TOUGHER THAN PICKING A WINNER

English racing fans, refusing to be stopped by skimpy transportation facilities, travel to Newmarket on bicycles. They face tougher problem picking steel steeds from jumbled pile parked outside course than picking winners among blooded ones.

THE WAR · WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

German Armies Have Started Third Offensive Against Russia

A special radio communique from Moscow announces that the German armies have started a third offensive against Russia. As was the case last summer, the new assault, says The New York Times, has been launched along the winding 200-mile front from Orel, some 200 miles south of Moscow, to Belgorod, just north of Kharkov, where both sides have been concentrating troops for some time. The Moscow communique leaves no doubt that it is a major effort, into which the enemy has thrown "large forces of tanks and infantry, supported by a considerable number of planes."

1943 Strategy

Therewith, the strategy of this year of 1943 has been decided. The Allied victory in Tunisia and the mounting air bombardment appear to have delayed the Germans, and the delay may still prove vital, as in the two years past. But neither Tunisia, nor the air war, nor the necessity of providing for an Allied invasion from the west, have apparently been able to cripple Germany, and her generally defensive position has not prevented her from launchnig an eastern offensive after all. In fact, as Hanson Baldwin ponits out, she appears even to have been able to reinforce Italy to a point which gave Mussolini the courage and the brass to answer Allied invitations to surrender with the boast that his answer will be cannon fire.

German Objective?

What the real German purpose and objective in this latest offensive are remain to be seen. In the first offensive of 1941 it was Moscow; in the offensive of last year it was Stalingrad and the oil of the Caucasus. Since the failure of both these efforts, it has been suggested that any German offensive on a similar scale had become impossible, and that if the Germans did undertake another one it would be more or less a token offensive for the political effect on Germany's satellites and the world. The Red Army may well reduce it to such. But the German concentration of some 200 German, plus 20 to 40 satellite divisions and a large part of the German air strength in Russia, might well be Hitler's last desperate bid for victory.

Second Front Appeal

All this gives new point to the renewed Russian appeals for a second front on the Continent. It also provides the Allies with an opportunity. If, as the Russian communique indicates, the Germans have really engaged themselves in a major offensive in the east, they will find it difficult to switch any reinforcements from the east to the west. To the extent that our military situation permits, this is clearly the time to strike at other points. Russia may be counted upon to fight with the same courage as heretofore. But Russia alone is incapable of defeating Germany. The one strategy that will defeat Germany is the strategy she dreads —namely, a real two-front war. If that strategy can be made effective by the Allies the new German offensive will indeed be the last one.

Anniversary in China

Six years ago last week there was a skirmish between Chinese and Japanese troops at a bridge outside Peiping. It was the beginning of a war that was to devastate a large part of China, the beginning, too, of a war that was to lead directly to Pearl Harbor. When the insensate rulers of Japan set out on their mad adventure in North China they decreed war and ruin for all Eastern Asia — and, by all the portents now discernible, for Japan as well.

Four Years Alone

For more than four years China bore alone the scourge of fascist-militarist barbarity in its peculiar and vicious Japanese form. Whatever may be Japan's course in the future, it cannot for generations expunge from men's minds the memory of the most dishonorable war ever fought by a nation. That which Kurusu symbolizes for the Allies was mild compared to what has been perpetrated in China, where loot, mass slaughter, rape and the poisoning opium den have been the normal procedure and the mark of Japanese occupation. For more than four of the six years the world looked on as if it were no concern of its own, as if only two remote alien Asiatic peoples were involved. We cleaved so close to legal neutrality that we opened our arsenals of production to both sides, which meant in effect to Japan alone, for China had neither the money nor the means of transportation to benefit. While legally correct, it is now clear that politically it was folly. We armed Japan against ourselves as well as China.

China Held Out

The Chinese would not fight, the knowledgable said. The Chinese could not fight, the experts said. Japan would consolidate its victories in six months and the Chinese, congenitally divided among themselves, would accept the inevitable. Six months passed, then 12, then 24. The Chinese did not accept. Periodically there were renewed rumors of Chinese defeatism, of internal breaking up, of imminent cessation of war on terms that meant surrender. And China held out: not only held out, but bled more and more of Japan's troops and Japan's resources.

Yes, We Have No

What has New Guinea got that we haven't? Bananas. Take a look at that luscious pile toted by Rei Boga, one of the lads from down under.

OTTAWA REPORTS

That Control of Prices Has Saved Canadians $350.000,000 In Living Costs During 1942.

When the history of this war comes to be written, one of the major wonders to be recorded is the way in which the Canadian people, unaccustomed to economic controls and restrictions, buckled down to a new rationed and price-controlled economy.

Not many of us understood all the implications and objectives of it and many of us grumbled, but the fact is that in mid-1943 the free and liberty-loving people of the Dominion are marching along in self-disciplined fashion with an experiment in controlled living which Prime Minister Mackenzie Kng described at its outset as, "hitherto untried by the will and consent of any free people anywhere."

* * *

One of the most interesting discussions to date in the present session of Parliament is Finance Minister James L. Ilsley's exposition of results from the operation of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, a vast new organization set up to operate the price controls. He calculated that control of prices had saved the Canadian buying public $350,000,000 in living costs during 1942, and, should prices remain stabilized throughout 1943, an additional $850,000-000 will be saved.

In arriving at these figures the Minister based his calculations upon present prices, as held down by the various "ceilings," and as compared with the prices of commodities which prevailed throughout a corresponding period of the last war, when prices were unchecked.

* * *

Reviewing the history of price control in Canada, the Finance Minister admitted that even in the government there was no one at the outset who could be entirely confident that a general price ceiling was the right answer to threatened inflation. But the government, he said, did recognize the "terrible consequences" that inflation would have for the Canadian economy, both during and after the war, and was determined to prevent it if at all possible.

* * *

The decision, he told the Canadian people, had been justified. If there had been compromise or delay Canada would be faced with "an extremely confused and well-nigh uncontrollable situation. .. .. .. The best evidence as to what would have happened is to be found here in Canada. We have only to oberve the eagerness with which scarce goods are purchased when they appear on the store shelves; we have only to follow the action of prices of the few commodities which for various reasons it was necessary to take out from under the ceiling; we have only to watch the scramble for housing accommodation in congested areas; we have only to experience the difficulties of securing transportation by rail or bus to realize how quickly prices and rents would have soared if at the time when shortages began to be felt we had not taken steps to control virtually all prices at levels then prevailing.

HIDDEN TREASURE

Modern version of the guy who's well off. He has five tons of coal in the cellar and a sack of potatoes.

—Windsor Star.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

IN THE DAILY FIELD

The News-Journal of Mansfield, Ohio, reflects that "time was when three bushels of potatoes were exchanged for a year's subscription to the country weekly newspaper" and adds, "But right now the New York Times would probably be interested in such a proposition." What's more the Times would not be alone in that class.

—Brantford Expositor.

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BANK STAFFS SERVE

It is estimated that out of 14,-433 experienced men in the service of Canada's chartered banks, more than 5,000 have joined the armed forces. That explains why women are now so numerous in banks, and it also explains why it is not always possible for those banks to give a continuation of their pre-war type of service.

—Brockville Recorder & Times.

—o—

FOR THE ITALIANS

No matter how anxious the Italians may be to get out of the war, they can't get out of it until they get what's coming to them for getting into it!

—Ottawa Citizen.

—o—

TOO GOOD TO LAST

Wartime has made some of the summer styles so sensible they probably won't last long.

—Kitchener Record.

—o—

THOSE SCOTTISH JOKES

A Scottish woman writes to the press complaining of jokes against Scots and says the Scots are weary of them. We don't believe it. The man we know who best enjoys a joke, whether against his race or not, is a Scotsman—and there are lots more like him.

—Guelph Mercury.

NOT MUCH OF A PRIZE?

We're told that the meek will inherit the earth. But it may not be much of a prize after the aggressive have finished with it.

—Owen Sound Sun Times.

INFORMATION

On a company owning 2,450 acres in the heart of the famous Steep Rock Iron Country.

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The Chinese thought of it first!

THOUSANDS of years ago, the Chinese used a form of gunpowder—a flaming chemical of defence dumped over battlements upon an invading enemy.

And from this age-old beginning has evolved *smokeless* powder made from high-proof alcohol. Like the airplane, it has done much to further the progress of mankind—but in evil hands it has meant tyranny and enslavement.

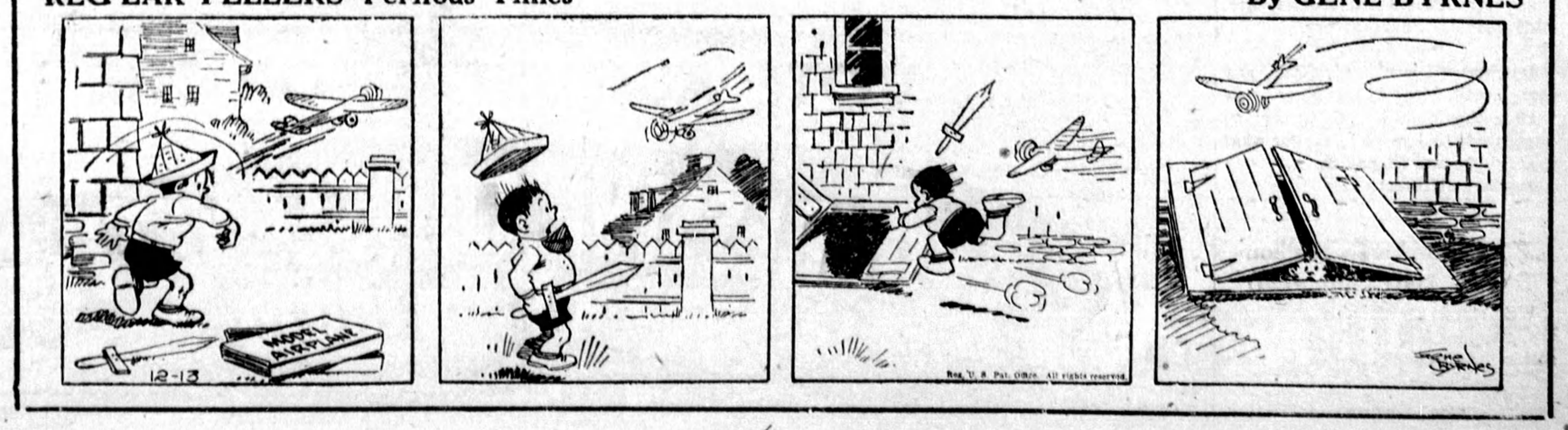
As the tempo of this war for liberty increases and our armed forces in all parts of the world swing to the offensive, more smokeless powder for our shells, bombs, depth charges and torpedoes is a vital necessity.

And because we have vast fields of grain and the facilities to convert them into high-proof alcohol, the United Nations shall have an overwhelming superiority of fire-power to pulverize the enemy into unconditional surrender.

Thus, China's primitive powder of defence has finally developed into the weapon to drive tyranny forever from this earth. In a way, it is the hand of ancient China reaching out in defence of free men everywhere.

Alcohol for War is also used in the manufacture of Synthetic Rubber, Drugs and Medicines, Photographic Film, Lacquers and Varnishes, Drawing Inks, Compasses and other Navigation Instruments, Plastics, Shatterproof Glass and many other products. Every Seagram plant in Canada and the United States is engaged 100% in the production of high-proof Alcohol for War.

THE HOUSE OF SEAGRAM

REG'LAR FELLERS—Perilous Times

By GENE BYRNES