

The Porcupine Advance

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THE RIGHT TO LIVE

The real purpose of the present war might well be summarized as being to establish the right to live. It is true that the war is one for democracy, for freedom, but in effect it is a battle for the right to life itself. The various conditions and circumstances and situations that have arisen in recent years emphasize the fact that the struggle centres round the idea of the right to live. It started with Russia's theory that none but those who believed in Communism had the right to live. It reached further heights when Germany condemned a whole race to death. There are many who believe that Britain should have joined battle with the vicious isms before Czechoslovakia was over-run. If it had been practical and possible for Britain to have acted sooner than it did, the right time to have intervened would have been when the Jews were mercilessly slaughtered in Germany. That was the first major attack on the right to life in the world. Since then the totalitarian states have challenged the right of others to live—in Czechoslovakia, Poland. These lands had earned the right to live—by enterprise, industry, progressiveness, and by concentration on their own affairs. Now, it is Finland and Norway that are threatened by those who would deny the right to live. If any two nations ever won the right to live, then Finland and Norway have merited the right to live. Finland has shown a remarkable concentration on its own affairs. It has devoted its whole efforts to perfecting a form of government and an economic system to meet the needs of its people. In no way has it interfered with its neighbours, even to the extent of advice. It has threatened no others. It has made notable contribution to the betterment of its own people. It has respected international ethics and infringed on the liberty of none outside its own borders. The progress of Norway has been equally creditable. It is not even necessary to agree with the ideals of these countries to be forced to admit that they have made great contributions to human progress and contentment. The challenge to these nations is a challenge to the world to uphold the right to live, or take risk of the final consequences.

AVOID DICTATORSHIP

Every day it becomes more apparent that there is little practical difference between Nazism and Communism. They both plan to take away the liberty of their own people and to subjugate neighbouring states. They have shown themselves brothers under the skin. It is little comfort to feel that like brothers of some types they may eventually turn to rend each other. When Hitler and Stalin condemned each other in brutal terms, they knew that they were cursing themselves. Now that they pretend that there is room on earth for both of them, they tacitly admit that they are practically attempting to deceive themselves as well as others. Conditions and circumstances in the world in recent days have surely proven that both Nazism and Communism are so alien to all the hopes and beliefs of Canadians that Canada is united in the fight for democracy, liberty and decency, and to curb Hitlerism and Stalinism. It would be deplorable if Canada, fully occupied with the fight for the right for democracy to live in this world, should permit the thin edge of the wedge of dictatorship to be inserted in this country. It is readily admitted that during the war minor liberties and privileges should be gladly given up to assist in winning the great battle. There is need for care, however, that under specious pleas about war needs and war costs, the very essence of democracy should not be thrown away. The proposal that municipalities should be debarred from the right to hold elections during war-time is one of the methods by which Ontario may lose democracy at home while fighting for it abroad. The government of the province may not have any such thought in mind in its proposals along this line. But if that is the case, then the government should be saved from itself. Municipal government is the very essence of democracy. It is the one chief place where the average man has the knowledge and influence to really express himself in regard to self-government. In recent years there has been a deplorable tendency to steal the rights of municipalities on one plea or another. The great part of the powers and privileges of municipalities have been gradually filched by the province until to-day members of municipal councils have little more than a shadow of authority. Of course, it is argued that all this is in the interests of the people—to prevent them making mistakes. Provincial authorities have had the effrontery to talk about the extravagance and poor judgment of municipalities, though at the same time their own pictures of the administration of their opponents in the provincial sphere suggest recklessness to the point of criminality

in the administration of public funds and stupidity to the point of imbecility in the administration of the public business. In effect, the argument for greater control of municipal administration could be expressed in these words:—"The people are not competent to govern themselves. They need supermen like the provincial authorities to guide them." It is the language, the idea of the dictator. Democracy not only holds that the people have the right to govern themselves, but also the right to make mistakes, so-called. Following the theory of municipal control to its logical conclusion, the province would abrogate all the powers of the municipality; then, for the same reasons and causes, the Dominion might well take over greater control of the provinces, the mal-administration of the provinces being a by-word; and, finally, the Dominion government would surely need control, and thus the path ends in dictatorship. As a matter of fact that is just the road that was followed by Germany and Russia.

If democracy is to be saved, it must be saved at its source. And that is in municipal self-government. If the people give up the right to elect their own municipal councils, their own school boards, they are in effect on the way to accepting dictatorship.

It is true, as provincial authorities have suggested, that municipalities have made mistakes in their choice of municipal councils and school boards, on occasion. In the main, however, the results have been fairly satisfactory. Certainly, they have been more desirable than in the larger fields of the province and the Dominion. The fact that municipal elections are held each year has had much to do with the good results prevailing. The fact that they are subject to yearly review by the voters keeps councils within bounds, as well as giving opportunity for the correction of any mistakes that may be discovered. The Advance holds that the people have the right to make so-called mistakes. That is the very essence of democracy. But with that privilege must also go the power to correct any errors that have been made.

Arguments about saving money by avoiding elections are beside the point, being no more than veiled pleas for dictatorship. The whole purpose of the war is to save democracy and freedom. Boasts are made that British peoples are ready to make any outlay to this end. The cost of municipal elections is a negligible amount to pay for the continuance of the rights of the people.

Before this vital right of the people—the right to vote—can be taken away, the Legislature will have to pass confirming legislation. The Legislature will not meet until January, and in the meantime all organizations and individuals should make it plain to the government and to the individual members that the people are so sincere and earnest in the war to defend democracy that they are even determined to keep it secure at home. There should be very emphatic notice given that the people of the province are not going to forego democracy under any sham plea that by so doing they can help preserve it in distant lands. Elections may be necessary evils, but there is no question of their necessity. In any cases where the work is being done honestly and well, the municipalities no doubt will exercise their prerogative to avoid election costs by acclamations. That was done in the last war in many cases. It can be done again in this. But to pretend that there will be any saving by robbing the people of the right to review the work of their elected representatives is to practice deception and to pave the way for other undesirable methods of the dictatorship.

BRITISH HUMOUR

Who won the last war? There will be many answers to such a question. One common reply will be that the soldiers and sailors and airmen of the Allies won the war and then the politicians lost it, and so there is a new war on. Well, who will win this war? There is little question about that. It will be won by the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen, the workers, the thinkers of Britain and France. It will be won, as the last war was won until it was lost in the peace. It will be won on the morale of the peoples of the Empire and of France. It appears to be admitted that in this war it is the morale that will be the greatest factor in the assurance of final victory. One writer in a neutral state the other day said with much basis of truth that humour would win this war. There may be room for argument as to whether humour keeps up the morale of the people to such a degree that victory ensues, or that the morale of the people keeps up humour and victory comes along as a matter of course. In any event humour is a striking feature of the British and French attitude to-day. The war is being taken so seriously that humour cannot be subdued.

It is interesting to consider the humour of this war with the humour of the last great conflict. Probably, there will be no equal to the humour of Bainsfather with his classic cartoon of the two soldiers taking refuge in a shell hole while shot and shell and bomb flew all around them. The humour of one of the soldiers kept him growling at conditions and critical of the protection afforded by the shell hole. "If yer know of a better 'ole, 'op to it!" said Old Bill.

One of the stories current in England at the moment is designed to brighten the sad thought of children being torn from their families in the



"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."

CURTIS

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Comfort Fund of Ladies' Auxiliary to Assist New Soldiers

Other Matters of Interest at General Meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary.

The monthly general meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion was held on Monday evening in the Legion hall, with the president, Mrs. Robt. Hardy, in the chair.

Mrs. Garroway and Mrs. Wheeler were initiated as new members and Mrs. Harrison was re-instated.

It was decided that a whist drive would be held each Tuesday of the month, except the last Tuesday, November 28th, when a social evening will take place. At the first whist drive of the month, which would be held the following evening, there would be eight poultry prizes.

As Remembrance Day is on a Saturday, the members decided that no dance would be held. Instead of the annual dance, the branch will entertain at a social evening on Monday, November 13th, for all taggers on Remembrance Day.

Comrade Bellamy, of the Legion Entertainment committee, presented the Ladies' Auxiliary with the proceeds of the bingo night, this fund to be established for the men of the local Legion branch, their sons, and the families of the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary, in this war. It has been named the "Comfort Fund" and will assist all those who enlist in the present war. It was noted that Comrade Mamie Borland makes an individual donation to this fund each month.

November 10th being Poppy Day all members are asked to tag, and in this way help in this worthy cause. Head-

air-raid-menaced cities and sent to the country homes offered for their protection. "Isn't it rather extravagant to eat both jam and butter on your bread?" the hostess asked the young boy who had been evacuated. "No, mam," the lad replied, "yer see it's really a saving, for the one piece of bread does for both."

Then, there is the one resurrected perhaps from the last war, though the dental requirements this time are more strictly enforced. The medical officer had rejected the recruit on account of bad teeth. "Say, doc," said the recruit, "what are we supposed to do? Fight the bleeding blighters, or bit 'em to death?"

Another story of evacuated children refers to one good lady who hung up a printed notice as to the behaviour of the youngsters in her home and giving fifteen "don'ts." One boy commented, "Fifteen don'ts! And even Moses was satisfied with ten."

"Aren't these blackouts awful," complained the unpopular Mrs. Jones to her neighbour. "Never mind, dearie," was the reply, "after a time you'll be able to see all right like the other cats."

In this contest, the sailors seem to win with this one:—The landlord of a dockside pub broadcast an offer of five pounds for anyone who could drink five consecutive pints of beer in five minutes. A sailor heard the offer and left the bar. Not long afterwards he returned and announced that he would accept the challenge. Ordering the five pints he drank them with amazing rapidity and easily won the money. "I didn't think it was possible," commented the landlord. "Neither did I," replied the sailor, "until I went to the pub down the street just now and tried it there."

Some of the humour may be old. Some may seem crude. Some may seem scarcely in the best of taste for some folks. Some may fail to bring smiles from the professors of humour when retailed. But hardship and danger will give point to the humour. There will be laughter on difficult days and in dangerous places, and men will "grin and grin and grin, and win and win and win," as one popular song in the Old Land phrases it.

quarters in Timmins for the taggers will be at the Legion hall; in Schumacher at Moiseley & Ball's Drug Store. Comrades Wilkinson and McGarry will be in charge of the tagging at Schumacher.

Members were reminded that the annual Legion Broadcast from the Legion hall would take place on Wednesday, November 8th, and all were asked to attend.

A special note was made of the fact that a parade would take place on Remembrance Day. Members are asked to attend and wear their berets.

Several of the members have spent afternoons in sewing for the Red Cross and have accomplished much work under the supervision of Comrade E. Clegg. In the future members will meet on Wednesday afternoons in the Legion Hall to knit for the Red Cross.

As November 4th is election night, the regular monthly meeting of the Ladies' Auxiliary will be held on November 11th. All members should be in attendance on this occasion, as it will be the regular election of officers for the ensuing year.

Even Spiders Used to Help Win the War for the Allies

London, England, Nov. 8.—The lowly spider is doing its bit to help Britain win the war, a director of ammunition production has disclosed.

The insect's delicate web is used for the gratitudes of binoculars. The procedure is not new but was mentioned by the director in describing the British war effort.

This delicate web provides the fine line of lenses by which angles may be judged. Human hair spun in glass is too thick for the line.

The director displayed for the first time in public the progress manuals by which the ministry of supply has told firms of methods of manufacture. He said the dominion had been made familiar with all the manuals and that Canadians had obtained production information.

Outlining the problems of converting industry to war requirements, he said the government was attempting to utilize small as well as big firms.

It was necessary to spread the load so industry could also turn out normal products and thus swing back after the war without a crash.

Sad Memories

"May I help you to some boiled rice, Mr. Johnson?" asked the landlady of the new lodger. "No, thank you," he replied. "Rice is associated with the worst mistake of my life."

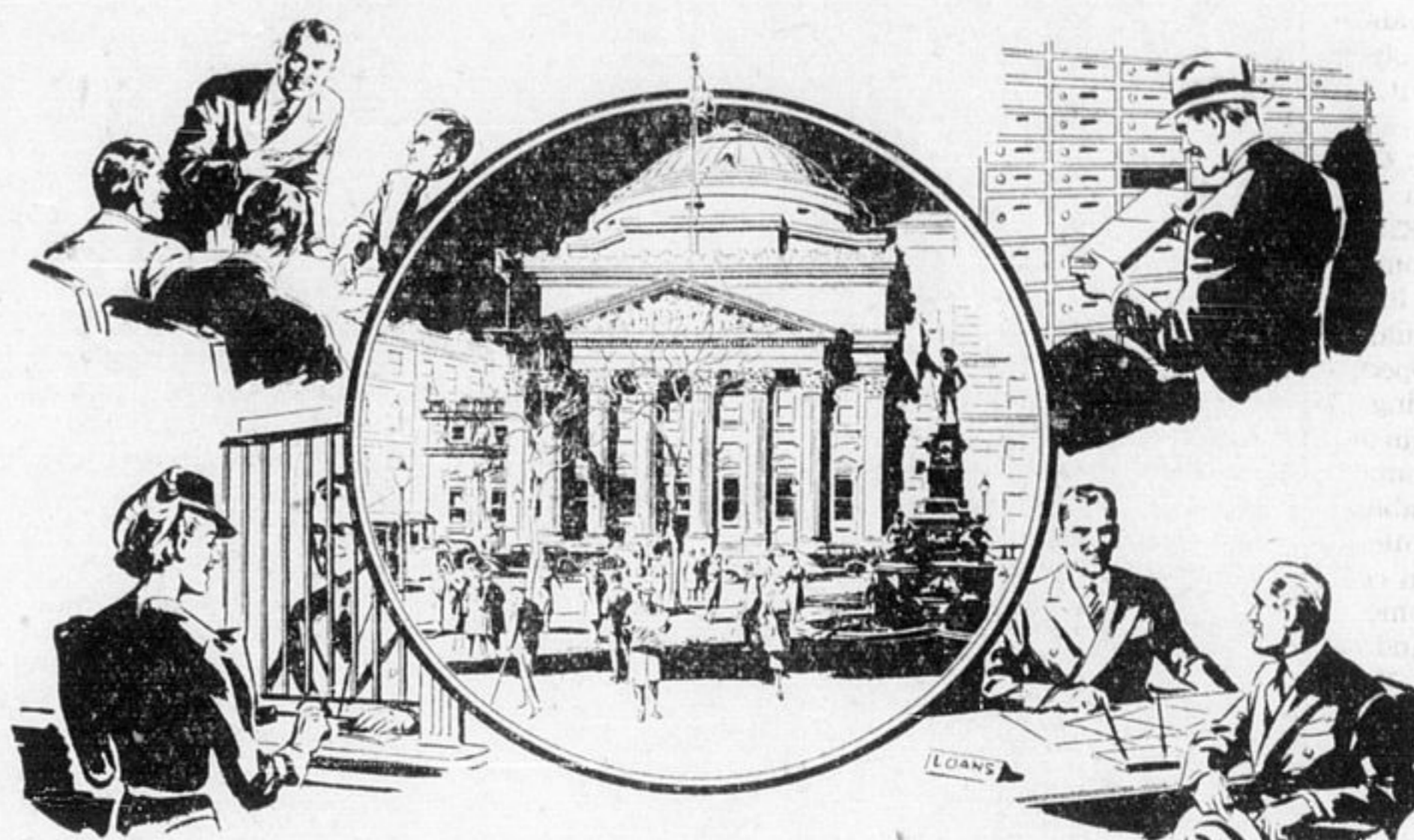
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GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Last week the editor of The Orillia Packet gave an address on the war to a service club. The preparation of the address took up time that would otherwise have been devoted to writing his editorials, so he used the address itself as his editorial offering for the week. It made most interesting and informative reading. The many who make a practice of reading the editorial page of The Orillia Packet were satisfied. Next time the Orillia editor has to make an address to a service club he should reverse the plan and read the editorial page of his paper as his address. It would be a rare occasion when the service club would not be given full value.

Headlines in the daily newspapers tell about Hon. T. A. Crerar, wearing his gas mask while attending conferences of the British war council, on which he is the Canadian representative. It might be a good thing for him to bring back the gas mask and the habit of wearing it when he returns to political conferences in Canada.

The war seems to have upset everything—even to the famous definition of news. "When a dog bites a man, that isn't news, but when a man bites a dog, that's news." So goes the old definition. Of course, if dog biting man isn't news, than dog biting dog will be still less so. But to-day dog biting dog is considered so much news that The Montreal Star had the story copyrighted and paid cable tolls on it from London, England. The story was to the effect that British dogs at present appear to be suffering from war nerves, according to the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals. In September the dispensary treated only 198 dogs injured in dog fights in London, England, while in October the number amounted to 410. "If you suffer from nerves, your dog will be snappy," says the technical expert of the dispensary. "You get angry through reading about air raids, and your dog goes out and fights the next dog."

Lake Shore Reduces Tonnage in Interests of Safety at Mine

Daily Tonnage Reduced from 2,500 to 2,000 Tons.

President W. P. St. Charles of Lake Shore Mines, Kirkland Lake area, has forwarded the following letter to shareholders:

"Because of the increasing occurrence of rock bursts associated with greater depth of mining operations, it has been decided from this date to reduce the tonnage mined at Lake Shore Mines. This step is being taken in order to ensure greater safety to employees.

"For the present it has been decided to reduce tonnage from 2,500 tons to 2,000 tons daily, in order to reduce the frequency of the bursts and to allow certain contemplated changes in mining to be put into effect.

"For a number of years, a great amount of research work has been done at Lake Shore Mines from the practical and scientific point of view. One of the world's greatest authorities on rock burst problems was retained by the company for the purpose of obtaining the benefits of his knowledge. This engineer has had many years of experience in the Mysore Gold Mines of India, the only other camp where the structural conditions resemble those of Kirkland Lake.

"Ontario Department of Mines is to be congratulated for the appointment, made early this year, of an outstanding engineer who is conducting a scientific study of rock burst problems as it will affect the mines of Ontario.

"There is considerable reason for confidence in the belief that the studies being conducted in the research departments of Lake Shore and other mines, as well as by other groups interested in the subject, will result in additional new information which will be put into use in lessening the risks associated with deeper mining."

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