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In the Spotlight

at Ottawa

By Spectator

Ottawa, February 6 — Party headquarters are donning their armor and marshalling their forces for the war of ballots on March 26. Since the abrupt dissolution of parliament to give way to a new election to be held within the minimum statutory period, the political events of interest have been the explanations from the Prime Minister of his action, a manifesto issued by the C.C.F. party condemning Mr. King's action as arbitrary and the "negation of democracy" having prevented discussion in parliament of the government's conduct of the war, and criticism from Dr. Manion, the Conservative leader of the government's "unfair and impulsive" dissolution of parliament.

The Prime Minister and most of his cabinet will not make extensive speaking tours during the election campaign. They will remain at their posts in Ottawa directing Canada's war activities; they will present their case to the people in the main by radio and through newspapers. Mr. King explained recently he was sorry he had to forego the "pleasantest part of election campaigns," the personal contacts with the electors. Since the war started, he said, he had not had a single day's relief from work. He proposed to maintain that program so long as necessary, "but there is a limit to one's endurance." On his part, the National Conservative leader, Dr. Manion has proclaimed and explained a promise, in case his party is elected, to form a National Government. His idea, he said, is that at this time of world crisis and national danger, the people do not want "petty quarrels of party continuously sounding in their ears. They do want, when this election is over, a government of the best men available irrespective of politics to handle our war effort."

Both the old parties and "if possible all important parties in the House of Commons" would be represented in the proposed cabinet. No outstandingly able man would be kept out because of party affiliations. Leaders in business and industry would necessarily be included. There is likely to be comparative quiet in political arena for a fortnight or longer while finishing touches are put to party organizations. When key speeches are made or complete manifestos issued, the public will get a clear picture of the general lines of attack and defence. The issues will undoubtedly be almost exclusively confined to the government's conduct of the war on both military and economic sides. The sudden dissolution of parliament will also be the subject

of platform discussions. But other domestic issues these at least not concerned directly with the war will unquestionably have to take a secondary place until the war ends.

During the last week of January war orders issued by the Supply Board reached a total of over 154 million dollars, the largest sum expended in any week since the war began. The major part of the contracts was for the construction of anti-submarine vessels of the "whale catcher" type. These orders amounting to \$13,200,000 were placed with shipbuilding companies in Montreal, Quebec and Sorel. Further orders for the same type of boats will shortly be placed with shipyards in other parts of Canada. The Dominion is thus beginning to take a more important role in the work of combating the U boat menace. In all, arrangements are being made to include purchases of the month of January.

Broadcasting During the Election — Free broadcasting over the CBC network by political parties in the election campaign will be restricted to 12 1/2 hours, the time being allotted as follows: Liberals 5 1/2, Conservatives 4 1/2, C.C.F. 1 1/2 and Social Credit 1 1/2 hours. The distribution was arranged and agreed upon by representatives of the parties and was based on the average of the popular vote of the four groups in the 1930 and 1935 elections. What time might be allotted to new parties would depend on the extent of their organization, the number of candidates, etc. Paid election broadcasting will be confined to privately owned stations for local and provincial distribution, (except in the case of Chlooutim, where the CBC is the only station giving local service). As war conditions have caused a shortage of fresh fish in Britain, the Minister of Fisheries has appointed a Fishing Advisory Board of eleven members to arrange the orderly supply of Canadian fish to the British market.

Large Military Class in Training at Brampton Association

FOR WOULD-BE OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

With little more than the rafters and the floor for seating accommodation, enthusiastic militarists invade Brampton and Orangeville armories twice a week for the instruction which will speed them on their ways to desired ranks as officers or N.C.O.s. Previous to Christmas the Lorne Scots N.P.A.M., which is included in Military District No. 2, boasted of three of these schools, but after the vacation the Oakville branch was amalgamated with Brampton to make instruction more uniform.

Those aspiring to be Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers number thirty and sixty respectively, in the two schools. Instruction at Orangeville is under the supervision of Lt.-Col. G. M. Fitzgerald, ex-commanding officer of the regiment. Col. R. V. Conover, O.C. is in charge of the

school at Brampton, with Captain G. A. Mouton, of Streetsville, as instructor. Lt.-Col. L. H. Bertram, M.C., is second in command of the regiment.

The Orangeville school gathers its recruits from the area surrounding the town and including Grand Valley and Shelburne. Members of the regiment in Acton, Georgetown, Milton, Oakville, Port Credit, Streetsville and Bolton come to Brampton for their military education. As the group gathers around the instructor at least one corner of the barren armories is lived, with the leader's voice resounding from the confines of the otherwise deserted drill room. It is perhaps a sand-box that the men are intently occupied with, watching as military tactics are demonstrated to them by the movements of top soldiers or alleged battle fronts. The lectures vary in content and are frequently interspersed with drill.

The theoretical course is one of six months' duration and will be followed by practical training before the certificates are granted. The current schools will conclude their curriculum with examinations in March. All instruction in this course is given by officers of the regiment without remuneration of any kind. Their services are often required at the school or at the company headquarters a total of four or five nights a week, and some must travel more than forty miles for this purpose.

On Tuesday night the annual signal school was inaugurated with twenty-five members from Brampton and vicinity. Instruction in this course is given by Lt. Paul Cornell and 2nd Lt. J. D. Conover.

The Lorne Scots N.P.A.M. have supplied fourteen officers and 150 men of other ranks to various C.A.S.F. units, including five officers and about thirty men to the Infantry base depot under the command of Lt.-Col. Louis Keene.

The war has resulted, of course, in a greatly increased training schedule for the ranks of the N.P.A.M. and company headquarters are beehives of activity. The call for recruits made three weeks ago has been well responded to. Training is carried out at the following locations; headquarters, company, training signals at Brampton; first headquarters platoon, Bolton; second headquarters platoon, Brampton; "A" Co., at Brampton, Streetsville and Port Credit; "B" Co., at Oakville; "C" Co., at Georgetown, Milton and Acton; "D" Co., at Shelburne and Orangeville.

Where government quarters are not provided as at Bolton and Streetsville accommodation is rented, and where government armories are not large enough for drill purposes additional room is acquired by the rental of appropriate halls and club rooms. Such is the case at Acton and Port Credit.

"So you want to quit working?" drawled the foreman. "What's the matter? Ain't the wages good enough?" "Well, I guess it's not the wages, mister, I reckon I'm doing a horse out of a job!"

Lady (to beggar): How can you prove you are blind? Beggar—Well, mum, do you see that tree over there? Lady—Yes. Beggar—Well, I can't.

Along the Valley Waves BY "ETHERITE"

CBC Presents Second "House of Variety"

Jack Arthur, one of the best known theatre impresarios in Canada, will direct the "CBC House of Variety," which is to be produced at the Barracks, Toronto, Friday, February 16 at 9.00 to 10.00 p.m. EST. The CBC will play host to hundreds of troops in training who will comprise the invited audience at the great Music Building, and the broadcast will be heard over a coast-to-coast network. A company of leading vocal and dramatic artists will include such stellar names as Tom Hamilton, the well known singer of Scottish songs, Jack McLaren, famed as a member of the original "Dumbells," Patricia Bailey, lovely young songstress of the CBC, Jane Mallett, Kathleen Kidd, The Smarties, girls' vocal trio, and George Patton, famed for his Stanley Holloway monologues on the long-time favourite "Let's all go to the Music Hall."

CBC Presents Musical Valentine

Songs and dances that were heard at Valentine's Day parties in Grandmother's day will be presented by an orchestra and soloists from Vancouver Wednesday, February 14, 9.30 to 10.00 p.m. EST. Contrasting the sentiment of the Victorian valentine with the present day observance of this romantic day, a dramatic cast will dramatize the story of two wise-cracking youngsters who are taken backwards through the years to see the charm and appeal of a Valentine's Day done in lavender and old lace. The CBC's Valentine greeting will be heard over the National Network.

Canada's War Effort Recorded by "March of Time"

J. Frank Willis, director of feature broadcasts for the CBC, has been appointed official observer for the CBC on location with the "March of Time" unit now engaged in recording Canada's war effort on the home front. Mr. Willis accompanied producer Geo. Black and cameraman Johnny Gales and their staff to Kingston and Trenton recently, where a pictorial record was made of Canada's air force in training and the various activities of the Signal Corps, the Royal Canadian Artillery and the gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military College. The film, which is to be released late in March as a feature of the "March of Time," will have the approval of the Canadian authorities.

CBC Plays Works of Toronto Composer

Louis Applebaum, the 21-year-old Toronto composer, who won honours in 1938 and 1939 with his entries in

THE GOAL

We tread along life's busy way, When skies are blue, or cold and grey. Nor turn to left—nor turn to right, Pursuing still, till falls the night.

What matters this — what matters that, When ways are steep, crooked or flat? Onward toward our goal we fend, Mayhap 'tis just around the bend!

On, on we go from dawn till dark, And every step will leave its mark. Whereby others may find the way, And reach their goal at close of day. —Hety M. Brand

Out of ninety thousand women, there will be eighty-nine thousand nine hundred and ninety-four who will read this. The other six will be blind.

CBC Has Two War Songs

Two songs of Canadian origin have been adopted by the CBC. "Curry On," written several years ago by the nationally-known composer and organist, Ernest Dainty, has already been chosen as the theme of the "CBC House of Variety," a special music-comedy programme which is scheduled once a month from the Barracks of the Canadian National Exhibition grounds, Toronto. This week it is announced that the CBC has given its approval to the new number, "Over Here for Over There," which has just been presented in manuscript form to the Toronto studios. It was given its premiere on the opening broadcast of "CBC House of Variety" last month.

Three well known CBC personalities collaborated on "Over Here for Over There"—Jess Jaffray, baritone, and Vida Guthrie of Percy Faith's Rhythmaires, wrote the music, and Horace Brown, of the Script Department, devised the lyrics, with Mr. Jaffray. Programme officials of the CBC have expressed themselves as pleased with the song's catchy lyrics and smooth, marching tempo.

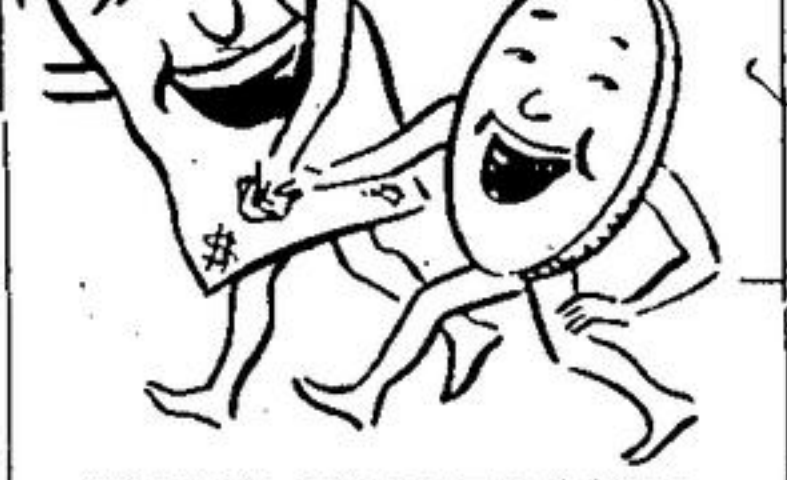
THE TWO FOES

The love of God made a beautiful earth—flowers and fruits and song and mirth. The fear of man spoils the whole of life with darkness, horror, disease and strife.

The love God not given in vain, strove hard to give back joy again. But the love of God and the fear of man, have been at war since the world began.

"How is your father?" "Oh, him's all right." "How is your mother?" "Oh, her's very well." "Dear me? Your grammar is terribly bad." "Yes, rheumatic."

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SCHOOL CHOIRS BROADCAST NEW WORLD BALLADS



The Canadian Broadcasting Commission is about to enter upon a novel experiment which has as its purpose the interesting of Canadian children in ballads having to do with the history of their own country. This will take the form of a series of five broadcasts based on John Murray Gibbon's recently published book "New World Ballads." The broadcasts will take place on successive Friday evenings beginning January 28 between the hours of 7.00 to 7.30 eastern standard time, and will be heard from eighteen stations covering the entire country.

Three of the programmes will originate in Toronto and the ballads will be illustrated by a group of girl singers picked from Toronto high schools and singing under the direction of Leslie R. Bell, Director of Music, Ontario College of Education, University of Toronto. The balance of the programme will originate in Montreal with ballads sung by the Westhill High Singers, a group of girls from Westhill High School. This choir is under the direction of Irvn Cooper, Supervisor of Music for the Protestant Board of School Commissioners in the City of

Montreal, and lecturer at McGill Conservatory of Music. An interesting feature of the experiment is that school children in Ontario have been instructed to "listen in" as part of their home work, and it is expected that in other provinces the same action may be taken. The attention of the school-children of Quebec Province is also being drawn by Dr. W. P. Percival, Director of Protestant Education to these broadcasts in the interests of school and community singing. Upper picture shows the Montreal choir, and the lower picture the Toronto choir.