VOICE OF THE PRESS

INEBRIATED AT LEAST

Earl Winterton told the British Commons that female crooners over the BBC sound like inebriated cockatoos. We've never heard an inebriated cockatoo, but we're sure he's dead right.

—Ottawa Journal.

—o—

POOR PA!

Pa is worried about all the formalities of new postwar electrical gadgets for the home. He hopes that Ma won't be so busy pressing buttons that she can't sew one on.

—Ryan in Boston Herald.

—o—

IT'S A HARD LIFE

These are difficult times when we have to do without the things our parents never had.

—Wall Street Journal.

—o—

PROOF NEEDED

When women dominate the political scene and start throwing their hats in the ring, how will we know they're hats?

—Ottawa Citizen.

—o—

NEW NAME FOR JAPS

The Aussies have a name for the Japs they've been battling and exterminating in the South Sea Islands. They call them New Guinea Pigs.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

—o—

QUITE A DIFFERENCE

The Royal Navy's idea is to seek out and destroy. The Nazi warships try to sneak out and decamp.

—Windsor Star.

It is hoped that this year India will produce enough rubber to satisfy not only her own domestic needs, but those of the British and American forces in India.

THE WAR · WEEK — Commentary on Current Events

Naval War Won, Allies Must Win Air War Before Invasion Launched

The air war over Nazi Europe is still growing in scope and intensity, comments the New York Times. Every passing day establishes new records for the number of Allied planes that roam the Nazi skies, for the weight of bombs and incendiaries dropped on Nazi targets, for the number of Nazi planes destroyed, and for the relentless frequency of the attacks. In fact, in both numbers of men and amounts of materiel employed the air war has assumed proportions which place it in a special category of its own. It has finally taken the airplane out of the category of auxiliary weapon and made the air arm a major branch of the armed forces. The air war itself has become more than a mere prelude to the main event—the invasion. It has become a special phase of a three-dimensional war which demands victory in every phase, and which thereby forces a revision of all past calculations of power, especially as they apply to countries like Great Britain and the United States.

"Those Few ....."

It has been an axiom since Mahan's day that sea power is the decisive factor in shaping world history, and especially in winning wars. For naval power, by commanding the seas, also commands the resources of the world, and above all assures the communication lines of sea-borne troops. But the modern three-dimensional war is demonstrating that naval power alone is not enough. There is no doubt that without her naval power Britain could scarcely survive. But it is also true that she could not have survived without those few to whom so many owed so much—the British Air Force, which was as instrumental as the British Navy in frustrating Hitler's invasion plans. Now the same thing applies to the Allies.

The Second Phase

For naval power alone can no longer safeguard the communication lines of an invading force. To assemble the necessary invasion force the Allies had to win the naval war as the first phase of the total war, and even in that phase the airplane played an almost decisive role in defeating the U-boat menace. Now they must win the air war as the second phase before the actual invasion can be launched. In the end, every war must be won in battle on the ground, which marks its final phase. But without victory in the two preceding phases there can be no invasion, no victorious ground battle, and therefore no final victory.

Combined Operation

It is undoubtedly considerations such as these which prompted Prime Minister Churchill to lay continued emphasis on the air war in his latest speech, and also to point out to Marshal Stalin the difficulties of large-scale amphibious operations as compared with purely military operations in great land spaces. When the Russian armies met defeat in the initial stages of the war they could retreat for some 900 miles into the interior and, after organizing the full resources of an even vaster hinterland, resume the battle with greater chances of success. There was no such retreat for the Anglo-French army, and there will be no such retreat for the Allied armies of invasion. They must advance from the moment they set foot on the Continent in order to deploy all their forces. They must be certain that their communication lines remain intact and that the way in front of them has been blasted open. That cannot be done by the navy alone. It will require a combined operation in three dimensions which would risk disaster unless air victory had been achieved first. Even then, Germany with her interior lines and excellent land communications might still be able to concentrate an overwhelming superiority at any invasion point unless her whole war potential has been seriously reduced. The Russian armies have been accomplishing this reduction at a tremendous pace, and so has the air and naval war which, as the Russians themselves testify today, contributed so substantially to the Russian victories.

Things To Keep In Mind

These are some of the things to keep in mind when relative accomplishments in the war are measured by the Russian ground victories on the one hand and the Allied stalemate at Cassino on the other. It is necessary to keep in mind that the American Air Force alone, though scattered on various fronts, numbers nearly two and a half million men, or more perhaps than the number of Germans fighting on the Russian front. And the concentrated British Air Force must be at least half as large again. It must be kept in mind that the destruction of German war production wrought by the air war is far greater than could have been achieved by any other kind of bombardment. And it must be kept in mind that at the present rate of losses German air power, on which Hitler depended for victory, is being eliminated as surely as was German naval power.

Westminster Hall

One of a shower of German fire bombs which were dropped recently in the grounds of the British Houses of Parliament, burned a hole in the roof of Westminster Hall. It landed on the slate roofing of that historic building, rolled down to the edge where it set the wookwork aflame, but was quickly extinguished before doing much damage.

Westminster Hall was built by William Second, son of the Conqueror, in 1087, and attained its present form, including its famous oaken ceiling in 1399, the last year of the Plantagenet dynasty. From the thirteenth century until 1882, Westminster Hall was the site of the chief English law courts. It was there that Charles the First was tried and condemned and his son James the Second was deposed. Cromwell was formally installed there as Lord Protector and presented with the Bible and Sword as emblems of his new office. Among the notables condemned to death in the same hall were William Wallace, the Scottish hero, the Earl of Essex, who had enjoyed and later lost the favor of Queen Elizabeth, and Guy Fawkes of "gunpowder plot" fame, who became the chief victim of his own hare-brained conspiracy.

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BREWING INDUSTRY (ONTARIO)

OTTAWA REPORTS

That Tenant Farmers Are On The Increase In All Provinces Of Canada Except Quebec

In the forty-year period from 1901 to 1941, the number of farmers who own the land they live on has dropped from 87 percent to 75 percent, according to figures of the economist branch of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. Of the nine provinces, only Quebec is the exception. In that province owner-operated farms increased from 90 percent in 1901 to nearly 93 per cent in 1941.

The years between 1928 and 1933 when farm prices dropped to their lowest level saw the most rapid drop in owner-operated farms across the Dominion.

Of the 550,000 full owners who operated their farms in 1941, less than one-half, or 48 percent, had mortgage indebtedness. The prairie provinces, hit hard in the previous years with drought as well as depression, ranked highest in indebtness. Ontario stood at the half-way mark, and Nova Scotia reported the best standing.

* * *

Getting package bees away to a good start depends on a number of things, according to C. B. Gooderham, Dominion Apiarist at Ottawa. First of all, those expecting package bees should arrange with their nearest express or customs officials for prompt delivery. To house the bees, one hive fitted with 10 drawn combs or full sheets of foundation is needed for each package, and from 10 to 15 lbs. of sugar or honey is required to feed them.

When received the packages should be stood in a cool shady place, and the bees fed by sprinkling a thin solution of sugar and water on the screenings of the packages. Wait for late afternoon or evening to release the bees in their hives unless the weather is cool and cloudy.

* * *

It is not the bees you receive that will produce the honey crop, the Apiarist points out, but those which can be reared between the time the packages are placed in the hives and the time the clovers are in bloom. This means that the bees mustn't be allowed to run short of feed at any time. Start feeding as soon as they are in the hive and keep feeding until they are well established and obtaining enough from the fields for their needs. Their best food is honey but it should never be given unless one is certain that it has been produced by disease-free colonies. White sugar dissolved in water is the best substitute. Provincial apiarists will supply the necessary permits for sugar for feeding bees on receipt of full name and address, number of packages or colonies to be fed, and the minimum amount of sugar required.

* * *

There are good prospects that Britain will want four or five times as many fresh apples from Canada in 1944 as she received from the short crop of last year. But the Dominion Department of Agriculture points out that prospects for this increased trade depend on three "ifs".

If Canada has abundant supplies;

If ocean shipping permits;

If Canada's position for packages, packing and inland transportation permits.

* * *

As a result of last fall's campaign in Ontario and Quebec, over 60,000 lbs. of milkweed leaves, and more than 10,000 lbs. of whole milkweed plants have been turned over to the National Research Council where they are being processed, according to Dr. H. A. Senn, Science Service, Dominion Department of Agriculture. It is hoped, Dr. Senn says, that the large scale experiments now being carried out in milkweed collected by the rural schools of Ontario and Quebec, will confirm the indications of preliminary experiments that the gum from milkweed may be useful for blending with synthetic rubber.

PIPE THIS

Cpl. Ted Goldsmith of the New Zealand army pipes victory march for crew members and fellow soldiers aboard tank landing craft en route to Green Island, captured from Japs by New Zealand and American forces. The island is only 120 miles from big Jap base at Rabaul.

King Takes Cover At Invasion 'Battle'

Live shells screamed overhead as the King watched British troops prepare for the forthcoming European invasion during a two-day visit to army units.

The battles were so realistic that at one time His Majesty, with a divisional commander and his staff, had to take cover behind a pile of tree trunks as massive explosions sent showers of earth over their heads.

As the Royal Engineers laid a minefield with anti-personnel mines, the King suggested they be called "man-killers."

In a 300-mile trip by road and rail, the King saw picked troops practicing beach assault and night raids. He saw the latest pattern of tanks and some of the newest weapons.

The largest percentage of suicides occurs between the ages of 65 and 75.

SCOUTING . . .

Membership in the Boy Scout Movement in Great Britain showed an increase of 59,000 in 1943.

* * *

His Excellency the Governor-General, Chief Scout for Canada, will celebrate his 70th birthday on April 14th.

* * *

A large group of Canadian Scouts, now serving in the armed forces in Britain recently spent a week-end at Hampton Court Palace, where they were entertained by the Dowager Lady Baden-Powell, widow of the founder of the Boy Scout Movement.

* * *

London, England, is full of strangers these days, and they find their difficulties infinitely greater when one of London's famous "Pea Soup" fogs settle down over the capital. Passengers alighting at a north London station find they are met by the Scouts, who by their knowledge of the district are able to direct tired and bewildered travellers.

* * *

Famous Scouts in the news recently are, General Sir Oliver Leese, C.B., D.S.O., the new commander of the 8th Army, who was a Scoutmaster at Hatfield, Herts; Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane, Deputy President of the Allied Commission in Italy, who is an active member of the Scout Movement, and Squadron Leader J. R. Baldwin, D.F.C. and bar, who led the squadron of Typhoons which chased enemy planes around the Eiffel Tower in Paris, is a former Patrol Leader in the 2nd Birchington Boy Scout Troop.

Civilians Ordered To Leave Brest

The Vichy government has ordered compulsory evacuation of civilians from the Brest area, the Vichy Radio said last week.

Previously, Vichy had ordered civilians evacuated from the English Channel coast area and from territory along the French Mediterranean coast.

It Does taste good in a pipe

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TORONTO SAFE WORKS

Homing Pigeons Training In India

Three pigeons won fame in World War I—one of them for saving the Lost Battalion. This war will undoubtedly have its famous pigeons also.

Right now nearly 300 of the birds are training "somewhere" in India, learning their way between cloud-covered peaks and over jungle thickness back to the home roost. They hail from Cape Crowder, Missouri, and salute to Lieut. Earl T. Johnson of Pawtucket, R.I., known as "that pigeon lieutenant!"

These are all homing pigeons capable of 35 to 45 miles an hour average with messages attached, but at times under right conditions they make as much as 70 m. p. h. Carrier pigeons were used in the World War I, but proved not so air-worthy as the carefully bred homings now in vogue.

These are fed a special diet, a pound a week a bird, which is shipper from the United States.

"Combat age" begins at about five months and lasts for years, barring the hazards of war.

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