VOICE OF THE PRESS

REAL SHORTAGE

There's a bad situation a-brewin' in this province, mates.

It's about the women.

There's not enough of them.

Some fellows who've had the same one around the house for 40 years or so might dispute the statement—some might even say there are too many, or does she just sound that way?—but the fact of the matter is there's a shortage.

And for a province that has just made the Tiger Lily its emblem that's a bad situation. Too bad word didn't get around before, and considering the subject and all it's funny it didn't, and then they could have picked on Bachelor Buttons or maybe the Stag for an emblem.

But the situation is there, or rather here—it's in Alberta and Manitoba, too—and it's very real. Now don't go asking where they are, girls, but files of the national registration offices show there are 50,000 more men than women in Saskatchewan.

No ages were given but they must be over 16 but apparently not the marrying kind.

It's the same all over the west. Manitoba has a surplus of 11,000 men; Alberta, 47,000; British Columbia, 32,000 men.

It's pretty frigid up in the Yukon, too. In the land where men are men and so on and they write poetry about it, there are three males to every female.

But what do you find down east? For one thing you'd find more women which should prove the old saying about "go west, young man, go west."

As a matter of fact you would find the east literally overrun with women, no doubt some of them nice looking and looking nicely for husbands. Quebec has 20,000 more women than men; Ontario has 21,000 more women and Nova Scotia has 5,000 more which is an awful lot of apples of somebody's eyes.

So why not get together on this thing?

Why not invite the women of the east to look over the men of the west? It would look like a bargain for everybody, what with enough extra men in the west to marry off all the spinsters east of the Great Lakes and yet give them a three-to-one choice.

We could bring them out by the trainload. We could get out our 10-gallon hats, the band where they have a leopard skin and have a rousing reception.

Just picture a train coming out from Ontario loaded down with a conductor, a couple of brakemen and 20,000 women.

—Regina Leader Post.

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ONE SHIRT A YEAR

—v—

A letter in The Manchester Guardian makes you realize suddenly how little the war has affected us here in Canada. In his letter a Mr. F. S. Statham argues that a Britisher needs only one new shirt a year, a suit can be worn for several years and underclothing for three years at least. "Clothes," says he, "should be used only to avoid arrest for indecent exposure and to keep warm. It should be the aim of everybody to finish up a year with as many unused clothes coupons as possible."

Here we have no rationing of clothes and we have plenty of food as well. As a people we are better dressed and fed and better off in every way, on the average, than ever before. As a people, apart from those actively engaged in it, we have hardly felt the war at all. To speak of our taxes, war loans and slight inconveniences as sacrifices, after the misery of Europe and the suffering of Britain, is almost indecent. So far, we don't know what sacrifice is in Canada.

—Vancouver Sun.

—v—

RECKLESS PEDESTRIANS

Columbus, Ohio, has taken the drastic step of arresting pedestrians who violate traffic laws, on charges of recklessness. Perhaps there is no foundation in our laws for such action, but it might well be considered.

Drivers who operate their cars recklessly are subject to prosecution. Why should pedestrians not be subject to the same restrictions? A few prosecutions might have an extremely salutary effect on people who walk about the streets in such a manner as to encourage accidents.

Windsor Daily Star.

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FOREST NEEDS

If we had started about 40 years ago planting trees to replace some of those taken out by our pioneer ancestors — well, conditions in southwestern Ontario would be far better today than they are. There would not be for one thing, anything like the wind damage because the wind would not get much of a chance; the trees would be there to break its force. Wire gangs would not have to turn out; roofs would stay in place; fruit-growers would be able to market their apples instead of having to make cider of some and feed the rest to hogs.

—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

TELL IT TO THE MARINES

Buddy, 6-weeks-old English bulldog, tries to look tough enough under steel helmet to merit his position as mascot of U.S. Marine recruiting station in Cleveland, O.

IN A FEW WORDS

The sharpest aud truest comment on the Japanese proposal of negotiations has been supplied by the most sedate of English weeklies—the Economist. It says the Japanese proposition is in fact in these terms: "What will you give us if we don't give you another kick in the pants?" This embodies precisely the mood in which these overtures have been made.

—Winnipeg Free Press.

—v—

UNDERSTANDABLE

William Knudsen, former head of General Motors, said the other day: "Billions of dollars don't mean much to me, I don't understand those kind of figures. The thing I understand is two hands working a little longer."

—St. Catharines Standard.

—v—

ONE GOOD THING LEFT

There's one thing you can still buy on the instalment plan—war savings certificates. And the beauty of the certificates is that the money you pay for them now all comes back to you on the instalment plan—and with interest.

St. Thomas Times-Journal.

—v—

BEST WHEN UNSEEN

The finest feeling we know is finding a $10 bill in an old suit says the Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph. The jubilation is much greater if the wife hasn't seen you make the discovery.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

—v—

HE KNOWS WHY

Three months ago Hitler boasted he would conquer Russia in six weeks or know the reason why. Now he knows the reason why.

—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

BOTH IMPORTANT

Do your Christmas shopping early for the boys overseas. Likewise your Christmas shipping.

—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Shock of Sting Kills Bee-Keeper

Following the tragedy of their mother's quick death from poisoning caused by bee stings, the twin daughters and son of army Captain Harod Watterson of Chingford, England, have been protected from harm by the removal of two hives. Mrs. Watterson had kept in her garden as a hobby.

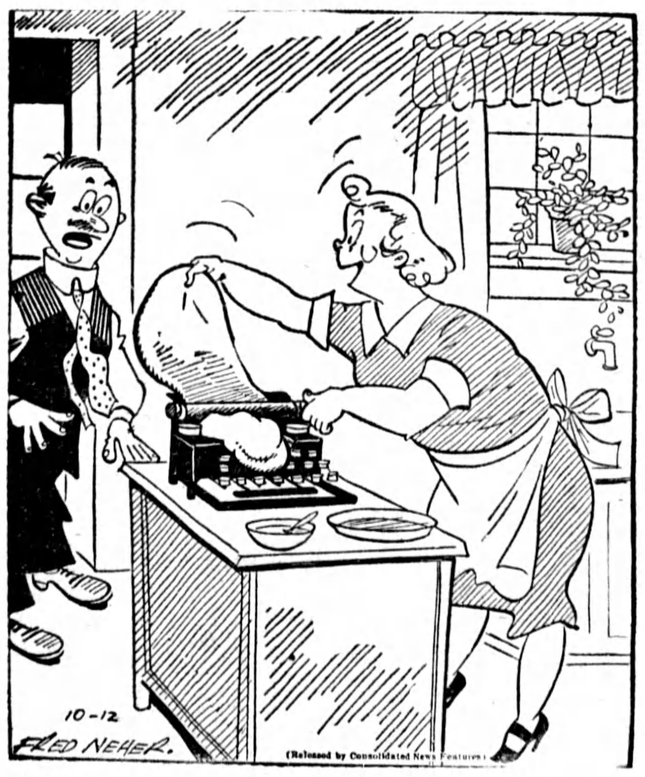
Mrs. Watterson was stung as she lifted the top of a hive and died within a few minutes. The captain said at the inquest that his wife was perfectly healthy. She wore protective clothing when tending the hives but had neglected to tie the laces which protected her legs. She was stung four times.

It was explained to him by Dr. C. K. Simpson, pathologist, that Mrs. Watterson was hypersensitive to protein produced in the poison of the bee or the pollen which it carried and succumbed to a violent respiratory attack due to shock.

This allergic condition is hereditary, he was further informed, and he was warned that his twin daughters might be subject to the same reaction as their mother.

Brazil shipped 1,573,500 pounds of beeswax to the United States in 1940.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher



"I mislaid my rolling pin an' I had to roll out this dough. . . . . You know the Johnsons would be disappointed if I didn't have a pie for them."

Empire's Banks Stand War Strain

The manner in which the banking structure of the British Empire has stood up, without any apparent strain, to the demands occasioned by the war, is a matter of considerable gratification. In a recent issue The London Times refers to this, and notes that basically the reactions of war on overseas Empire banks have been similar to those in Britain, which was to be expected, as the Governments of the overseas Dominions and India have a common objective, namely, contributing to the task of winning the war.

The efforts they put forth vary only in accordance with the type of territory. Greatly enlarged expenditures on account of the war are resulting in expanded note circulation, rising bank deposits and increasing investments in Government securities. Growing resources have on the whole enabled the Empire institutions to maintain earnings and dividends in the face of substantial additions to tax burdens and a tendency for loans or advances to lag behind increased resources.

As the Times points out, interest rates have, if anything, tended downwards, and when they reach low levels the margin of profit between deposit and loan rates tends to fall. "Since the last war," the Times notes, "the Empire banking front has been rendered the stronger by completion of the chain of central reserve banks in the Dominions and in India. The existence of these overseas Empire reserve banks—the Bank of England took an active interest in their creation, and in some instances gave direct assistance by the loan of experienced officials—has helped to draw closer the financial links between the various overseas Empire countries and between them and Great Britain, and this has proved of great benefit in ensuring close financial co-operation between the various parts of the Empire in the present struggle. The character of the war, especially since the collapse of France, makes the unity of the Empire's financial effort more essential than in 1914-18."

Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

G. C. Toner
(Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters)
No. 62
THE FISH DUCKS

The final group of ducks would not be included by a hunter for they are mergansers or fish ducks. There are three species; the hooded merganser, the American merganser and the red-breasted merganser. All three are found in Ontario in fall and spring and a few birds of each species remain to breed near the lower Great Lakes. Northward they are more abundant and a common sight in summer on the lakes of the Pre-Cambrian shield is a mother merganser with her brood of flightless young following her on the water.

The mergansers are often known as sawbills for they lack the broad flattened bills so characteristic of other ducks; their mandibles are slender and narrow, equipped with toothed edges that aid them in catching fish. It is this habit that makes them obnoxious to the sportsmen for they not only take fish but they are worthless as a table bird. Their flavour vouches for the food they eat.

How much effect they have on the game fish is doubtful. I have examined stomachs of these birds and found fish, but they were only darters and minnows of very slight economic value. It might be as well for our hunters to remember that many people like to watch birds and that such people have rights that cannot be ignored. They do not shoot or fish, in fact, are willing to give their share of the fish to the birds. Bird watchers are increasing in numbers all the time and may be strong enough before long to have their say when game laws are being made. It might pay the hunters to remember this.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Slowly, Perhaps, But Inexorably United States Moves Toward War

President Roosevelt has acted. "These are deeds, not words," says an English newspaper. "He challenges our enemy. His nation does not yet finally defy Nazi ambition to conquer the earth. It has defied her ambition to rule oceans. If not all America, at least the American navy, is ready for war. It is at grips with Nazi Germany on the Atlantic now and its zone of operation may be extended to these shores."

In a Navy Day address the chief executive declared that the "shooting war has started—America has been attacked." He cited the loss of American merchantmen and the torpedo attacks on the United Kearny.

"We have wished to avoid shooting," he said. "But the shooting has started. And history has recorded who fired the first shot. In the long run, however, all that will matter is who fired the last shot."

Mr. Roosevelt referred in ironic tones to Hitler's frequent prostestations "that his plans for conquest do not extend across the Atlantic Ocean."

Latin-American Plan

"But," he commented, "his submarines and raiders prove otherwise. And so does the entire design of his world order.

"For example, I have in my possession a secret map made in Germany by Hitler's government—by the planners of the new world order. It is a map of South America and a part of Central America, as Hitler proposes to reorganize it.

"Today in this area there are fourteen separate countries. But the geographical experts in Berlin, however, have ruthlessly obliterated all existing boundary lines. They have divided South America into five vassal states, bringing the whole continent under their domination.

"And they have also so arranged it that the territory of one of these new puppet states includes the republic of Panama and our great lifeline, the Panama Canal.

Religious Plan

The president then turned to the subject of religion.

"Your government has in its possession another document made in Germany by Hitler's government. It is a detailed plan which, for obvious reasons, the Nazis did not and do not wish to publicize just yet, but which they are ready to impose a little later on a dominated world—if Hitler wins.

"It is a plan to abolish all existing religions—Catholic, Protestant, Mohammedan, Hindu, Buddhist and Jewish alike. The property of all churches will be seized by the Reich and its puppets. The cross and all other symbols of religion are to be forbidden. The clergy are to be forever liquidated—silenced under penalty of the concentration camp.

"In place of the churches of our civilization, there is to be set up an international Nazi church—a church which will be served by the orators sent out by the Nazi government. In the place of the Bible, the words of Mein Kampf will be imposed and enforced as Holy writ. And in place of the cross of Christ will be put two symbols—the swastika and the naked sword."

Russia's Gallant Stand

Mr. Roosevelt paid tribute to Russian gallantry in battle and said emphatically that anything the Russians do to help defeat the Nazis is something done to help all those countries, the United States included, who are bent on defeating Hitler.

"The Russians," he said, "are fighting for their own soil and their own homes. Russia needs all kinds of help—planes, tanks, guns, medical supplies and other aids—toward the successful defence against the invaders. From the United States and from Britain, she is getting great quantities of those essential supplies. But the needs of her huge army will continue—and our help and British help will have to continue!

"Upon our American production falls the colossal task of equipping our armed forces and helping to supply the British, the Russians and the Chinese. In the performance of that task we dare not fail. And we will not fail."

Challenges C.I.O.

The president realizes the vital need for swiftly increasing the output of American factories and shipyards in order that American aid may be carried across the seas to the fighting fronts in ever increasing quantity and speed. In this connection he made the most important declaration of the evening:

"Our output must be multiplied. It cannot be hampered by the selfish obstruction of a small but dangerous minority of labor leaders who are a menace to the true cause of labor itself, as well as to the nation as a whole.

"Our national will must speak from every assembly line." Then he interpolated the words, "Yes, from every coal mine."

The challenge of course is clear. It is a challenge to John L. Lewis, the C.I.O. dictator, and it came just a few hours after the president had demanded for the third time that Lewis call off the strike in the coal mines owned by the steel companies, the sole issue of which is the demand for a union shop. In his message to Mr. Lewis, Mr. Roosevelt said: "Whatever may be the issues between you and Mr. Taylor or you and Mr. Morgan, the larger question of adequate fuel supply is of greater interest and import to the national welfare. There is every reason for the continuance of negotiations. There is no reason for stoppage of work. It is, therefore, essential that the mining of coal should go on without interruption."

Millions of people on this continent, from the Panama Canal to Hudson Bay, will agree that there is no more disgraceful or humiliating episode in American history than Lewis' action in closing the coal mines in this time of world-emergency.

The immediate task of the people of the United States is to deliver into the hands of "their friends" the goods that they are producing for the defence of demcoracy. The president said "it can never be doubted that the goods will be delivered by this nation, whose Navy believes in the tradition of "Damn the torpedoes; full steam ahead!"

"Every consideration of American self-interest," says the New York Times, "every regard for the safety of this hemisphere, every hope of keeping the destruction of war on the other side of the ocean, prompts us to throw our full strength now into the defense of the Atlantic. We welcome the president's endorsement of the broader Senate version of the Neutrality Act repealer which would permit the government not merely to arm our merchant ships but to use those ships where they are needed most. The restrictions which we recklessly imposed upon our own freedom of action are worth a thousand submarines to Hitler. It is time to put an end to the lie and the mockery of American 'neutrality' and free our ships for service in the great cause for which the whole strength of the United States is being mobilized."

Elephant Performs Jail-Breaking Feat

At the Dublin Zoo during a German air raid, a bomb fell near the Gardens. "Sara," the cow elephant, gave a remarkable display of animal instinct and incidentally performed a rare, jail-breaking feat by opening four iron padlocks and unbolting three gates enroute to her conception of safety.

The inner gate of her stall had two padlocks which "Sara" continued to shake with the little "finger" on top of her trunk until they opened.

She then removed them and with the same "finger" pulled back the two bolts—one underneath and one on top. She dealt similarly with the lock on the second gate, unscrewed a shackle in the other gate, crossed a fence without damaging it, and moved down to the edge of the lake whee she lay down among the bulrushes, which she possibly regarded as the best available imitation of the jungle thicket.

REG'LAR FELLERS—Expert Advice — By GENE BYRNES