

General de Gaulle Romantic Figure

ARTICLE NO. 22
(By Hugh Tompkins)

Last week's story dealt with some of the titled persons and others in high positions met by the Canadian editors who flew to Britain last Fall. This week, I will mention a few more, just picking them at random. I have already described Right Hon. Brendan Bracken, Sir Malcolm Robertson, Sir Harry Brittain, Viscount Cranborne, Lord Snell and a few others. The story of a meeting with Prime Minister Winston Churchill has already been given.

One would think that being Prime Minister would be a strain at any time, but particularly so when the Empire was at war. The duties of readers must have remarked, "I don't see how Churchill ever stands it."

Yet when I met Churchill, I found him almost boyishly enthusiastic and he certainly showed no signs of strain that day.

On the same day, I saw the Prime Minister during the last great war. David Lloyd George is still a member of the House of Commons and looks very well, for he must be getting to be an old man. I wasn't talking to him, but I met him in a lobby of the House of Commons after Churchill had spoken. There was no difficulty recognizing him. He is small and his hair is white as snow, but there is still a spring to his step and he was walking quickly.

Two Famous Women

Around the Savoy hotel in London, we often saw the widow of another former Prime Minister. She was Lady Asquith, widely known not to any "notorious" as the writer of books of gossip under her name of Margot Asquith (pronounced "Mar-go"). She looks like a "character." She must be quite old, too, and she somehow reminded me of Lady Macbeth in the Shakespeare play, possibly because she looked like some actress I had once seen play the part. Her gowns were always long, giving her an appearance of height which she does not possess. There was something ghostly about her appearance. Usually, she was with someone much younger than herself, usually an officer—and not always the same officer. I supposed that she was still trying to live in the world she describes in her books.

Another woman I met and talked with was vastly different. She was Mrs. Pearl Hyde, the heroine of Coventry, a city where the heroic must have been common enough several times. Mrs. Hyde was in a khaki uniform, as the officer in charge of the Women's Voluntary Services of her city. That is, an organization which seems to have grown up from a small start in Britain during this war, taking over more and more jobs as the need arose. They started, I believe, by doing sewing and mending for soldiers and such humble jobs as that. Now they are the ones who drive the canteens, serve the meals in blitzed cities, help the Air Raid Protection services and do a host of dangerous civilian duties. Mrs. Hyde has been decorated by the King for her bravery during raids on Coventry. She was outspoken in her praise of help sent from Canada, food, canteens, clothing, and the like. And the people of Coventry were outspoken in praise of Mrs. Hyde.

At first in my innocence, I supposed that kind of work was done by the Red Cross, the organization of which we hear most in Canada. Mrs. Hyde was the first to disabuse my mind on that subject, but others added details. The W.V.S. seems to be financed in part by such funds as the Lord Mayor's Fund and the similar one, the Queen's Canadian Fund, and by others. In the United States, and I believe, the name would suggest I supposed more than once that there was a certain rivalry between the Red Cross and the W.V.S., but the latter is undoubtedly the more active up to the present. Of course, if there is an invasion of the continent, or something else to cause soldier casualties, the Red Cross hospitals will become far more busy than they are at present. Public opinion in the bombed areas is largely on the side of the W.V.S. and I report only what I learned, without taking sides.

In the very nature of the thing, the Canadian editors did not meet many ladies. The trip was for business, not a social event. The few with whom I talked were mostly in newspaper, work, or wives of the officials who entertained us, or relatives of some of our party and they were few. The social events were "nearly all For Men Only."

General Charles De Gaulle

I started to write about persons with titles, but have been talking about those with other distinctions than rank or title. And before going back to Lords and Sirs, I might mention one famous General.

Undoubtedly one of the best-known names in the world to-day is that of General Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Free French Forces. He is the most romantic figure in this war so far.

Often in speaking to friends of the things I saw, I have mentioned the name of the general, and the response is rather surprising: "Oh, did you really see General De Gaulle?" They don't say that about anyone else, unless it might be Winston Churchill.

I saw the General several times. I met him first at a party given by the "Foreign Correspondents in London," which turned out to be the most cosmopolitan affair I ever attended. The General evidently had a most kindly feeling towards Canadians, probably because he counts on the support of the people of Quebec. He invited our group to his rooms for the next evening, but I was unable to go. That night, I was scheduled to broadcast a message to Canada, a distinction I didn't want to miss. The choice on that occasion was made easier for me because the General speaks little English and I understand even less French. It was one more time when I deplored my deficiency along that line.

However, the next day, General De Gaulle invited us all to luncheon at the Savoy. Afterwards, he spoke slowly in French and provided an English translation for us to follow, and that combination enabled me to know what he said.

Looking over my souvenirs, I find the following invitation:

Le General de Gaulle
Chef des Forces Libres
Vous prie de lui le plaisir d'assister au déjeuner qu'il donnera en l'honneur de la Presse le Jeudi 2 Octobre 1941, à 13 heures au Savoy Hotel.
R.S.V.P.
4 Carlton Gardens, S.W. 1
(General de Gaulle, head of the Free French, asks you to give him the pleasure of assisting at a luncheon which he will give in honor of the Press on Thursday, October 2nd, 1941, at 1 p.m. at the Savoy hotel.)

Put away along with this I find the menu. On the cover is the coat of arms of the Savoy Hotel in gold, with the words "France Libre" and the date. The menu was:

Le Melon ou
La mousse Grand Succes
Le perdreau poele sur
Canape Bonne Femme
Les Petites Pommes Nouvelles en Des
Les Maricots Verts Fines Herbes
Le Biscuit glace aux Reines du
Vergier Cafe

I doubt if my culinary French is good enough to give you the full translation, but that grand spread evidently began with a choice of smoked salmon, went on through the poultry, which I think was partridge, and ended up with coffee.

That was surely something in wartime Britain, with its rationing of food and evidently the coffers of the Free French headquarters is by no means empty.

The General is tall and handsome. I should say he was several inches taller than I am, and that is more than six feet. He looks the part of a romantic hero, and I judge that he is a fluent speaker, without the use of notes.

I have rather copious notes on the speech General De Gaulle gave that night. He claimed that this war was no new thing, springing up suddenly, but was still the same war that had begun in 1914, with what he called an "entracte." The stakes might be greater but they were similar. The implements of destruction had become faster but they were refinements of old weapons.

It was only too true that France had been thunderstruck by a superior military system, but that did not wipe out the desire for liberty. He predicted that France would again take her place in the fight. Crushed, pillaged and betrayed, she would again arise and prove the confidence which Britain had in her temporarily overthrown Ally. Little by little, he declared, a vast French resistance is forming and it was to organize that resistance that the French National Committee was working to restore to France her integrity and her greatness and advance the cause of all the other peoples who are fighting for liberty.

I gathered the impression that the people of England view the General with slightly mixed feelings. They believe he is a great general, who is an authority on mechanical warfare particularly, and they appreciate his military work, but wonder about his ambitions after the war. That may do the man an injustice: I give it only as my impression and would not have anyone believe that any man in the Government or close to it ever said so. I thought, too, that General De Gaulle perhaps has more imagination than the average British general or other high officer, which may be something that we need. He is rather bitter and outspoken in his references to the crowd who rule in Vichy, and who have, if I recall, put a price upon his head.

SAVED BY LIVES

LONDON, (CP) — Henry George Block, 65-year-old coxswain of the Cromer lifeboat, was awarded the British Empire Medal for saving 38 lives in a fierce gale when six ships went aground. He already had the George Medal, the O.B.E. and National Lifeboat gold medal.

Wheat Rations To-Up Weights Of Beef Steek

Prairie Experts Lay Out Menu to Increase Meat Quality of Cattle and Reduce Surplus Wheat Piles

SWIFT CURRENT, Sask., (CP) — To increase the weight and quality of beef from prairie farms—a vital necessity to Canada's war effort—the Dominion Experimental station here has made a study of the effects of various types of feed.

A report issued from the station says that in view of the urgent necessity for improving western Canada's beef shipments, and due to the wheat surplus, wheat can be marketed more profitably at present by utilizing it as feed. It urged adoption by farmers of a definite feeding program.

Increase of beef can best be obtained by improving the quality, not the quantity, of cattle, the station reports, and the importance of supplementing pasture feeding increases steadily during August and September, when pastures gradually decline in nutritive value.

Whole Oats at First

The station recommended the following practice for farmers on the prairies:

"For the first few days feed whole oats in a trough on the pasture, then gradually add coarse ground wheat with a small amount of oilcake, increasing the quality gradually for three weeks, when the animal should receive one-half pound of oatmeal and 13 pounds of grain a day, a ratio of two parts wheat to one part oats.

"A self-feeder can then be placed on the pasture with the grain ration four parts wheat to one part oats. The oatmeal can be mixed with grain and each animal will consume about two-thirds of a pound a day."

Yearling Gains

If yearling steers are placed on pasture in August with a supplemental feed as outlined, a daily gain of about two and a half pounds a head will be maintained, the report said.

"Steers weighing 600 pounds in August will gain up to 315 pounds a head in 120 days, the market weight being about 920 pounds. The same practice can be followed with two-year-old steers, when feeding period will be less and consumption of grain higher."

Sawdust and Shavings For Insulation

Dry sawdust and shavings are used extensively for the insulation of houses and other buildings in some parts of Canada, according to the Forest Products Laboratories of the Department of Mines and Resources.

A survey conducted recently among architects, engineers, builders and lumbermen throughout Canada established instances where these by-products of the wood-using industries have given efficient insulating service for periods of more than fifty years. It appears that their use for this purpose is increasing, particularly in western Canada.

Although the excellent insulating properties of sawdust and shavings have long been recognized, still further extension of their use has been hindered by various fears and prejudices, which results of the survey do not confirm. It is believed by some that the presence of these materials in walls provides favorable breeding places for vermin but no evidence has been produced to indicate that sawdust and shavings offer any particular attraction to insects or rodents. Similarly, the idea that the use of these materials encourages the decay of timber is not confirmed by the records.

Most serious deterrent to the use of sawdust and shavings in insulation is the alleged fire hazard. It has been shown that a wall properly packed with these materials is a much more effective fire-stop than a hollow frame wall. In this connection one instance was reported of a fire in a printing establishment, which destroyed the machinery in the building as well as the type and other equipment but did very little harm to the walls and roof which were insulated with sawdust and shavings.

Although certain cities have regulations restricting the use of sawdust and shavings in the buildings, it appears that one of the main hindrances to their use lies in the lack of a specification which would ensure that they are satisfactorily prepared for the purpose. Lending force to this statement is the fact that pulverized or screened shavings sold under trade names are used for insulation in some municipalities where sawdust and shavings as such are prohibited.

R.A.F. Training Coming to Top

LONDON, (CP) — Group Capt. G. R. Beaman, famous 37-year-old British airman, has been promoted to Air Commodore—the first R.A.F.-trained officer to attain the rank. There are four R.A.F. seniors to air commodore and almost without exception the men in those ranks came from the Navy or the Army.

WAR 25 Years Ago

Italian Armies Resumed Offensive in Effort to Inflict Decisive Defeat Before Aid Reached Australian Army

BY H. H. GORDON
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Italy's campaign against Austria was pushed with renewed vigor 25 years ago. For two years, after the declaration of war against Austria in May, 1915, Italian offensives had blown hot and cold and General Luigi Cadorna's armies had failed to strike any decisive blows although enemy strength was waning.

The political upheaval in Russia and Anglo-French demands for Italian action simultaneously with drives in France and Flanders, brought Cadorna's armies to life on the Bainsizza Plateau in August, 1917. The Italians struck before enemy reinforcements, released from the Eastern front, were expected to prove a factor in the Austrian defence.

The Italian commander earlier had requested his western allies to send men and guns to his aid. They recognized his need of troops and effectiveness on the long front along Italy's northeastern rim but were able to send only artillery. Sixty-four British heavies and 35 French were used in the summer attacks.

Italian guns boomed from Monte Nero to the sea only a few hours after Pope Benedict launched an appeal for peace. Parts of the army were affected by the Pope's plea in which he referred to the struggle as "senseless slaughter." On August 23 President Woodrow Wilson, of the United States rejected the proposals as too lenient on the enemy.

Early Victories

Monte Santo, north of Gorizia, was captured by the Italians August 24 and their initial successes in the renewed thrusts inflicted severe losses on the Austrians. The greater part of the Bainsizza Plateau was overrun and the Isonzo River crossed in many places between Tolmino and Plava.

Despite these gains the Austrians managed to maintain positions at several key points on the long front. In September enemy forces were strongly reinforced and General Cadorna learned a counter-offensive was planned. He suspended operations and ordered preparation of defensive positions.

Four weeks' fighting in August and September, 1917 resulted in heavy Italian casualties. Forty thousand men were killed, 108,000 wounded and more than 18,000 taken prisoner. Casualties from May to September reached the total of 92,000 killed and 226,000 wounded. Sickness also took a heavy toll.

During the autumn, command of the forces of the Central Powers passed to Germany and on Oct. 24 Italians were routed at Caporetto. In this battle the Austro-German armies nullified in a day or so all the Italian gains of the previous two-and-a-half years. Following the disaster Britain and France sent expeditionary forces to Italy.

Five Thousand Glass Eyes Came from Unique England Factory Last Year

German prisoners are among the thousands who have been given glass eyes by a unique Government factory in the north of England.

It issued 5,000 eyes last year, and close upon 600 of them went to civilians who had lost an eye in the air raids. The factory supplies the Navy, the Army and the R.A.F.; the Allied Forces including the Poles, the Fighting French, the Norwegians and the Czechs; the A.T.S., the W.A.A.F.'s and other women's services. They have even sent eyes out to the troops in the Middle East.

The factory was working in a small way in peace time for men who had lost an eye in the last war. They used to get their glass from Germany. It is made in Britain to-day.

The glass comes to the factory in long tubes and rods. A glass tube is heated over a gas burner; the worker blows through it and makes a bulb in the middle; one end is snapped off, and-work on the eye begins.

The bulb is again heated as are rods of colored glass which are pressed upon the bulb to form the pupil and iris. Crystal glass is worked in for the cornea and little red veins are marked out with tiny strands of red glass.

It is often a difficult job to match up the coloring for there is no standardization. Each eye depends upon the patient himself.

Glass eyes are coming in for renewal at the rate of 250 a week.

BRITISH AND BREAD

LONDON, (CP) — Clamor for a second front has caused Netherlands' black market prices to drop considerably says "Vrij Nederland," the Dutch feeling if the British come soon there will be plenty of food for everyone.

20,000,000 Eggs Gold Dust Shape For Old Britain

Canadian Product of the Poultry Yard Processed into Powder to Conserve Atlantic Shipping Space

By MARSHALL BATEMAN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Winnipeg, Man. (CP) — Six plants in various parts of Canada are busy transforming eggs into dry fine yellow powder so that Britain can be assured of valuable food during the war.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture is now shipping the powdered egg food Britain in wooden barrels instead of in the shell in crates. The egg flour takes only one-seventh as much shipping space as when shipped in shells. Experts say the powder in addition will enable Britain to receive a fresh product whereas eggs in the shell will not keep fresh for a long period unless special storage precautions are taken.

At the drying plant in Winnipeg, more than a dozen girls work eight hours a day shelling and testing eggs. That is the initial process.

Each girl shells three eggs into a cup and then carefully examines the contents to see that no spoiled matter gets into the container. The containers large pails are tested for "freshness" again before being put into a mixing mill which breaks down the yolks.

Mixing Process

The mixing mill, which makes a batter of the yolk and white, also removes any shell that may have slipped into a container. The batter passes through two more screening processes before being forced through a fine spray at the top of a huge cone-shaped drying oven. The oven temperature is 250 degrees. All that is lost in the drying process is water.

The sprayed egg turns to powder as it drops down the cone cylinder and is then drawn off on a conveyor to the packing department. The wooden barrels are lined with two layers of waxed paper and each wax lining is sealed before the lid is fastened. Each barrel contains the equivalent of 17½ cases of 200 eggs.

The powder contains no more than five per cent moisture and each barrel is tested through a laboratory process to make certain the moisture content is not over the five per cent mark.

Big Shipments

Thirty-six persons, mostly girls, are employed at the Winnipeg plant, turn out 35 barrels of dried egg a day. Already the plant has shipped a carload to Eastern Canada for shipment to the United Kingdom.

The powdered eggs have been found to be excellent for baking purposes, said the plant manager, and they can also be used to scramble eggs. Scrambled eggs require one-fifth powder and four-fifths water.

The Dominion government plans to ship 20,000,000 eggs in powdered form to the United Kingdom by May 31. The drying plants are operated under the special products board.

Plans Utility For Furniture Of War Brides

Cocktail Cabinets and Knick-Knack Tables Might as Well Be Forgotten, says Expert, and All Shoddy is Out.

BY ALAN RANDAL
Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON, (CP) — When Britain's brides of 1943 get around to furnishing their homes with utility furniture they'll buy chairs and tables and bedroom suites designed by women.

The women are Mrs. Emma Winborn, an ample middle-aged person who remembers when she was a bride furnishing her first home, and Miss Elizabeth Denby, a specialist in the planning and equipment of low-cost housing.

They are members of a committee appointed by Hugh Dalton, board of trade president, to see to future furniture design. Working with them is a clergyman, Rev. Charles Jenkinson, who has had to do with housing schemes, and six other men.

"I shall have to start thinking about what young brides will want," said Mrs. Winborn, mother of two sons in the army and two daughters. She has been working as a cook in a canteen of a big multiple store and holds that every young couple should have a home, even if it is only a bed-sitting room. Her chief adviser is her youngest daughter, 18-year-old Marjorie.

Solid Things

Mrs. Winborn's feeling that wartime brides can forget about fancy knick-knack tables, cocktail cabinets or other luxury furniture. There should be no shoddy stuff, but rather good serviceable furniture which will stand the wear of years.

What young couples want is a good, solid polished top table, some comfortable chairs—after all, even in wartime we want a few chairs in which we can relax—a big enough wardrobe, and comfortable bed," she said.

the plan that made \$5 famous

Here is the key to the "\$5 monthly" plan which is bringing adequate life insurance protection to thousands who never before could afford it. Instead of paying the usual big annual premium, you use the form shown above. This is simply twelve cheques. Each one is to be made out for not less than \$5.00—one cheque dated for each month of the year. This plan saves you the nuisance of monthly bills and payments. Your cheques are automatically deposited when due and a receipt sent to you each month. The coupon will bring you your life insurance dollars are invested in Victory Bonds.

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE

HEAD OFFICE: 112 King Street, W., Toronto, Ont.

Without obligation please send me information about your Special Budget Policy, together with free Pocket Budgeting Booklet.

Name _____

Address _____

Howard Graff, Representative

Eat Hash and like it!

"I tell my family that as long as Jack is overseas, we'll eat hash and like it."

"WE ARE at war. It costs lots to win. It would cost everything to lose. So I don't figure that because we'll soon pay a small amount as compulsory savings, I can fold my hands and say 'That's that!' No sir! Some people may need compulsory savings to save something for their own good. But that's the minimum. I'm out to save all I can to buy War Savings Stamps and Certificates to help win the war and have something substantial put by for the days when there won't be all this work and overtime."

"I've christened my garbage can 'Hill' and believe me, he doesn't get anything if it's worth anything"

War Savings Stamps from drugstore, banks, post offices, telephone offices, department stores, grocers, tobacconists and other retail stores. Certificates may be purchased for immediate delivery in denominations of \$5, \$10, \$25 from banks, trust companies and post offices.

National War Finance Committee

Avoid Waste — Save Salvage!