

THE WAR IN 1940

Wilson Woodside's Weekly War Commentary

How does the war stand at the year's end and what is the prospect for 1940? It is a baffling war, and not an easy one to measure. In many ways it strangely resembles the last one and in others it is utterly different. There is, besides the military war which we follow day-by-day in the newspapers and on the radio, a diplomatic war going on, an economic war and a war of morale or "nerves". The emphasis shifts constantly from one to the other. From the naval, as in the "Graf Spee" affair, to the economic, as when the British declared all German exports contraband, and to morale as the Germans suffered a series of misfortunes one on top of another in the week before Christmas.

"THE FLIGHT OF A SONG"

"I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I might tread safely into the unknown,' and he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than the known way.' These words were written a quarter of a century ago by Minnie L. Haskins, a social science teacher in London. They formed part of a poem included in a little book of verse which was privately printed and had a very limited circulation. Some copies are said to have been sold in aid of an Indian charity.

Not being produced by a regular publisher, with the usual fanfare of notices in the press, the little book probably was never reviewed by the critics. It was soon forgotten, and even its author has but a vague recollection of the circumstances in which the above quoted lines were written. She might now say, with Longfellow,

I breathed a song into the air,
It fell to earth, I know not where;
For who has sight so keen and strong,
That it can follow the flight of a song?

Twenty-five years afterward she found that song in the heart of a King, from whose lips it was breathed into a microphone in Buckingham Palace, and its rhythmic message was carried to the four corners of the earth. The King himself did not know who wrote the song. It is said that he had read the lines in the correspondence columns of the London Times recently, and fitted them into the end of his moving address to his people and fighting men on Christmas Day.

The quotation set the literary world agog. The lines must surely have been written by one of the leading English poets. They reminded Poet Laureate John Masefield of G. K. Chesterton, but when he looked into Chesterton's works they were not there. Bernard Shaw and H. G. Wells admitted they had never seen the lines before. Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, compiler of the Oxford Book of English Verse, said he was baffled. The writer of the letter to the Times, Mrs. Allen of Bristol, said she had obtained the quotation from a Christmas card sent to her by a friend. And so the search continued until Mrs. Margaret Greenham, of Banff, Alberta, recognized the lines as those written by her sister. She at once cabled the news to Miss Haskins, who is known to her neighbors in Sussex as "that quiet little woman." Miss Haskins said she had left her living room half way through the King's address and did not hear the quotation until later in the evening on a re-broadcast. Then she turned to her sisters and said: "Oh dear! Those are my words, I am sure!"

There is the romance of a poem which had lingered in obscurity for a quarter of a century and in a moment "burst into sudden blaze" around the world. Sigh no more, ye neglected poets, over the rejection slips of editors or the capricious favoritism of publishers. Say, with Byron, "Prepare for verse, 'T'll publish right or wrong!" If it is true poetry, the indifference of editors, publishers or critics can not smother it. Although your lines may never be broadcast by a king, you can take comfort from the words of Milton: "Fame is no plant that grows in mortal soil, But lives and spreads aloft by those pure eyes

And perfect witness of all-judging Jove;
As he pronounces lastly on each deed,
Of so much fame in heaven expect thy meed.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In a total vote of 119,491, Mayor Day had a majority of only 3469 in the Toronto Mayorality contest. He's one fellow who, no doubt, is hoping that his election is for the duration of the war.

An American writer, referring to the scuttling of the Graf Spee, says that the German excuse for the scuttling "degrades the lie." The recent silence of the Liars Club in the United States may be due to their inability to compete with Propaganda Minister Goebbels and the German official news despatches.

Toronto electors on Monday declared against a war term for municipal councils by 4 to 1 and by 3 to 1 against a two-year term. In every place, with the exception of Ottawa, where a plebiscite was held on this question, the voters have declared strongly against the undemocratic proposal of the Premier. By this time surely Mr. Hepburn must realize that the people do not want their right of annual municipal elections interfered with. He would be wise to drop his plan.

Engineer G. G. Reid, whose services were engaged in connection with the sewage disposal project, has put himself in an embarrassing position by authorizing certain changes in specifications. We have not seen the engineer's contract, but members of Council state that it does not give him power to alter specifications without instructions. Though this be the case, he may have let the Town in for some trouble, as the contractors can reasonably claim that they were justified in proceeding when the engineer, as the Town's representative in charge of the work, agreed to the use of a different grade of piping from that specified in the contract.

The big surprises and the drama of the action have been, not on the military but the diplomatic front. The vaunted, Rome-Berlin-Madrid Fascist Axis which hemmed France in, and the German-Italian-Japanese grouping which menaced the British Empire at a dozen vital points have vanished into thin air. Instead we were faced one fine morning with a pact between two seemingly irreconcilable enemies, Hitler and Stalin, Nazism and Bolshevism. It is no use pretending that we were not dismayed at first. Yet even this turned out well for us. The understanding between the two dictators clarified the issue and strengthened our cause in the world more than anything our statesmen could have done, and even in spite of many things they have done. From that moment the fight became one of freedom against tyranny, Christianity against atheism and paganism against civilization, against its ruthless enemies, Hitler, scuttled "Mein Kampf" work of years, his allies and friends in Italy, Japan, Spain, Hungary, the Scandinavian and Balkan countries and many others, not excluding Britain and Canada, to ensure our cause the sympathy and ultimately the support of the whole democratic world.

Will he get nothing at all in return for this? With Russia at her heels and her transport strained to breaking, Germany must give up hope of Soviet supplies—unless she sends technicians to organize them herself. Here is one possibility for 1940: That Stalin, finding his position seriously weakened on account of the Finnish fiasco, may invite Germany to send army officers and engineers to help him. With a free hand to overrun the Balkans, Germany might thus find herself in control of the entire economic resources of Eastern Europe as in 1918. But it would be too late to organize them, just as it was then.

I am hopeful for 1940. The Germans may launch a great land and air offensive in the spring, as Goebbels implied in his speech a week ago, when he said they would gamble everything on world power or downfall. They may find the whole of Eastern Europe opened up to their exploitation through collapse in Russia. But it is too late. They have roused against them the whole of the Western World, and a Western World in much better condition to meet their desperate onslaught than in 1918. Germany and the other aggressor powers, Russia and Japan, lose into this year in serious if not insubstantial difficulty, and Italy strangely chastened. Against them all the powers of Christendom, of peace, order and progress, are ranging together with a clearer consciousness of their common civilization and destiny than ever before. When our enemies collapse we shall be in a unique position, with all our forces mobilized, and I believe in the mood, to establish and secure a new organization of the world.

DOMINION DIGEST OF THE WISEST WORDS OF THE WEEK BY JAMES J. CARLYLE

"In every respect of Canada's war effort, my colleagues and I have taken and will continue to take all possible precautions to see that partisanship, personal influence, or political patronage provide no avenue to promotion, personal advancement or private or corporate profit." — Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

"We spend millions trying to improve the educational and moral standards of our people and there is no reason for allowing them to be impaired or wasted by permitting filthy publications to be circulated in Canada." — Hon. Gordon Coombes.

"Out of the present conflict must come honesty and decency, otherwise it is not worthwhile. We can't forget that, we forgot 20 years ago, and disaster is upon us. We cannot permit ourselves to forget again." — Dr. R. C. Wallace.

"This is no occasion for vainglory, for conquest, or for imposing our will on other peoples, except as much as it is necessary to preserve the type of civilization for which we stand." — Major General A. G. L. McNaughton.

"If Canada should come to a system of food rationing, the home-makers must try to see the essential nutritional value is provided in some way." — Miss Mary Clarke.

"Quebec is the first of Canada's provinces, first by occupation, first by culture, and first by its support of the Canadian Confederation." — Hon. G. G. Power.

"Whether the war is long or short, there will always be miseries to relieve and social inequalities to mitigate in Canada." — Beauty Leman. (Reproduction Prohibited, 1939, Educational Features Syndicate)

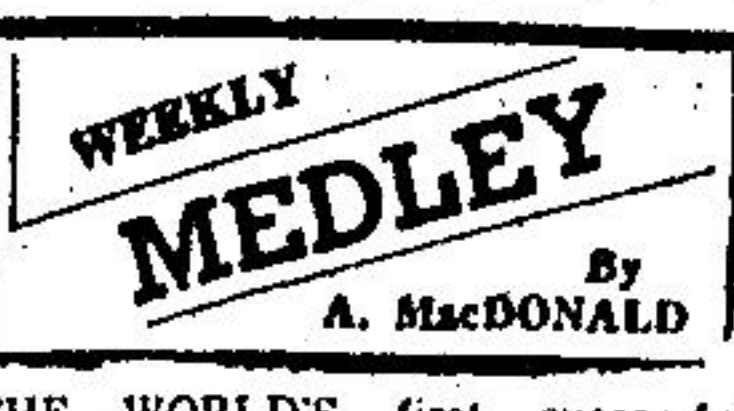
SOME THOUGHTS (Copyright)

When there is dishonesty, it isn't politics, or anything else in man, but man in politics, or anything else. One who is dishonest in politics will likely be in anything else. Scribes and Pharisees of old have representatives today with not much if any improvement. A sour stomach and fanaticism seem often to be related. — Non Nihilos

The Barrie Examiner carried 28,450 lines of Classified Advertising in 1939, with an average of 109 ads per issue. Results have done it.

Figured Fax

- 18,000,000 calls were answered by London's time-teller in 1938.
- 1,000,000 dollars worth of loaves were used by the people of Brazil every month last year.
- 70,543 criminals were committed to Canada's 150 penal institutions last year.
- 100 tons of feed can be put in a cylindrical silo, 30 feet high and 14 feet in diameter.
- 99 per cent. of the fats and proteins in cheese are easily digested.
- 50 per cent. of the milk produced in Canada is separated and the cream sold as butter or butterfat.
- 27.7 feet is the depth of the Kiel Canal. It is 61.8 miles long and 144 feet wide.
- 25 per cent. of Russia's cereal crop is produced by the farmers of the Ukrainian steppes.
- 1 half of the earth's atmosphere is compressed into levels lying within 1/4 miles of the earth's surface.
- 1 billion dollars are spent by Englishmen every year—on pleasure.



THE WORLD'S first successful steamboat was Robert Fulton's "Clermont". She was built in New York in 1807 and on her first trip made an average speed of nearly 5 miles per hour.

A GOOD grade of soft coal is now being produced from the carbohydrates of farm crops.

PLANTS that grow at high altitudes will produce a better quality of tea than those that grow at lower levels.

LIGHTNING is its greatest speed has a rapidly one-fifth of the speed of light.

IN HOLLAND part of the marriage ceremony, the bride feeds the bridegroom a mixture of brandy and raisins. This is a very old custom.

PENGUINS actually starve during their moulting season. This is due to the fact that their feathers become loose, making it impossible for them to either dive or swim underwater. Therefore they are unable to catch the fish on which they live.

ACCORDING to a report from Leipzig newspaper has been made from the leaves and stems of the potato plant.

THE BODY of Adolf Hitler is buried in a cemetery in Bucharest, Roumania. Not the body of the German Chancellor (in whose name there is only one "T") but the body of a JEW—who died in 1892.

IN CUBA real estate brokers collect a commission from both the buyer and seller.

THE FIRST practical working engine is credited to Jean Marie Etienne LeBlond of France. It was perfected in the year 1860.

A NEW resin fibre, a rival to silk, has been produced. Stockings made of this material will withstand both water and fire.

THE MOON reflects only about 7 per cent. of the sunlight that strikes it.

NEW INDUSTRY FOR ORILLIA

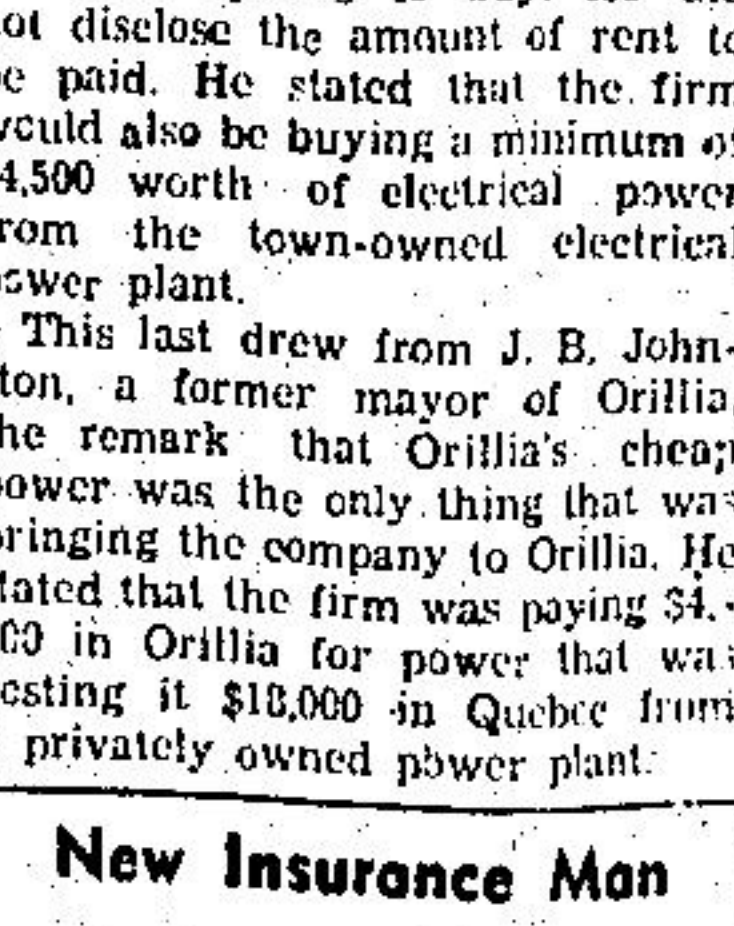
Mayor Pack of Orillia has announced the conclusion of an agreement with the Vilas Enamel Products Co. of Cowansville, Quebec, which means a new industry for Orillia.

Mayor Pack said all arrangements have been completed for the company to move to Orillia an enamelling industry which will employ a minimum of 100 men for an average of 50 weeks in the year. Mayor Pack told his audience that the firm would be investing in the neighborhood of \$100,000 in its Orillia plant, and would be paying out approximately the same amount in wages each year. It would be in operation by April.

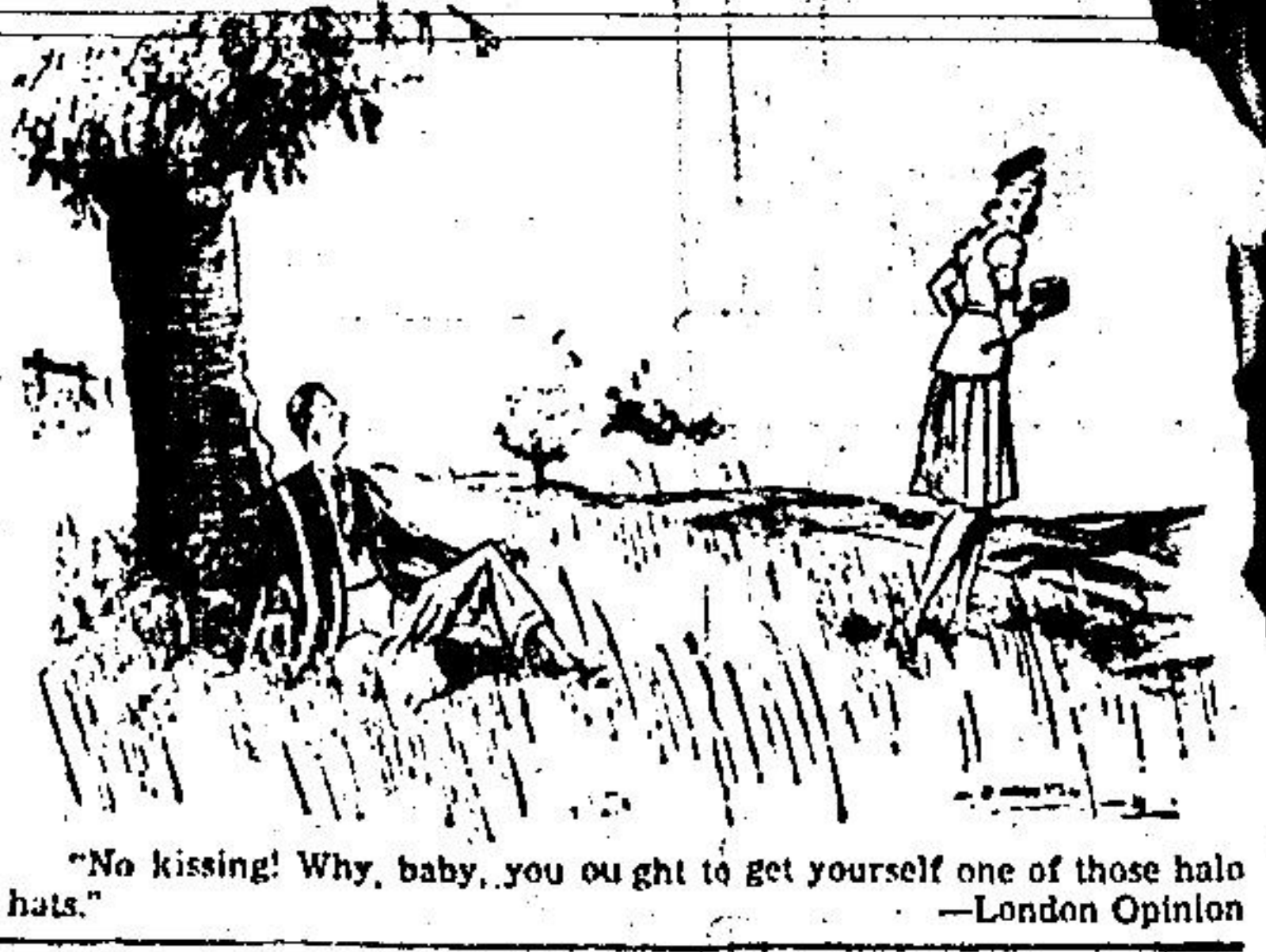
Mayor Pack added that the firm was renting the town-owned "Mechanical Rubber" factory building for a period of five years, with three five-year options to buy. He did not disclose the amount of rent to be paid. He stated that the firm would also be buying a minimum of \$4,500 worth of electrical power from the town-owned electrical power plant.

This last drew from J. B. Johnston, a former mayor of Orillia, the remark that Orillia's cheap power was the only thing that was bringing the company to Orillia. He stated that the firm was paying \$4,500 in Orillia for power that was costing it \$18,000 in Quebec from a privately owned power plant.

New Insurance Man



WM. C. MAGEE
Transferred from Winnipeg to Barrie as district manager for the Metropolitan Life.



OUTLOOK BRIGHT, SAYS INSURANCE HEAD

Improvement in Gaining Momentum Declares President, Canadian Life Officers.

Montreal, December 29—Confidence that life insurance would share in the general business improvement awaiting Canada in 1940 was expressed today by Arthur P. Earle, president of the Canadian Life Insurance Officers' Association, and president of the Montreal Life Insurance Company.

Interviewed on the life insurance accomplishment of the past year and prospects for the next 12 months, Mr. Earle referred also to the steps taken to safeguard the interests of Canadian policyholders, since the outbreak of the war, and gave a brief resume of the present business outlook, with special emphasis on the healthy state of the institution of life insurance in Canada.

The total new business written this year by insurance companies in Canada is estimated to reach \$650,000,000, Mr. Earle announced; total insurance in force about \$7,000,000,000, while the total amount paid to policyholders and beneficiaries exceeded \$150,000,000. These totals, Mr. Earle emphasized, were exclusive of fraternal insurance, and compared most favorably with the corresponding figures for 1938.

"General business conditions throughout Canada are better than was the case a year ago," Mr. Earle told the press. Continuous improvement is in evidence in all directions. Unemployment has lessened considerably through increased industrial activity and through enrollment in military service.

"Canada seems headed for a period of genuine prosperity, and the outlook for the life insurance business in 1940 is distinctly good," said the president of the Life Officers' Association.

Turning to the war, Mr. Earle reviewed the steps taken to protect the interests of all Canadian policyholders, civilian and military alike, following the outbreak of hostilities in September. He analyzed the war clause now incorporated in all new policies issued, pointing out that it was the duty of the life insurance companies transacting business in the Dominion that they should act uniformly on the basis of the best experience and judgment available.

"After careful consideration," said Mr. Earle, "with a view to the safeguarding of Canada's enviable insurance structure, a war and aviation clause was adopted, with the following provisions:

"No extra premiums for military or naval service in Canada, excluding aviation. Insured has option of paying outside Canada, excluding aviation. If extra premium is not

paid and death occurs while serving outside Canada or within six months after return to Canada, all premiums paid will be returned with 3 per cent. interest compounded annually. Those who engage in aviation service in Canada have similar extra premium option, but no option is granted to pay extra premium covering aviation hazards while serving outside Canada. Extra premium runs from \$10 to \$50 annually, \$1,000 of insurance, according to restrictions apply, only to new policies. Old policies carry no restrictions governing military or naval service."

"There was little change in the investment picture during 1939 as continued Mr. Earle, "and it seems likely that interest earnings will be fully maintained at 1938 levels. Loans under the National Housing Act showed a marked increase of \$1,000,000,000 in 1939. The rate of the preceding year's lending institutions on National Housing Act loans is 5 2/3 per cent. The new regulation by which governments participating in the at Housing Act loans would be at \$400,000, may have a tendency to curtail building of new apartment houses in 1940. Insured companies are preparing for a large part of the Dominion Government is offering in the Reviewing the historical achievements of the Association which held president, called that body on a co-operative national advertising tour 20 years ago. During the pointed out, Advertisers Association is Canadian Life Insurance Association is phrasing the made by the health work.

The growth of this bit of business has been called 'I've been doing this for me, or a bit of a business.' 'I've never done the reply do.' A week telephone getting on. "Better friend."

WATER OVER THE WALLS

Wills are like plans of campaign; resources on hand to effect certain purposes in the situation may invalidate them. There have been developments in your business or in your family circle since you will you will probably feel it wise to this New Year. We suggest that you helpful to consult the practical knowledge officers and, if you have not already place the future administration of your experienced, financially responsible handling this Corporation your executor.

To protect your family and estate, the your will should be entrusted to you

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