TROOP'S MAIL

Ever since the Canadian Active Service Force went overseas, there have been a great many complaints about the long delays involving the delivery of mail from home to these Canadians abroad. However, enquiry in Ottawa shows that this is inevitable according to the present arrangements because all mail to the troops must be forwarded from every post office throughout the land to the Base Post Office in Ottawa, where under the personal direction of Major G. W. Ross, all mail must be sorted into bags designated for the various units, and subsequently, these letters or parcels are despatched from Ottawa to whatever port the authorities decide, though it must be borne in mind that Canadian troops abroad may be moved from one place to another and it is advisable that these movements should not be known generally for obvious reasons. Furthermore, all such material must be carried by convoyed vessels, and if a letter or parcel reaches a point of departure right after a convoyed group has gone, it may involve weeks and weeks of delay until the next group of boats will be ready for transportation across the ocean.

WHAT IS THE CHARGE?

There is not the slightest doubt amongst experienced and independent observers in Parliament Hill that the man in the street throughout Canada is only interested in one main issue in the present war-time electoral campaign, with this issue requiring the average man and woman to judge between the Government's defence of its war record and the evidence submitted by their opponents to support a serious condemnation of that record since the average Canadian desires that politics shall not interfere in the national war effort to the full limit of this country's capacity and efficiency. In other words, while the present Government has been charged with defectiveness and a lack of determined leadership in attempting to solve since 1935 such urgent national problems as that of wheat policies, tariff questions, railway losses, unemployment and relief difficulties, unbalanced budgets, ineffective costly commissions of enquiry, Bren Gun and other war contracts of a scandalous kind, etc., yet it is this war accusation alone which will influence most the average Canadian taxpayer when he or she goes to the poll on March the twenty sixth to pass a final judgement on the present Administration in Ottawa.

Under these circumstances, a clear and dexterous charge should precede such an historic decision by the people of Canada since this extremely grave national issue has suffered from censorial and political blackouts as well as from the ill-effects of being beclouded in the public mind by wave upon wave of whispers, rumours, gossip, etc The defence of the Government is now common knowledge because the war effort has been publicized throughout the whole country by every form of modern propaganda or scientific means of informing the masses either by the authorities of the Administration in an official capacity or by the agencies of the political organization which is now in power in the capital. However, in order that the voter may be able to judge fairly and intelligently the Government's war record, it is essential that the charge should be explained in its proper light so that the voter may better understand the exact accusation.

What is the charge? The opponents of the Government accuse the Administration of being lackadaisical and half-hearted in preparing Canada for the present war, with the indictment alleging that a series of events prove that the Government has been guilty of the grave offence of failing to preconceive properly the present conflict which has resulted in a faulty and fatuous war effort through certain actions or inactions, imprudence, neglect and want of skill, and illustrating once again that "haste is waste" since sudden and quick preparations had to be made after Canada's declaration of war on September the tenth of 1939.

Before guiltness can be established legally in any court of justice, it must be shown there existed a "mens rea" or intention. What is the "mens rea" in this case against the present administration? It is the charge that the Government had complete information or knowledge of what was coming a long time before war was declared about six months ago, but no measures of a proper kind were adopted until the emergency had actually arrived on the scene.

It is charged that the Government knew that various international agreements on the limitation of armaments were being violated flagrantly by Japan, Germany, Italy and Soviet Russia, wherein all these nations upheld the theory that might alone was right in settling disputes between neighbours. The Government knew that the Motherland was engaged in a gigantic rearmament programme in 1936, with gradual acceleration all along the line in order to keep abreast of the rest of the world, and yet in face of these facts the Government did not take any logical action since in 1936 its defence budget was only $2.70 per head of the population and in 1937 it was only increased by $13,000,000 reaching the figure of $3.70 per head. This was only a drop in the bucket of the world's defence budgets of those years, even for a country supposedly far away from the likely theatre of war since the United States levy for the same purposes was about three times as much per capita, exclusive of other charges for considerable sums of borrowed money spent by Uncle Sam on armaments. Furthermore, in those two years of desperate preparation when rearmament started on a serious basis the defence budget of sixty nations more than doubled, rising from $5,000,000 to over $11,000,000. Between these two years Soviet Russia increased its armament expenditure from $1,000,000,000 to $2,963,000,000; Germany from $381,000,000 to $2,600,000,000; United States from $71,000,000 to $964,000,000; Great Britain from $480,000,000 to $846,000,000; with the Motherland starting on a defence programme in 1938 which called for an expenditure of at least $7,080,000,000 over a short period, including a defence budget for 1938 of $513,600,000 for the Royal Air Force, $532,500,000 for the Royal Army and $770,150,000 for the Royal Navy. In other words it is alleged that the Government did not take the necessary and desirable measures of precaution in the right time to build up the defences in order to protect the lives, property and interests of the men, women and children of Canada, particularly at a very dangerous period in the country's history when the upsurge of challenging policies caused the armament race to become a gallop.

This is the basic charge which has been preferred against the Administration by the opponents of the Government, and since the defence is common knowledge now on account of the official and unofficial reports which have been issued from time to time during the past five years, the taxpayer can pass final judgement when he or she goes to the poll on March the twenty-sixth.

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HEALTH

VIRUSES

What are viruses? They are minute living agents, which cause disease. The very first disease that man learned to control was a virus disease. This was smallpox which took an enormous toll of life and beauty until at the beginning of the 19th Century Dr. Edward Jenner learned from the chance remark of a dairymaid that a dose of the mild cowpox would provide the patient with a lasting or at least a prolonged immunity from variola.

Among the virus diseases, as distinguished from diseases caused by bacteria, are yellow fever, infantile paralysis, parrot fever, chicken pox, sleeping sickness, rabies, hog cholera the foot and mouth disease and certain types of tumour growths in fowl and other animals resembling cancer. If one were to investigate the social expense of diseases according to the money spent and time lost, the virus-caused common cold would probably top the list.

A "Filtrable virus" is a virus so small that it will pass through a Berkfeld or Chamberland filter; it cannot be seen by the most powerful microscope and the only place where it will grow is in the presence of living cells. It causes disease not only in man but also in plants. For example, there are 46 different viruses affecting tobacco. It also causes disease in tomatoes, tulips, spinach, phlox and petunias. A cheering circumstance is that a virus disease of tulips, known as a "break" actually improves the value of a crop. It is stated that "the colour-adding virus is so powerful that it can turn a white tulip red or a pink tulip vermillion." There is a group of virus-like diseases known as bacteriophages (literally "bacteria eaters) which affect bacteria causing them to break up and dissolve.

Given the proper environment, the virus, even a very small part of one, is able to reproduce its kind. It is suggested that a virus reproduces not as bacteria do, by cell division but that its molecule acts something like a crystal in a saturated solution attracting to itself the proper constituents from the cell protoplasm. Some scientist believe that viruses are the very essence of life. At any rate, they are of high importance in life.

Around the Airwaves

BY "ETHERITE"

ANDY CLARKE ENTHUSIASTIC FISHERMAN

Andy Clarke, who spreads the Neighbourly News from the Weeklies around among the CBC's Ontario listeners, is one broadcaster who is impatient for the spring break-up. Andy, long-time newspaperman and writer of friendly columns, is one of the most ardent fishermen who ever sat at a city desk and longed to be on the end of a nice sunny dock. Andy Clarke has not just dreamed of his favourite pastime, he has cast his line in the Straits of Northumberland, in the Carribean Sea and in the sporty rivers of old Quebec. In the northern waters of Ontario, off Nassau and Prince Edward Island, in fact wherever it is legal to fish, that's where Andy has been or looks forward to going. He has caught the conger eel, with a jaw like an alligator, squids, sea bass, conger eel, skates, mackerel, hundreds of smelts and even the odd star fish (by mistake, of course), but says Andy, for the thrill of thrills, "give me the brook trout or the sea herring." Any Sunday now he will likely slip in a bit of news for the anglers—listen for him Sundays at 10.00 a.m. EST.

• • •

Farm Department Continues Exchange Interviews

Prairie farmers are interested first, last and foremost in grain production. As a result, they have definite ideas regarding seed improvement. Just what some of these ideas are will be heard on the Ontario Farm Broadcast of Thursday, March 28th, 12.30 to 1.00 p.m. Hugh Boyd, Prairie Farm Broadcast Commentator, will interview a prairie grain man fully qualified to give his views on seed improvement as it affects the Western farmer today.

• • •

"Socks for the Troops"

Apparently, women have concerned themselves with soldiers' comforts ever since men began to go to war Civilizations of thousands of years ago knew the knitting needle. And sock-makers in the very earliest days of organized war-fare made use of only one needle, according to interesting discoveries at the Royal Ontario Museum by CBC's woman sleuth, Monica Mugan. Monica will talk about some of the interesting styles in "Socks for the Troops" of other periods during her broadcast on Tuesday, March 26 at 4.15 p.m. EST, from the Toronto studios.

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Waltz Serenade Presents New Song

The CBC seems to be having a whole series of song premieres. Jess Jaffray, who had a hand in "Over Here for Over There," which is catching on so well, has just announced another new song which he wrote in collaboration with George Whiting and Bert Reisfield. The song, in waltz time and titled "The Song is the Thing," will be introduced by Russ Gerow on the next broadcast of "Waltz Serenade," Thursday, March 28th, at 7.00 p.m. EST.

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CBC Reviews World Happenings

Current events, the war effort at home, the war conduct abroad, the newest song, the latest book, the most sensational murder, the newest medical discovery, the pulse of industry and the chart of the economists . . . these will be the highlighted topics of "The World in Review," first of the quarterly broadcasts on happenings of 1940, which the CBC will present over the National Network from its Toronto studios, Friday, March 29, 8.00 to 9.00 p.m EST. Stanley Maxted, who produced "This Was 1939," CBC's New Year cavalcade of the dramatized news of the fateful 12 months preceding, will be in charge of the new series.

• • •

Atlantic vs. Pacific Seagulls

The relative vocal merits of seagulls of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts received some sort of a test on a recent "Canadian Snapshots" broadcast on the CBC. Pick-ups from both coasts were made and in each the shrill cackle of seagulls was heard. Unbiased listeners said that the Atlantic seagulls displayed the greater vociferous enthusiasm. In defence of the Pacific gulls, the CBC crew responsible for the broadcast from that end have confessed that they fed the gulls before the broadcast, leaving them too full to cackle. A return bout, however, is expected.

KEEP POSTED

The occupation of farming is classified by insurance companies as hazardous. Yet crops and live stock and therefore the profits from production, are exposed to hazard or risk to an even greater extent than is the farmer's personal safety, states the Agricultural Supplies Board for Canada in a circular addressed to Canadian farmers. The uncertainty of the elements, and the many natural enemies of production such as insect pests, parasites, and plant and animal diseases, are ever present hazards.

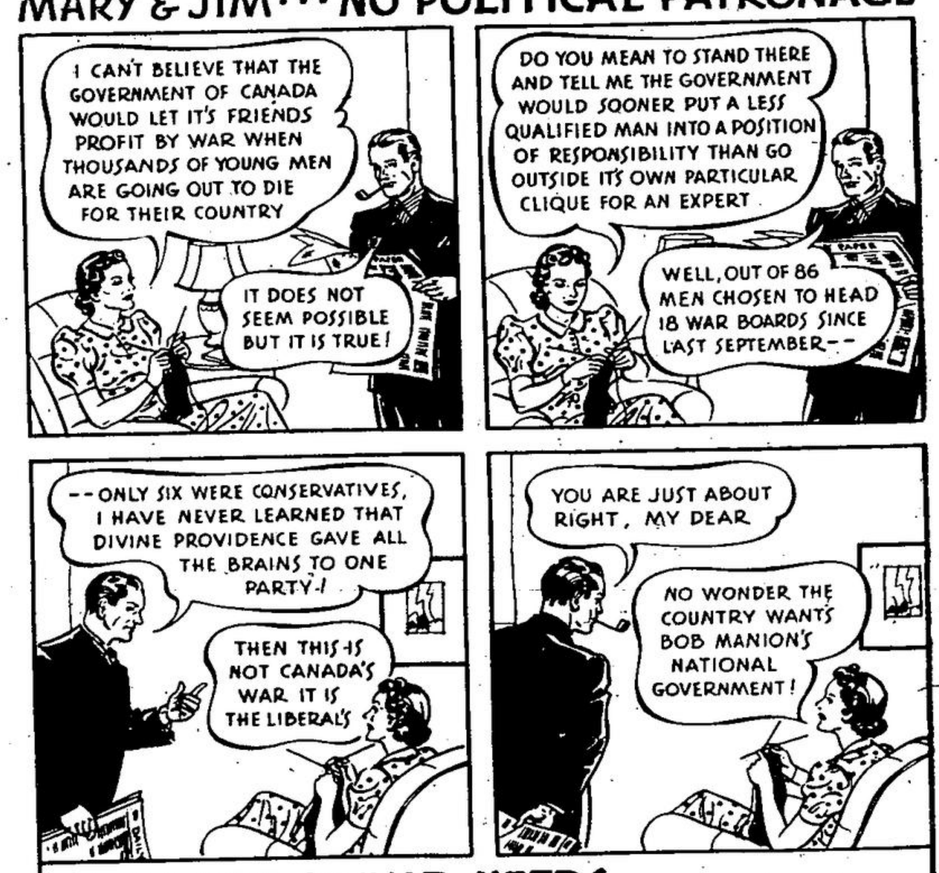
Most of these unfavourable conditions may be eliminated or at least greatly reduced where the farmer is well equipped with knowledge as to how best to meet them. This is particularly true where changes are contemplated in crop and animal production, but even every-day farm practice may be greatly improved through the application of the latest and most complete information available. Out-of-date and incomplete information is just as dangerous as half-truths.

Agricultural scientists, experimentalists, and research men have for years been working to supply the farmers with the latest and most useful information possible on all phases of agricultural production. Such information is insurance against many production risks, and may be secured free at any time on request to the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Agricultural Colleges, or the nearest Experimental Farm or Station.

NEW CANADIAN RADIO PROGRAM

"Top Flight Tunes," new musical hit program, is heard over a CBC network of 36 stations every Tuesday evening from 9 until 9.30, sponsored by Wings Cigarettes. To the left of the band are Arthur Phillips, vocalist and Lorne Green, announcer. Below, Carroll Lucas *(left)* arranges the music and directs the 18-piece orchestra. "Three Little Wings" *(extreme right)* comprise Myrtle Campbell, Linda Dale and Doris Orde. Broadcast originates in Toronto.

MARY & JIM · · · NO POLITICAL PATRONAGE



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