

TIMELY TOPICS FOR WOMEN . . .

By Barbara Baines

IT "CAN" HAPPEN HERE

For a long time after the war began its effect on the Canadian people was almost negligible but now we are having to adjust our way of life to feed the hungry jaws of a great war machine that is protecting us from an enemy drawing ever closer to our shores.

At the moment the knottiest problem facing us is the evolving of some form of selective national service that will cover all branches of our war effort. That some such step must be taken, and that soon, is agreed upon by most thinking men and women, but to be acceptable it must be a plan where all men and women, young and old, rich and poor may participate to the full. And because of the broadness of its scope our government will need to use a good deal of wisdom in working out the details.

But already many things have happened here in our cities and towns and rural communities, to change our way of life. Homeless are blessing the ceiling on prices, if not on wages, though business men are still wrestling with unexpected problems and being forced to adopt new economic plans.

The curb on credit buying has put a brake on public spending but it has also made it a little harder for Joan and Dick to furnish their little flat when the February bill is over.

The attention of the nation has been directed towards health, and new compulsory health legislation may get some out of the war.

Employment in Canada has reached a new all-time high. There is already a scarcity of skilled technicians, nurses, teachers and farm workers. New restrictions on consumer industries may cause temporary dislocation of labour, and many workers will find themselves at jobs they didn't even know existed but most will find the pay as good or better than it was before. The white collar group, salaried office workers and clerks will find it hardest to adjust themselves to the new conditions.

The employment of women in war industries and plants is expanding daily, a growing number are on active service with the army and airforce, and still others are finding new fields of employment as truck drivers, engineers, and mechanics, or in butcher shops, service stations, and dairies, and at a hundred other jobs usually open only to men.

The, at least temporary, lack of our normal supply of rubber and tin, has been a bad blow. Rubber is used in a thousand ways, and since our whole stock on hand is needed for war we shall miss our golf balls and hockey pucks as well as women's girdles and tights for cars. Rubber is already being substituted for copper as an electrical conductor and may yet be used instead of tin as a lining for cans in the food industry.

If you cannot replace your old refrigerator or stove or vacuum cleaner you will know that the restriction in production is due to the growing shortage of metals. (Copper?) Aluminium, brass, copper, zinc, and brass. Steel mills and metal refineries are working at top speed, but it is a costly job to put which under a modern army, and so various must do without not only radios and cooking utensils, but toys and pet toys.

Reclaiming scrap has become a major industry at a time when drastic measures are a necessity. Salvage of metal is most important, but salvage of paper, of fats and bones, and of woollens and cottons also mean a great deal to our war effort.

Science is coming to the rescue too in finding substitutes for scarce materials, as in the use of mica for paint. An intensive search is being made for new sources of supplies, as in the Yukon-Kentland district for tungsten.

Revolutionary changes in both men's and women's styles are predicted because of the growing lack of trimmings and variety of many types of materials.

War-time housing of workers near large plants is getting government attention, and the establishment of day nurseries for the children of women who wish to do war work is being considered.

Yes! It can happen here! Each day war conditions meet with our comforts and pleasures, and our daily living. But at last we are becoming war-minded, and we are not complaining because at a time when our spending power is the highest in history, we are being asked to curtail purchases, to avoid waste and invest our money in War Savings Bonds.

TIMELY NOTIONS

Did you know that by first pouring boiling water over potatoes you can peel them more thinly, thus avoiding waste and at the same time conserving the vitamins which lie just under the skin.

The water-glass in which eggs have been stored makes an excellent bleach as a result of the action of the egg shells. Chlorine is becoming very scarce so this is one way of conserving it and also cut down on your bleaching bills.

You may be able to buy rubber rings next season but they are sure to be scarce. So you would be wise to keep the ones off your fruit jars as you open them. Keep them away from grease and from strong sunlight which are both harmful to rubber.

Mrs. R. W. J. writes that the leaves on her cyclamen turned yellow and the buds rotted before blooming. The reason probably was because she gave it too much water. A cyclamen should be watered sparingly from the top, but if in full bloom naturally it will require a little more water. It should get plenty of light but not too much strong sunlight unless filtered through a thin curtain.

FOR OUR SCRAPBOOK

Forty is the old age of youth; fifty the youth of old age. —Victor Hugo—

THE BOOK OF THE WEEK

"THE SOVIETS EXPECTED IT" By Anna Louise Strong

(Longmans, Green, 270pp. \$3.00)

No more timely or enlightening book has come to us in recent months than "The Soviets Expected It" by Anna Louise Strong. I hope you will find time in your crowded days to read it because in it you will find the answer to many questions that have perplexed us in this country.

Dr. Strong is an American journalist and world traveller who has known and liked the Russians since the days of the Revolution. In 1930 she founded "The Moscow News," the only English-language paper in Russia. She has had frequent contact with Stalin, Molotov, Litvinoff and other Soviet leaders, but she has known the humble people too and was able to speak to them in their own language.

She says that from the beginning Stalin knew the war with Germany was inevitable. This explains the horrible growing pains of the early days of the new republic; the feverish haste of his three five-year plans, with their resulting mistakes and wastes; the sacrifices he demanded of his people whose standard of living suffered that the Red Army might be strong; and the treason trials by which he eliminated the fifth column from Russia. But through all the years of bitter want the people of the new Russia grew in loyalty and devotion to the leader who set before them an ideal of equality, democracy and world peace.

Dr. Strong says no other country has been the object of such amazing slander and misunderstanding, but today a thousand myths are being shrivelled. Instead of backwardness the Russian people are displaying initiative and courage. Young Russians are "naturals" in the air. They are the masters of machines. They have advanced five centuries in twenty years.

The whole Soviet strategy is tied up with state industry and the collective farms. There is close co-operation between the civilians and the army. In peace time each farm and each industry had its own defence brigade and its own labour brigade which now co-operate with the army and make the whole countryside a living front. When war came women were able to take over civilian duties and were largely responsible for evacuating both farms and industry as the army retreated. State insurance covered the losses from the scorched earth policy.

A thousand miles of retreat is a great test of any army's moral. That they could then reorganize for a full offensive is amazing and can teach us much about the meaning of total war.

Dr. Strong answers many questions that we are particularly interested in just now. Why was the war with Finland fought? Why did the Soviet sign a non-aggression pact with Hitler? Why did she march into Poland? How was she received by the Baltic countries? On what occasions has Russia "saved" England? Is Russia inconsistent? What are Hitler's chances of conquering Russia?

I had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Strong when she spoke in Toronto last week before an overflow crowd. She is surprisingly young looking in spite of her white hair, but an excellent speaker who impresses her audience with her breadth of vision and her sincerity.

CAN YOU MAKE A GOOD OMELET?

When an unexpected guest arrives, or you run out of ideas for lunch or supper, an omelet is a life-saver. It is quick and easy to make and can be varied according to the extras you have on hand.

4 eggs slightly beaten 3 tablespoons butter
4 tablespoons cold water Pinch of salt and pepper
Beat eggs lightly, add water (or milk) and seasonings. Put butter in hot iron skillet or omelet pan. Turn in mixture and when it cooks, lift with spatula, letting uncooked part run underneath until whole is of creamy consistency. When brown underneath fold through middle and turn out on hot platter. Or if you prefer you may sprinkle grated cheese over it just before folding, or any one of the following: sliced mushrooms cooked in butter, chicken or ham that has been minced and sautéed in butter, left-over peas or beans, or jelly. Serve at once.

Soldiers' Comforts Committee

Held Annual Meeting

Officers Re-elected—Report of Year's Work Given—More Help Needed to Meet Overseas List Grows

The second annual meeting of the Georgetown Soldiers' Comforts Committee was held in the Public Library on Wednesday, January 21st. Mrs. A. Herve was re-elected president, with Mrs. Ed. MacKenzie, treasurer, and Mrs. Roger Ouyet, secretary.

The list of district men overseas has more than tripled in the past year. At the time of the last annual meeting there were fifty names on the list, while today this figure has reached almost 150. This means that more and more financial support is needed if the Committee is to continue to carry on successfully in 1942. It costs \$150 to send one shipment of cigarettes, and the balance on hand can be seen in the balance sheet reprinted below.

The Committee met on seven occasions during the year, as well as holding a sale of Home-Made Baking in May and a tag day in September, and packing 146 Christmas boxes in November. Cigarettes were sent overseas in May and October. All cigarettes were safely received and the Christmas parcels arrived safely around December 10th. The letters received from the boys overseas are full of grateful appreciation for the work of the Committee, and so many of them express pleasure at being remembered by their Georgetown and district friends.

At the meeting the Committee expressed their thanks to the many or-

ganizations and individuals who had given both money and services to help the work of the Committee.

BALANCE SHEET

Receipts	
Balance in Bank, Mar. 31st, 1941	\$ 177.39
Donations (including Up-to-You Sale)	188.25
Home-made baking sale	34.80
Tag Day	143.28
	\$ 643.62
Expenditures	
Cigarettes	\$ 181.29
Xmas parcels (contents)	65.32
Printing	68.83
Secretarial Expenses	3.50
Advertising	1.00
	\$ 400.62

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The name of every person who has been granted a licence or who has already applied for a licence is being placed on the Board's mailing list. Your name will be added when your application is received.

To Get Your Licence

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2. Complete the application and mail it, postage free. There is no licence fee.
3. You will receive by mail a Licence Identification Card bearing your licence number.

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NOTE: Persons who have already applied for or obtained a Wartime Prices and Trade Board licence should not apply again.

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You must retain your Licence Identification Card as it will remain in effect, unless suspended or cancelled, as long as the Maximum Prices Regulations continue. If you are already licensed, a Licence Identification Card, valid for the duration of these Regulations, will be automatically mailed to you before March 31, 1942. You need not apply for a renewal and there is no licence fee.

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