

The Porcupine Advance

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THE SECOND WORLD WAR

At the commencement of the present war, there were some newspapers that appeared to worry about a name for it. Some referred to it as the "Second World War," but against this it was argued that both the present and the last war were hardly widespread enough to warrant the term World War. The Advance has overcome the difficulty heretofore by merely calling it the Present War. It certainly is all that. Indications for the moment, however, suggest that the conflict may spread to such an extent that World War will be a narrow enough name. Months ago the cowardly attack by Russia on gallant Poland was taken by thoughtful people as an indication that Russia had added itself to the list of brutal aggressors and so widened the area of the war. The Soviet invasion of peaceful Finland was another indication of the extension of the war. Russia's present threats against Sweden and Norway raise the fear that the theatre of war may be again enlarged. Then there is the repeated threat of Germany to invade Switzerland, Belgium and Holland—force being given this threat by the fact that Germany denies any such intention against these neutral nations. Germany is also credited with designs against Hungary, and the fact that the Nazis deny the idea makes the report the more believed. Turkey, Italy and the Balkan nations have made it plain that any attack on the Balkans will mean their entry into the war. With such a possible line-up of warring nations, and with neutrals threatened on all sides, the most literal-minded man or woman will find it difficult to think "World War" too broad a title.

VOLUMINOUS

Have you heard the latest from Ottawa? The Dominion parliament is to have a new library! No! the library built up since the fire of 1916 at Ottawa has not again fallen prey to flames, nor yet to worms or dry rot! It is simply a case of a brand new library being added to the books already in the parliamentary library. There is reason to believe that the library will be given also to each member of the House of Commons. Accordingly, the besieged member of parliament can make devastating reply to the aggressive book agent. Instead of the proverbial answer, "Oh, I have a book, thank you!" the privileged member of the present Dominion House may well retort:—"Sir, I have a whole library!"

The new library for Ottawa, for members of parliament, and perhaps (alas!) for newspapers, is the report of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations. The report will be tabled early in the session, says the despatches from Ottawa, and will probably be the most voluminous document relating to Canadian affairs ever laid on the table of parliament. It will surely test the strength of that table, for the report comprises no less than thirty-four volumes. It is to be hoped the parliamentary table is of deal. Perhaps, it would be too much to hope that it is a square deal table. If there is a weak board in the parliamentary table, the 34-volume report will not be tabled, it will be floored.

The library is now in course of being printed. It is running through the presses as rapidly as possible. As the report has to be printed in both English and French, the Ottawa printing bureau workers actually have to turn out sixty-eight volumes. It is to the credit of the printers that sixty-eight big volumes can be rushed through in record time in this time of war. What this country seems to need at the moment (even more than a new library of thirty-four volumes) is workmen in other lines who are as speedy as the printers at Ottawa, so that the soldiers would not need to wear arm bands instead of uniforms and seek their boots at rummage sales.

The public may be forgiven for enquiring what the new library contains. Years ago, like some newly-weds, the Dominion and the Provinces of Canada were having trouble with their relations. Girls like Miss Quebec and Miss Maritimes wanted it understood that when they entered the union for life they didn't marry the whole plagued family and all the relations of each. The Old Man on his part couldn't see, for example, why a nice sensible girl like Ontario should pick up with a noisy quarrelsome fellow like Mitch. Some of the boys suggested that others in the family were sponging on the Old Folks. "Too much mother-in-law!" came from the one side. "The way the young folks carry on these days is a scandal," was the cry from the other side. Something had to be done about it. In ordinary life, matters drift along until some outsider feels compelled to give some advice or otherwise stick his nose into the dispute. Then the whole family forget their differences and pile onto the interloper. There is a jolly good old fight, and a happy and united family for a generation. That cannot be done, however, with Dominion-Provincial Relations. The way to handle there is to appoint a Royal Commission. The particular Royal Commission in this case of

disputatious relations was appointed in August, 1937. Death took some of the members of that Royal Commission, but even death can not stop a Royal Commission. It carried on. The public forgot, but the Royal Commission didn't—not by 34 volumes. Hearings were held in all Provincial capitals and in Ottawa, and in all eighty-five days of public sessions were held. Provincial governments, political organizations, boards of trade, representatives of industry, commerce and business told their troubles and aired their opinions. No doubt some of the opinions needed the air. On top of all this, the commission's own staff probed and pried into the finances, the economics, the history and the hysterics of Dominion and Provinces. As a result of it all, there is a library—a library that few will have the time to read. But it may be all right if the staff has figured a first-class index and the Commission has boiled the thirty-four volumes down into a two or three page introduction that tells the whole story. That, of course, is a lot to hope from a Royal Commission. But Canadians are an optimistic lot. In any event they can always appoint another Royal Commission to read the thirty-four volumes and make a brief report.

ANOTHER REPORT

The Dominion Government is by no means the only body that finds Royal Commissions useful. Ontario also employs the device on occasion. This province adopted the commission plan to stop some alleged abuses in the matter of the supposed cure of cancer. To the lay mind it does not seem to be a crime to cure cancer, even without medical or surgical help. Indeed, even to help the odd cancer victim or to alleviate their sufferings, would seem to be a good deed for any day. People would just as soon see a nurse get the fees as a doctor, so long as the patient appeared to benefit. If there were fraudulent claims or other abuses, the law already appears to have teeth enough to nip that sort of ill. To governments, that does not seem good enough. A commission's the thing. A commission means new employment. Until the commission reports, the whole question is in solution, as it were. If fairly arbitrary powers are given the commission, everything works out so much the better. So a commission was appointed in regard to this cancer cure dispute. The report of the commission is now announced. It may not be fair to judge the results of the commission by the newspaper reports of its findings. There may be thirty odd volumes of the report, with the necessity for deferring judgment until the library is digested. But it is not too much to say that the report of the report is disappointing—disappointing in the fact that it is just about what most people expected. The learned commission has weighed or measured the cures—or done whatever else one does with cures—and found them chiefly wanting. The commission is afraid that there is yet no Canadian cure for cancer among the lot examined. They hope that one qualified doctor, who was commonly thought to think he had a specific for cancer, will continue to investigate and experiment, as he may have something. The rest of the supposed cures appear to be dismissed as not weighing or measuring to requirements.

Special mention is made in the report of the case of Miss Caisse, of Bracebridge, who doesn't claim half as much for her treatment as her patients do. These patients, dozens of them, have given sworn statements that the Caisse treatment cured cancer in their cases. The commission admits, according to the newspaper reports, that they examined a number of patients of Miss Caisse, and that some of them apparently had cancer at one time and seemed to recover after the Caisse treatment. Some of the patients certified by qualified doctors as suffering from cancer died, despite the treatment, however, and this appears to cancel any other apparent successful treatments. The commission does not stress the fact, though, that probably the greater proportion of the patients took the Caisse treatment as a last resort, after the doctors no doubt were hopeless of benefitting the sufferer, when in fact, the patients were so close to the point of death, that the wonder is that any of them recovered. It is the truth, however, that literally scores of them did make recovery, and most of them appeared to be at least greatly benefited, as well as avoiding further agony. The apparent attitude of the commission that all who recovered could not have had cancer and all who had cancer could not have recovered will seem a mystery to the layman, unless he reads also the stern reference to the fact that Miss Caisse persistently refused to divulge the secret of her treatment. The inference, of course, is that Miss Caisse's attitude in this particular barred her from hope of winning her case.

The public opinion may be divided as to the ethical correctness of Miss Caisse's stand in wishing to preserve her secret. On the one hand it may be argued that if she has discovered a cure for cancer or a real alleviation of the disease, she should not withhold the knowledge from the public. On the other hand, Miss Caisse's side of the case should be considered. She did not wish any undue return for her knowledge and skill and the results of years of devoted study and care. She did, however, desire recognition for her discovery, and she did fear that she would be robbed of all credit if she gave up her secret at this time. That this fear was not without some support seems to be proven by the attitude adopted towards her. She believed that if she presented cases where it could be shown that patients regularly diagnosed by qualified medical men as suffering from cancer

AIR CHIEF SAYS INFANTRY WINS WARS



The air force won't win the war alone. It stands to-day exactly where it stood in 1918, an invaluable aid and eye for the land forces. So states Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham, member of the British air mission to Canada, who was in Toronto, January 3. Sir Robert said that air supremacy lay in the gun power, manoeuvrability and good vision characteristics of pursuit planes and that Great Britain had Germany beaten on all three.

Finnish Nation as If Molded in Steel, Says Prime Minister

With Just Cause, Will Resist to the Very End.

Finnish newspapers reaching Canada in recent days give full evidence that the Finnish nation is united and determined to defend its land to the very end. A speech by the Prime Minister of Finland refers to the people of Finland "as if molded of steel." This speech is printed verbatim in some of the Finnish newspapers, and it gives facts and opinions that are of special interest at this time.

"Unprotected cities and villages have been bombed from the air, women and children mowed down by machine gun fire, and poison gas used against our forces, all of which methods of attack are, in the name of humanity, outlawed by international treaties, to which Soviet Russia has been a signatory," the prime minister said. "This can be likened to the Biblical story of King Ahab and the poor man. The mighty and the strong desires, by criminal and unfair means, to take for himself the vineyard of the weak and poor man, merely to add it to his vast holdings. However there is another parallel in these two incidents which will come to pass in the present incident: injustice and wilful aggression will receive their just rewards."

The Excuse

"The Russians would have us believe that their demands of territorial concessions from us was merely for the better defence of Leningrad and of the Soviet Union. Finland carried on these negotiations with Russia in the sincere hope that through them some satisfactory peaceful solution might be found, which would satisfy the fair demands and needs of both parties without trampling upon the rights and interests of either one. Finland does not desire of Soviet Russia, nor of any-

one else any more than the right to live in peace and as a free and independent nation to work for the development of its own culture and national life. It realizes that because of its geographical position Finland is and shall always be contiguous with Russia and for this reason is fully aware that it is to the mutual advantage of both nations that proper relations obtain between Finland and her eastern neighbor. However, it cannot subject itself voluntarily under the high-handed demands of Soviet Russia, nor can it endanger its own safety or independence, nor forsake the policy of peace and neutrality which it has accepted for itself. With these viewpoints in mind, Finland negotiated with the Soviet, but instead of continuing negotiations Soviet Russia broke off diplomatic relations and initiated an attack to destroy us with an unscrupulousness almost unknown to historians. "It was evident that the security of Leningrad was not the point at issue, but that they wanted war to fulfil their imperialistic desires. Forgotten in the present government of Soviet Russia are Lenin's principles of self-determination for all nations, forgotten all the pretty assurances of their will for peace and their efforts to bring lasting peace into the world."

Were Led Astray

"It does appear, however, that the Russians, at least in part, have been led into this act of wilful aggression by means of false propaganda and because of the lack of proper information. Thus they set up at Terijoki a government supposed to be democratic under the leadership of Kuusinen in the hope that with such a government they could draw to their side a goodly portion of the Finnish people. In this hope they have been disillusioned. Mr. Kuusinen and his 'democracy' are so well known in Finland that it is out of the question for him to get any followers here, with the possible exception of the very few hardened Communists who have all during our independence worked against their fatherland. In Finland this government of Kuusinen will never

had been cured or materially benefited by her treatment, then the commission had all the necessary evidence on which to judge the case. Such witnesses were called by Miss Caisse. Others volunteered. But this evidently impressed the commission little in comparison to the fact that Miss Caisse would not divulge the secret formula by which she gained her success in the matter.

It is not difficult to guess the fear that made Miss Caisse apparently stubborn in her refusal to present the details of her treatment even under the pledge of secrecy. No doubt the idea was that once the secret was divulged, it might be considered as worthless or harmful by the commission, while months or years later the basic elements of the formula, with minor changes, might be heralded as the discovery of someone else. In the meantime, grateful patients of Miss Caisse, with an occasional doctor who has investigated the work of Miss Caisse, appears to form another commission with a much more favourable opinion of the value and virtue of the Caisse treatment.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

A traveller for a fancy goods firm walked into a local store the other day wearing a fancy necktie that for brilliance of colour and flamboyance of design would be hard to equal elsewhere. The proprietor of the store was not in cheerful humour, but that flaring tie caught his eye and he had to grin. "I don't blame you," said the traveller cheerfully, "but if your wife buys you a Christmas tie, you wear it for love of her, eh?"

reach more than an inch beyond the bayonets of the Red army protecting him and will not continue a moment longer than the protection about him. "His declaration, which exudes unquenching hatred and desire for personal revenge upon his former Finnish worker comrades, will never awaken anything but abhorrence among the Finnish people, and his speech on democracy is considered to be nothing but bitter mockery. Mr. Stalin and Mr. Molotov are due for a bitter disappointment if they think they are going to get any place in Finland with this tool of theirs, with his 'government' and his 'democracy.' The Finnish people can look upon such efforts only with disdain."

Can't Break Morale

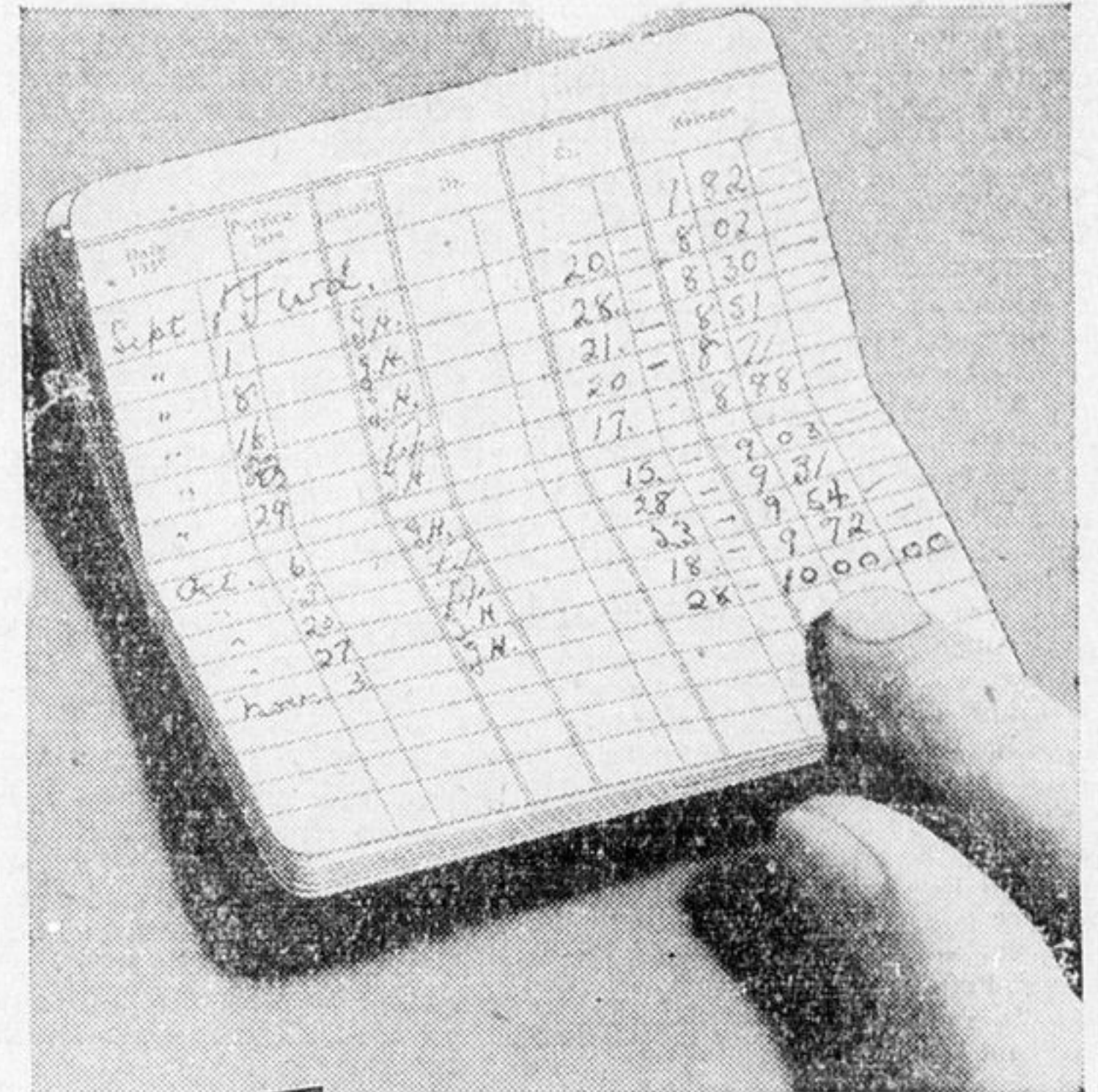
"There is another instance in which the calculations of Moscow in its activities against Finland have misfired. If they have assumed that they can break the morale of the Finnish people and the will to defend their country by brazenly destroying cities and other non-military objectives, and by ruthlessly murdering women and children, and by using poison gas and other inhuman methods, they are due for a disappointment. The Finnish nation is at this time a complete unity, harmonious and firm as if molded in steel. It is ready to make the supreme sacrifice for its independence and its existence for it knows what awaits it under the ruthless hand of such a man as is Kuusinen. If we are forced to that, we shall fight to the end, and even

after the end. The invasion of Finland will not be a parade, but will demand costly sacrifices for every foot taken. "In the final analysis, the successful prosecution of a war depends upon whether the cause for which one is fighting is right and just. We Finns have a righteous and holy cause. We are fighting for independence and for our homes, our families, our children and for the right of posterity to determine its own fate. We are also fighting for the cause of humanity against wilful aggression, and for all that is permanent and worthwhile in the cultural growth of the world thus far. This is what we are fighting for. "But what are the workers and peasants of Russia fighting for?"

Fewer Trucks Used Now on New Zealand Highways

(From New Zealand Press-Union)

The licenses of a large number of road motor services in the Dominion have recently been revoked by the Transport Licensing Authorities on the ground that they are in competition with the state railways which, it is contended, can cater adequately for the needs of the districts concerned. One of these officials stated that it was fully appreciated that there would be some inconveniences for the time being, but it had been necessary to consider the welfare of the public as a whole. Thousands of gallons of petrol would be saved and unnecessary waste in other directions would be eliminated.



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... at the difference glasses made in my husband's disposition. He had been working hard at the office and the strain on his eyes affected his nerves and made him tired and irritable. 'He's his old self' again now that he wears the glasses at the office, that Mr. Curtis prescribed for him."

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Soon traveller and merchant were deep in a discussion of wives, Christmas and haberdashery and later on the traveller departed with a comfortable order for goods. A local man who noted the incident happened to meet the traveller that evening. "Excuse me," he said, "but I'd like to see the wife that bought that tie." "Blazes!" replied the traveller, "I'm not married, and the only Christmas present I got was from the firm—a book on psychology."

Hon. Peter Heenan has been appointed a member of the legislative committee investigating crown timber sales and similar matters. The circumstance recalls the story of the case in court, when the name of the defendant was called and one of the jurors left his place to stand in the witness box. "How on earth did you come to be serving on the jury in your own case?" the judge sternly asked. "Well," replied the man, "I did think it was queer, but I always was lucky."

Canada is going over the top in noble fashion in the first war loan.

The extremely cold weather this week did one thing at least. It made some people believe that the old-timers were right when they suggested it really did get cold in this country at times. It also reminded the same truthful old-timers of days when it was a lot colder than this.

Last week—Jan. 12th to be exact—a columnist in The Picton Gazette wished everybody a happy new year. This year? Next year? or last year?