

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

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FRANK IRWIN, Editor and Publisher

Whoever is afraid of submitting any question, civil or religious, to the test of free discussion, is more in love with his own opinion than with the truth.—Watson.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1944

May Your Christmas Be AS Merry As Possible.

This is Canada's sixth Christmas under war conditions, but despite all this we cannot refrain from wishing everybody a Merry Christmas. It is an age-old thought, never changes, and from this holiday springs a condition of heart not felt at any other season of the year.

There are many homes this year that have been saddened by the loss of some member of the family, some relative, or some close friend. Even this, though, cannot stop this Christmas spirit. It may dampen the merriest, but it can never kill the thought.

Despite all the sadness in the world, the festive season now with us should bring out the best in us, and it is to be hoped will have some influence on our actions during 1945.

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My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty.

We received a Christmas card this week from an old friend now living at Ottumwa, in Iowa, Otto Ludwig, whom we have not seen since we waved him good-bye from the dock in Cebu, Philippine Islands. Otto was bound for the U. S. A. We had transferred to the 29th U. S. Infantry, and intended to spend more time in the Islands.

Otto and the writer both served in Co. H. of the 19th Infantry, and it was an article in the National Tribune, official paper of the American Legion, that brought us together again.

It's great to meet up with old friends, and if this war quits soon and our cash holds out we intend taking a trip to Ottumwa to see this former soldier who served with us in Uncle Samuel's Infantry, commonly known as the gravel-crushers, some 40-odd years ago.

While in the Philippines, Mr. Ludwig and the writer had quite a bit to do in putting old Aguinaldo in his place, and it is a pity Uncle Sam didn't keep us down there to keep the Japs out. But he didn't, and now he has to do it all over again, with Gen. Douglas MacArthur in command and taking the place of his illustrious father, who commanded part of the Philippine Army 40 years ago. "Black Jack" Pershing, was a captain in the Philippines at that time.

Mr. Ludwig's Christmas card had the verse quoted as a heading as part of its Christmas greeting: "My Country 'Tis of thee, Sweet Land of Liberty" and underneath was faintly scrawled in lead pencil, "Or is it?"

Somehow or other, we were glad to see that comment. It showed us that even down in the United States they are feeling the pinch of war regulations. Judging from the crabbing up in Canada, we thought we were bearing all the burdens of the war, all the sacrifices, and paying the whole shot. In fact we sometimes believed, listening to the howls, that only a few of us are doing our duty and being affected by the numerous rules, regulations and conditions.

At that, there is lots of liberty in both the United States and Canada. In what other countries just now could anyone sit down and write a lot of crap like this? And in what other countries right now could the electors josh and damn their chief executives like they do in the U.S.A. and Canada? We've lots of liberty left yet; only, just now we are being brought to attention by the biggest war in history and will have to fight like the very old heck to retain the liberties we have had so long that they are altogether too lightly regarded.

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Are Canadian Politics Getting "Cheaper"?

Speaking at Saskatoon, Sask., the other night, Mrs. Dorise Nielsen, M.P., the woman who defeated Cameron MacIntosh, formerly of Dornoch, in the North Battleford riding, said in a speech there that "certain men in the army had worked in collusion with the Tory Party" to bring about the recent crisis over the conscription issue.

Mrs. Nielsen may represent that kind of

people, but in her speech, which denounced the "certain army men" and the Tory Party, she was innocently paying them a compliment.

Leaving out the M. P. army men, we have yet to hear one good word for the government's anti-conscription policy. Really, it was not a political matter at all, but a move to send the needed reinforcements overseas to our tired troops who have been carrying the battle most of the summer. Possibly, former Minister of Defence Ralston should also be included in this "collusion" group, for after an inspection of all the battle fronts, he resigned his position rather than carry on under the old system, which was not only inadequate, but stupid.

We don't hold to the opinion that the government should be wholly condemned because of a certain number of "untrained" troops. You will find these in every army. In fact, there are men so constituted that they would never make soldiers.

No matter what Mrs. Nielsen may say in an effort to boost her political stock, this same "collusion", if there was any such thing, has brought results.

So far as this newspaper is concerned, it is not interested in politics. It is interested only in the full prosecution of the war, the sending of aid to our troops in the fighting line, and afterwards backing them up with subscriptions to the different war services, the purchase of Victory Bonds, and the dispatching of a sufficient supply of blood plasma that lives may be saved on the battlefield.

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Toronto Not Understood; How Could She Be?

A Toronto writer recently took the rest of the province to task because of their criticism of Toronto which, he said, was a kind, nice city, and not deserving of the epithets like "hog-town" hurled at it from all directions. He said the people of Ontario did not understand Toronto citizens.

We can quite agree with him. We don't understand them. We don't know how we could go about it. We doubt if they understand themselves, for that matter.

Toronto's latest non-understandable act was to pass a bylaw making it a misdemeanor to run to catch a street-car, or to pass anyone on the sidewalk on the left side. Fines were provided for these offenses. Again, pedestrians making a left turn out of the line of traffic were supposed to "signal" what they were about to do under penalty if they did not.

The bylaw was in force exactly five days when it was repealed. While the police say no arrests had been made for bylaw infractions, this was due altogether to the good sense of the police, and not to the intelligence of the council that passed the bylaw that has made Toronto the laughing stock of the province — again.

It is not only hard to understand the people of Toronto. They are a whole lot better, however than one would think if he were to judge them from the calibre of the councils they elect.

Pedestrians on the sidewalk signalling left and right turns! forbidden to run on the sidewalk, or within the corporation, either for a bus or after it, or to chase the hat those sudden gusts of wind play havoc with. Who but a Toronto council could think up one like that?

The only amazing thing was one of omission. Why didn't they specify the kind of tail-light to be carried after dark?

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Laws are funny things, too. A woman on the Canada-United States border owns a parrot. The kitchen is in Quebec and the living-room is in Vermont. It is a breach of U.S. law to take the parrot into the living-room.

Toronto got a little snow a week ago and yelled her head off. We're getting some snow now, and the children can hardly wait until school is out to get out into it. No, it takes a great deal more than a little snow to tie up this part of the province, where business goes on as usual, snow or no snow.

Our wishful thinkers and seers who predicted the war would soon be over must have received quite a shock this week when the German broke through some 20 miles into Belgium and carried the fight for a day or two. There's a big kick still left in the German army, and don't you forget it. It will not pay to underestimate Germany's strength, either.

Pte. Ernest Alvia Smith, New Westminster, B.C., is the first Canadian private soldier to win the coveted Victoria Cross. We were glad when it was announced as we thought the V.C. was pretty much reserved for officers. The old army story wasn't far out. The private reported sick and complained of a pain in the abdomen. The sergeant looked at him, saying: "You mean you have a pain in your guts; it's only officers who have abdomens."

JOKE ON VITAMIN PILLS

(Christian Science Monitor)

Vitamin pills had a severe joke played on them at Duke University's School of Medicine recently. So did those who indiscriminately dose themselves with vitamins.

At the request of the Quartermaster General of the United States Army 200 volunteer medical students and technicians offered themselves as guinea pigs for 30 days. They were divided into five groups, four groups being given varying quantities of vitamins, and the fifth group being given nothing but inert pills with no medicinal or vitamin value. Two doctors, who conducted the experiment said, at the end of the time, that they found the same beneficial effect on the "pep" and health of the group given the dummy pills as on those who took vitamins. They added:

"It has been implied that, even when no demonstrable deficiency exists, one's sense of well-being and ability to perform work can be improved greatly by the addition of vitamins to the diet. . . . There is at present no conclusive evidence to substantiate this point of view."

We venture to assume that their findings will not be widely quoted in vitamin advertisements.

"A BIT SOFTER, PLEASE!"

Here is an interesting incident in the life of one of our great conductors, leading one of our greatest orchestras.

The orchestra played about eight phrases of the first movement of a symphony when the conductor tapped his baton on the desk to silence them.

"That was very nice," he said, "but the brass a little bit softer."

They went through the composition again and at exactly the same place he stopped them and said more emphatically:

"The brass a little bit softer."

This happened at least a half-dozen

times and the men in the brass section were getting a little annoyed so they decided among themselves not to play at all.

Again the orchestra started the symphony and went straight through the entire four movements. At the end the great conductor said with a twinkle in his eye:

"That was very nice but remember tonight at the concert the brass a little bit softer."

LITTLE TYKE'S VIEWPOINT

Grandma was wearing her hair in a smart new up-do, secured by two large hairloom combs, which four-year-old Carol greatly admired. "But," she commented earnestly, "I should think they would bother when you go to stand on your head."

Read the Classified Ads. on page 7.

To Our Customers and Friends—

The Staff and Management of

William Knechtel & Son, Limited DURHAM

wish all our patrons and friends

A Merry Christmas

CARROLL'S



NEW! Jackson's Jiffy PUMPKIN 2 No. 2 1/2 tins 25c. OLIVES 6-oz. jar 29c 9-oz. jar 43c

Smart's Choice PUMPKIN 2 No. 2 1/2 tins 25c. Red Feather Powdered PUDDINGS pkg. 9c. Poultry DRESSING pkg. 19c. Domestic SHORTENING pkg. 19c. Monarch Pastry FLOUR 7-lb. bag 29c.

SPECIAL MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE LB. 41c

Lifeway SOAP 3 cakes 17c. Lux Toilet SOAP 3 cakes 17c. More Economical — SUPER SUDS pkg. 23c, 39c. Lux FLAKES pkg. 23c. Quick Quaker OATS 4-lb. pkg. 19c.

Catarac Soda Water or GINGER ALE 2 Large Bottles 23c

A New Wheat Germ Cereal Package JIFFY PORRIDGE package 17c

COUPONS for DECEMBER 21 BUTTER 86 to 89 PRESERVES 1 to 36 SUGAR P1 to 10 — 14 to 49

DON'T FORGET! All the coupons in your ration books 3 and 4 expire on New Year's Eve (Dec. 31). Carroll's have a large assortment of "Preserves" for you to choose from—Jam, Marmalade, Molasses, Honey, Maple Syrup and Corn Syrup.

SPECIAL—Fancy Quality Heinz or Aylmer TOMATO Juice 3 20-oz. Tins 25c

Aylmer Fancy Golden CORN 2 20-oz. tins 27c. Aylmer Choice Sieve 4-5 PEAS 2 20-oz. tins 25c. Aylmer Fancy Jumbo PEAS 20-oz. tin 16c

Aylmer Vegetable or Campbell's Tomato SOUP 2 tins 17c. Golden Tip (Our Very Best) TEA 49-lb. pkg. 44c. Aylmer Fancy Diced Carrots or BEETS 16-oz. jar 19c

We reserve the right to limit quantities of all merchandise.

Limited Supply - New Crop NAVAL ORANGES

DELICIOUS APPLES - - - 5c each. RED - EMPEROR GRAPES - - - 29 c lb. MEDIUM SIZE TANGERINES - - - 35c doz. SWEET MELLOW TURNIPS - - - 5c each

Fruit and vegetable prices subject to market fluctuations.

Social and Per

Cpl. F. R. Bolger, spent end with her parents, Mr. J. Bolger, Cpl. Bolger, who stationed at St. Clair Barracks, for some time is taking in cooking at the basic training, Kitchener.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Jackson and Mrs. John O. Mount Forest visited recently and Mrs. George Smith.

Mrs. Philip Lawrence left on Saturday and will spend with her daughter there.

Women's Inst

ROYALTIDE WOMEN'S

Royaltide Institute branched December 15 at the home of Queen with the president, Allan in the chair. The singing was chosen from St. Gospel and read by Mrs. J. son. Mrs. R. Wilson, secretary, gave several reports, an interesting letter from P. Acheson, now in Holland branch. A letter received from Gordon, who recently left, was also read. Six members offered services soldiers during the member. Conveners Mrs. and Mrs. R. Wilson were pack boxes for local soldiers.

Red Cross report on knitted Queen and on sewing by Allan and the local reporting by Mrs. S. Mead, w.

Mrs. S. Mead was appointed for Wartime Price Christmas Carols. "While Watched their Flacks by 'Holy Night' were sung. The topic was given by don 'The Story of the Jesus' and Mrs. Mead. 'Joy to the World, the come'. The meeting was wing the National Anthem served by the hostess in

SOUTH GLENELG IN

The Christmas meeting of Glenelg Women's Institute on Thursday, December 15, at the home of Mrs. George Wilson, an attendance of twenty and visitors. In the chair, president, Mrs. Jane Wilson, vice-president, Mrs. M. J. Newell, secretary, Mrs. J. son, and a report on the Christmas Carols. "While Watched their Flacks by 'Holy Night' were sung. The topic was given by don 'The Story of the Jesus' and Mrs. Mead. 'Joy to the World, the come'. The meeting was wing the National Anthem served by the hostess in

BORN

HAMMER, in St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, on December 14, 1944, to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hammer, a daughter.

Waving All Our Friends and Customers A Merry Christmas and A Beautiful New Year MOOD Beauty