

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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The Editor's Corner

AROUND THE KAMPFIRE!

You can't believe all you hear about the Hitler-Stalin friendship. It is recently announced that Joe Stalin has written a book which the publishers have tagged "Stalin's Kampf, and thereby has accomplished the diplomatic triumph of placing Hitler and Stalin in rival camps.

And while we're on the subject, have you heard the latest Hitler radio? Berlin radio announcer: "Please stand by for our next program."

TRY THIS ONE!

It is claimed that figures don't lie, and the same has also been said of the Good Book, so a combination of the two should prove quite reliable. This combination, used in getting a good line on the Fuehrer of Nazi Germany, Adolph Hitler, was pointed out to us the other day, and we pass it on to any of our readers who care to spend a few minutes in finding the answer. Mark down all the letters of the alphabet, then, starting with A as 100, number each letter until you reach the end, Z, or 125. Now write down "Hitler" vertically, and opposite each letter its equivalent number (for instance, H is 107). Add the numbers, then turn to the last verse of chapter 13, Book of Revelations, and see for yourself.—Hanover Post.

EARLY EASTER AND A BIRTHDAY

Doris Brownridge, niece of T. J. Brownridge, who celebrated her 12th birthday on March 24, will have to wait a long time before her next Easter Sunday birthday. Her uncle informs us that it will be 50 years before March 24 again falls on Easter Sunday.

While we're on the subject of Easter, you might be interested in some data collected by one of our weekly papers. It is interesting to note that the date on which Easter falls this year—March 24—is the earliest it has occurred since 1913, at which time it fell on March 23. Easter Sunday fell on dates earlier than March 24 only four times in 140 years. In 1818, 1845 and 1856, Easter was on March 22, and in 1913, as previously mentioned, it was on March 23. Incidentally, it is not likely any one reading this will see Easter come so early again, for the next time it is scheduled to fall on March 24 is about the middle of the 21st Century. The next earliest date is in 1951 when Easter falls on March 25.—The Hanover Post.

MAILING LIST REVISION

Next week we are bringing our mailing list up to date. Inquiries have been received from subscribers who have paid up their subscription arrears and have noticed that their label has not been changed. We ask them to bear with us for one more week, after which time these corrections will be made.

Meanwhile, would those subscribers who are still behind with subscription payments make an effort to make these payments sometime this week.—Thank you!

POETRY

THE SOULS OF THEM

I like to think the souls of them—
The furred and feathered things,
The hunted deer with pleading eyes,
The birds with broken wings—
Find solace at the Gates of Gold.
Where good St. Francis stands,
To soothe the needless hurts of them,
With soft and gentle hands.

DO THE RIGHT THING

You'll find this world's a fine old place
If you'll but make a fight,
And meet dull care with laughing eyes,
And do the thing that's right.
If you will lead the children's steps
Across life's stony road,
And from some tired shoulders lift
The heavy, toilsome load.

C.N.R. Annual Report

Ottawa, March 25—An improvement of \$14,218,676 in the results of Canadian National Railway is reported for 1939 and a forecast of a considerable further improvement during 1940 is contained in the annual report received today by the Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Transport, from S. J. Hungerford, Chairman and President, on behalf of the board of directors. Operating revenues for 1939, \$203,820,186.62 was the highest of any year since 1931 and exceeded that of 1938 by \$21,578,468.80 or 11.84 per cent. Operating expenses amounted to \$162,965,768.18, an increase of 3.85 per cent. Viewed in relation to the increase in operating revenues, this is regarded as a moderate rise. The operating ratio was 80.77 per cent, the best since 1929. Net operating revenue totalled \$20,854,418.44, an increase over 1938 of \$14,788,007.29. The net available for interest was \$10,635,023.33, an increase over the previous year of \$14,194,071.86. The interest on funded debt held by the public totalled \$49,814,377.90 and the interest on government loans \$916,195.01. The cash deficit was \$40,095,619.58, an improvement of \$14,218,676.39 over the previous year.

724,000, or 4.93 per cent during the year. Of this amount \$495,257 was due to increased rolling stock retirements on Canadian Lines, the total write-offs to operating expenses on this account having been \$6,768,525 as compared with \$2,680,166 in 1938. Transportation expenses increased \$2,679,000 or 3.11 per cent. Snow removal in 1939 cost \$37,000 more. The pension roll increased by \$222,000 and wage adjustments cost \$622,000. Protective services necessitated by the war amounted to \$433,000. Larger provision was made for retirement of miscellaneous structures, sidings, etc., retired from service and not replaced. Taxes increased by \$148,274. They amounted to \$7,095,147. In addition, \$3,171,500 was paid in sales tax on the cost of material, making a total tax payment of over \$10 millions. The revenue from hotel operations increased \$186,829, and after meeting operating expenses and taxes the net operating income was \$302,363, an increase of \$76,350 over 1938. The total requirements for interest on funded debt held by the public in 1939 were \$49,814,377, being \$24,645 less than in 1938. Interest payments to the Government on temporary loans for capital purposes were \$916,195, being \$9,959 less than in 1938. It is of interest to note, the report points out, that from 1932, when the present practice was adopted of financing capital requirements by issue of railway securities to the public, the capital debt of the railway (including temporary Government loans) has been increased by \$32.2 millions, an average increase during the eight year period of \$4 millions per annum. In this period the railway has made new public issues aggregating \$319 millions but has retired other public issues aggregating \$382 millions. As the result of this refinancing, which has been at lower interest rates, the fixed charges of the railway, 1939 compared with 1931, after providing for interest on the additional capital of \$32.3 millions, show a decrease of \$5,843,000.

(Continued on Page 5)

The Canadian Legion Speaks - Part I

We have received a memorandum from Canadian Legion Headquarters at Ottawa which we think worthy of the attention of our readers. The memorandum has been submitted to leaders of the four Dominion political parties. Its purpose is best summed up in the words of the Secretary, J. R. Bowler: "We would point out that in taking this action we have made it quite clear that the Legion is not asking for a commitment on the part of any Party, but that the material (which is based upon the Legion's practical knowledge and experience) is simply submitted as a matter of information, and as a basis for future discussion and negotiation."

Unemployment

We are most concerned with the cause, but principally with the cure. While conscription was enforced in the last year of the last War, the fact remains that the great bulk of the men now affected by these conditions were volunteers who gave their services for their Country freely and without receiving the cost, in so doing they made distinct sacrifices as compared with those who elected to remain at home, or who having so elected were ultimately conscripted. These sacrifices merit something more than a bare existence. We would be the last to suggest that because a man had the honour of serving his country under Arms, his country thereby owes him a living without effort. We would strongly resent any such theory. But we do say that the country does owe to each of these men an opportunity to make a living, and that has been denied to many of them for various causes.

We appreciate the efforts made by succeeding Governments to deal with this problem and the success which has attended various schemes conceived for the purpose of meeting the situation. But the fact remains that we are now enlisting a new Army when remnants of our last Army are still objects of public charity. It is our concern to see to it that in the pre-occupation of the new War the Veterans of the last War are still out and that the men of the new Forces may go to meet the enemy with the knowledge that on their return they may expect a fair deal and an opportunity to make a living.

We therefore feel that this problem should not be regarded as one which is not pressing, but that it should be considered as distinctly a war problem and, as such, should receive the same consideration as all other matters in connection with Canada's war effort. For that reason we submit certain specific recommendations as follows: (a) Preference to Ex-Servicemen in War Work.—That it should be ascertained from the Veteran's Assistance Commission and the Officers of the Government Employment Service what number of veterans are still out of employment who are fit for employment in work now proceeding in this country, and that in awarding contracts for war work, contractors be strictly required when expanding staffs to give due preference to these men.

(b) Transportation of Labour.—That has been the policy of the Government for some time, but unfortunately the unemployed veteran is not always available where work is being done. In order to deal with the problem adequately, it will be necessary to evolve some system of transfer of labour from points where no work is available to points where such work is available. (c) Special Service Battalions.—Even after this is done, it will be found that there are very large numbers of men who, by reason of a long period of unemployment during which many of them have subsisted on an allowance less than that required for a minimum of subsistence, have become—by reason of inactivity and malnutrition, quite incapable of keeping pace with industry. It is our opinion that as we withdraw fit men from the industrial field for War Service, every effort should be made to utilize Canada's available ex-service man power in our War work, and we feel that many of these men can be made fit for this effort when required.

It is impossible to expect employers to make the entire sacrifice necessary to achieve this result, but we believe it can be achieved if the Government will, forthwith, organize Special Service Battalions for Veterans of the last War who have seen Active service, and who should be given an opportunity to once again serve their country in the capacity in which they are qualified. These Special Service Battalions could be utilized in the various camps, both Military and Air Force, which are being set up, to perform the fatigue duties which, at the present time, require the services of a large number of fit men who are in training. It is not uncommon to find that a large part of the establishment of a Unit may be required on various camp fatigues. It would greatly facilitate the process of training if this could be obtained and the men permitted to do their work under proper conditions. This scheme would have the advantage of giving these men proper rations, proper clothing, comfortable quarters and some measure of training, and discipline all of which would tend to build up their physical condition, restore their morale, and make them available for absorption into industry when required.

We feel that this is a very urgent problem and one which should be given early consideration by the Government. It should be made quite clear, in putting these observations forward, that this problem has been placed before the present and preceding Governments. Substantial contributions towards its solution have certainly been made, although no complete solution has been evolved. For the assistance we have received we are grateful, but we ask for an immediate effort to ensure a more adequate solution of the problem which we have presented.

Allowances to Wives and Dependent Children.—While it has always been recognized that some limitations in respect to marriage insofar as it confers rights to pension to widows of men dying of pensionable disability is necessary and desirable, in

order to prevent the scandal of "death-bed" marriages, yet until 1933 it was generally conceded that a pensioner should not be deprived of the privileges of home life to be secured by marriage, and that he should be entitled to allowance in respect to his new status, based on the extent to which his disability. In other words, under our system a man's pensionable disability is based on the extent to which his earning capacity on the basis of common labour is impaired by reason of such disability. If he is married his responsibility is greater and therefore he should receive increased allowances to meet such responsibility, but it apparently was not considered that he should be deprived of the privilege of marrying and of having children because his pensionable disability made it impossible to accept such responsibility. In 1933, however, as an economy measure, it was provided that no allowances should be paid in respect of wives married or children born after the 1st of May, 1933. On reflection it seems to us that this is a discriminating legislation and we therefore request that this bar be removed. It should be pointed out that the removal of such bar does not in any way extend the existing provisions governing entitlement to widow's pension in case of death from pensionable disability.

United States Pensioners.—We desire to direct the attention of those interested to the fact that war conditions are causing considerable handicap to many Canadian pensioners in the United States inasmuch as the unfavourable rate of exchange has operated to materially reduce their pension allowances. It is common knowledge that many former members of the Canadian Forces whose health had been impaired as a result of war disability, found it desirable to take up residence in the United States where climatic conditions were more favourable. It is recommended that consideration be given to a proposal that pensioners residing in countries where there is an adverse rate of exchange should be entitled to receive their pensions in such a form that the amount received shall be equivalent to the par value.

Medical Treatment.—The outbreak of another War gives rise to some anxiety, lest in dealing with new casualties the casualties of the last War should be overlooked and forgotten or the rights already conceded be restricted. The extension of the right of medical treatment to men who gave meritorious service has, although not of universal application as yet, proved of the greatest benefit, and we would not care to see such privileges in any way curtailed or restricted. In fact, as our men grow older the benefits of this treatment should be extended. We therefore recommend: (a) That immediate consideration should be given to provision of hospital facilities to care for new casualties so that there shall always be available sufficient accommodation for men who served in the last War and who require medical treatment in respect of pensionable disability or are entitled thereto by reason of the various provisions made.

(b) That the right to Class 18 treatment should not be confined to those in the immediate vicinity of an established Departmental hospital but that contract hospitals should be arranged for at suitable points so that the benefit of free medical treatment in proper cases might be more readily available, and upon a more uniform basis than at present.

War Veterans' Allowance.—This legislation is, generally speaking, being applied in a satisfactory manner. At the moment we desire to stress only one feature. So long as the recipient is in reasonably good health and able to look after himself the allowance seems to suffice. But in many cases it happens that these recipients, by reason of advancing years or increased physical disability, are no longer able to get along without care. In such cases the allowance is insufficient. Public opinion would not lightly regard an aged ex-serviceman who had served in the line becoming in his declining years an object of charity. The general alternative suggested is old ex-servicemen's homes. This is an expensive proposal and it is therefore recommended that the provision for veterans' care in established hospitals, and now provided in the case of pensioners, should be extended to cover recipients of War Veterans' Allowance who, by reason of age or disability, are incapable of caring for themselves.

Conclusion.—In conclusion we cannot too strongly urge that a determined effort should be made NOW to clear up the problems of the last War before we are faced definitely with the problem of the ex-servicemen's needs after the new War. The requests submitted deal with the bare minimum and represent matters which we believe require urgent attention.

Charles II of England once asked Gillingfleet, the famous clergyman, why he read his sermons from manuscript. "Why do you read your speeches from the throne?" countered the minister. "Because," replied the King, "I have asked the people so often for money I am ashamed to look them in the face."

"Walter, the ogre in this story is not enough even to terrorize." "Good, good," he quickly put in to flatter the ogre. "But I am not a Christian!"

DIGEST Tuesday to Tuesday in the News

HE WAS!

In Toronto, U.S. Minister to Canada James Cromwell, declaring that "the life, the liberty and the very safety of neutral citizens of the United States may be dependent on the outcome of the present war," said that he realized he was leaving himself open to criticism. Immediately, a wave of congratulation and vituperation descended upon him from the American press and politicians. Climax was a sharp rebuke from Secretary of State Cordell Hull, with rumormongers of Cromwell's resignation being strongly denied.

PARIS IN THE SPRING

Unpredictable French politics shifted again. Premier Edouard Daladier resigned, and Paul Reynaud was given the task of forming a new cabinet. Daladier continued as Minister of War. The new government, given a slim vote of confidence, decided to "carry on for the present." Major changes—Creation of an eight-man "inner cabinet" to operate within the government; inclusion of the Socialist Party in the cabinet; creation of a much-demanded Ministry of Information.

WAR'S END

Russia demanded territorial concessions even broader than those contained in the Russo-Finnish peace treaty. At the same time, Foreign-Commissioner Molotov announced that Finland is now considered a Baltic State, and inclusion of Finland in a Scandinavian alliance would be frowned on. Premier Hepburn suggested that Canada offer homes to 100,000 Finns from regions ceded to Russia. Finland gratefully declined, needing all its citizens to help in the post-war reconstruction.

SURPRISE

With a surprising blare of publicity, the liners Maurelania and Queen Mary sailed from New York, destination unknown.

WAR

The British admiralty announced the sinking of two German ships off the coast of Denmark by allied submarines. The reason—an effort to cut off Swedish shipments to Germany. A large scale bombing attack was carried out by the R.A.F. on the German Isle of Sylt, with heavy loss of German supplies.

ALBERTA GOES TO THE PEOPLE

With results still incomplete, indications were that the Abernethy government would be returned to power, with a much smaller majority than in 1935.

OBITUARY

Ottawa: Dr. William Ambrose Found, 66, former Deputy-Minister of Fisheries, after several months' illness, died at his home, 114 St. George Street, on March 25, 1940. He was a member of the Liberal Party, having been elected M.P. for Huron-Bruce, after a long illness. Three Rivers: Willie Poisson, Liberal candidate for Three Rivers constituency, of a stroke late Monday night.

DIRECTORY

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C.N.R. TIME TABLE Going East Passenger 6:57 a.m. Passenger and Mail 10:03 a.m. Passenger and Mail 6:45 p.m. Passenger for Toronto 9:41 p.m. Passenger, Sunday only 8:31 p.m. Going West Passenger and Mail 8:34 a.m. Passenger, Daily except Saturdays and Sunday 6:00 p.m. Saturday Only 2:15 p.m. Passenger and Mail 6:45 p.m. Passenger, Sunday 11:19 p.m. Passenger, Saturday night only from Nov. 4 to Apr. 27, 12:35 a.m. Going North Mail and Passenger 8:45 a.m. Going South Mail and Passenger 6:50 p.m.

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MONUMENTS Oakville Monument Works Designs submitted, cemetery lettering, corner post and markers. A good display in stock A. McKellar, Prop. 19 Colborne St. West OAKVILLE

TIME TABLE LEAVE GEORGETOWN To Toronto 7:08 a.m., 9:28 a.m., 12:18 p.m., 2:23 p.m., 4:38 p.m., 6:48 p.m., 9:03 p.m. To London 10:05 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 2:05 p.m., 3:25 p.m., 4:45 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 11:05 p.m., 11:50 p.m.

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