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Gen. McNaughton Takes Editors into Confidence

This is the eleventh in the series of articles written for the weekly newspapers of Canada by Hugh Tompkins of the *Vergara News-Record*. He flew to Great Britain as a guest of the British Council and was given an opportunity to see what is being done in Britain, Ireland and Portugal in wartime.

Twelve Canadian editors sat around the outside edge of a horseshoe-shaped table in an upper room of a large mansion in the south of England. Around the walls were military maps, nearly all of them showing portions of England and Scotland on a large scale, though some were of the Continent of Europe. There were charts on the wall, too, showing types of aircraft, British and enemy craft. Such charts are common in England now. Sometimes they are handy to have around.

Outside the window, I could see the slate roof of a garage, now housing military cars. On the roof was a dove with a wreath on its head. The birds came and went. Beyond that there were clipped hedges around a formal garden. There were no signs of bomb damage here.

This was the Headquarters of the Canadian Corps in England. The lean, alert man, with the closely clipped mustache, who sat in the centre of the room, facing us all, was Lieutenant-General A. G. L. McNaughton, commander of the Canadian Forces Overseas. He was talking frankly to his fellow-Canadians. He answered all our questions, even when military secrets were involved, adding a caution when something was not for publication.

With these few exceptions, this is what he said:

I hope you will return to Canada and tell the people there the things you have seen and heard. He said talk freely to the officers and men and give your impressions frankly when you return home. I welcome the Press as colleagues, who help to form public opinion and have never attempted to do anything for the West, as they are capable of doing their own jobs and have shown discretion. We are all in the same game together to combat the menace from Central Europe. I do not object to criticism.

Better Equipment the Great Need

Asked what the most urgent need at present was, General McNaughton replied that every emphasis on the production of a better quality of equipment. We need technical improvement, such as can be worked out under the direction of the National Research Institute and others who work under Mr. Howe. Then these improvements must be put into production quickly.

This will be a long war and we must use our wits and the inventiveness for which Canadians are noted. There must be full steam ahead on the production of machines and arms and new weapons. So far there hasn't been much necessity for a heavier flow of reinforcements, as the British had few casualties. It is hard on the troops not to let them see more action, but Canadians are overseas not just to fight, but to win the war. It is harder to keep up morale in reinforcement spots than in the units themselves.

The men in Canada are being well trained, General McNaughton declared. They need not feel they are second class troops, because they are still in Canada.

The First Division was gathered in almost record time. Basic training of that Division was still going on in France. That was a disadvantage which has never been overcome. It has been passed back to complete all basic training in Canada, including the learning of trades. The new Divisions, particularly the Third, concentrated on basic training first and now they are learning rapidly in England. It is much more difficult to take basic training after advanced training has been completed.

New Equipment Perfect

More and more skilled tradesmen are needed by the Army and they cannot be taken out of industry. The trade schools are therefore worth their weight in gold. Repair shops are vitally necessary. None of the mechanical equipment was actually defective, but there were some faults in design at first because of the sudden jump into production, instead of having the usual two years of testing. The manufacturers sent experts over and corrected the faults. The new stuff is exactly as we wish it.

For the past year, Canadian troops have been arriving in Britain fully equipped. Our Air Force, Navy and industrial development have enabled General McNaughton to send us how many should go into the Army and how many into industry. We should survey our man power first. We want no flash in the pan. We must plan for a war of long duration and not put all our goods in the show window now. No one wants to break up a Division which has been once formed. Someone must decide what is to be our maximum war effort.

The General believed there would have to be an invasion of the Continent. That was one of the favorite topics for debate in England at that time. He said there was no doubt about it, a well organized nation cannot be brought to its knees by missiles and bombs alone. The Air Training Scheme is still Canada's greatest effort, but bombing from the air has its limitations. In a week at the end of the last war, over 20,000 tons of missiles were used in raids on the front and more could have been used. Air power cannot drop enough bombs and infantry cannot get there fast enough after the bombs are dropped to be of the maximum use.

One of the editors asked whether the young man with a good education should go into the Air Force rather than the Army. General McNaughton said educated men were needed in all branches of the service. Even if they enlist as privates in the Infantry,

they will be found by a card index system and put at the work where they are most needed.

Most Mechanized Army

The Canadian Corps has a sufficient supply of mechanical transport, and has two R.C.A.P. squadrons attached to it, which is more than the average. There are twice as many Engineers as in the last war. There are five regiments of long range guns, an armored division, survey and meteorological sections and a thoroughly balanced force. The Canadians have far more mechanization than the British and Engineers to keep the roads open.

We are now on interior lines with a water barrier and can take the offensive in any direction. An invasion of the Continent is easier than an invasion of England. The Germans may yet attempt an invasion of England and it may be that the best time to strike back will be after that—but not necessarily.

The Germans have 25 times as much coastline to guard as we have, which gives them an impossible task. The Russian campaign has been as good, frankness and myth for us. There is no need for Canadians to tell Americans what to do; they know their own shoe and we need not tell them.

At that time, the Russian armies were still in retreat. Petrograd was surrounded and Moscow was threatened. But even at that, the General did not believe that Russia was going to be knocked out of the war. It was so heartened by their performance, even in those days, that he was willing to base plans for the future on the fact that they would continue to fight. We can give them mechanical assistance to add to what they are producing in the Ural. Official reports from Russia were meagre, but the Russians must have been pressing with enormous mechanization and there was no need to be greatly surprised at their stand. They are careful not to let even their allies know any more than possible.

Shipping Conditions Improve

It is a scarcity of shipping alone which has held back Canada's Army overseas. Every possible ship has been used. Ships are now getting across the Atlantic much more quickly. The change is amazing. The North Atlantic is rapidly becoming a corridor for the safe transit of troops and supplies.

The General felt no anxiety about the morale of the Canadian troops during the coming winter. They had much more interesting training ahead of them. The men had an extraordinarily high standard of intelligence and morale is far less than in the last war, only a small fraction. He was not anxious about the troops this winter. The scheme of education helps to put in their spare time and proves beneficial as well.

Not long before that there had been an expedition to Spitzbergen Island in the Arctic. The inhabitants had been taken off and the coal mines destroyed so that the enemy could not use them. The Canadians ran that expedition. It was useful in many ways. Britain, Norway and Russia all thanked them for it.

A Dagger at the Heart of Berlin

In the end, the Canadian Corps is a dagger pointed at the heart of Berlin. In fighting value and range of action, we have an edge on the German panzer divisions. The 5th Canadian Armored Division is stronger than any the Germans have. The first Canadian tanks were then being received. They would be severely tested before going into action. There was no need to doubt their quality, nor the quality of any other Canadian-made equipment. Bren guns from Canada are as nearly perfect as any gun ever turned out and they came through their trials with flying colors.

Summing up, the General said that Canada's great problem was the development of its manpower to the best advantage. It might be that the recent census would help. There is a big job to be done.

As the editor rose to leave after spending nearly two hours at the Headquarters, General McNaughton shook us each by the hand again. We departed, feeling that we had met one of the greatest of all Canadians and one who had been perfectly frank and outspoken. Under his direction, the Canadian Corps can be depended upon to give a good account of itself.

Since then, the General has taken a rest because of ill-health due to overwork. Now he has recovered and has come to Canada to confer with Government and Army officials here about plans for the future.



MAJOR FRANK PULLEN
 Major Frank Pullen, of Oakville, is chairman of the Second Victory Loan drive for Halton County.

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C. N. R. TIME TABLE

Daylight Saving Time
 Going East

Passenger	6:53 a.m.
Passenger and Mail	10:03 a.m.
Passenger, Sunday only	8:31 p.m.
Passenger, daily	9:43 p.m.
Toronto and beyond	

Going West

Passenger and Mail	8:36 a.m.
Passenger Saturday only	2:15 p.m.
Passenger daily except Saturday and Sunday	6:14 p.m.
Passenger and Mail	6:46 p.m.
Passenger, Sundays only	11:30 p.m.

Going North

Passenger and Mail	6:45 a.m.
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Going South

Passenger and Mail	6:23 p.m.
Depot Ticket Office	Phone 207

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The Editor's Corner

NO GREAT HARDSHIP

A farm friend, in a letter to the editor in this week's issue, waxes bitter against the powers that be for the enforced daylight saving time which recently was enacted in Canada. As indicated in a recent column, we have written to Ottawa and are awaiting word as to how power is saved by setting all the clocks in the Dominion ahead one hour. This, of course, is the reason for the shift, and "Kanada Forever" can be assured that a history-making decision by two great governments which resulted in daylight saving time being adopted simultaneously in Canada and the United States was not merely for "the sports to enjoy themselves."

We think that our letter writer has not viewed the situation from the proper light, insofar as it affects the farmer. Granted that the farmer must run on God's time, regardless of what we mortals decide to call it, a farmer's day is from sun-up to sun-down. Assuming that, like the writer, he has been in the habit of rising at 5.00 a.m. under normal conditions, he will continue to rise at the same time—only now, this will be known as 6.00 o'clock under advanced time. Similarly, in the evening if he has been accustomed to retiring at 9.00 p.m., it will now be 10.00 p.m.—in other words, according to the clock, he can sleep an hour later in the morning and stay up an hour later at night.

Is not this the practical thing for our farmers to do, rather than attempt to change the habits of all farm animals and to cut grain and pick fruit with the dew still on them?

There is one hardship which the farmer will have to grin and bear, and that is the fact that town and city closing hours for stores, theatres and social functions are fixed to accommodate the urban dweller. This situation, however, has existed for several summers in this district, and though it has undoubtedly inconvenienced farmers, it is scarcely a matter serious enough for bitterness. The farmer is now required to adjust his life to the new schedule year-round for the duration of the war. It means that he will occasionally miss or be late to some event in town which he wishes to attend, or that on "open night," he will have to hurry with his shopping in order to make up that lost hour. Otherwise, we can't see where any great hardship exists for farmers under war saving time.

THE VICTORY LOAN

The second week of the new Victory Loan sees us on the march to our objective of \$185,000, which we are quite confident will be exceeded by the generous lendings which have been a feature of previous loan campaigns in the district. The importance of the new Loan campaign can be readily seen, when we realize what a bad time of year the Government has chosen. With income tax coming due, and the danger of country roads being blocked, hampering canvassers from calling, the need must have been imperative for the Government to decide to float a \$600 million loan at the present time.

A paper traveller who calls on us from time to time, was here on Monday morning and gave us a new slant on government borrowing, which we pass on for what it is worth. This chap was of the opinion that the more bonds and war savings certificates an individual purchases during the present war, the better deal he will get when the war is over, and we start paying back the loans we are making now. For instance, supposing it is going to cost \$30 per capita a year to pay back interest and principal on war loans, the man who doesn't buy bonds is going to be paying taxes to pay off someone else's borrowing. After the last war, it was the average working man who suffered because of increased taxes. Bond-buying had been primarily left to the moneyed people of the country, and his taxes were used to pay off the debts accruing to them. This time, with the working man doing his share, there will be an equalization after this war, and the burden will be shared more equitably by all.

DON'T FORGET SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

In the midst of the current bond campaign, we must not forget the War Weapons campaign, begun last fall to boost sales of war savings stamps and certificates. Georgetown had an objective of \$5,000 monthly—the amount needed to buy a Universal Carrier. A report released this week by the chairman, Lt.-Col. G. D. S. Cousins, shows that sales of stamps and certificates in December totalled \$4180, just \$20.00 short of the objective. Not bad, but we can do better, and we are confident that January's figure will exceed the mark.

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