

GEORGETOWN

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Thoughts on V-E Day

By J. A. Strang

We regret that this item had to be held over due to lack of space.

The news of the unconditional surrender of Germany would bring to a good many the words of the old familiar doxology. Their thoughts would turn to the fallen in battle, those that would not be coming back. When thinking of those that have fallen in battle our thoughts go back to the Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, memorial for the fallen of the last war, and the inscription that is written on it. Kipling had written it especially for that memorial and it reads as follows:

"From little towns in a far land we came,
To save our honor and a world aflame;
By little towns in a far land we sleep,
And trust those things we won, to you, to keep."

It seems strange that while the armies of the enemy fell in their efforts to beat the armies of the Allies yet they beat them in making the announcement of the surrender.

Listening to the announcements of the surrender on Tuesday morning, we couldn't help but notice the difference in the way that Mr. Churchill made the announcement to that of President Truman. Mr. Churchill was short and formal while the President's announcement was more like a conversation that might have been carried on among any of us.

The last few weeks have been rather hard on the nerves and most of us would be on edge. We all looked forward to unconditional surrender and it seemed long in coming. A good illustration of the jittery state that prevailed comes from Washington State in the U.S.A. Spinning the Columbia River, about ninety miles East of Vancouver, Washington, or of Portland, Oregon, there is a huge bridge which is known as the Bridge of the Gods. Where they got the name we are unable to tell you. However, we have crossed that bridge and about all that we can remember of it is that it was high and that it cost us ninety cents to drive across it. Sometime ago you will recall that the Allies bombed the Bavarian Retreat of Hitler, known as Berchtesgaden. In

Vancouver, Washington, the announcement was made that Berchtesgaden had fallen. Maybe if you try to pronounce that word, you will understand that the word was soon changed after being handed from mouth to mouth to that of Bridge-of-the-Gods has fallen. The telephone out to The Cascades where the bridge is located was soon quite busy and the operator of that toll bridge had quite a time of it assuring the town folk that the bridge was still intact.

There were a good many different ways of celebrating V-E Day. Parades were all the fashion. Noise was another popular way of celebrating and even some damage was done in such places as Halifax where they destroyed some street cars and other property. Up around our corner we went out and played ball with the kids on the corner lot. Maybe there are better ways of educating youngsters than playing ball but we doubt it. When playing games they learn to have a thought for the other fellow and we wonder if that isn't what this whole world has to learn every day.

Radio reception was extra clear on V-E Day and the King's voice was natural. While listening to him one could only imagine how different a victorious broadcast would have been had it been the Allies that had accepted unconditional surrender. There was no boasting but merely statements of facts. Of course the fact that the war in the Pacific isn't over yet made a difference. It was rather nice to remember that the King's message would be heard by the boys overseas at the same time as we were listening to it. That was one program that we could all listen to at the same time no matter where we might be located.

One of the outstanding features of V-E Day radio programs was the number of well-known hymns and Psalms that were on the air so often during the day. We could do with many of them on the air more often. We could imagine we could hear them being sung on many an outdoor church parade overseas. We wonder if those old hymns are going to be as familiar to the children of today in years to come as they are to those of us that belong to the older generation.

Strange as it may seem: the boys

over there are going to need our letters and parcels more than ever now that the war is over. While they will have work to do yet it will seem mostly like killing time as compared to the days of the fighting. Suppose we resolve to keep those blue air-mails forms going over just as regularly as we have been doing. It will seem a long time waiting for the word to board ship for Canada. Let's keep on doing our part.

ACTIVE SERVICE NOTES

Mrs. Allan Law has received word from her husband, I/S Allan Law that he has undergone an operation in H.M.C.S. NIOBE hospital, Glasgow, Scotland, and is now convalescing with relatives in North Ireland.

Well-known in Georgetown, where he played on the intermediate hockey team a few years ago, Pte., EMI Anthony of Brampton is in hospital overseas convalescing from wounds received in the head, left arm and shoulder. A brother, Peter, is also in hospital with battle injuries.

L.A.O. Graham Farnell has been transferred from Ottawa to the RCAF station at Mount Hope.
Edr. Bill Anderson is now stationed at Dobert, N. S.

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THE CANADIAN WAY OF LIFE



Down to Earth...

GARDENING for the fun of it—week-end trips in the old family jalopy—lazy days fishing by the river—these things still stand for a pleasant way of life—a way of life our men overseas have been fighting for! They won't be able to come back to these simple things, unless we get "down to earth" in our thinking, and make sure when they do come back, their dollar will be worth a dollar!

To protect that dollar, we must realize now, the dangers of careless, unnecessary buying! We must buy only what we need—never buy two where one will do! We must not evade rationing or price control, or deal in black markets. If we break these rules, our country—the country our soldiers fought for—will start on that spiral of prices known as inflation.

And inflation affects everyone...

wage-earner, pensioner, small-business owner, returned soldier! That's why it's important to take a stand against it now. If inflation starts in this country, this is what will happen. Prices will rise. Wages will try to follow along—and will never quite catch up! Soon your dollar—your soldier's dollar—may buy only 25% of the things it used to! That is what has happened in many of the countries of the world today, and that is why normal living for anyone is impossible in those countries!

So let's make sure our soldier's dollar, when he gets back, will be worth a full dollar. We cannot give back to him his lost years or lost youth. But if we keep up the fight against inflation, the man who is overseas can look forward to pleasant, satisfying living... to the Canadian way of life!

Make this Pledge Today!

I pledge myself to do my part in fighting inflation:

- By observing rationing and avoiding black markets in any shape or form.
- By respecting price controls and other anti-inflation measures, and refraining from careless and unnecessary buying. I will not buy two where one will do, nor will I buy a "new" where an "old" will do.
- By buying Victory Bonds and War Savings Stamps, supporting taxation, and abiding by all such measures which will lower the cost of living and help keep prices at a normal level.



Published by THE BREWING INDUSTRY (ONTARIO) to reveal the dangers of inflation.