

# The Porcupine Advance

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## THIS UNCERTAIN WORLD

No doubt many people have wondered just what "News" is, or are, as the case may be. The more they might read the newspapers, the more they might wonder about what News might be. If the people in general are thus uncertain as to what constitutes News, is it any wonder that newspapermen have been uncertain as to this thing called News? Editors, however, are supposed to know everything, and so they have been expected to know News when they see it. There is a suspicion, however, that like those dealing in electricity, they could handle the stuff, do things with it, make it behave in a way, but in their heart of hearts they didn't know exactly what it was, or why.

There was a time when editors had an answer if pushed in a corner in regard to News and its definition. They would quote the parable about the dog and the man and the bites. It goes this way:—"If a dog bites a man, that's not news, but if a man bites a dog, that's news." This saying was credited to Horace Greeley, Josh Billings, Charles Dana, James Gordon Bennett. Likely Walter Winchell thinks he was the lad who said it. In any event it served for generations of newspapermen when they were placed on the spot to particularize on what News may be. It is symbolic of this changing world, and the growth of bolshevism that this prop is gone now. A man biting a dog would scarcely be news now. What chance would a dog have with Lindbergh biting the hands that comforted him? What self-respecting pup would take a chance on the snapping jaws of Herr Hitler or the sulky mug of old Joe Stalin? It wouldn't be news—just commonplace routine for some of the so-called men of the day to take a bite out of anything within their reach.

To completely upset the traditional definition of News as a man biting a dog, along comes Joseph Lawler, of Waltham, Massachusetts. Joe is a bartender by profession and a dog trainer by confession. It is no news to him to bite a dog. Joe claims that he bites dogs every day in the course of his business as a dog trainer. The despatches do not say that he bites the dog when he is following his profession as bartender. He may, however, take a nip of Old Crow, or snap a Black Horse occasionally. As a dog trainer, though, he claims to bite the dogs right along. According to his story this is his own particular method of curing vicious dogs. He says he plays with the dogs and when one of them bites him, he promptly bites the dog right back. The dog is always surprised, Joe alleges. He would be a queer dog, if he wasn't. It is easy to imagine the poor animal exclaiming in canine language, "So, this is News!" Anyway, Joe claims that the bite he gives the dog usually cures the dog of the bite habit. In the bartending business there used to be a proverb about the efficacy of a hair of the dog that bit you. Joe, no doubt, has paraphrased this theory into the thought that a bite from a man will cure the bite habit in a dog. In any event, though, it seems to be a dog's life for a man to bite the dog that bites him.

There will be little disposition for newspapermen to interfere with Joe Lawler and his habit of snapping back at dogs. But there will be a feeling of regret and sadness and deep loss to realize that Joe has taken away the consolation enjoyed by newspapermen for ages in having a doggy definition for "News."

## TO RULE THE AIR

There is a very general tendency to believe that the naval forces of Britain and France will prove a vital factor in the winning of the war. Just as the naval supremacy of the Allies in the concluding months of the last war brought Germany to its knees through the force of the blockade, so in the present conflict the Germans are destined to feel the pinch of starvation and the consequent demoralization of its fighting spirit through the ring of naval force that will isolate the enemy country. To the might of the British and French navies must also be added the power of the air forces of these allied nations. At the present moment the British and French are earnestly striving to obtain mastery of the air. There is every reason to believe that they will succeed in this. There are some students of the situation who believe that Britain and France already are masters of the air, so far as Germany is concerned. They point to the fact that while British planes have been almost constantly over German territory since the war began, no such privilege has been enjoyed by the Nazi air force in regard to British and French territory. It is true that British planes dropped nothing more deadly on German territory than leaflets about the war, but it should be patent ever to as dull a people as the Germans that bombs at any time could take the place of the pamphlets. At the same time, the British and French planes have enjoyed almost complete freedom to make reconnaissances and to take necessary photographs over enemy territory. Any time that German airships clashed with British or French

aircraft, the advantage seemed to be with the Allies. In the German attempt to bomb naval vessels in the Firth of Forth, the Royal Air Force was able to drive the invaders back with at least four German planes brought down and no losses in the British air force.

Information now to hand, however, suggests that at the opening of the war the British and French had no superiority in air power over the enemy. Indeed, it appears now that the real explanation of Munich and the policy of appeasement was the fact that in the air both France and Britain were seriously outclassed by Germany. Since 1935 Germany has been building up its air force. At the end of 1936 the German plants were ready and the following year the Nazis were able to produce a large number of tested aircraft ready for service. It was 1938 before France really undertook the task of matching Germany's production of planes. Great Britain had an airplane programme well under way before the French had their factories ready. It takes two years to properly start such a programme—one year to build and equip the factories and the next to reach proper production. Thus Germany had some years' start on France and Britain. But now Germany has reached the limit of its production. Under war conditions and the shortage of materials and supplies due to the blockade, it is doubtful if Germany can maintain its former rate of production. On the other hand Britain and France are increasing their output of air equipment from day to day, and in the opinion of an authorized spokesman for France, "there is good ground for hoping that Britain and France together are on the way to build three times as many machines as the Germans, even supposing the latter are able to work their factories at full capacity." Then in addition to the production of British and French aircraft factories, the Allies have purchased many planes in foreign lands, and particularly in the United States. Add to all this the notable increase to the British air power that will follow the success of the venture in this line in Canada and it is not difficult to be hopeful indeed of the early and overwhelming superiority of the Allied air forces. To Canadians there will be special pride and satisfaction in the fact that this country will do its full share in the task of making Britain and France true masters of the air, as they have proven themselves masters on the sea, and are showing themselves masters on the land.

## THE WORLD IN DANGER

Events seem to be proving in striking way the fact that Britain and France have taken up battle to preserve freedom in the world. If the rape of Czechoslovakia and Poland were not enough, there are more recent cases to show that no nation is safe if certain nations continue their policy of ruthless aggression. There is no use blinking the fact that Finland to-day is in danger of robbery and attack,—that the Balkan nations are anxious, and with full cause,—that Norway, Sweden and Denmark feel that their turn is simply delayed. Belgium, Holland and Switzerland are not without their genuine alarm, and no one studying the future in the certain light of the past can avoid the realization that these nations have due cause for fear.

While all the nations mentioned have avoided giving any cause to bring upon them the fury of the aggressor, the case of Finland may well be taken as representative of the others now so deeply concerned for their national safety. If ever a nation minded its own affairs and gave thought to avoiding injury or annoying its neighbours or the world at large, that country is Finland. For years past Finland has attended to its own affairs with a devotion that should have earned the respect of all other nations. Finland has attacked its own problems with earnestness and ability. In peaceful way it has sought to improve the position of its people without offence to any other nation. Apparently, all that Finland has asked is to be permitted to work out its own salvation in its own way. Now, it is faced with impossible demands that are nothing better than requests that the nation stand still to be robbed. Finland has carefully avoided all entangling alliances, all political activity that would arouse any reasonable enmity in the heart of other nations. It appears, however, that all this has been of no avail so far as saving it from the rapacity of the aggressor is concerned. It is a sad commentary on the stupidity, or worse, of men like Lindbergh that the moral of the present case of Finland is not apparent. Finland's predicament to-day proves once more that no land is safe so long as the aggressor nations are allowed at large. It should not be forgotten, however, that Finland is as safe as Canada—as the United States. It is a question only of time and power as to when impossible demands will be made on other nations unless aggression is blotted out. The unfortunate feature for Finland and the other countries menaced to-day is that they must defend their independence, their liberties, their lives, on their own shores. Canada is fighting for its liberty, its life, as a part of the Empire. It is an advantage to be able to defend the country by facing the aggressor on his own soil, and not waiting until his humour tempts him to this side of the ocean.

## GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Germany this week tacitly admitted that Poland is not yet conquered—that Polish armies are still attacking both the German and the Russian in-

## Lord Riverdale Not Alarmed by German Treaty with Russia

### Enthusiastic Over the Empire Air Plans Now under Way.

Lord Riverdale, head of the British air training mission, is already at work at Ottawa in the task of organizing with the Canadian authorities the biggest co-operative Empire defence scheme ever undertaken. Lord Riverdale, who has visited the North on several occasions, having been guest speaker at the Kiwanis Club some months ago and on two previous visits, giving opinions on Empire and world affairs that made strong impression here, is well known in Timmins and district, and his views carry very decided respect here. Interviewed at Ottawa he did not wish to discuss the Russian situation in detail but he did let it be known that the Empire was not unduly alarmed about it, and he did say:—

"It is an extraordinary thing that Germany which got Lenin, Trotsky and other Bolsheviks out of Switzerland to create a revolution in Russia in 1917 is now bringing them back into Europe to create revolution again."

Lord Riverdale, an industrialist who speaks his mind freely, is enthusiastic about the prospect of training thousands of British, Australian and New Zealand pilots, observers, air gunners and wireless operators in Canada. He wants to get on with the job without delay and hopes to have the scheme moving within a month.

The response of the peoples of the British Empire to the call for war service has been marvellous, he said. The British public, living in the dark for more than a month, take the air-raid precautions measures in their stride and volunteers come forward in large numbers.

More Men Than Are Needed  
"You know we have compulsory service," said Lord Riverdale. "Well, there have been so many volunteers they have had to hold back the compulsory service. They have to tell men to go back home, that they won't be needed for a few months."

The air training scheme will be entirely under the control of Canadian authorities and the Royal Canadian Air Force, he said. Great Britain will provide whatever help is needed in the way of instructors, technicians and aircraft but it will be a Canadian project.

The main idea is to turn out a continuous stream of fighting airmen. Existing Canadian establishments for training will be enlarged and multiplied until they are capable of passing as many as 25,000 to 30,000 air fighters into the services each year.

After all Australian, New Zealand and Canadian airmen available for training at any particular time are accommodated, the schools will be kept filled to capacity by sending over British airmen for training.

The Canadian government will be paid by the other participating governments for training their men, at an agreed sum per man. That sum has yet to be settled but will be based on the cost of the training establishment.

Manufacture Aircraft  
Thousands of mechanics will be required to service the aircraft used in training. Manufacture of aircraft and repair parts will take place in Canada as far as possible but in the initial stages it is likely some planes will be brought here from England.

Canadian fliers are the best fighters in the world, Lord Riverdale said. Many are already in the Royal Air Force but the British are "desperately keen" to get some Canadians, as well as New Zealanders and Australians serving overseas in their own squadrons. They like to have Canadian fliers mixing with their own.

Lord Riverdale's mission includes 12 other persons, and two more high officials are on the way. They are Captain H. H. Balfour, parliamentary under secretary of state for air, and Air Marshall Sir Robert Brooke-Popham.

Sir Robert will probably remain in Canada for the duration of the war to represent the Royal Air Force. He resigned recently as governor of Kenya colony to undertake the task.

Missions from New Zealand and Australia are expected in Ottawa soon to complete arrangements for their participation in the scheme.

The prospect of ever-increasing Empire air forces has already had a marked effect on the Germans, said Lord Riverdale. German air strength is bound to lessen as time goes on but the British air strength will go on rising.

Globe and Mail:—How the Russian people like communism they are not permitted to say, but the fact that the Finns would rather die than be absorbed by Russia suggests that the godless cult has not made much of a hit with the neighbors.

vaders. Before Poland is truly conquered, Germany will have peace—a peace in which Poland will live again as the great nation that it has proven itself to be.

Some people once thought that The Advance was a little too severe in its strictures on Canadian radio. Yet nothing The Advance ever suggested was as bitter as the picture given by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation of its own attitude:—A loyal Canadian newspaper publisher could not buy time on the Canadian Government airwaves, but free time is given by the C.B.C. to Hitler and to Lindbergh.

"To gild refined gold, to paint the lily,

## Hitler Looking for Goat —The Allies Have His Goat

Chatham News—When a coward gets in a tight spot he naturally looks for a goat—some one whom he can blame for his failures and misfortunes. Hitler, the world's most cowardly persecutor of the innocent, is in just such a spot today. He is too conceited to blame himself; but he will have no difficulty in finding the goat. He will have to look no further if his eyes fall first on von Ribbentrop, his Foreign Secretary, as no doubt they will.

## Certain that China Will Win the War With the Japanese

### Visitor from China Gives Striking Views at Sudbury.

The more recent wars seem to have put the contest in China in the shade, though occasional word in recent days from China suggest that the Japanese are having a difficult time of it. Chinese in Timmins from the very beginning have been confident that China would win finally, "even though it took twenty-five years," as one local Chinese phrased it.

Despite the other conflict now in progress, the war in China is of very special importance to Canada and the rest of the civilized world. The views of T. E. Plewman, superintendent of the United Church Press in West China, are worthy of consideration. These views are outlined in the following despatch from Sudbury:—

Sudbury, Oct. 18.—Victory for China in its war with Japan may be of more importance to the democratic bloc than victory in Europe. T. E. Plewman, superintendent of United Church Press in Chengtu, West China, declared here this week, pointing out that China is striving to remain a member of the democratic bloc.

In Sudbury to address United Church congregations in the district, Mr. Plewman, who went to China in September, 1908, and is now home on his fourth furlough, is completing a tour of the world.

Mr. Plewman left China in March and arrived in Canada on the last trip of the Queen Mary, on the eve of the outbreak of war. He expects to return to China.

"Japan, by her own offensive into the heart of China, has exposed her vulnerable heel," Mr. Plewman said. He believes that the Japanese army may win every battle, but they will lose every skirmish. Japanese garrisons, he explained, are at the mercy of Chinese guerrillas, who are continually harassing the invaders until the army morale is at the breaking point.

### Are Being Cut Up

"Night after night Japanese garrisons are being cut up by the Chinese guerrillas," Mr. Plewman observed. "The ultimate end will be the financial collapse of the Japanese empire and the revolt of the army in China."

Hundreds of thousands of Japanese troops, he said, are required to hold the railway lines necessary to the transportation of supplies to the Japanese army in China. However these men are stretched over such a large front that the Chinese guerrillas are enabled to wreak havoc in their ranks by well-timed assaults under cover of darkness. He mentioned one city which had changed hands five times to his knowledge, always with considerable loss to the Japanese, not only in men but in morale.

"I believe," said Mr. Plewman, "a war of attrition will bring revolt in the army and financial collapse."

The ultimate question to be answered by the Japanese government will be whether the Empire is allowed to smash or whether the troops will be withdrawn from China in an effort to save the pieces. He pointed out that the banks of Japan were bearing the burden of financing the Chinese struggle and could not go on forever.

### China Will Win

China Mr. Plewman believes will eventually win the war. The only eventuality which would forestall this result would be the death of the Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek. If the Generalissimo lives he believes China will eventually survive the conflict. However he pointed to the possibility of a lucky bomb killing Chiang Kai Shek and destroying the present organization of the Chinese forces.

Insofar as the British Empire is concerned her interest in the orient is in a precarious position in north China, due to the fact that the garrison at Tientsin is completely isolated.

In Shanghai, he feels, British interests may be saved because the garrison here is partly American, and the Japanese are careful not to antagonize the United States. In Hong Kong, the British garrison is heavily fortified and could withstand attack for weeks, providing succor was forthcoming. If no help was forthcoming, he believed that

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Hong Kong, would undoubtedly be reduced by the Japanese. However, Britain's back door to China through Burma could not be blocked and the British could send in support and reorganize the Chinese army with British military experts to such a degree that Japanese victory would be out of the question. In order to block Britain's back door through Burma, the Japanese would have to close the British base at Singapore, one of the strongest in the world and this, he believed, was an impossibility.

### Important Function

The United Church press in Chengtu, Mr. Plewman said, occupied an important position in China, because all Christian propaganda for the United Church in China emanated from this centre. Other presses throughout China had fallen before the Japanese invasion.

Mr. Plewman explained that the Chinese cabinet was Christian, although the country was predominantly heathen. The Chinese cabinet, he said, was zealously attempting to remain a member of the democratic bloc, in spite of overtures from Communist Russia. The Chinese were prepared to accept wartime aid from Russia, but not at the expense of political freedom. For this reason, he believed, Chinese victory was important in the interests of the democratic bloc.

## According to the Modern System of Education

(By Peggy McEvoy)

One of the more pious of the Hollywood writers has an eight-year-old son who has been quite a trial to his teacher in a Beverly Hills school. The other day, getting more out of patience with him than usual, the teacher announced in annoyance: "Roger, you're going to stay right here in this classroom after school today!"

She nearly fell on her face when the youngster gave her a broad wink and flipped: "Okay, Cutie-Pie, it's a date!"

### GERMANS IN AMERICA

Milwaukee seems the most attractive place for the activities of the "Little Fuehrers." At a Nazi Bund rally there recently the audience was exhorting by a Philadelphia Fuehrer to rid America of President Roosevelt, and told that "by learning a few lessons from the smart nations abroad we could make a paradise out of this country in a few years." In such company Nazi supporters—consult and lesser fry—migrating from Canada will be more at home than in this country. The question is, How long will the United States authorities put up with the bold propaganda?

## W. C. Fields Explained About D.T.'s and Hollywood

(From Readers' Digest)  
Nunnally Johnson, one of the town's top scenarists and major wits, was having an academic discussion with W. C. Fields the other night on the subject of tipping. The conversation drifted to the D.T.'s.

"Do you ever get them out here?" Johnson inquired of the screen comedian, who has been known now and then to take a drop or two—or maybe three.

"Out here," boomed Fields, "there's no way of knowing where the D.T.'s leave off and Hollywood begins."

Globe and Mail:—Herbert Hoover is convinced that the Allies cannot be defeated, and Captain Liddell Hart, eminent military authority, holds that if the dictatorships cannot win they automatically lose the war.



## "Mother is getting on in years."

"She finds her main enjoyment in knitting, fancy work and reading. Naturally her eyes aren't as keen as they once were and the strain troubled her a lot. My husband made an appointment for her with Mr. Curtis. Now, with her new glasses, she sits contentedly reading and working by the hour. Life for her is enjoyable again."

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"To throw a perfume on the violet,  
"To smooth the ice, or add another hue  
"Unto the rainbow."  
These are things that the bard Shakespeare dubbed as vain and ridiculous excess.  
What would the late Mr. Shakespeare say of the editor of The Northern Tribune who suggests that a Scottish burr be added to the porcupine?

United States newspapers have fairly flayed Col. Lindbergh for his unmannerly, unneighbourly, ungrateful and unfair attack upon Canada and Britain. British newspapers have been more inclined to be sarcastic over his radio vapourings. One London newspaper dubs him a "Nazi Pet." Another calls him a "muddle-mouth meddler."

## Electra Porcupine Mines Issues Financial Report

Balance sheet of Electra Porcupine Gold Mines, as of July 31, 1939, shows current assets of \$14,484 while in addition the company holds 200,000 shares of Three Lakes Gold Mines at cost of \$15,000. Current liabilities were \$444.

In connection with the 200,000 shares of Three Lakes Gold Mines acquired last year, President H. C. Miller states that company holds 78 claims in Goudreau-Lochalsh area, where assessment diamond-drilling disclosed interesting values.

At annual meeting to be held Oct. 25, shareholders will be asked to approve by-law authorizing directors to acquire shares in other corporations.