

Views of Others on Timely Topics

FOR PROSPERITY IN PEACE

The New Year in 1915, 1916, 1917 or 1918 probably did not cause as much anxiety as the New Year in 1940. In the earlier era so much time had elapsed and the world had so changed since the previous great war that no one could predict with authority what would follow the Wilhelm abdication and the success of the Allied arms. Today, the world remembers so vividly unpleasant aspects of the Great War's aftermath that while none doubts the military and naval outcome, many are expressing fears that the economic consequences of a new armistice and peace will ruin utterly the business life of a civilization dependent on the exchange of goods and services.

One must have respect for the longheaded individuals who ever seem to be ready for the seven lean years. Yet the healthy person who stays indoors when it rains though duty calls him out is craven, especially if, as most successful business men are, he is possessed of rubbers and rain coats and umbrellas.

A sermon for business men might be preached on the text "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." And, as an example to preachers, most of what might be said is compressed into the thought that the text from Saint Matthew meant that fear of the future should not prevent doing today's job as well as one knows how, and not to permit fears of the future from building strongly.

Those who must decide the delicate question as to whether a plant expansion in war time will or will not bankrupt the company in peace cannot sing with the ancient Horace that "... the soul be joyful in the present, disdaining anxiety for the future." There is a middle ground. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, never, so far as is known, wrote confidential market letters to important clients advising them on buys and sells and commenting on politics and economics. But he did write something which might well be the outline of policy for executives who never thought of including a volume of poetry on the office book-shelf: Build today, then, strong and sure,

With a firm and ample base;
And ascending and secure
Shall tomorrow find its place.
Historians have pointed out that although civilizations die, Civilization always advances. With this truth in mind it ought to be possible for us in Canada to plan with the confidence that, as we have a great country and are individually and collectively resourceful and competent, mentally and physically, we can solve the problems as they arise.

Our greatest dangers lie not in inability to meet and solve our immediate problems but, rather, in an old Canadian habit of providing too soon or too generously for future

growth. Many of the problems through the depression era were traceable to a desire on our part to keep up with the Joneses, who are citizens of the U.S.A. We could have continued to eat and live as well as do our 130,000,000 neighbors without having provided facilities on the same scale. Casa Loma, where no one could afford to live, ought to be useful as a warning against doing ourselves in by doing ourselves too well. We will avoid much trouble in the future if we prevent our governments from having such an extravagant regard for us at our own expense.

Canada's future will be brighter than that of other countries because of our natural advantages. But we can spoil that future if we do not elect penny-pinners to public office and if we succumb in our private businesses to the prophets of gloom and try to sell everything a moment or two before a new government is set up in Berlin.—Printed Word.

WHY RUSSIA DID IT

Across the diplomatic map of Europe, Germany and Russia are walking arm-in-arm. It is an amazing spectacle, but it has happened before.

Stalin and Hitler took a cue from the Iron Chancellor and timed their moves with a deftness which Bismarck himself might envy. They raised the old spectre of the uniting forces of western Europe.

Yet there is something more. They have submerged their ideological differences to suit the convenience of the moment.

Ideological differences have not interfered greatly with commercial relations between two countries whose economic pattern is complimentary — Russia, the supplier of raw materials; Germany the producer of machinery and industrial products.

Nor have political "notions" bothered the general staffs of the two countries, whose military experts have a record of extensive co-operation in the post-war period.

And what is less often recalled is the fact that, both before and since the Hitler regime, there has been a basic political co-operation between Berlin and Moscow. There have been disagreements and difficulties. There has been insults and propaganda. But one of the early diplomatic acts of the Hitler Government was to renew a treaty of friendship with Russia.

Thus to announcement of Russo-German co-operation plans, it is reasonably accurate to apply the phrase, credited to a French diplomatist:

"We are astonished but not surprised."

While there are ideological differences, there are certain similarities which bring the two countries together. These are similarities of method, more than of concept, or philosophy. One is that both regimes are founded upon force. Another is that both hold their positions through the use of almost unlimited terror. And still another is that, regardless of their protestations, neither regime places respect for the role of the individual citizen upon a basis where public sentiment or opinion weighs in the determination of immediate policies.

The rule by the minority group, the development of a "single party" system, the contempt for parliamentary procedure, and the use of a strident nationalism, and the pressure against established religion — all of these are methods which both dictatorships find useful. It would be misreading the situation to say that these things form the basis of a permanent co-operation. But they establish an atmosphere in which sudden united action for a given purpose springs readily to the hand of the Kremlin and the Wilhelms-trasse.

This does not mean that no practical differences exist. The German campaign against Bolshevism is not to be forgotten overnight. The Reich's eastward aspirations may be withheld for a time, but the declaration of Hitler, made at the Nuremberg Party Congress in 1936, was recalled the instant word of the German-Russian non-aggression plan was heard: "If we had the Urals... Siberia... the Ukraine, National Socialist Germany would be swimming in surplus prosperity."

Similarly Best-Litovsk is not to be forgotten. The treaty itself, by which Germany and Russia concluded their separate peace, was twice set aside. It was formally renounced between Russia and Germany in 1922. But it stands as a

written record of the aspirations of teutonic expansionists — a record in which Russia was stripped of a third of her land and population.

Thus there are always three factors—the forces of attraction, the differences and the expediences of the moment. The point is that too often only the differences and the expediences have been weighed.

The situation which brought co-operation between the military forces of the two countries may be used to illustrate this point. After the Rapallo treaty in 1922, in which Germany and Russia linked themselves together in protest against their mutual ostracism, the Russian and German general staffs began a significant working agreement.

Germany — forbidden by the Versailles Treaty from maintaining anything but a nominal military establishment — made use of schools and plants on Soviet soil. Existence of the actual agreement to this effect is debated. But the fact of the co-operation is well established. Some authorities contend that it continued until as late as 1935. Others contend the agreement lapsed in 1927, after its public "revelation."

Meanwhile, Russia was in need of military technicians just as Germany needed training outlets. German experts played a large part in the designing of the Red Army. They had a field for a good deal of practical experience. And in the Reich a "pro-Russian" school of thought continued within the General staff — a school regarding Poland as the potential enemy and Russia as the "back door to be left open" in the traditional Bismarckian manner.

Then in sharp contrast to this working arrangement — known and tolerated by the Soviet regime — was the sudden purge of 1937, in which the leading Soviet generals were executed. There were domestic reasons for the purge. But the fact that the generals themselves were the leading exponents of military co-operation with Germany was clearly one of the considerations. The Soviets found a reversal of policy expedient. The policy was reversed. It does not disprove the advantages of Russo-German military arrangements. Nor does it prove that these advantages could not be utilized again the moment it became expedient to do so.

And then there is Maxim Litvinoff. For two decades he played an important role in Russian foreign policy. He introduced the Soviet's co-operation with the Western powers, for Geneva and the League, for the attainment by the Soviets of a place of "respectability" at diplomatic council tables.

All this involved a common policy with nations which regarded the dictatorships as a potential threat to peace. As long as Litvinoff remained Foreign Minister, a policy of close action with Germany seemed ruled out. In May of this year, he "resigned." The reorientation of Soviet policy was not, at that time, fully explained. But it was apparent that a number of factors, among them the Soviet pique at being excluded from the deliberations of Munich, had operated to throw the emphasis more fully upon whatever advantages — actual or strategic — could be achieved from again reminding the world that the bear is not only the symbol of Russia but of Berlin as well.

Immediately one is inclined to point out that in all these things there are contradictions. The Red Army purge, for instance, indicates a weakening of the relation with Germany; the post-Litvinoff policies indicate a strengthening of relations.

Apparently the course of true diplomacy never did run smooth. But one of the apparent contradictions some basic trends may be perceived. They must be taken with reservations. In the swift current of the moment, the shifts may swing through a full circle.

A parallel German and Soviet policy remains a matter of strategy. But it has been a basic consideration which was never absent from international formulae. It may be outraged or evoked as the needs of the two dictators require. But as one historian has phrased it, the Treaty of Versailles was drafted on the day the Kaiser and his ministers abandoned the Bismarckian policy of utilization of Russian might.

It is a fact which the Soviets and the Germans chose to refurbish and to brandish for their individual, or collective ends.

Buy Canadian — Buy British, and help win the war.

Premier Daladier told the deputies that to November 30, the war has cost the lives of only 1,136 French soldiers, 260 sailors and 42 airmen. He contrasted these casualties with the situation in December, 1914, when France had already counted 480,000 dead, had lost the battles of the frontiers, won the Battle of the Marne and fought with 10

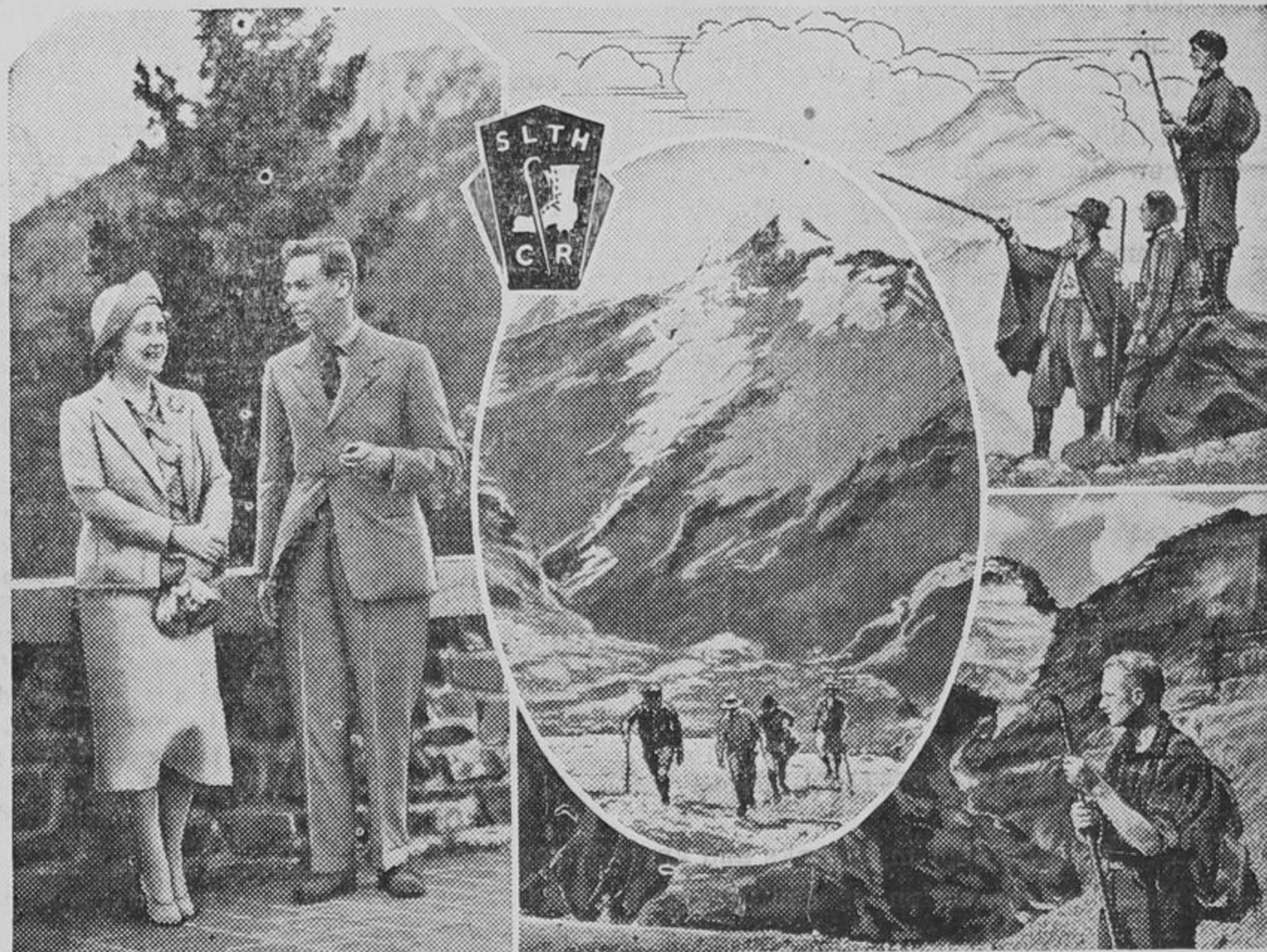
French departments under German occupation.

David loved bread and jelly. His mother usually purchased sliced bread. One day she bought a loaf of unsliced bread. When he saw her apply the butcher knife, he asked: "What's that bread all stuck stuck together for?"

Phone HYland 2081 Open Evenings Res. Phone 9788

Johnston & Cranston
MANUFACTURERS & IMPORTERS
OF CANADIAN & FOREIGN
Granite Monuments
1849 Yonge St. (east side)
Between Merivale & Balliol Sts.

Her Majesties Accept Hikers' Badges



As souvenirs of their hike to the summit of Tunnel Mountain during their visit to Banff, Their Majesties, King George and Queen Elizabeth have both graciously accepted the silver insignia of the Sky Line Trail Hikers of the Canadian Rockies. King George borrowed an alpenstock from the Sky Line Trail Hikers which he used for his mountaineering adventure, and at the suggestion of Dan McCowan, Presi-

dent of this organization, the Parks Branch of the Canadian Government has been asked to erect a cairn on the top of Tunnel Mountain to be named after King George, and also to erect a lookout at a point known as the green spot on Stoney Squaw Mountain to be called Queen Elizabeth's View, as Her Majesty was particularly delighted with the panorama of the Canadian Rockies at Banff from that point.

The Sky Line Trail Hikers is active in promoting hiking expeditions through the trails of the National Parks in the Canadian Rockies, and holds an annual four day camp which will be located next August 4-7 in Ptarmigan Valley, north of Lake Louise. Sir Edward Beatty, G.B.E., K.C., LL.D., is the honorary president and the secretary and founder is J. Murray Gibbon of Montreal.

USE YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER...

The Best Results in Advertising

All of us, instinctively, go where light is, not where there is darkness.

Advertisements are light and so they attract buyers to those stores and business places which they illumine.

The way to get business is to ask for it. Can the truth of this statement be successfully disputed? The public buys from those who invite its custom.

Tell the people of your trading area of the services you offer.

This newspaper is at your service to carry your business message into the homes of the people of this district.

Consider the advisability now, of investing a small expenditure in advertising. It will pay rich dividends.

THE LIBERAL

Established 1878

NOW WITH THE LARGEST CIRCULATION IN ITS HISTORY

Telephone 9

Richmond Hill