VOICE OF THE PRESS

WHY YOUNG MEN ARE UNFIT

Fifty per cent. of United States young men offering to enlist were found upon medical examination to be physically unfit for military service, so says Gene Tunney, one-time heavyweight champion. The reason, he gives, is the refusal to take the exercise necessary to the development of muscle. Young men prefer the automobile to walking; if they seek recreation, they go to a picture show, listen to the radio, or at best, play badminton. Isn't it true to a certain extent in Canada.

—Brampton Conservator

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DE GAULLE'S FORCES

General de Gaulle's forces of Free France now include an army of 100,000 men, a fleet of forty warships and 105 merchant ships and tankers. Numbered among his army are 2,000 trained aviators. Despite Petain and Darlan, de Gaulle and his men are preventing the emblem of France from being trailed in the dust.

—Hamilton Spectator

—o—

CAN'T BE BLAMED

People in County Kerry, Eire, mistook a Nazi sergeant for a general, when a plane made a forced landing there. They could hardly be blamed, of course, seeing that the German people themselves are mistaking a corporal for a commander-in-chief of all the Reich's forces.

—Stratford Beacon-Herald

—o—

WHEAT NEEDED BY EIRE

Faced with a blockade of sorts, Eire stepped up wheat production to an estimated 300,000 tons. This leaves 80,000 tons to be imported.

Now, if Eire would let us use the naval bases, it would be easier to make sure that grain got to Eire.

—o—

DIDN'T EXPLODE

The heaviest German bomb dropped on London, which evidently did not explode, measured 18 feet three inches in length, two feet three inches in diameter, and weighed two tons. Why not fix it up for remailing and drop it over the dead-letter office in Berlin?

—Hamilton Spectator

—o—

INFANT PRODIGY

A professor in the University of California contends that Mother Goose rhymes can be traced back 2,000 years. Oh, Doc, how could she have written all those jingles 'way back in 58 B.C. when she was a mere slip of a gosling?

—Ottawa Citizen

—o—

STRAWBERRY JUICE KILLS TYPHUS

The deadly typhus germ can exist for only a few hours in fresh strawberry juice.

But, let the Nazis try to find fresh strawberries in Russia in January.

French Possessions Of Strategic Value

Allied interest in France's colonial possessions in the Western Hemisphere is due to the strategic importance of the group, rather than their value as a source of vital raw material, as is the case in Dutch Guiana, recently occupied by a United States force.

Except for their vast production of sugar and rum — there are 286 distilleries in Martinique and Guadeloupe alone — the ten islands and one piece of mainland that make up Vichy's remaining colonies in the West are comparatively poor and overcrowded. But they occupy locations that scarcely can be ignored.

Martinique and Gaudeloupe and five smaller islands lie along a great curving chain of islands that mark the eastern gateway to the Caribbean Sea and the approaches to the Panama Canal. St. Lucia, site of one of the United States' new leased defense bases, is almost in sight of Martinique.

French Guiana, which contains Devil's Island penal colony, is on the northeast coast of South America, adjoining Dutch Guiana, which was occupied with consent of the Netherlands Government to guard the United States supply of bauxite. Its occupation by an enemy would present an obvious menace.

To the south of Newfoundland lie the two barren islands of Miquelon and St. Pierre. Their combined area of ninety-three square miles is inhabited by fewer than 5,000 persons, who make their living chiefly from the fishing industries.

Egypt will pay a bounty to farmers who grow wheat, barley or beans on land formerly devoted to cotton.

GUARDIANS OF EAST COAST

They're chieftains of the closely co-ordinated land-sea-air forces that stand watch over America's populous Atlantic seaboard. Shown at one of their frequent conferences are Lieutenant General Hugh A. Drum (centre), famed commander of the Eastern Army Forces; Brigadier General Arnold N. Krogstad (left), commander of the First Air Force; and Rear Admiral Adlophus Andrews (right), commander of the North Atlantic Naval Coastal Frontier. They share a secret, joint headquarters somewhere in the New York metropolitan area, where they map defensive-offensive operations.

Ontario Pupils To Aid Victory Loan

Nine Thousand Schools In The Province Will Take Part In Pageant

Nine thousand public schools in the province of Ontario have been asked to participate in a historical musical pageant in the period of the forthcoming Second Canadian Victory Loan Campaign.

The Provincial Ministry of Education is interested in the project. The Minister himself, the Hon. D. McArthur, has written personal letters to secretaries of school boards and boards of education and to every school principal urging that some form of entertainment be given in each school to provide a background for campaign speakers.

The musical pageant "Cavalcade of Canada" devised by F. R. Fenwick, Mus., Bac. of the Department of Education is one of several musical plays proposed for general use during the period of the campaign. Two others—"Blue Boots" for junior grades and "Builders of Canada" a musical play for intermediate grades, both written by Mary Grannan (Just Mary) have been suggested as alternative productions.

The "Cavalcade of Canada" relates the history of Canada in music, song and dance. It begins with an opening episode illustrating in dance the manner in which early Indian settlers of Canada celebrated their festive occasions with song and dance. Episode No. 2 dramatises in the form of French Canadian folk songs the life of the early French setters, the first white settlers in Canada, before the advent of the British. The coming of the British with the arrival in Canada of the famous explorers of that day, Martin Frobisher, Henry Hudson and William Baffin is marked by an individual episode in an appropriate setting and expressed by the singing of "Come Lasses and Lads" and "The King is Still in London."

Scotsmen who have helped to make Canada great are paid tribute by the inclusion of a number dedicated to Scotland to the accompaniment of the music of "Scots Wha Hae." Irishmen who have contributed their strength and talents to the building of the country are likewise remembered —or will be — when the school children sing, in tribute to them —the words of "The Harp That Once Through Tara's Halls!" Welshmen, known the world over for their passion for good music and, incidentally, for their oratorical eloquence, will be impersonated by the youthful singing of "Men of Harlech."

Canada, it is pointed out in the foreword of the musical pageant, "Cavalcade of Canada," is composed of men and women of many racial origins. More than 5,000,000 are citizens of British stock or stock originating in the British Isles; three and a half million are derived from French stock and something over 2,000,000 from stock of other European nationalities.

Those European nationalities are therefore to be suitably represented in this pageant, as will be, of course, the United States of America.

ence to Allies or to Associated

Dutch Canadians will derive pleasure from the number dedicated to the years of expansion of their homeland as expressed in song; Belgium will be remembered by the singing or recitation of the immortal words of John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" in tribute to the 60,000 Canadians who lie buried in that ill-starred land today.

Scandinavian countries will be dramatised by the singing in appropriate stage setting and costume arrangement of Norwegian, Icelandic and Swedish national songs. Poland, the stalwart little Baltic nation that gave Joseph Conrad in literature and Chopin and Paderewski in music will receive due recognition by the singing by the pupils of appropriate Polish anthems.

Russia will be given a place in the colourful panorama in recognition of her valiant role in this war. Pupils wearing Ukrainian costumes will sing Ukrainian and Russian songs in tribute, particularly, to Ukrainia known through the ages for its contributions to music, poetry and the arts. The Doukhobors of whom it has been said that "music is their breath of life" will be included in the Russian portrayal.

Many other European nationalities — the Greeks, Czechoslovakians, Jugoslavians, Hungarians will be interpreted musically as well. The Hebrew population of Canada will be included when there is sung in tribute to their contribution to the allied cause in this and other wars the anthem "Lift Thine Eyes" by the noted Jewish composer, Felix Mendelssohn.

This is probably the first occasion in the history of this or any other province in Canada upon which a Ministry of Education has stepped into a national campaign of this kind as the Hon. D. McArthur has done. Certainly it is the first occasion in any province in Canada upon which every school child in the province—or any province—has been impressed into a useful place in a national drive of this kind. For this reason all Canada is expected to observe with interest the results of the provincial campaign in Ontario; the results from that particular angle or in that particular sphere of campaign activity.

Inclusion of the schools, school teachers and pupils alike, on such a scale as now contemplated by the campaigners is a tribute to the growing influence of the school authority and the school in the local community. It is an influence often felt but seldom adequately recognised. The forthcoming campaign should illustrate to what extent that influence is a potent factor in the lives of Canadian families.

"You Can Fight for Canada!" from the patriotic review "Pull Together Canada" has been adopted as a theme song for this province by the Provincial Public Relations Committee of the Second Victory Loan Drive.

The opening words of the song epitomise its spirit. They are:

"Ships and guns and planes we need, our country to defend—

"But we must arm the hearts of men to win out in the end!"

That song in the form of song sheets has been circularised to all of the sixty four territorial committees now hard at work—preparatory work—in Ontario. Those committees have been asked to ensure that it is in the hands of every student, every school boy and girl in the province, by the date the National Drive is scheduled to begin—on February 16. It is expected that between February 16 and March 16—the period of this year's drive through Canada—everybody will be singing it.

That song again will be employed as a prelude to addresses by competent speakers who will appear in every city, town and hamlet in Ontario, during the period of the campaign, to explain the importance of Victory Bonds for Victory; Canada's urgent need of money to win this war.

Children of London Give Their Pennies

Children of one of the most horribly bombed areas of London recently presented Bertram D. N. Cruger, London representative of the British War Relief Society, with a gift of five shillings and nine pence to be devoted to the people of the United States who have suffered from the war.

The gift was made up of pennies saved by the school children since December 7—the date of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The presentation was made at the "America Day" celebration at a settlement house in the Bermondesey area. Cruger who has allocated hundreds of thousands of dollars to British organizations in the last two years, said in thanks "This makes one feel that the work of the British War Relief Society has been worth while."

Writes In Verse His Last Bequest

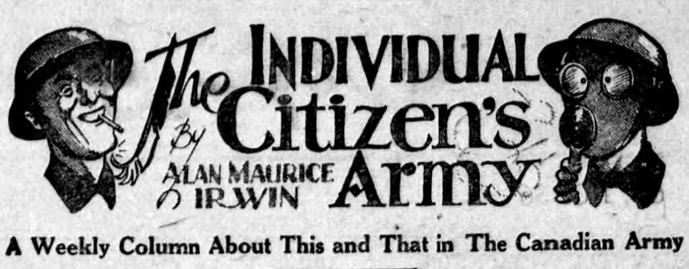
Many interesting and unusual wills have been probated in the county of Wentworth, but here is one contained in four lines of poetry.

It is that of Charles Robert Hodgson, who bequeathed his entire estate of $19,422.86 to his widow, in this fashion:

"All my earthly goods I have in store,
To my dear wife I leave for evermore
I freely give, no limit do I fix,
This is my will, she the executrix."

Mr. Hodgson was a well-known Hamilton florist who died June 19 1941. The unusual will was made on April 12, 1927.

There were no moths or butterfies during the Great Coal Age, when many other insects flourished, because the flowers upon which these nectar drinkers depend had not yet appeared.



A Weekly Column About This and That in The Canadian Army

Everyone has heard, some time or another, a public speaker mention 'the various arms and services" of the Army. What does that mean? That's what I asked. I asked the A.G., the C.G.S., the D.M.O. and I., and a dozen other high ranking officers.

Before we forget I suppose I'd better clear up those initials — some day, if the editor can spare the space, we'd better have a glossary of army terms — "A.G." is Adjutant-General; "C.G.S.", Chief of the General Staff, and "D.M.O. and I", Director of Military Operations and Intelligence. There are probably nicknames for these high appointments but at the moment I can't tell you what they are.

But to get back to "arms and services". Here are the distinctions. "Arms" are the branches of the Army that carry out the tactical plans of the commander. They include: Artillery, Engineers, Signallers, Armoured Corps and Infantry. "Services" look after the arms, support and supply them. They are: Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps, Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, Royal Canadian rAmy Medical Corps, etc.

Don't think for a minute, though, that when you refer to the Services, as supporting the arms that you are not referring to fighting soldiers. In the mechanized, all-out war of today — the war that the individual citizen's army is being so highly trained to fight — every man in uniform is a fighting man who was trained first as a fighter before he was trained for or started work at his specialty.

Every officer or man in both Arms and Services starts his soldiering by taking the regular elementary training course. A stretcher-bearer in this war is as capable of assembling a Bren gun from assorted parts in the dark as a Medical Officer is of carrying out a major operation by the light of a motorcycle headlamp.

The same is true of Ordnance, Army Service Corps — every service. No matter what uniform a soldier in your army wears he is a fighting soldier.

Here is an interesting note while we are on the subject of all-round training. The trained mechanic, a man who is found in great numbers in both "Arms" and "Services", is a qualified "first-aider", having passed, as has every combatant soldier, a St. John's Ambulance course during his elementary training.

In March, 1918, the enemy came close to breaking through and on that occasion cooks, bakers, farriers, laundrymen and a host of other necessary, but not necessarily war-like, odds and ends turned to with cleavers, picks and shovels, hammers—anything that would serve as a weapon. They acquitted themselves well, too.

The weapons seemed archaic. They were. But today, if such a situation should arise, the men would be ready for it. Today there is a course given to all soldiers in "un-armed combat". This course teaches them how to use improvised weapons such as shrapnel helmets, fists, knees, boots in a lethal manner. Imagine what a man armed with a butcher's cleaver or a tailor's goose could do with them after learning to take care of himself without any arms.

A few minutes ago I referred to a shrapnel helmet. Once we used to call them "tin hats". Now you frequently see them referred to as "battle-bowlers" — what will they think of next?

Good-Morning Mr. Shopkeeper

— Dialogue recently overheard in a London shop:

Sweet Young Lady: Have you any cigarettes, please?

Shopkeeper: No.

Sweet Young Lady: Have you any matches?

Shopkeeper: No!

Sweet Young Lady: Have you any chocolate?

Shopkeeper: No!!

Sweet Young Lady: Have you any manners?

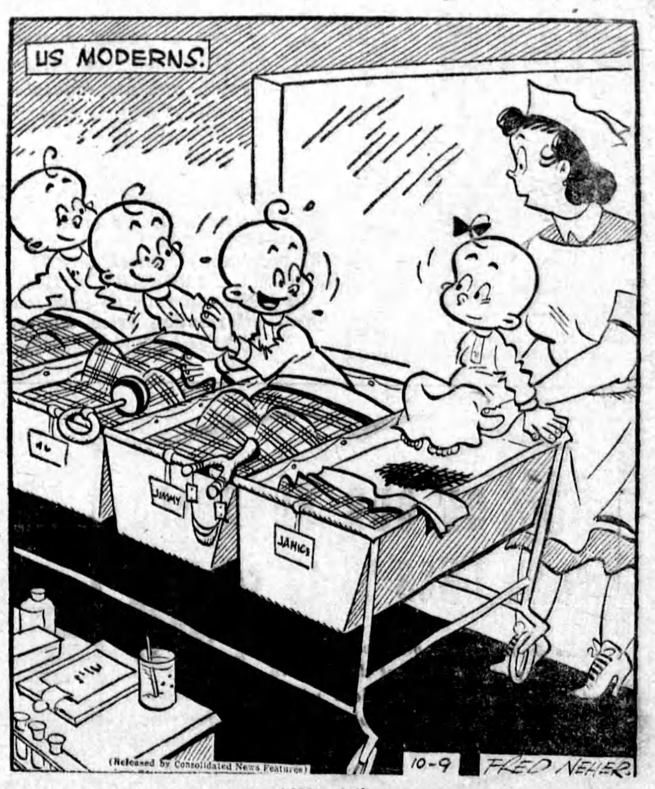
Shopkeeper: No!!! Here! What are you getting at?

Sweet Young Lady: You, Mr. Shopkeeper. Good morning!

Reform Thy World Beginning With Me

The President's informal remarks to the industry-labor conference set an admirable example of the spirit in which we must try to adjust our domestic problems during the period of the war. If each of his hearers recognizes his personal responsibility for national unity and national strength, there would be no difficulty in arriving at a prompt agreement. The President cited the prayer of a Chinese Christian: "Lord, reform thy world, beginning with me." There could be few more useful prayers for each of us to keep as a guiding rule in the present crisis.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher



"Wow! !"

REG'LAR FELLERS—The Hero — By GENE BYRNES