VOICE OF THE PRESS

VALUE OF A GARDEN

It is a little harder but a great deal more serviceable to teach the child at home and elsewhere that the world owes and will give it nothing that is not paid for in honest labor. The child who is led to cultivate a garden regularly will very likely be willing to do other helpful work when occasion demands, and at the same time will be cultivating a character full of promise for the duties of later years.

—Guelph Mercury

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'AL-CAN' HIGHWAY

Official announcement is made that the Alaska Highway, 1,600 miles from Fort St. John in British Columbia to Fairbanks in Alaska, will be through and ready for Winter use December 1. It is to be known as "Al-Can" Highway —Alaska and Canada.

—Vancouver Sun

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THE WILLKIE VERSION

"God bless you, and give 'em hell," says Mr. Wendell L. Willkie to American troops in Egypt. Which is, being interpreted, simply the colorful Willkie version of that other time-honored injunction, "Trust in God and keep your powder dry."

—Windsor Star

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BRIGHT SPOT

The Canadian Navy has lost more ships in the last few weeks than it comprised at the outset. And it still is a great fighting force. The way the navy has been built up is one of the bright spots in Canada's war effort.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal

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USE FOR JEEPS

A thought is that the jeep will make a dandy post-war baby carriage for the kind of tough baby our posterity will have to be.

—Stratford Beacon-Herald

—o—

THEN COMES HIS CHANCE

Armed with the trusty stiletto, there would still be nothing for the Duce to do until someone opened a second back.

—Winnipeg Tribune

—o—

FASHIONABLE NOW

A reader wants to know what to do with an old felt hat. The answer is: Wear it. That's what we're doing.

—Owen Sound Sun-Times

—o—

WOMEN'S RAIMENT

A Chicago lecturer contends the average woman wears better than the average man. But not so much.

—Chatham News

—o—

NO TELLING

Perhaps they will be putting an amusement tax on the few hours we hold our wages.

—Brandon Sun

110 Million Pounds Sugar From Alberta

The beet experts say, according to the Lethbridge Herald, we can look forward to something like 350,000 tons of beets this harvest, and on that basis we may expect to extract some 110,000,000 pounds of sugar besides considerable molasses. The molasses, a low grade product, will mostly go to the manufacture of alcohol for the war effort. But it is in the sugar that a rationed Canada is interested.

The sugar ration is half a pound per person per week. That means that the 800,000 people of Alberta will consume some 21,000,000 pounds in a year. Saskatchewan will require about 25,000,000 pounds. We will be able to supply these two provinces with their ration requirements, give Manitoba 10,000,000 pounds, and still have 54,000,000 pounds left to supply general requirements and to ship to the people of Ontario where we are already shipping the surplus sugar of last year's crop.

Blackout S. Shore Of St. Lawrence

A Federal Order-in-Council has been passed calling for a complete blackout of the south shore of the St. Lawrence which will go into effect at once.

The blackout will be effective from l'Isle Verte, 40 miles upriver from Rimouski, down through the entire coastline of the Gaspe peninsula bordering on the St. Lawrence, and around the Bay Chaleur shore as far as Douglastown.

The darkened area will extend inland for five miles.

The announcement said the blackout had been ordered "to guard against the possibility of bombardment by enemy submarines."

The new regulations will require a total blackout of street lights and illuminations, and will prevent interior lights from being visible from the outside. Train and automobile lights in the area will be shaded.

HERE'S HOW IT STARTED

See the ball right by the base? Yankee Red Rolfe dropped it—enabling Cardinal Sam Musial to slide into third safely on W. Cooper's single to centre. With Musial on third, and Cooper on first, the stage was set for the 4th inning, 6-run blasting that followed Kurowski's single. Cards finally won this fourth World Series game at Yankee Stadium, 9-6.

The Individual Citizen's Army

by ALAN MAURICE IRWIN

A Weekly Column About This and That in Our Canadian Army

Not very much has appeared in these columns about the Army Pay Corps which organization, of course, performs one of the most important functions in the Individual Citizen's Army; and in this case when I say individual citizen's army I mean the army of fighting Canadians of all ages who probably bear the word Canada on their shoulders.

The charge is sometimes levelled that the headquarters organizations fight "a paper war." Too little consideration is given to the inescapable documentation that must be done in order that men may be enlisted, equipped, outfitted, fed, housed, paid, transported and supplied once they are part of the army.

Too often we take it entirely for granted that a man's pay will reach him no matter on what front he serves; that his assigned pay, separation allowance and dependents' allowance will be paid regularly regardless of how often the family moves or how often he moves.

It must be remembered too, that other Individual Citizen's Army, taxpayers like you and me, are entitled to get an accounting of all the moneys that are spent for us by our government.

Today there are hundreds of thousands of Johnny Canucks in khaki each getting his $1.30 a day —or more according to their rank —and the translation of these individual sums into Battalions, Brigades, Divisions, Army Corps and Armies, calls for the operation of an accounting system that might well be expected to stagger even a civilian merchant prince.

That, very briefly, is a sketch of some of the work of the Royal Canadian Army Pay Corps. It is not by any means the full picture —there are such things for instance as advances of pay to men going on leave, deductions to be made from pay for carelessly lost or mislaid equipment, stoppages of pay occasioned by necessary punishment and the provision of monetary allowances in lieu of rations and quarters, when a soldier is detailed to a job of work which doesn't permit him to live in barracks.

None of this can be done without "a paper war" and most of it is done by men who would be much more highly paid doing the same type of work in their peacable occupations.

Amongst the list of items to be attended to by the Pay Corps, you will remember I listed "assigned pay." Every married man must, and every single man is encouraged to, assign a proportion of his pay to his wife or his next of kin. Fathers and mothers of improvident youngsters will thoroughly appreciate the wisdom of such a regulation—in fact most of them have tried to do the same thing with varying degrees of success.

Right now it would be well for all of us to practice a similar regulation upon ourselves. And right now, through the regulations of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, we are actually beginning to practice as sensible a system of economics as that imposed upon the soldiers who defend us on the far-flung frontiers of the fight for civilization.

In the lush years we cheerfully mortgaged our pay, sometimes for months and years in advance, to pamper ourselves with such luxuries as automobiles, washing machines, radios, pianos, chesterfield suites, rosewood furniture for our bedrooms and a hundred other things that in a more spartan existence we can very well do without or simplify.

Today under the consumer credit regulations such mortgaging is on a sounder economic basis, down payments must be greater, the balance which is paid by installments must be cleared more quickly—with the result that much more of the money in our pay cheques is our own.

This is just another form of the assigned pay of the soldier and is one way in which by approximating his conditions we may feel closer to him in the carrying on of our own job of war work — which is to support in every possible way the man in uniform.

A few days ago in Montreal there was an excellent example of the civilian equivalent of "pay deduction" when three firms engaged in the business of selling goods on the installment plan were convicted of violations of the consumer credit regulations of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

Each was fined sums ranging from $300 down to $100 plus the payment of costs—sums not great enough to hurt the pockets of the accused firms, but none the less a deduction of their pay which formed part of the greater punishment afforded by the publicity that was given to their violation of rules that have been established for the benefit of the whole of Canada.

As time goes on there is little doubt that the fight against inflation — both present and postwar — will put those of us who serve in the Individual Citizen's Army on the home front much closer to parity with the soldiers in battle-dress. Let's hope we can serve as cheerfully as they do, regardless of what our "pay corps" is compelled to do to us.

SCOUTING . . .

Two Boy Scouts of the 1st Headstone Troop, Middlesex, England, found a "live" hand grenade. One lad remained on guard while the other went immediately to secure a disposal squad to dispose of the dangerous weapon before anyone was harmed.

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Stopping off at Merrickville during a two-week cruise, members of the 30th Ottawa Sea Scout Troop arrived on the scene of a serious automobile accident. The boys, headed by their Scoutmaster improvised a stretcher from their oars and a groundsheet and removed the injured. They gave first aid and expertly treated and bandaged serious lacerations on the faces and arms of the occupants of the vehicles until the arrival of a doctor.

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To raise funds to invest in war bonds, Wolf Cubs of Sheffield, England went in for demestic service. They organized a group of boys to go out and scrub floors and do polishing of one kind and another. The money received was invested in bonds, which after the war will be donated to the Baden-Powell Memorial Fund for the erection of B-P House in London.

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Boy Scouts of the 8th Ilkey Troop, England hadn't enough coupons to provide themselves with Troop neckerchiefs. Not to be denied them, the boys secured an old bed sheet, dyed it, and made their neckerchiefs from it.

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A new edition of "Scouting for Boys," which since the beginning of the movement has been the handbook of the Boy Scouts, has just been published in England. It is a memorial edition in honour of the author and founder of the Scout movement, Lord Baden-Powell. It is not generally known, but next to the Bible, the handbook "Scouting for Boys" has had a larger circulation than any other book published in the present century.

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Boy Scout Apple Days which are usually held all across Canada about the middle of October have made an important contribution to solving the problem of apple marketing in Canada. Apple Days have become so numerous that many thousands of bushels of apples are required annually to fill requirements, and thus a useful market is found for a fruit which has suffered much because of export restrictions due to the war.

Britain And Turkey Make Trade Pact

BBC said last week Britain has concluded an agreement with Turkey under which it will take a large part of this year's Turkish exports, including much copper, hemp, flax, olive oil and dried fruit.

In return, Britain will deliver manufactured goods, steel and grain.

THE WAR - WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

TURN OF WAR TIDE SEEN IN END OF 80-DAY PERIOD

At the end of the 80-day period fixed by Minister of Production Capt. Oliver Lyttleton, Britons appear inclined to agree with him that the war has begun to enter a new phase, writes Mallory Brown in the Christian Science Monitor.

In a speech at Aldershot on July 18, when the Nazi drive in the Caucasus and on the Don was getting under way, Captain Lyttleton declared "At no time since the Battle of Britain have we stood in graver peril. It would be folly to deny that these 80 days in front of us are some of the gravest that we have ever faced."

In another speech at Sheffield, Sept. 16, Captain Lyttleton again referred to this 80-day period, saying, "Nineteen or 20 of these remain, and at the end of that time, the war definitely begins to enter into a new phase."

Provided emphasis is put on the word "begins," it is probably correct to say that British opinion as a whole agrees this is the case today. It is certain most military commentators and editorial writers of leading newspapers and magazines seem to support this conclusion. It is based on the following factors:

Factors In Conclusion

1. The German attack at Stalingrad is still being held. Captain Lyttleton, in predicing the war would enter a new phase at this time, said "We are approaching the breathless moment when, if Russia can hold on to her present positions for a few more weeks, the balance will begin to swing in our direction, and when the gathering forces of the greatest alliance which the world has ever seen are going to give us first evidences of victory."

2. Hitler has apparently failed to achieve any of his major military objectives fixed for this year's Russian campaign. Military consensus in London is that his time schedule is now completely upset and that even if Stalingrad eventually falls, Marshal Semyon Timoshenko's armies are still in being and Russian arms still formidable along the entire front. Furthermore, Axis losses have been enormous and are bound to have weakened the offensive strength of the German military machine, for this year at least.

3. The prevailing view here is that the Nazi offensive launched in Southern Russia this summer was an all-out attempt on the part of Hitler to reduce the Soviet armies to impotence, if not actually to destroy them. He has certainly failed in this so far.

4. Confirmation of this is seen here in three speeches by Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop, Richsfuhrer Hitler, and Reichmarshal Hermann Goring, which significantly enough coincide with the closing week of the 80-day period outlined by Captain Lyttleton. These speeches, especially Hitler's, have been generally interpreted in England as evidence that Nazi leaders now acknowledge they must henceforth abandon the offensive and take up a broad defensive strategy toward the war as a whole.

This, broadly speaking, is the reasoning that underlies most British press comments in the conclusion of Captain Lyttleton's 80-day period. In informed circles, however, certain warnings are to be heard. First is that the situation of Stalingrad itself is still serious and that it remains to be seen just how heavy a blow has been struck at Soviet military strength by the Nazi's territorial gains, which include some of Russia's richest mineral, industrial, and agricultural districts.

A second warning is that it would be unwise to overestimate the significance of speeches by Nazi leaders. Hitler has proved he is a past master at using speeches as part of a propaganda smoke screen intending to mislead opponents as to his real intentions.

Third, in well-informed military circles it is emphasized that the new phase has at the most only begun. It would be a mistake to expect to see at once any of the "first evidences of victory" referred to by Captain Lyttleton.

What can be said, in the opinion of these military observers, is that the past 80 days have witnessed the failure of Hitler's best chance to score a major strategic success in the war by carrying through this year destruction of the Soviet armies in the south and in the vast pincer movement centered on the Suez Canal.

No Longer Imminent

Eighty days ago it looked as if he had a good chance of carrying out both these aims. Today, although the potential threat to Suez still exists both from the Caucasus and in North Africa, the general feeling here is that neither of these threats is any longer imminent. It is now considered unlikely Hitler will be able to force his way through the passes in the Caucasus mountains before winter; and in Egypt there are signs the initiative is no longer in the hands of General Field Marshal Erwin Rommel.

Meanwhile, the weight of armor and munitions, particularly tanks and planes from the United States, is piling up on the side of the United Nations. Thus there are undoubtedly grounds for hoping that Russian resistance, especially at Stalingrad, in the past 80 days has won for the Allies the respite they needed in order to build up, equip, and concentrate their forces on big-scale offensive action in the future.

Whether this future is to be immediate or much more remote remains the secret of the United Nations General Staffs.

Premier Stalin's statement to the Moscow correspondent in Moscow emphasizing the importance of a second front has aroused intense interest in England but has not altered the prevailing view of military experts that the ultimate decision as to the time and place of a second front must be left with military and political chiefs, who alone have full knowledge of United Nations resources.

Beef Exports Drop Sharply

Canadian beef cattle exports to the United States have dropped sharply in recent weeks, mainly due to Government action to maintain home supplies, according to the Agriculture Department's livestock market review.

In the week ending September 10 only 63 head of beef cattle crossed the border against 4,864 in the same period last year. From July 1 to September 10 this year beef cattle exports were 21,395 head against 49,661 in 1941.

Heavy shipments across the border in the early months of the year made the 1942 total of shipments higher than in 1941, with the 1942 figure 120,466 head against 99,860.

Under preferred buying arrangements with the United States, about 200,000 Canadian beef cattle are allowed to cross the border annually, with certain numbers allocated for quarterly periods. The last quarter quota will open on October 1 and if they are available about 50,000 beef cattle may be shipped at the preferred rates.

"PLENTY OF COAL AVAILABLE"

Says G. C. Cooke, President of "Blue Coal"

In a recent broadcast, Gordon C. Cooke, president of D. L. & W. Coal Co., producers of "blue coal", said: "In this coal crisis we must share and share alike. If you don't receive all the coal you order at the one time, the reason is that your dealer is trying to put some coal in every bin and can only partially fill your order at present. So be patient. You'll get all the coal you need. There's enough coal to keep every home warm this winter."

Remember, when ordering coal, to make sure it's "blue coal" . . . the coal you can depend on for greater comfort and heating satisfaction all winter.

REG'LAR FELLERS—Correct

By GENE BYRNES