increasingly vital stake in the outcome. More than a dozen countries have lost their sovereignty to Nazi military might—and within them walks the specter of hunger, unrest and revolt. Cities have been shattered by attack from the air, prosperous countrysides laid waste. Ocean-borne ocmmerce has been disrupted by blockade and counter-blockade on the high seas. Uncounted millions of fighting men and civilians have perished or suffered injury, the slaughter reaching a crescendo in the colossal battle of Russia.

The Red Army, though beaten back and severely punished, has taken a heavy toll of the Nazi war machine, casting doubts on its reputation for invincibility. The Royal Navy and the R. A. F. have gained the upper hand in the waters of the Atlantic and in the air over Western Europe. Great formations of bombers and fighters roar over southern England just as they did in the Battle of Britain a year ago. But what an indescribable difference it makes to life in Britain that today they're British planes going toward Germany instead of Nazi planes attacking Britain.

Hitler was impelled to strike East by his inability to end the conflict on any of the existing fronts. The Nazi advance to the Black Sea is preliminary to a drive on the Caucasus. The Germans are still a long way from the oil fields and the back door to the East. At the moment they are blocked in Iran by the occupation of that country by British and Russian troops. The new ferry route from South America to Africa is the supply line for the most important of the new battlefields."

In his Labor Day broadcast President Roosevelt pledged himself and the people of his country to do everything in their power "to crush Hitler and his Nazi forces."

Prime Minister Churchill, broadcasting from England after his return from the Atlantic Conference, declared that Japan's southward expansion "has got to stop." He said that the United States was "laboring with infinite patience to arrive at a fair and amicable settlement" with Japan and added that if negotiations failed "we shall of course, range ourselves unhesitatingly at the side of the United States."

At the close of the second year of this war "the mighty conflict is not yet spent and the decision still hangs in the balance."

SCOUTING . . .

As their contribution to the local salvage campaign, Boy Scouts of Keewatin, Ont., have been concentrating on a single salvage item each month. In April they collected waste paper to the value of $32, in May rags worth $61 and in June metals that brought $67.

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During an evening aluminum salvage parade at Moncton, N.B., the Boy Scouts gathered pots and pans left by citizens at the street corners.

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Saint John N.B., Boy Scouts made a collection of 10,000 coat-hangers, at the request of Lieutenant-Colonel C. Graham, Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. War Services. The hangers will assist the troops at the various training centres of M.D. No. 7 to keep their uniforms tidy.

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The country-wide salvage campaign has produced many oddities. Undoubtedly the prize goes to an ancient hearse, which was turned over to the Boy Scouts of Ottawa. It was pulled out of retirement by a six-boy team of Scouts, and created something of a sensation as it was pulled through the streets. In demonstration of Scout ingenuity, two of its wheels are again rolling usefully, and presumably more happily, beneath a Scout salvage-collecting trek-cart.

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Canadian Boy Scouts are contributing regularly to a fund, the "B.-P. Chins Up Fund," for the benefit of Scout war sufferers in Britain. In part the money is used to maintain rest camps for Scouts who have been rendering heroic service in the bombed centres. Two of the biggest camps are located in North Wales and Oxfordshire. One Scout, who had been awarded the Silver Cross for Gallantry in fire-fighting during the London raids, wrote from the camp in the Welsh mountains telling of his enjoyment of sun-bathing in the long grass, swimming twice a day in the pool, boating, hiking over the heather covered slopes and wooded valleys, meals under the shade of a tree and sleeping under the stars in absolute peace and quiet.

The greatest luxury of the camp was the thought that he could sleep undisturbed throughout each night — not to be awakened with the whisper, "It's your turn for fire-watch," or "Come on, there goes 'Moaning Minnie'." And how good it was to see people walking about without tin hats!

VOICE OF THE PRESS

SIX-MONTHS WAR

An amazing number of people have been going about Ottawa in recent days saying that the war is going to be "over in six months." Why these people think and say such a thing we don't know. We think it is precisely the thing Hitler and Goebbels would like us to say and think. It fits in exactly with their hope that we will slacken our efforts.

Talk about the war ending in six months is nonsense; dangerous nonsense. This war may end in six months; but nobody knows that, nor has information enabling him to say that. It might be said just as reasonably that it will go on for six years.

It would be better to argue six years than six months; the first would not be so dangerous. So we had better stop talk that is little more than wishful thinking when it isn't a species of superstition. Superstition and wishful thinking aren't good war weapons.

—Ottawa Journal.

—V—

WHO'S CRAZY NOW?

Fashion is a funny thing.

In the days of peace, when silk stockings were readily obtainable, there were a myriad shades but the most popular were those known as flesh tints. The idea, mere men were told, was to obtain a stocking the color of flesh so that nobody would know milady was wearing a stocking.

Today we are at war. Silk stockings threaten to become scarce. Driven by a patriotic desire to save silk, some young ladies are reported to be painting their legs to give the impression they are wearing stockings.

The idea, we suppose, is that the flesh must be painted to look like a stocking that looks like flesh.

Ladies must pardon the gentlemen if this raises a few chuckles from the male sex.

Owen Sound Sun-Times.

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THIS SABOT-AGE

A long time now have many of us been speculating about the derivation of that overworked word of today, "sabotage." The answer is simply that it is Dutch for tossing a monkey wrench into the machinery. Not literally, of course, but producing the same result. Here's the story. A worker in a Dutch windmill is one day supposed to have become peeved at something his boss did or did not do. The hot-headed Hollander yanked off one of his wooden shoes and tossed it spitefully into the works. And everyone knows that a wooden shoe is a sabot. Hence today's favorite, sabotage. Doubtless the Nazi overlords will have reason to remember that their subject Hollanders invented the business.

—Galt Reporter.

GRACE AT MEALS

The hop-kip-and-jump tempo of our life today is probably the prime cause of the growing neglect of grace at meals. The taking of food has degenerated into a rush job in which even rudimentary conversation has been displaced by speed. Grace has been dropped as a time-taking episode which is all right if you happen to think of it and have more minutes to spare than usual.

Actually the need for a rush at meals is largely imaginary and grows out of the acceleration in things generally. There are few people who cannot afford the time for grace, and these are days when a little additional thought of the Deity would be good for men's minds. —Niagara Falls Review.

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FIGHTING WITH EVERYTHING

Englishmen are leading the way in patriotic endeavor in these strenuous war days. Listen to the word of Lord Dulverton of Bristol —"Every single penny I have to invest, I have lent to the government . . . and I have bought only one new suit of clothes since the war broke out." Englishmen are fighting with their money as well as their minds and bodies.

—Chatham News.

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ABOUT WHISKERS

. . . And is Churchill less wise because he is clean shaven? Besides, he would probably burn his whiskers with his cigar.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

—V—

ODD BIRD

A lark is something that if you go out on you can't get up with.

—Ottawa Citizen.

Eat Sweet Corn The English Way

London, England, newspapers have discovered that an intrepid British farmer is growing 1½ acres of sweet corn, which will go on sale for cob eating at 15 cents per ear, and one writer undertook to explain it this way:

"Corn is a favorite food in North America where it is grown largely in the Southern States. It is also regarded as a great delicacy by Anglo-Indians throughout the East.

"The cob is boiled for 15 minutes and served like a potato in its jacket. The leaves are removed, butter or margarine is spread over the corn and it is sprinkled with pepper and salt.

"Then, holding it at the ends, you nibble the corn like a rabbit."

Welsh Amazons For Shipyards

The government decision to close the tinplate mills in South Wales will transfer to war work the most remarkable mill girls in Britain, the 2,800 "Welsh Amazons;" any one of them can easily pick up a hundredweight of steel sheets. The girls probably will go to work in shipyards.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"Why . . . . I didn't know you could cook! ! !"

REG'LAR FELLERS—Doggone Subtle — By GENE BYRNES