

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21st, 1939

THE BARE OF BETHLEHEM

A little Babe, long ago, In Bethlehem was born. All angels told His birth before the coming of the morn. The shepherds from the fields near by, Came from far away, Came to the slowly stable where The little Christ-child lay. That little Babe of Bethlehem Still lives in Heaven above, He came to teach us how to live; To show a Father's love. His coming made our Christmas Day The very best of days, The time of Joy, of loving gifts, Of happiness and praise.

Twenty Years Ago

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, December 25th, 1919

Happy Christmas. Santa Claus was certainly abroad last night. The rink opened last Thursday and has been largely patronized every evening since. The High School At Home last Friday evening was a social event of much interest to students, ex-students, friends and teachers. After a delightful program, Inspector W. H. Stewart was called to the platform and presented with an easy chair and reading lamp. Miss Isabel Anderson read the address. Miss Baker was also presented with a present by the pupils. Beardmore Company's treat to the children of employees was held on Tuesday.

The Board of Education has engaged Miss Edith McLaren of Perth, as Assistant in the High School. Miss Helen Hordman, of Toronto, has been engaged to succeed Miss Royce in the Primary Department.

Mr. John Clarke, Superintendent of the Acton Tanning Company, was the recipient of a gift from the foremen of the factory. Mr. James McIntosh, the oldest foreman, made the presentation. The funeral of the late Charles Taylor, of Toronto, for many years a resident of Acton, and an employee of the Glove Works, was held here yesterday. Mr. Taylor had reached his ninety-fifth year. Capt. Arthur Kenney reached home on Tuesday from Siberia, where he had been with the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

BORN SMITH—At 176 Fulton Avenue, Toronto, on Sunday, December 21st, 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Smith, a daughter.

FOOD NECESSITY OF WAR

Britain has for at least eight years been giving a demonstration of the fact that she realizes that when armies march they still 'march upon their stomachs.' The morale of the civil population of any country remains high only when the people are well housed and fed. It is a well known fact that the German armies of the last war, the best trained and equipped at the beginning which the world had seen, only wavered and retreated when the British blockade prevented supplies getting to the civilian population. Britain has, therefore, been giving great attention to the encouragement of food production at home and food production in countries easily accessible during time of war. Canada occupies an enviable position in the early stages of this war, because of the service she can give Britain and France through the fact that: (1) she is one of the great surplus food producing countries of the world; and, (2) she is so located as to be comparatively safe from attack and yet within easier distance of Britain than any other of the surplus food producing countries.—Hon. J. C. Gardner, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, in an address to the United Grain Growers at Winnipeg.

WORLD'S OCEANS HAVE 57 "DEEPS"

There are 57 known "deeps" among the oceans of the world, the largest of which is said to be Nares, lying in the Atlantic and covering an area near the West Indies of some 697,000 square miles with a maximum depth of 27,972 feet. A "deep" is an area of ocean floor covered by more than 18,000 feet of water. Three-quarters of the Atlantic is covered by water exceeding 6,000 feet in depth and over one-half by water exceeding 12,000 feet. The most striking feature of the Atlantic is the low central ridge dividing the ocean into eastern and western basins. The known location of these deeps is of tremendous importance to cable companies, states the Canadian National Telegraphs, as when laying cables along the ocean bottom it is the endeavor to secure a route which will afford most protection for the cables. Surveys of the ocean floor for cable laying are made by what is known as a Sonic Depth Sounder which sends out a "note" which is reflected back from the bottom of the ocean, the time interval indicating the depth.

BRIGHT FELLOW: "Walter! I have found a leaf in my stew." Walter—"That's easily explained, sir. We have drabches everywhere."



Acton's Family Album

Turning Over the Pages, Week by Week, and Looking on the Faces of Those Who Were Familiar to Many Here in Other Years

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THESE?



LAST WEEK'S PICTURE

The picture last week was that of Rev. George W. Baker, a minister of the Methodist Church in Acton about thirty years ago, and who now ministers to a congregation in Toronto. We have also been told that the school class picture, which appeared two weeks ago, was that of a class in the days of Robert Hood and was over twenty years old.

SUCH A TIME AS THIS

A Message from the Bishops of The Church of England in Canada

What is the function of the Christian religion at such a time as this? It is surely to maintain the vision of God, to see things clearly, and to help people to keep their heads. It is not so easy to speak of this war as a war to end war, and yet we must remember that the war will be doubly and trebly lost if we fail to keep in mind that our object is to make peace; and to make peace we must make justice. The Christian conscience recoils from war. It is abhorrent to us. We prayed and hoped there would be no war. We acted as if there would be no war. We failed to prepare for war. We spoke of peace, but when we spoke of peace they prepared for battle.

We recognize that there are those idealists who feel that even under these circumstances it is wrong to fight. We consider that they have unduly simplified the Christian Faith. To reduce the whole content of a great moral problem to one simple negation, while it has a certain magnificence about it, does not seem to us to take into consideration all the factors upon which existence in an ordered society depends, protected as it necessarily is by its system of law, police armies and fleets. The witness of such idealists is not without its value, and it is to be hoped that their services may be used in the way for which their temperament fits them, for high ideals are demonstrated not so much by eloquence, or by logic, as by the life we live and the work we do.

During the last ten weeks many a man has demonstrated his sense of honor and the strength of his ideals by offering himself for military service. To these men we owe support and service. They are going to resist on our behalf the forces of tyranny and destruction. We believe that the ideals which inspire them are just heroic and Christian. We pray that God will endue them with the great virtues of faith and endurance.

We rejoice to note that already there is a greater sense of unity in Canada, and it may be that in and through this war Canada may find a unity and a strength which it has never known before. In our national effort we can find room for every group whatever it may be; for it is an effort for peace, as well as for war. We must not sacrifice our religion, our education, our social ideals, and all our cultural effort to the sole purpose of war. We must unite and organize for the destiny which is in store for us.

We have already shown that it is possible for two races of different languages to live together without war, and

without persecution. It is a notable achievement, much to the credit of both races, and an example to the whole world. It is hoped that when this war is done the world may look to this country, and to our neighbors to the South, as a pattern of co-operation, federation and peace.

For these great efforts we need both character and vision. They are gifts which come to us from religion. We must then, at all costs, maintain our religion in all its branches during these difficult days, for it is the source of all that inspires us. But the Christian Church throughout the world is sadly divided. To do our work in the world we must be united. God grant that the stress of the present emergency may bring us closer together. Therefore, we call upon our people to be instant in prayer, faithful in service, ready for sacrifice.

Be of good cheer—God reigns. In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.

"Good Will Toward Men"

(Continued from Page Three)

ful, in my heart, and they ain't been such a power of good will in me—till I had it out just now in the fence corner. So, before Santa starts giving out the presents, I got a few different kinds of presents to give.

"Take this here lovely tree, chilluns. It belonged, so I hear tell, to a low-down, mean-hearted feller named Simon Westbrook. He got a lawsuit going over it, against the school-teacher. Well, Santa went to the judge and say to the judge 'Throw that case out of court.' So the judge he say 'Okeh, I'll throw it out of court.' And he did. Now, me, Santa, gives the tree to the school and the fessor. And the fessor, I might as well tell you all, is a right smart feller. He teached a grand school here, and will keep on at such. Now, let's give all of you a pretty gift!"

What it cost Simon Westbrook to say this not many would ever know. Dave Cunley knew, he was sensitive to human ways, and he appreciated with keen depth the greatness that Simon showed. Perhaps no one else than Dave could have caused this change, for that was a part of the young schoolmaster's genius. At any rate the yuletide spirit prevailed—peace on earth, and good will toward men.

The wintry wind, whipping the eaves of the old schoolhouse, seemed to repeat it: "Peace on earth... good will toward men."

THE SWEETEST THING IN LIFE

One of the greatest joys of Christmas is the happiness of making others happy. Especially children, to whom the day belongs because it is the festival of the Holy Child. The sky closes behind the departing angels and the shepherds hasten into Bethlehem. The star shines above the Wise Men on their way, and leads them into Bethlehem. And the purpose of their search, whether they be shepherds or sages, is to find the young child concerning whom the heavens have so marvelously spoken. And the sight of Him sanctifies all childhood. When He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me." Christ is present in the child, and all the love and care of fathers and mothers and nurses and teachers may be a ministry to Him.

The Wise Men brought their gifts and offered them to Him—thus we bring our gifts on Christmas day. We do it to make children happy. It is the purest and sweetest thing in life. And we are repaid a thousand-fold, for we have the happiness of making others happy.

What is the difference between a bell and a cook? One makes a din, and the other a dinner.

SALESMANSHIP

"If this is an all-wool rug, why is it labelled cotton?" "That madam is to fool the moths."

When is a boy like a bus without an empty seat? After dinner on Christmas Day, because then he is full up.

MINISTER CHECKED ALL ARRANGEMENTS

All necessary details for the movement, embarkation and sailing of the First Contingent, Canadian Active Service Force, were checked and double-checked. Then, to make assurance complete, Hon. Norman McL. Rogers, Minister of National Defence, flew to the East Coast port from which the troops were to sail. In this final study of transport arrangements, the Minister was joined by Rear Admiral P. W. Nelles, Royal Canadian Navy; Air Vice Marshall G. M. Croft, and Major General C. F. Constantine.

The Minister expressed his appreciation of the manner in which the movement and embarkation had been effected.

"All I know is what I read in the Newspapers"

—Will Rogers

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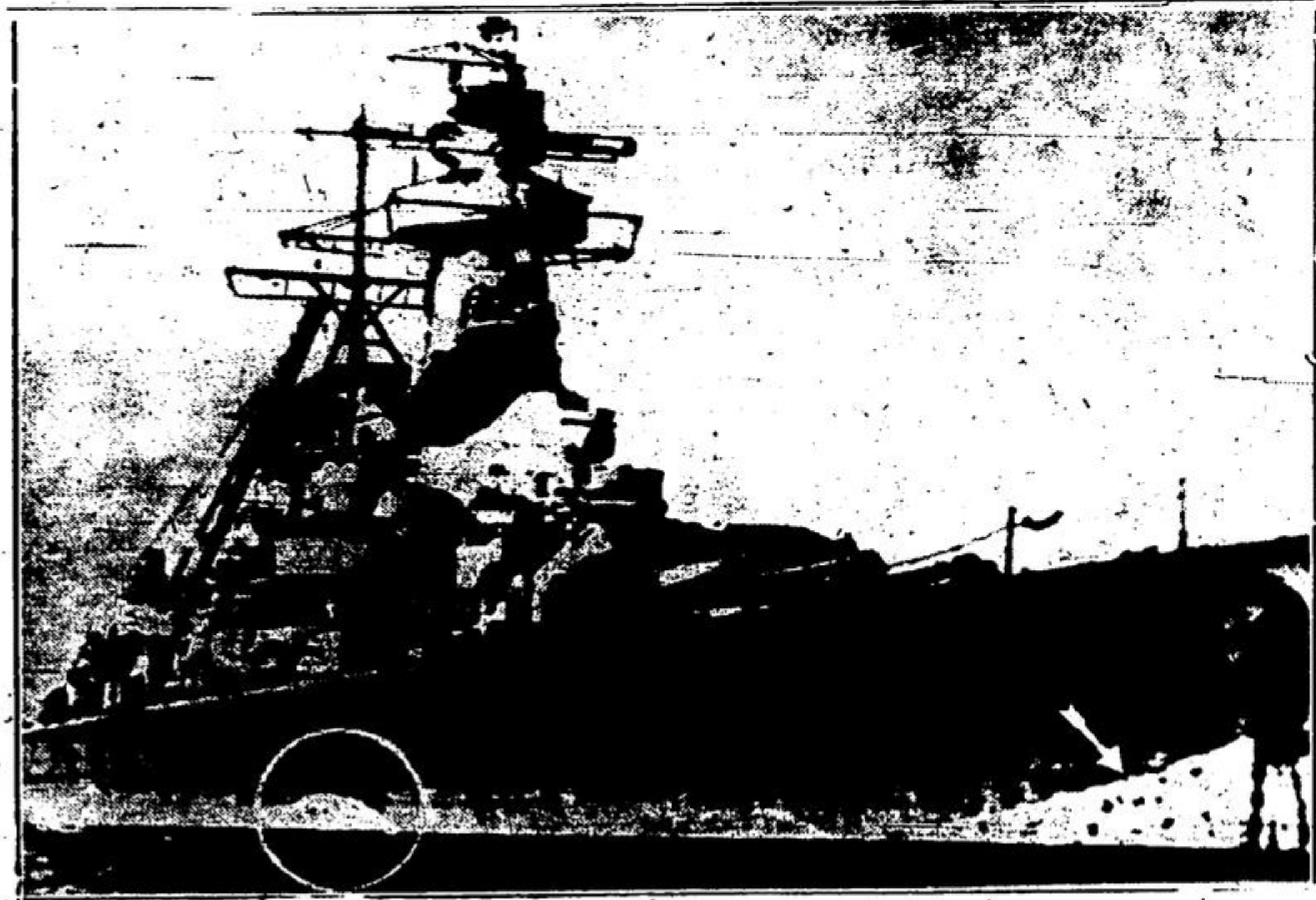
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The Acton Free Press

A Tried and Tested Medium, Known for Results

Unerring Marksmanship of British Gunners Sends Shells Crashing Through Heavy Armor of Graf Spee



The accurate shooting of British gunners aboard the cruisers Exeter, Achilles and Ajax was responsible for the gaping holes in the fire control tower of the Nazi pocket battleship Graf Spee. Right. Un-

less the Graf Spee's 11-inch guns could be manually operated, these shots would seem to have been largely responsible for the German craft running for the shelter of Montevideo's harbor. Other British shells crashed into the hull of the Graf Spee, as indicated by the circle and arrow above. After seeking a temporary haven in Montevideo, the Graf Spee left the harbor and was scuttled by its crew.

MUGGS AND SKEETER



By WALLY BISHOP