

Britain Carries On In Spite Of War

We have become used to the expression "Britain can take it" in referring to the stamina of the civilians in the war-blitzed area. Now we are to hear tales of Britain's recovery from the war, and in his letter this week Mr. Douglas Currier, well-known in the Traverston district of Glenelg, gives an insight into the character of the people who have never ceased trying to help themselves. His letter is an interesting study of what is taking place in the "tight little island." While they need help to see them through the trying experiences of the past five years, it is not because they have lain down on the job. Mr. Currier says: "At last we have been down to the sea shore; for five years we have not been able to, being barricaded behind lines of barbed wire and concrete blocks, not to mention mines. But part of this is cleared and it was good to see children and grownups down on the beach seeing the waves roll in. "The pier is still broken in the centre where the Canadians blew it up five years ago. Things are quiet over here of late. About two weeks ago we had four or five bombs dropped near and around here, which shook us a little. "I was reading in a county magazine about the demand for sweet corn, occasioned by Americans and Canadian troops in England. They were offering to any grower 8 cents to 13 cents a cob. Some enterprising agriculturist fortunately situated as to climate, put in half an acre the next season, realizing about \$1000 — not so bad. I was surprised because corn is hard to grow around here. "Up at some stacks I inspected a machine called the Spider Thatching machine. This is a steel table about 3 feet by 2 feet, fly wheel on side for belt. Operating in an arm over the table are two needles 10 inches long and 7 inches apart. The straw is on the table to the needles, which sew it, the straw matting or thatch passing off the other side of the table. It must be much quicker, and just as effective, for stack use. "This year most of the grain was harvested by the Massey-Harris combination machine which thrushes as well as cuts. I hear good accounts of this machine. Around here this past season a lot of land was down to sugar beet. A lot is not cut. Possibly the very wet season has been not satisfactory. From what I have seen the machine seems to cut a lot of beet. "The Gyro-Tiller of Rota-Tiller (that I told you about) seems to have been of great use these last few years cleaning up scrub land. The way the ground is whisked up, ten inches deep, by these 175 horsepower machines is marvellous and has to be seen to be appreciated. "Harvest festival time is past. But perhaps you might be interested to know that in the southwest of England they have Fish Harvest Festivals in some of the fishing towns. The church is decorated with fish nets, crab pots, and marking buoys. On each side of the pulpit are red and green sailing lights, and in front on tables are displays of fish, etc. The lesson at the service is read by one of the local fishermen. The church in Grey County have their Fowl Suppers. I wonder they don't have at the fishing towns 'fish and chip' suppers. May I talk about food. Makes me remember the glorious meals I had around your parts. We're still on two pints of milk per person per week. Of course we get up with things, but are we down-hearted? NO."

Observed 25th Wedding Day

The McGirr family met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William McGirr on Sunday evening to mark their 25th wedding anniversary. Mrs. Thomas McGirr, on behalf of the family, presented them with sterling silver pepper and salt shakers. Mr. and Mrs. McGirr were married at Trinity Church rectory, by the Rev. F. G. Hardy, the bride being the former Ella Cuff. Following the ceremony they returned to the home of the bride's parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. John Cuff of Bentinck, where a wedding supper was served. Mr. McGirr served in the last war where he was seriously wounded in the face. They have one daughter, Jean, a graduate nurse of Owen Sound General and Marine Hospital, now nursing in Toronto, and one son, Trooper William McGirr, who has been in the thick of the war in Italy and has been mentioned several times in despatches from that theatre. Mr. and Mrs. McGirr have spent all their married life in Durham.

UPPER TOWN SOLDIERS HONOURED FRIDAY EVENING

Pte. Bruce MacInnes of Ipperwash and Pte. David Standen of Camp Borden were honoured by Upper Town neighbours and friends on Friday evening at the home of the former. During the evening an address of good wishes was read by Margaret Watson and the presentations were made by Ralph Staples and William Brocklebank. The gift to David Standen, who was unable to be present, was accepted by his mother, Mrs. S. Standen. The evening was spent in cards and community singing.

HONOURED ON BIRTHDAY

Miss Kate Cochrane of Upper Town was tendered a surprise party by her neighbours recently on the occasion of her birthday. Miss Cochrane is one of Durham's oldest citizens and for many years had the distinction of being Canada's only woman implement dealer. During the evening which was spent in social chat Miss Cochrane was presented with several small personal gifts with the good wishes of her friends. She made a most suitable reply.

Winter Here In Earnest

Following on the heels of one of the most delightful Fall seasons within the memory of the oldest inhabitant, we believe that Winter has finally set in earnest, and barring the odd thaw this country will be pretty well frozen up for the next three months at least. We have had no bad storms; unlike Toronto, our streetcar system has not been put out of commission, but for the past several days we have had a more or less continuous fall of snow that seemed to come down with the intention of staying. At any rate there is no doubt we shall have one of those white Christmases the crooners talk about on the radio, and make one wish for a green, pink, or anything but a white one. Gosh, what the public has to listen to in the name of entertainment!

This week the council has made its first appearance of the season in clearing the streets of snow and has done a good job. All day Sunday the roads were patrolled and scraped with the power grader, and on Garafaxa and Lambton streets the snow was removed and taken to the dump. This seemed like a thankless task, however, but we believe the council during the present winter intends removing all the snow from in front of the business places and the main streets after each storm, which, they think, will be as cheap as allowing drifts and piles to accumulate along the main streets and have to remove the whole thing in the spring.

While this service will cost a certain amount of money, the citizens will not feel it in their taxes, and it is felt the accommodation of cleared streets will more than satisfy the residents. Not only the front streets, but every street in town is to receive this service, according to present arrangements, although nothing can be said as to the actions of the new 1945 council.

ARCH. BURNETT INJURED.

Archie Burnett of Mount Forest, and formerly of the Priceville district, lost the tip of two of his fingers this week while engaged at his work. He lost the first finger at the first joint, but is still sufficiently humorous to end up his letter with a Merry Christmas for the Chronicle and Staff. Well, we hope Archie has a Merry Christmas, too, although it will likely be an "itchy" one when his fingers commence to heal up.

Council Held Final Session of 1944

Durham Council held its final session of the year last Friday night and closed the town business for 1944. Several accounts were before the different committees, which passed and recommended payment of the following amounts: Finance \$240,531; fire and light \$135,477; property \$63,731; board of works \$14,751.

The council objected to some rehabilitation committee criticism, Councillor Saunders taking objection to a report of a recent Legion meeting in the Chronicle. He had attended every meeting, he said, had his sub-committee appointed and was prepared to go ahead with the program. The discussion unsharped some worth while evidence, however, in that the rehabilitation committee, composed of citizens without authority, needs some kind of a head and the council expressed the opinion it was the duty of the government to give the proper leadership.

Councillor Saunders reported on the wood situation, that a recent shipment of three cars of hardwood supposed to be No. 1 was anything else but. He had reported this to the WPTB at Owen Sound and to the fuel controller at Ottawa. The latter had promised to send an inspector, who will adjust the price. This will later, we understand, be returned to the purchasers. The usual mutual admiration council was sworn in, when the members made their annual manifestations of love and admiration for each other.

Mayor Hunter has definitely resigned from the council, pleading business interests outside the town, and the fact he did not have the time at his disposal to look after town affairs. After adjournment the council repaired to the Prince Cafe, where the chairman of the board of works, Lawrence Chapman, was host.

Tonight is nomination night when the personnel of the 1945 council will be selected. At the time of writing municipal politics are very quiet. We have no inkling of who will be mayor, and while some members of the council have signified their intention of resigning, there are no rumors that anyone else is looking for the position.

Certainly it would be a pleasure nowadays if you could secure only one cook to spoil the stew. — Greensboro, Georgia, Herald-Journal.

The Week in Ottawa

Specially written for The Chronicle Canadian Press Staff Writer

By DOUGLAS GREEN
OTTAWA, Dec. 20 (CP)—The suggestion that strong secondary nations be given better representation on the world security council proposed at the recent Dumbarton Oaks Conference, made in an address at New York last week by M. J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, was significant in that it followed an announcement at Ottawa indicative of the increasing part which Canada is taking in world affairs.

Mr. Coldwell, in addressing the American Labor Conference on international affairs, said Canada and comparable peace-loving nations should be represented on the security council in accordance with the contribution they would be called on to make to world peace; otherwise the council would lack adequate force. Further, secondary nations which would be called on for vital assistance against an aggressor, should be able to vote on the decision reached.

These suggestions followed closely the announcement here of the elevation of two senior officials of the external affairs department—Hume Wrong and Dr. John E. Read—to rank equivalent to that of ambassador or minister.

Mr. Wrong, who for the last few years has headed the Commonwealth and European division of the external affairs department, now will supervise its work as well as that of the American and Far Eastern division, formerly headed by Dr. Hugh Keenleyside, recently appointed ambassador to Mexico. Dr. Read, who will continue as legal adviser, will have supervision over legal and special divisions of the department.

Diplomatic Service Grows
These appointments indicate the growth of the department's work and the expansion of the diplomatic service which has seen a number of career and specially appointed officials given the rank of minister or ambassador with the opening of legations and embassies abroad.

Canada now has exchanged missions with approximately 24 countries and with the growth of the government's business with other governments the external affairs department has found it difficult to obtain men to fill the positions it needs to open.

Notwithstanding the loss of manpower to the armed services or war industries, the statistical record shows that Canada's farmers, aided by a good year and kindly weather, achieved this year production which topped those set in past years.

Since the war began overall farm production has risen 40 per cent, and officials said that exports of agricultural products to the United Kingdom have jumped 226 per cent, this in the face of difficulties in obtaining machinery.

Most farms, too, have this year built up their feed reserves to the point where the demands of Canada and her Allies for meats and dairy products probably can be met for a year or more. Agricultural department officials said they considered the 1944 feed crops not only good but also timely, since even when Eastern crops are good there has to be a movement of some feed from the West.

A cut in Australian wheat production this season because of drought conditions in New South Wales and Victoria may mean that Australia will have to import wheat in 1945 for the first time since the drought of 1897, a Sydney agricultural writer has forecast.

Should it be necessary for Australia to import wheat in the coming year, Canada is in as good a position to supply her as any other country, even though "ample demands" exist for any wheat which she can move.

A HELLO FROM ITALY

This week we received a great big hello and Merry Christmas from Jimmy Wilson, who is now in Italy. Aside from the greeting Jimmy does not tell us very much, although we can picture him in the Christmas jeep that is making the rounds of somewhere. We believe it has at least one wheel on the ground, is labeled "Canada" and is going somewhere fast. While he is at it we hope Jimmy knocks off a couple of Boches for us.

The suggestion that Uncle Sam give every mustered-out soldier a new pair of shoes comes from a shoe manufacturer, and not, as you may have supposed, from a hat man or a pants man. — Kansas City Star.

Here's a bright note from London, via Punch: The return of the white loaf is to be gradual. If it came back too suddenly it might show the laundries up.

Patty Petite, the office gyp, says that if the man in the red suit and the white beard happens to bring nylons, he needn't bother to put anything else in them.

Over 30,000 pounds of cork have been harvested in California in its new cork growing industry; it is as good in quality as Mediterranean cork.

OBITUARY

WILLIAM BURNETT

William Burnett, one of Ceylon's oldest and most esteemed citizens, passed away at his home on Saturday afternoon in his 82nd year. The late Mr. Burnett had been in poor health for the past six years, having suffered a stroke. Three weeks ago he had a second stroke. Although his death was not entirely unexpected news of his passing will prove a shock to a wide circle of friends.

The late Mr. Burnett was born and raised in Glenelg Township and lived in Grey County all his life as a farmer and a railroadman. In 1885 he was united in marriage to Agnes Muer, who now survives to mourn his passing, together with one daughter, Mrs. Irwin (Mary) at home, and who had cared for her father, during his illness. Three sons died in infancy.

The late Mr. Burnett and Mrs. Burnett celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on Nov. 18. In fraternal circles Mr. Burnett was a member of, Prince Arthur Masonic Lodge in Fleisherton. He was an adherent of St. John's United Church.

MRS. JOHN CAMP

Mrs. John Camp, a lifelong resident of Glenelg Township, passed away on Thursday evening at the home of her niece, Mrs. Nelson Schaefer. Deceased, who was in her 74th year, had been in poor health for some time past. She contracted pleurisy and December 11 was moved from her home near Barrhead to the home of her niece.

The deceased, whose maiden name was Mary Torry, was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Torry and was born near Barrhead, Forty-three years ago she was married to John Camp, who survives. There are no children. Three brothers, George, Robert and Luther, and one sister, Mrs. James Ellison (Barbara), are left to mourn her passing. Another sister predeceased her a number of years ago.

MRS. D. S. McDONALD

Mrs. D. S. McDonald passed away Sunday night at her home two miles west of Hopeville after a serious illness which culminated in an operation at Orangeville Hospital and her death is much regretted by residents of the district.

The deceased's maiden name was Annie Mogg. As a child of six years of age she accompanied the family to Egremont Township. Fifty years ago next January 2, she became the bride of D. S. McDonald and moved to Egremont Township. She had been a resident of the Hopeville district ever since and was very much esteemed.

Besides her husband she is survived by two sons and three daughters, Alex in Sanford, Man.; Andrew, at home; Mrs. Sam Mills (Mary), Owen Sound; Mrs. Milford Hopkins (Essie) and Mrs. Archie Wilson (Bertha), both of Egremont. Four brothers and three sisters also survive, all in Western Canada with the exception of Mrs. W. J. Philip, Egremont Township.

GEORGE A. SMITH

Durham friends of George A. Smith, a former resident of this town, will regret to learn of his death on Dec. 1 at his home in Mason City, Iowa, from a heart attack.

The late Mr. Smith came to Durham at the time the plant of the National Portland Cement Co. was being built around 1902. He married Miss Jessie Robertson, well-known Durham girl, and they later moved to Mason City, Iowa, about 40 years ago, where they have since resided.

Surviving are Mrs. Smith, and three sons, Glen, in Detroit, in Iowa City, and Ross, serving his country with the United States Navy. Five grandchildren also survive.

MRS. ELMER WEIDNER

Mrs. Elmer Weidner, a native of Durham, but since her marriage about 20 years ago a resident of Hanover, died yesterday after a long illness. She was in her late 30's, and was a daughter of Mrs. McGirr and the late T. C. McGirr of Lambton street.

The late Mrs. Weidner, whose maiden name was Nellie McGirr, grew up in Durham, where she was held in high esteem by her many friends.

Mrs. Weidner was taken ill nearly two years ago, and since that time had been pretty much confined to her home from the effects of a stroke of paralysis. Surviving besides her husband are four children, two girls and two boys, Lois, Shirley, Lance and George, all at home. Surviving also are seven brothers and three sisters, Wm. J. Clarence, Raymond, Clifford, Gordon, and Mrs. W. Brocklebank (Caroline), all in Durham; Lance, in London; Harper, Mrs. Guy Sherk (Mae), and Mrs. Murray Hoy (Annie), in Detroit, and her aged mother, Mrs. McGirr, in town.

RECEIVED FURTHER WORD OF SON'S WOUNDS

Mrs. J. E. Cain received another telegram from Ottawa this week informing her that the injuries to her son, Pte. J. E. Cain, of which she was informed recently, consisted of a lacerated right leg. His family here are anxiously awaiting further word regarding his condition. He is stationed in Italy.

Describes Visit To House of Commons

INA MILNE

"I have read from time to time in your paper letters from the boys of Durham, who are now overseas. Being in the service and stationed at Ottawa I thought you might be interested in a brief description of Parliament during the present emergency session.

Tension has been very high and was climaxed I would say in the opening of Parliament here last Wednesday afternoon. We had a very mild Zombie march here the beginning of the week, but it was quickly quelled and all has been quiet since.

I happened to be walking along Sparks Street around one-thirty on the day Parliament was opened and coming to the intersection of O'Connor Street I had a full view of Parliament Hill. Great crowds were gathered outside awaiting admittance, despite the fact that it was raining fairly heavy. I would have given a great deal to have been able to attend that opening session.

However, on Monday night of this week, Marion Moore and I decided to make an attempt to get into the House of Commons. I was told we would have to leave very early, but didn't realize till we arrived there just how early one should be there in order to get in. It was a miserable night foggy and drizzling rain. As we crossed onto Wellington Street, Parliament Buildings came into full view. What a wonderful sight it is to see them from the sun is setting or as on Monday night with lights twinkling from almost every window. The great clock in the Peace Tower boomed out the half hour as we went up the walk to the House of Commons. At the top of this Tower a light twinkled like a great star. I have been told that during closed sessions this light is red but don't know how much truth there is in this assertion.

Although it was early crowds were surging up the steps to the entrance to Parliament and once inside its great portals I wondered just what chance we had of ever gaining admittance to the gallery that night. Picture Union Station on a Sunday evening and you will have an idea of the crowds that were awaiting the opening of the gates leading to the various galleries. We fell into the end of the line up which twisted like a winding road around the pillars of the great hall, and extended down the east corridor, where we took up our position. Near us was a staircase and as our chances of ever getting in seemed very slim, we decided to investigate where these stairs led to. Fortune was with us indeed for they led to the doors outside the ladies' gallery. Other people had had the same idea before us and the guards were kept busy pushing the people back. We remained well in the back-ground till the gates below were opened and then, well the mob just pushed us right in, and we were lucky in securing seats in the second row of the ladies' gallery and although a pillar somewhat obscured our view of the Liberal benches we had a clear view of the floor of the House generally.

The galleries on all sides quickly filled up and those who were unable to secure seats remained standing and I think it would have been impossible to squeeze one more person in. Many people were unable to get in. Eight thirty and Parliament opened, with I would say almost a full sitting. The Speaker opened the meeting, which had been adjourned from the afternoon sitting. The first speaker was Mr. Graydon, the Conservative Leader, followed by Mr. Coldwell of the C. C. F. and then Mr. Blackwell. Evidently all leaders of the various parties were to be given the opportunity to put forward their views on the subject under debate, which of course was whether the drafted should or should not be conscripted for overseas service. The session was adjourned around ten forty-five with the decision to hold a secret session on the morrow.

Thursday night I again made my way up Parliament Hill. This time the crowds were not so great, evidently by most people did not realize that it was to be an open session. The gates opened around seven forty-five and although I did not have as good a seat as on Monday night, was lucky to get in as again many people were turned away. The House opened a little earlier than on Monday, that is, around eight fifteen.

Following the usual opening preliminaries, Colonel Ralston stood up to speak. He stated that he was afraid that what he had to say would take longer than the customary forty minutes allowed to members but requested permission to speak longer which was granted by the Prime Minister and he spoke for well over two hours at the end of which time Mr. Hanson moved that Parliament be adjourned till the morning which motion was carried.

Service personnel are not permitted to take part in any political discussions so I have refrained from passing any comment on any of the speeches I heard during my two nights at Parliament.

It was snowily lightly when we came out last night and this morning the ground is covered with snow and it is still snowing quite heavily. Makes one think that Christmas is just around the corner, so although a little premature I will close by wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Weekly War Commentary

Specially written for the Chronicle By MICHAEL O'MARA Canadian Press Staff Writer

Two major fronts upon which the United Nations have been fighting—the Italian and the Hungarian—have hitherto been theatres of entirely separate campaigns; but in the near future, as the German over-all defence perimeter shrinks, they will have a strong interlocking influence upon each other.

The Germans and their shaky Nazi satellites of the "Arrow Cross" Hungarian government for many weeks offered an efficient defence of the sprawling, Danube-straddling capital of Budapest. But the Red Legions drove about the ancient city on three sides, by-passed it on either flank, and at the week-end were smashing at defences guarding the roads to the next great prize—Vienna—115 miles distant from their forward units.

Meantime the British 8th and Allied 5th armies in Italy, fighting perhaps the most discouraging war in which the Allies are engaged—between mountains and swamps, in vile weather, on a front which must sometimes seem to be a cul de sac—kept doggedly slugging forward.

The steady pressure on the Germans—along with the ever-present threat of a sudden, spectacular advance such as the Canadian Corps made last week when it broke through the vaunted Lamone River defences and rolled beyond the Naviglio canal—forced the Germans to employ a large number of their dwindling divisions south of the Alps.

Similarly many German divisions are engaged in Hungary, but on this front they are materially aided by the Hungarian Nazis.

With the end of the Hungarian campaign in sight—with Budapest tottering, western Slovakia already invaded and the defenders manoeuvred into a position where they must soon choose between large-scale withdrawals or mass annihilation—one outcome could clearly be seen.

That was that when the tide of battle rolled across the Austrian border, the Hungarians in its wake would cease to fight on the side of the Axis. With this support withdrawn, and after having suffered heavy losses themselves in the defence of Hungary, the Germans would be faced with the necessity of manning a new fighting front in Austria—amid a people known to be largely anti-Axis, and at a time when a likely anti-Russian offensive along more northerly sectors of the Eastern front was likely to make other demands on the enemy's manpower.

Also, the Russian advance soon might be expected to cut the routes through which the German armies in Italy are supplied.

Hence—to meet fresh manpower needs in Austria and to avoid possible loss of a newly better employed closer to home—it was altogether conceivable that the Germans soon would withdraw altogether from northern Italy.

Meanwhile, in the Pacific, Allied forces are slugging their way ever closer to the heart of Japan, United States forces have landed on another island in the Philippines—Mindoro, only 150 miles south of Manila, capital of the archipelago.

Mechanized troops swarmed ashore on Mindoro under a protecting canopy of fighter planes. The landing parties consolidated their positions against little opposition as the main Japanese force withdrew to the central part of the island, apparently to prepare defensive positions for a to-the-death stand.

The Mindoro landing seemingly was a stunning surprise for the Japs, who were uncertain where the big convoy would strike as it wound its tortuous way through 600 miles of twisting inland seas past scores of enemy-held islands harboring ports and airfields. The enemy made only two weak attempts to halt the 20-mile-long convoy, and it was revealed later that most Jap bases had been neutralized by air attacks or guerilla raids.

On the western front the Allied drive is slowly forcing its way into Germany against fierce resistance on all sectors. The Germans are fighting a spirited battle from behind the strong fortifications of the Siegfried Line, while in the east the Russians apparently are preparing for another gigantic drive that may prove the determining factor in the war in Europe.

United States 7th Army forces are moving against the German city of Karlsruhe, and threatening the industrial and chemical cities of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, 35 miles away. The Germans apparently are worried about this threat, and have brought up a panzer division to aid the Siegfried Line defenders in their resistance.

On the U.S. 1st Army front, American (Continued on page 7.)