

The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

Members Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association; Ontario-Quebec Newspaper Association; Class "A" Weekly Group
TWO PHONES—26 and 2025

Published Every Monday and Thursday by
GEO. LAKE, Owner and Publisher
Subscription Rates:

Canada—\$3.00 Per Year. United States—\$3.50 Per Year

Timmins, Ont., Thursday, Dec. 19th, 1940

HYSTERICAL HITLER QUIET

Some men gain a reputation for wisdom by keeping quiet, when the truth of the matter is that they have nothing to say. At the present moment there are people who fear that Hitler has some further diabolical scheme in progress, because he has been so quiet in recent days. The truth may be that Hysterical Hitler for the moment has nothing to say, and is afraid to say it. With troubles enough in Roumania, France, Holland and other ravaged countries, and with the British driving ahead in Lybia and the Greeks routing the Italians in Albania, Hysterical Hitler is likely so hysterical that he is speechless. A suggestion from London, England, that the quiet is due to the fact that Hysterical Hitler is busy preparing for a winter invasion of the British Isles need not cause too much worry. Even if this is the case, the people of Britain are still ready for that eventually and may be depended upon to deal with the attempted invasion in very effective way. The tenor of letters from the Old Country suggests that not only are the people there well prepared for any attempt at invasion, but that they would welcome with genuine joy any chance to come to close grips with the craven enemy. The most probable explanation for the present silence of the noisy gangster of Naziland is that the present quota of news has stunned him. The continued success of the British in the Egyptian campaign and the increasing advance of the Greeks in pursuit of the Italians are so evidently disturbing to the degenerate gangster of the Reich that his silence is to be expected. Were he to speak to-day about the only words he could use would be to curse his weak sister, Italia.

It may be that Hysterical Hitler is deeply engaged on a plot for the invasion of Britain. The chances, however, are more likely to be that he is more concerned with attempting to get help to Italy. It seemed at first that his inclination was to sit back and enjoy the spectacle of Italy being trounced and defied. The situation for Italy, however has become so desperate that it is reacting in Germany. Self-interest, the only guiding force to the gangsters, is prompting Hysterical Hitler to move to the aid of his henchman. What he can do, and how he can do it, remains to be seen.

MENACE TO LIBERTY

There are people who see in the censorship and other measures for the special defence of Canada in wartime a danger to the liberty of the people in the days to come. There is a present menace to democracy and freedom, but it lies in other less evident directions. There are few so blind as not to see that certain restrictions are essential in war days. The common safety requires some curb upon what would be freedom of expression and action in times of peace. A considerable measure of censorship is absolutely necessary to prevent advantage to the enemy. The fact of the matter is that much of the censorship has been self-imposed by newspapers and public men themselves. None desire to give help or comfort to the enemy. The present censorship has not been at all burdensome and it will be a very simple matter to drop it when the war is over. Indeed the arrival of victory will mean the automatic disappearance of war-time censorship. The danger to freedom and democracy is from another angle. It is in reality from the growth of the dictatorial spirit in those in authority. This spirit has a tendency to develop under war conditions. There are certain public men who lean towards the dictatorial even in days of peace. In their hearts the party or personal advantage is everything and the public be damned. In the piping days of peace this characteristic is so unpopular that effort is made to hide it. In wartime, it grows under the cloak of national need or national safety. As a glaring example of the growth of the dictator idea, there was the recent case where parliament was refused information to which it was entitled, on the plea that during a war it was not in the public interests to announce the price of garbage cans.

The real menace to-day is not from censorship or restraint of the people's actions and expressions during the progress of the war, but rather from the growth of a tendency to ignore the people and their opinions and desires. Those in authority need to keep ever before them the truth that they are not Sawdust Mussolinis or Tin Hitlers, but simply the servants of the people. Even in a time of war, the Governments should all be responsive to the whole people, not to a party or a section alone. Great Britain has given wonderful example of the right principle. In Britain, even in wartime, the people really rule through their elected representatives. The danger in Canada seems to be that the dictatorial tendency will grow under the cloak of war necessity and that when the war is over the powers-that-be will find it impossible to revert to democratic procedure.

Recently there have been two most undemocratic and glaring examples of scorn of the people's opinion. In the one case there was action, and in the other case deliberate inaction in direct opposition to public wishes and the right, the action and inaction being excused on the plea of war necessity that did not exist, and that all knew did not exist. The one case in point is that of the deliberate attempt to rob the town of Swastika of its name. The people of Swastika, the people of the North, practically all concerned, openly expressed their desire to retain a name that was not dishonoured here. Without any consultation of those affected, announcement was made that Swastika's name was to be deleted. To protests at this dictatorial attitude, the reply in effect was that to be expected from Modest Mussolini or Hysterical Hitler:—"Silence! How dare you! Poppa knows best!" The other case is that of transportation for soldiers on leave. In the newspapers throughout Canada, in parliament, in public resolutions from municipal bodies and in other ways it was made known that the public demanded a fair deal for the soldiers and resented the shame of soldiers on leave being reduced to the ignominy of begging or stealing transportation. The people wanted transportation for the soldiers on leave, and were willing and ready to foot the bill as they are ready and willing to pay all necessary expenses in connection with the war. In this case, the reply was: "Shut up, you brats! Poppa can't afford it!" The Government apparently is under the misapprehension that this is their party war and party money, forgetting that in a free democracy it is the people who are "Poppa." The one great danger to democracy is not in censorship or the defence of the realm acts, but in the permitting of the idea that the representatives of the people are greater than the people themselves.

GOING BY THE BOARD

It takes nineteen sheets of foolscap paper from a government department at Ottawa to carry the mere list of the "principal war organizations of the Government." There are no less than thirty-five of these war organizations of the government at Ottawa. The list starts with the "Advisory Committee on Economic Policy" and ends with the "Wartime Requirements Board." Or does it end there? Or where will it end?

Some of the organizations have sub-organizations, and that should add to the interest, or the principle, or something. Of course, the thirty-five commissions, boards, committees, or what have you? are in addition to the regular departments, and apart from all the excellent voluntary associations like the Red Cross, the Legion War Services, the K. of C. Huts, the Salvation Army Red Shield and the others that are doing much wonderful work at the present time. It would be a beautiful thought to believe that all these various committees or commissions or boards were doing as effective work. Undoubtedly some of them are. But some are just commissions, boards or committees. The government might very easily take a hint in this matter. The remarkable effectiveness of the outstanding voluntary organizations is due to the fact that they are patriotic associations where party politics are absolutely debarred.

Even in the names of some of the committees and sub-committees of the "principal war organizations" there is reason for amused interest. For instance, there is the Pesticide Supply Committee. That ought to "put the bug" on Hitler. Then there is the Bacon Board. It is to be hoped it brings it home. The "Canned Lobster Control Scheme Commission" is no doubt what its name implies—whatever that may be. "The Temporary Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin Committee" should be temporary or otherwise, just as the individual's opinion on the question. It is odd to have one committee as a "National Labour Supply Council" and another separate one to advise on Unemployment, but under the present form of government these things have to be or there wouldn't be enough places to go around for all good party people. By the way there ought to be enough committees on labour to do something, if they all know what each other does. There are the following commissions or boards:—"Inter-departmental Committee on Labour Co-ordination, The National Labour Supply Council, The Wartime Industries Control Board, The Wartime Requirements Board, and some others. But it is in the Contracts and Purchasing lines that the boards reach their fullest flower, with the British Purchases given special attention. There are, among others, the following:—British Admiralty Technical Mission, The British Purchasing Commission in the U. S. A. The Joint Inspection Board of the United Kingdom, The Ministry of Shipping of the United Kingdom, The Munition and Supply Department and Directorates of Companies owned by the Crown (Citadel Merchandising Company, Allied Supplies Corporation, Federal Aircraft Limited, Research Enterprise Limited, Small Arms Limited, Melbourne Merchandising Limited, Fairmont Company Limited, The United Kingdom Air Liaison Mission, The United Kingdom Technical Mission, The War Contracts Depreciation Board, The War Technical and Scientific Development Committee, The Wartime Industries Control Board, The Wartime Requirements Board. It does appear necessary to have one more commission or board to look after all these committees.

The names alone suggests the imperative need for certain of the committees or commissions—for example, the Board of Referees Excess Profits

Make This Christmas Free From Fire Says Ont. Fire Marshal

Warns Against Carelessness With Decorations, Etc.

Bombs will bring death and destruction to many British homes this Christmas. In many Canadian homes this Christmas, death and destruction may be brought not by bombs but by the celebration of Christmas itself, the most festive season in the democratic world. At Christmastime numerous fire hazards are introduced into homes, stores and public places that do not ordinarily exist. Every year in Canada women and little children lose their lives or are scared for life from fires starting in Christmas decorations, trees, lighting, etc. This is the warning issued by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office.

Those persons decorating halls, churches and public places should use particular care in their choice of decorations. Only materials made of metal, glass and asbestos should be used. Packing material and rubbish accumulates much more rapidly at this time and should therefore be disposed of at more frequent intervals. In any case, merchants should guard against obstructing any exit facilities during this season when the showing-crowds are larger than usual.

The Christmas tree itself demands particular attention. It should not be placed near any source of heat, such as radiators, fire places or stoves and should be well-secured against falling. The tree should be placed that standing or falling, it will not block a doorway or exit and thus prevent the escape of anyone. Lights for the tree should be only of the approved electric type and in no case should candles be used or smoking permitted near any Christmas tree. After a tree is brought into the home it hourly becomes drier and therefore more easily ignited. The correct choice of toys may mean much to the little ones in the home. Those made of celluloid may be ignited without coming in actual contact with flame and when once ignited they burn with such rapidity that a child's clothing is nearly always set afire before they can dispose of them.

Accidental ignition of flammable costumes has been the cause of many Christmas tragedies; in fact Santa Claus himself must be very careful not to burn his whiskers.

Report of Bible Society Headed "Every Man's Book"

"Every Man's Book," being the popular report (193-04) of the British and Foreign Bible Society, by the Rev. John A. Patten, M.C., M.A., its Literary Superintendent.

The experience of war has deepened the intensity and conviction with which the Bible Society's story during "a troubled year" is told. Taking as a title the familiar words appended to Dent's Everyman's Classics, Mr. Patten unfolds the story of another year's work under the simple headings:—"For Every Man"; "In the Language of Every Man"; "Taking the Book to Every Man"; "How Every Man Receives the Book"; and "The Price of Every Man's Book." As usual he brings poetry and prose to illumine his tale. Writers as varied as Thomas Carlyle, Miles Coferdale, General Carpenter of the Salvation Army, The Bishop of London and Isaac Watts, furnish chapter headings. His own war experience and the fact that much of the report was written during the Battle of Britain make him particularly sensitive to the atmosphere of war, and to the need of the Scriptures for every man during these fierce and trying experiences.

Perhaps the most moving chapters

Tax, Canadian Shipping Board, Censorship, Custodian of Enemy Property, Foreign Exchange Control Board, National Advisory Committee for Children from Overseas, National War Charities Funds Advisory Committee, War Savings Committee, Voluntary Service Registration Bureau.

There is one board or commission (with three sub-committees) that seems to be unfortunately named. It is called "The Enemy Alien Operations." What the people of Canada would like to have is a board that would see that enemy aliens do not operate or have any operations, except for appendicitis or the removal of tonsils.

Among the thirty-five principal war organizations is the "Inventions Board." If this board operates in passing on the thousand and one inventions and plans for new weapons and new schemes for winning the war it will be doing very useful service and have a very busy time. It is to be hoped it is not turned to political inventions.

No doubt most of these boards and commissions are doing necessary and useful work. There is one, however, that doesn't seem to be functioning very effectively. It is entitled "Transport Controller." At the present moment it amounts almost to a national scandal that transport is so little under control that soldiers on leave have to beg, borrow or steal their transportation.

With all these commissions, there is sure to be some sins of commission, as well as omission, but with so many control boards everything should be under control. In any event, it is sincerely to be hoped that all these boards are not just so much rough lumber.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

"Rome wasn't built in a day," the proverb says,

in the book deal with the work of the Society in war-torn lands. Though the period from May 10th is not covered in this vivid survey, nevertheless there is a feeling of tension in all his descriptions, and the section on China is particularly thrilling.

Canada is not forgotten, and its scheme for presenting New Testaments to the Armed and Auxiliary Forces of the Crown receives honourable mention. "However long the war may last our Canadian friends will see to it that Canadians serving the Empire on sea, on land, and in the air receive as part of their equipment a copy of the Word of God." Similar efforts in other parts of the British Empire are recorded with pardonable pride.

The plea for support is finely phrased and deeply moving. A deficit of \$65,000 "brings us down to earth, and to the hard fact that even this most blessed work of spreading the Word of God through the world must be paid for in hard cash."

Mr. Patten is again to be congratulated on another brilliant Popular Report, and the Society on the form and

appearance of its lively record, printed and published as it is in England in time of war.

Globe and Mail:—According to independent testimony the best aircraft in the world are being made now in England under bombing; and not elsewhere under bombing.

HEART BLUNGS TO DADDY


A doctor's little daughter deeply interested in radio, glanced one morning into the office where her father was testing the heart and lungs of a patient. "Getting any new stations, Daddy?" she inquired. —Exchange

STEPPING OUT?

You're Always Sure of a Good Time at the

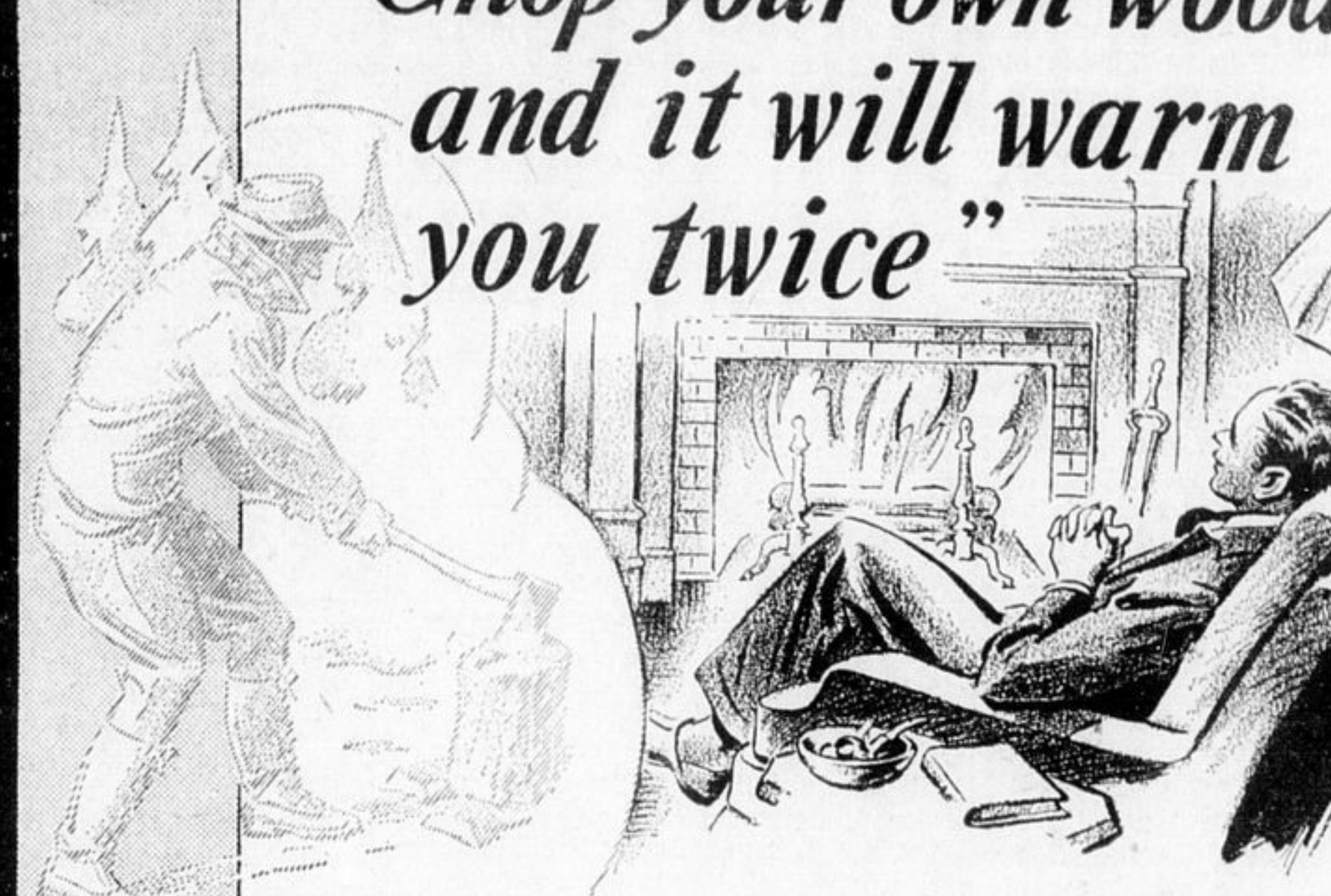
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but there are people now who would like to see it destroyed in a night.

This Christmas no doubt there will be cases where Dad receives an electric razor as his Christmas present, and Junior gets an electric train from Santa Claus. Then comes Christmas! and Dad spends his time playing with the electric train, while Junior slips into the bathroom to see what he can do with an electric razor.

Imagine trying to change the name of Swastika in Canada, while the Canadian government continues to recognize an ambassador from the Vichy government of German France!

The narrow escape of Hon. Mr. Howe may discourage other government officials from taking holiday trips across the ocean, while ordinary people are debarred by regulations from taking holidays outside of Canada.

Apparently Premier Petain, of France, put the boot to Pierre Laval, the arch traitor, for the reason that he was a heel.

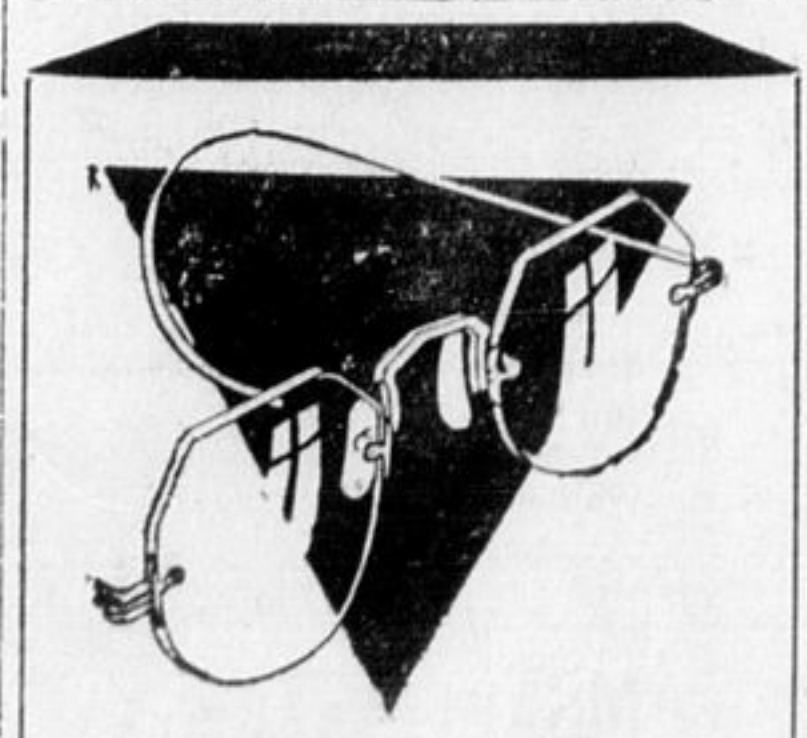
The British maintain their reputation for brilliant understatement. London papers say that the talk of making the Duke of Windsor ambassador to the United States "rouses no interest in Britain."

Still stands the words of the King:—"Put into your task, whatever it may be, all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshaken. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips, and our heads held high, and with God's help we shall not fail."

BEAT THIS ONE

"Down where I live," said the Texan "we grew a pumpkin so big that when we cut it my wife used one half of it for a cradle."

"Well, smiled the man from Chicago "that's nothing. A few days ago, right here, two full-grown policemen were found asleep on one beet. —Humorist



LET'S SEE THOSE FRAMES

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