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AN INSPIRING LIFE

In the death of Mrs. E. M. Condie, matron of the District of Cochrane Children's Aid Shelter, wide circles of people in all walks of life lose a generous friend and the country is the poorer for the passing of a woman who did more than is given to most to accomplish in building nobler citizenship. As matron of the Children's Aid Shelter at Timmins for fourteen years and for several years in similar capacity at Haileybury she started literally hundreds of children on the way to better and richer life. They were brought to her by the scores, children of all ages, many of them dirty, diseased, crippled, uncared for and unloved. The greater number of them were all set for wrong ways of life. Some of them had had less chance for the decent things of life than the average stray dog. She cleaned them, she clothed them; she nursed them; she tended them. Her cheerfulness, her kindness, her courage were an inspiration to them all. The greatest thing she gave to them all was love—a genuine interest and affection that won them to finer ways of living. There was never a child so neglected or so miserable that Mrs. Condie could not find it in her great heart to love. Indeed, it seemed sometimes as if the more wayward or underprivileged they might be, the more they could be sure of the thought and affection of "Auntie Condie." Her life was a record of anxious days and sleepless nights, nursing the sick, caring for the crippled, loving them all. Sometimes it seemed as if the noble work was wasted, but Mrs. Condie herself could point to case after case of children—once without chance or hope—who had developed into the finest of men and women, useful and esteemed citizens of Canada,—any one of them worth all the care and attention and affection given to the lot. In recent years there has been a regular procession of callers at the Shelter—fine outstanding young men and women ably doing their part in the world—many of them happily married and seeing that their children were having the chance in their own homes that Mrs. Condie gave to the parents as neglected and dependent youngsters—these good young citizens, doing well in the world, calling on "Auntie," as they would call at their home. Indeed, to a surprising number of these where Auntie Condie might be was the only real home they knew. There will be many sincere tears shed in many homes for this good woman.

The people of Timmins and district will long remember Mrs. Condie and the motherly care she gave to the hundreds of her boys and girls. She will be remembered too, for her own rich personality. Her cheerfulness, her humour, her unflinching kindness, her unflagging industry, her indomitable courage. She had rare talent as a nurse, as a dietitian, as an executive, but there were always overshadowed by the great gifts of her heart. Those who had the privilege of knowing her will cherish her memory in their hearts. Her monument is the record of the hundreds she helped and the hundreds she healed.

THE WAR IN THE BALKANS

It would not be well for Canadian or other British people to copy some of the German methods of warfare, no matter how successful they may appear. The whole war is being fought against the spirit of these methods. At the same time it is well to remember that beastliness, brutality and all the evils of the dark ages can not be successfully opposed by kind words or kid glove tactics. The plans of the Nazis must be met with a considerable measure of ruthlessness in the interests of humanity, but through it all sight must not be lost of the very vital principles and practices for which the war is being fought. There are some German methods that might well be heeded by the democracies, however. As a matter of fact in the present battle in the Balkans the military authorities are showing that they can adopt Nazi tactics to some extent to the discomfiture of the enemy, without disregard of the humanities. Those away from the front might do well to note the advice given this week by the German military authorities to the people at large. That advice in a nutshell is not to expect too early a measure of victory but to be patient under apparent reverses. It is doubtful if the German people will take very kindly to any protracted series of defeats after the chain of reverses met by the Axis powers on land and sea and in the air. But British people should be able to wait with patience for the victory that is coming and not to take too seriously apparent reverses that may occur. The most of the Italians in Albania, Lybia, Ethiopia, Somaliland, the smashing of the Italian navy, the crippling of the Italian air force, these were as distinctly German losses as if they had been suffered by the Nazis themselves. Germany formed the Axis and must bear any and all losses of the force created. There was a time when Germany thought it could stand

back and see Italy put in place, but today the Nazis recognize that thought as a grievous mistake. The adventure in the Balkans and the carrying of the war to Africa are desperate efforts on the part of Germany to retrieve its selfish mistake. These efforts for a variety of reasons are doomed to failure. For a time, however, they may meet with apparent passing success. This is what British people must be braced to bear with patience and cheerfulness. There are several factors in the case that make it only natural and Germany should have some initial successes. While the Greeks and Yugoslavs have the advantage in numbers over the enemy, they are sadly handicapped for modern war materials. The British forces assisting them have plenty of the finest of mechanical equipment, but are not as well placed as to numerical strength. It will take some little time to adjust the balances in these matters, but this adjustment will be made and all may rest assured that in men and materials of war alike the gangsters will find themselves outmatched. General Wavell and his associates have intimate acquaintance with the whole situation and are confident of the outcome. Just as a sidelight, it may be noted that the retreat from Bengazi, instead of being something to worry about, is in reality a very hopeful and encouraging sign, showing as it does that the British High Command is not allowing itself to be switched from the main line of important matters by inconsequential side issues.

At the time of writing this only the most meagre information is coming from British, Greek and Yugoslavian sources. The Germans and Italians have their usual tall tales to tell, but the record shows that these may well be disregarded. The attitude to assume for the present is that General Wavell and his tried and trusted forces—Australian, New Zealand and other British armies and airmen—together with the gallant Greek and Yugoslavian allies—give full assurance of the final victory. At the slightest suspicion of reverse, or thought of discouragement, it should be recalled how groundless similar feelings proved in regard to the recent campaign in the East. For a time the falling back of Greek and British forces on the Eastern front did not appear a hopeful sign, but time proved the wisdom of it all and the eventual result fully justified the most optimistic outlook.

GIVE WHEAT TO BRITAIN

In the House of Commons at Ottawa Hon. R. B. Hanson urged the King Government to make an outright gift of several hundred million bushels of wheat to Great Britain. In the Ontario Legislature Mr. A. H. Acres and others made somewhat similar suggestion. In these recommendations these members of the provincial and Dominion Parliaments voiced a thought in the hearts of the people of Canada. Despite the apparent attitude forced upon the people of Canada by the strange stand of the part of a party government the people of Canada are heart anxious to help—to give—to sacrifice—for the cause of liberty. Much has been made in addresses over the radio and in articles in the newspapers in regard to all the contracts for war munitions and supplies awarded in Canada. This leaves most of the people cold, while others it simply makes heated. These contracts may be good business for Canada, but Canadians at this moment are much less concerned about good business than they are about helping win the war. Even the money spent for what is termed the defence of Canada does not make the same appeal to the British imagination here that would be evoked by means and measures more directly concerned with help to the Empire. There would be much less bitter criticism of the part of the part of a party government, if announcements, at least occasionally, were made of direct help proffered to the winning of the war. If the government at Ottawa wishes to catch the popular fancy and please the heart of the people of Canada it will adopt the suggestion of the outright gift to Britain of millions of bushels of wheat. If to that could be added effective ways and means to transport the wheat safely overseas, the gift would have perfect popular favour.

Some months ago a local man was doing some of that unnecessary worrying that marks the mental habits of some people. He was alarmed at the danger threatening the United States because the neighbouring country seemed to have more gold than it could put to practical use. "Try worrying about all the wheat that is choking Canada's barns and elevators," he was advised. That startled him into taking a more proportioned view of affairs. Canada has a surplus of wheat today that might well cause deep anxiety, and leave little time for Canadians to worry about the overflowing gold store rooms of the United States. There has been a serious altercation in the Dominion Parliament because the Government has proposed the bonusing of Western farmers for NOT growing wheat. If Canada is so overburdened with wheat that it is necessary to guard against further supplies, it is high time that some disposition was made of some of the surplus grain. There is no better or nobler way to rid Canada of its undesirable surplus of wheat than to pass some of it along to the gallant folks in the Old Land. Such a plan would restore Canada's high standing in the world of nations. Better still it would revive Canada's own good opinion of itself.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

In Boswell's Life of Dr. Johnson there is the story of the clever old author's ironic rebuke for the little Scotsman's careful accounting of all the petty borrowings that may occur between friends. "Lend me sixpence—NOT to be repaid," said Dr. Johnson. Great Britain will never make such a suggestion to any of her relatives or friends, but it would be a noble gesture on the part of Canada to say to the brave old motherland:—"Here are a few hundred million bushels of wheat that we are lending you—NOT to be repaid."

Still stands the motto 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."

"Kissing Games Bad Taste" was the heading in a Toronto newspaper last week. Probably another advertisement for Halitosis. It would not be surprising to hear over the radio programme of one of those soap concerns that "Hugging is in bad odour."

Yugoslavia made formal announcement that Belgrade was "an open town," and the Germans and Italians promptly bombed the city. There is a suspicion that this action was not altogether

wanton viciousness on the part of the enemy. There may be more of "guilty conscience" about enemy bombings. There are those who have reason to believe that the Germans and Italians use their "open towns" for special war purposes, just as Nazi Red Cross hospitals have been used to store munitions and war equipment. It might be a good idea for the British to bomb Rome and some other cities as a means of hampering the enemy's war effort by destroying munitions of war.

Once more Haille Selassie is King of Kings, the Lion of Judah—and the Terror of the Modern Gangster.

Do you ever feel doubtful or depressed about the war? Listen to what a returned soldier at Winnipeg says:—"Why Hitler is beaten already! There's no conquering the British!" And that soldier is home because he had his back broken in a Nazi air raid, and it is doubtful if he will ever be able to sit up alone again. Surely, such courage and confidence should be more contagious than fifth column defeatism.

The House of Commons must admit to "unfinished business" until measures are taken to provide transportation for soldiers on leave.

Onions are among the scarce articles in Britain. Perhaps fate thinks that the British can hardly expect to "know their onions" and have them, too.

Huns and Soviet Haggle Over Nickel Mines in Finland

Canadian Shareholders Said to Have Disposed of Shares to Russians.

The New York Times said this week in a despatch from Stockholm that negotiations between Finland and Russia have disclosed a difference in Russian and German views concerning the future of the Canadian-owned Petsamo Nickel Mines in Northern Finland.

The mines, owned by the International Nickel Company, were flooded at the outbreak of the Russo-Finnish war late in 1939. They now are being restored.

The Times' despatch continued: "After the peace the Russians demanded that the Finns nationalize the mines and, while retaining its rights for the future, the International Company acquiesced 'out of regard for Finland's difficult position.' A purely Finnish company was created, headed by Baron von Wrede. Moscow and Berlin agreed that 60 per cent. of the production should go to Germany and 40 per cent. to the Soviet Union. "Last December, however, the Russians called off the deal and demanded creation of a joint Finnish-Russian company with 51 per cent. of the shares to be held by Russia and a Russian majority on the board of direc-

tors, while Russia was to get the entire production of the mines.

"In January the Finns sent a delegation to Moscow to negotiate a new agreement. The delegation returned early in March without reaching an agreement. The Finnish ministers to Moscow and Berlin visited Helsinki soon afterward.

"The Finnish government is reported to have sent London recently a prominent business man Baron Ramsey, who tried without success to learn what disposition had been made of the Canadian shares. It is rumoured that the Canadians sold their shares to Russia with the purpose of widening the disagreement between Russia and Germany."

Privilege Abused at the Cochrane Post Office

For some time past the post office at Cochrane has been allowing the lobby to be open on Sunday for the convenience of business men and others who wish to get their mail from their post office boxes. No doubt this is of special service to some business men and fully appreciated. At the same time it is found now that only a few boxholders take advantage of the service. Boys and young men, however, have been taking advantage of the opportunity to loiter in the lobby and apparently there is to be a change made. Considerable noise has been created on occasion by the loiterers and some damage also has been done. As a result, the convenience of the public will

suffer to some extent, as the post office is understood to feel that the service must be discontinued before it becomes a nuisance. In view of the little use that is made of the service by boxholders, it is not considered worth while to provide supervision, so it will be necessary to close the lobby of the Cochrane post office. The incident shows how the thoughtlessness, and worse, of a few often spoils a service to the public—and not only at Cochrane.

Song of Empire

"There'll always be an England,
There'll always be a Wales,
There'll always be a Scotland
With heathered hills and dales,
There'll always be an Ireland,
Where loyal hearts beat true;
And over all forever wave
The old Red, White and Blue.

There'll always be a Canada
With mountain, forest, glen,
With rolling plains and rivers broad
And breed of stalwart men,
Australia linking friendly hands
With gay New Zealand's isle;
Africa of golden dreams,
And India's dusky smile.

For when we sing of England
We sing the whole world round;
Where is the place beneath the sun
Her flag cannot be found?
—M. Shane, Victoria, B.C.

Try the Advance Want Advertisements

The English Mail Comes In

(By Edna Jaques)
The English mail comes in today
The postman told me, pleased as Punch.
He smiled as gayly as a boy
And handed me a tiny bunch
Of letters, post-marked "Folkstone Kent,"
Then touched his cap and on he went.

I took them with eager hands
Outstretched, scarce daring to believe
That English ships still ride the seas
That back and forth they daily weave
Like ghostly shuttles, stout and brave
Conquerors still of wind and wave.

The letter (censored here and there)
Bid me be brave and carry on
My mother says she doesn't mind
The raids so much . . . she says the lawn
Is green and beautiful, and they
Are keeping cheerful day by day.

She says that "Jerry" flies so high
The guns can hardly reach their aim
And yet the daily "bag" is good,
Much higher than the Nazis claim.
Their lads go over every hour
Bombing their targets with great power.

The food is plentiful and good,
They get their cheese and eggs and meat,
There is no scarcity at all.
They still have more than they can eat.

And dad is well (bless his heart)
Still carries on and does his part.
How proud . . . how proud . . . we still
Can say
"The English mail came in today."

They Used To Call Him "Stupid"



It was hard to understand. He seemed smart as a whip in everything but school work. One day, however, his teacher noticed that his work improved whenever he sat near the front of the room, where he was closer to the blackboard. The rest was easy: an examination at the Curtis Optical revealed that all he needed was glasses! Prices are Definitely Lower at

CURTIS OPTICAL COMPANY
14 Pine St. N. Phone 835

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GEARING CANADA'S INDUSTRIES TO CANADA'S UNITED WAR EFFORT

We Canadians, a small population in a large Country wealthy with natural resources, will produce an enormous share of the war's necessities. It is right that we should do so, and inevitable that we must do so. The circulation of hundreds of millions of dollars through war orders distributed as widely as possible among the industries of Canada will effect tremendous activities in business.

Many small firms, travelling along with a steady output and gradual normal growth, have suddenly been confronted with urgent

orders beyond their usual capacity. Expansion of manufacturing facilities becomes instantly imperative. Materials in greater than normal variety and volume have to be procured immediately. Credit is required far in excess of usual business requirements.

Imperial Bank of Canada will gladly do its part in Canada's war effort by financing war industries and business generally of every useful and productive kind. Funds are available. Consult our nearest manager.

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