

Personals

Dr. J. A. McNeil spent a few days in Toronto during the week. Miss Nellie Williamson of Toronto is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Brown. Mrs. Gordon Cooper of Capreol, visited with Mr. and Mrs. William Cooper this week. Miss Freida Gordon visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown of Snelgrove, over the week-end. Mrs. James Davies of Guelph, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Chris Swackhamer. Mrs. Dryden who has been visiting in Flint, Mich., for a few months returned home this week. Mrs. S. Turner of Toronto, spent Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Brown and other friends. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Becker of Mount Forest visited on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ian MacDonald. Miss Kathleen Wood of Irlington visited with Mr. and Mrs. John Wood.

STICKING TO A PROVEN BRAND

The soldier came to the counter of the Y.M.C.A. Mobile Canteen visiting his isolated anti-aircraft battery on a stretch of lonely English coast. "Tub of tooth-paste, please, miss," he requested. The line of men filling their various needs was long. The girl behind the counter of the mobile canteen was new on the job, hurried and a little flustered by mistake she gave the man a tube of shaving cream. Neither noticed the error. A week passed. The mobile canteen came again to that particular unit. Again there was a long line of men waiting to be served. And again that same soldier was in the line. "Tub of tooth-paste, please, miss," he requested.

The girl was more at ease in her job now. She made no error, but got out a tube of tooth-paste. The soldier picked it up and scrutinized the brand. He shook his head. "What other kind?" asked the girl. "That's the only sort we have." The soldier pointed at the shelf. "That kind, I mean," he said. "Same as I got last week." The girl looked. "But that's shaving cream!" she exclaimed. "Did I give you that for tooth-paste?" "I'm awfully sorry," "Shaving cream is it?" said the soldier. "Well, what if you know about that? I never noticed either. Anyway I'll have another tube. I like the lather it makes. Best toothpaste I ever tasted!"

Service League Gets Letters and Some Souvenirs

The Boys from Overseas Enjoy the Parcels—One Wants a Correspondent

Three or four more letters from overseas have arrived this week. Gunner F. C. French sends the card of a German land mine. His parcel arrived on January 19th. He contributes the delay to his having been transferred to the Anti-Aircraft Battery. He is anxious to find someone who would like to correspond with him. He mentions this in the middle of his letter and also has a "P.S." saying, "If there is anyone who would care to write I should very much like to hear from them." The name and address may be secured by asking Mr. W. Coles of Acton and District War Service League.

A letter from B-11690 (we have tried hard to decipher the name but have had to give it up) says: "This country is a beautiful place but I'll take Ontario anytime." F. Turner with the R.A.F. says "To anyone and everyone who helped in sending parcels to fellows over here I say thanks. Fred's letter is very cheerful throughout. He is quite satisfied to be where he is but misses the opportunities of running home once in a while. With a few exceptions, he says, things are much the same as in Canada when I left." Of course we do see other evidences that there is a war on which we cannot talk about and of which the air crews are the only witnesses. Our Sgt. Mess is the finest in the fighter command. It fact we have had bacon and eggs for breakfast twice this week.

ESMILT D. McDonald tells us how much he enjoyed New Year's Eve in Scotland. He had so many invitations to Scotch homes that he found it impossible to accept them all. He is expecting a leave when he will visit relatives in England. "I feel quite lucky to be able to see relatives so far from my home." The card taken from a land mine dropped by a German plane has been handed to the editor and is on view in The Free Press Window.

George Wallace CLOTHES SHOP 112 Yonge St. (2nd Floor) Toronto Take the Elevator and Save Money

Weekly War Commentary Specially Written for The Acton Free Press by H. H. GORDON Canadian Press Staff Writer

Darwin on Feb. 19 when several persons were killed. British and Chinese forces at the week-end were holding the invaders at two points in Burma, but reports that Japanese warships lurked off the coast of Burma made it look as if an attempt would be made to outflank the British on the Billin River. The Nipponese in their drive on the Netherlands East Indies hold positions on the island of Bali on the east and in Sumatra in the west.

Glimpses of Parliament By Hughes Cleaver, Editor's Member

On Thursday last the vote on the address in reply to the speech from the Throne was finally taken after four weeks continuous debate. One amendment and three different amendments were made to the original motion. Practically all of these amendments and sub-amendments had some features with which everyone agreed but also had other features which alienated support. The real issue on the main motion was of course the plebiscite. The Government is asking the people to vote to release the government from its pledge against conscription for overseas service. On the final vote on the motion the government lost the support of both groups of extremists. Those who think a war cannot be won without conscription for overseas service and those who are not supporting an all-out war effort. These two utterly divergent groups joined to vote against the government but the government was sustained by a vote of 144 to 61.

J. Cadesky O.P.TOMETRIST WILL BE IN ACTON ON Monday, March 2nd Anyone suffering from Eye-strain, Defective Vision or Head-ache should not miss the opportunity of consulting this eye-sight specialist. Appointments may be made with Mr. A. T. Brown, Druggist. CONSULTATION FREE Office Hours: 10:30 a.m. till 4:45 p.m. (DS.7)

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 Matinee at 3:00 "ROOKIES ON PARADE" "DIAMOND FRONTIER"

MONDAY, MARCH 2 "RAGE IN HEAVEN"

Sub-Regional Offices Opened by Prices And Trade Board

Several sub-regional offices of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board will be opened in Kitchener, Brantford, Galt and Guelph, according to an announcement made today by W. Harold McPhillips, London, Ont. Prices and Supply representative of the Western Ontario region of the Board.

Plans are well advanced for the opening of the Kitchener and Brantford offices and the definite opening date will be announced within the next few days, said Mr. McPhillips. "Galt and Guelph offices will be established as soon as plans for office accommodation are completed," he added. Appointments of local representatives and other members of the staffs for sub-regional offices will be released shortly.

In the midst of a warring world the Riom "war guilt" trial is a grim farce, a sort of French counterpart to the now-historic Relehsing fire trial which back-fired. The Riom trial is showing signs of doing the same thing. It will be recalled that when the Nazis came into power by burning the Reichstag and whooping up an alleged Communist plot they arrested among others Grigori Dimitroff and a Netherlander, Marinus Van Der Lubbe. These were charged with setting fire to the Reichstag; their conviction was to be a conviction of the whole Welmar republic and what it stood for.

Instead Dimitroff, an astute Bulgarian, managed to show up the machinations of the Nazis. The court finally acquitted some of the Germans, sent Dimitroff to Russia and Van Der Lubbe, said to have been a tool of Goering, was hanged.

Riom Trial In Riom, Leon Blum, Edouard Daladier, Gen. Marie-Gustave Gamelin and others have been put on trial by the Vichy regime to determine how responsible they are for the fall of France. The trial has been described as a "mockery" and a "travesty of justice." Blum summed it up even more pointedly at the opening session when he said Vichy was making this the trial of the French Republic and of democracy.

It would not be surprising if it is shown later that the trial is being held as much at the bidding of the Axis as of the men of Vichy. Gamelin's week-end statement that he would not defend himself thereby attempting to pass responsibility to the military to the political leaders is significant. Questioning along military lines might be very embarrassing not only to Gen. Weygand, one of the men of Vichy, but to Petain himself.

One wonders why Petain and Darlan are even hothering to go through cards have so obviously been stacked the forms of a trial in which the defendants are the only conclusion to be drawn is that they feel the need of convincing the French people that they are leading them on the right path and that they were misled before.

Axis-Welcomes-Trial The Axis, in turn, welcomes a cause to celebrate with which to fill their newspapers and distract their peoples, as testified by the appearance of an incredible number of Axis newspapermen.

But indications are that the French people are not likely to be fooled. By now, they know who their traitors are. And Blum and Daladier are fighting men, as they have already shown in court. The results should be illuminating in the extreme.

While the Riom trial continues political and military developments in the world's embattled areas have given cause for mingled feelings of encouragement and apprehension. Reorganization of the British war cabinet appears to have met the demands of both press and public in no small measure and reports from Russia and Libya are optimistic. On the other hand the news from the Far East reveals an increasing critical situation.

Smaller War Cabinet A threatened political crisis in Britain was removed when Prime Minister Winston Churchill on Feb. 19 announced a seven-man war cabinet. Several ministers will have no direct cabinet responsibilities, and will be able to give their undivided attention to war matters.

Mr. Churchill refused to give up the defence portfolio, but the appointment of Sir Stafford Cripps as Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons met with general approval. The former ambassador to Moscow is regarded as Russia's best friend in Britain and will speak with authority on eastern European developments.

Lord Howarth declined to join the revamped cabinet because of illness. He will return to the United States to carry on the work of pooling the resources of the United Nations.

Russian Successes Much depends on Russia's ability to continue the offensive against Germany for the next few weeks. Although drives of Red troops in the centre constitute a real threat to Smolensk, opposition is formidable in the northern and southern sectors. In the south determined efforts were being made at the week-end to oust the Nazis from Kharkov and gains were reported from the Crimea.

Axis and British forces in Libya continue to manoeuvre for strategic positions with the enemy maintaining strong forces in the El Mechli area some 60 miles west of Tobruk.

In the Far East Following the fall of Singapore the Japanese have stepped up their offensive against the Dutch East Indies and Burma. The Japanese air force extended its activities with a destructive raid on the Australian port of Darwin on Feb. 19 when several persons were killed.

Reports from the Burma front this week told of further withdrawals of British and Indian troops who now hold the west bank of the Sittang River, an area just east of the Burma Road. British authorities admit that hopes for holding Rangoon are dwindling.

The Indian Situation Possibility that India may soon be on the defensive against the Japanese has brought India's claim for self-government into the spotlight. Chitang Kalshek in a farewell message before he left India February 21, declared that "the vast majority of the world's opinion is in full sympathy with India's aspiration for freedom."

Lord Cranbourne who became government leader in the House of Lords in the week-end "shakeup" of the cabinet declared Feb. 23 the Chinese generalissimo's message was welcomed by the British government. If India's leaders would get together and devise some scheme which would be satisfactory to all, the Indian problem would be satisfactorily solved, he said.

More Cabinet Changes Further cabinet reorganization was announced at Downing Street over the week-end, the outstanding feature being the replacement of Capt. David Margesson as war secretary by Sir James Grigg, permanent under-secretary of state in the War Office. He is the first civil servant in British history to achieve cabinet rank.

President Roosevelt in a broadcast Feb. 23 spoke confidently of final victory for the United Nations, but warned more losses would have to be suffered "before the turn of the tide." He said the United Nations soon would have the offensive and announced that thousands of American troops are already engaged in operations of the air and on the ground in the southwest Pacific.

Prime Minister Churchill also predicted final victory in a speech in the British House of Commons the following day. He acknowledged that for the moment Japan holds superiority in the air as well as "sending command of the sea" in the far Pacific. Japan's entry into the war would mean prolongation of the conflict, he said, perhaps until 1943 or 1944.

Cripps' First Speech Sir Stafford Cripps made his first speech as leader of the House of Commons February 25 and called for an "all-out" war effort. He said the government would not permit a "business as usual or pleasure as usual" attitude toward the war from now on.

Dog racing and boxing displays he declared were completely out of accord with the country's will to achieve victory. Sir Stafford called for the elimination of extravagance, adding no "small or selfish" group must abuse the wishes of a majority of the people. He announced that a government decision would be given shortly on the Indian problem.

Beekeepers Can Get Sugar for Bees Provision has been made by the Sugar Administrator whereby beekeepers requiring sugar for feeding of bees will be able to secure it through their Provincial Apiarist, states G. B. Gooderham, Dominion Apiarist. A beekeeper when making application to his Provincial Apiarist for sugar will be required to state the number of colonies to be fed, the minimum amount of sugar required and his full name and address. The Provincial Apiarist will verify the statements made in the application and if satisfied with them will issue and sign a Beekeeper's Sugar Purchase Permit, stating the minimum number of pounds of sugar such beekeeper requires to purchase to preserve his bees and the production of honey.

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