

THE OTTAWA JOURNAL

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Chamberlain Trusted In Human Decency

History may be kind to NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN. It may indict him for trusting ADOLF HITLER; it will not indict his goodness of heart, his honesty, his faith in human decency.

And, after all, wherein did Mr. CHAMBERLAIN differ from other Englishmen of his day, or from honest people the world over? It was his fate to govern England in an era of hope, when most thought that the heartbeat of war could not come again, when the best minds of the earth strove for peace.

CHAMBERLAIN turned out to be wrong. But he was no more wrong than the rest of us. We too, and it must stand on our credit side, gave HITLER the benefit of doubt, could not bring ourselves to believe that he was a human monster; capable of betrayal, treachery, of the last degrees of villainy.

For the worst that NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN did at Munich was to give England a breathing space; a breathing space which enabled her to avert disaster. He wanted peace, and he toiled desperately for peace, but if war was to come it must not come to an England that could not save herself.

It was perhaps a bitter irony, though in human nature understandable, that he lost something of his country's confidence. His usefulness was over; like Mr. ASQUITH, who gave way to LLOYD GEORGE, he yielded to CHURCHILL.

Mr. Churchill Changes His Captains.

LINCOLN's overworked warning against "swapping horses while crossing the stream" has never much appealed to the British. In their government, and especially in times of crisis, they "swap horses" without hesitation.

Thus Mr. CHURCHILL, himself a war successor to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, has now come up with another dramatic cabinet reorganization. Whether it is good, bad, or indifferent, is a matter unknown to outsiders.

A significant change made is that concerning Sir JOHN ANDERSON, taken from the post of Home Security to become President of the Council. Sir JOHN ANDERSON, for some time, has been a target for criticism. Responsible for air shelters, public clamor has said that he did not prepare enough shelters or sufficiently safe shelters, and that he gave them the wrong location.

When we get into this war was a phrase used at a press conference by Mr. Stimson, the United States Secretary for War. A cautious secretary explained that what he really meant was "if it becomes necessary for us to act in our own defence"—but probably Mr. Stimson meant exactly what he said.

of the Admiralty are left free to run their departments. The members of the War Cabinet, without the routine of administration, are free to plan large war policy, and to co-ordinate action.

That, in the judgment of many, is something we might consider here in Canada.

Ottawa to Reap Benefit Of Sound Financial Policy.

Controller Bousquet told the Ottawa Junior Chamber of Commerce the other day that this city "soon" may expect a reduction in the municipal tax rate.

Mr. Bousquet has made a diligent study of civic finances, in his present post, and was speaking with full knowledge of the situation. That situation, as a matter of fact, is extremely encouraging, and a decrease in taxes for 1941—barring unexpected developments in the next six months—is not improbable.

What is happening is that the steady whitening down of our public debt at last is showing substantial results—this coupled with a great reduction in relief charges. For the first time in some years no money was borrowed in Ottawa this year for relief. All bills have been met from current revenues. But relief debentures from earlier years all are short-termed issues, the total outstanding will be cut by the end of this year, and the last relief bonds will be retired in 1942.

Moreover the general public debt is coming down by something like a million and one-half each year, and this too represents a substantial saving in overhead.

Thus, as Mr. Bousquet said, there is every prospect of a lower tax rate without any impairment of the efficiency of public services. Even if next year the Ontario Government should drop its one-mill grant to municipalities it is likely the loss could be absorbed in Ottawa without an increase—if the grant is continued the rate may well be cut. It should not be dropped, of course, because it is not a gratuity from the province but reimburses municipalities for the loss of the right to impose an income tax.

The policy of the civic administration, and of recent councils, in pursuing strict economy is about to bear rich fruit. That policy, rigidly continued, will provide us with the unique experience of a tax rate falling from year to year.

It's the German People.

A United States newspaper, the Christian Science Monitor, tries to explain the deliberate brutality of Germany—specifically the sinking by a torpedo of a ship carrying British children.

"What has sunk without warning this shipload of child evacuees and other refugees," it says, "is not German at all. The guilt belongs to an ism, a mistaken belief, a madness which has temporarily possessed a generation and which must disappear when, like all other madnesses, it destroys itself."

It is perhaps a comfortable theory, but history hardly will acquit the German people of full responsibility for this "madness". The calculated ruthlessness with which the Germans are waging this war is nothing new in German experience. Between 1914 and 1918 the Germans murdered thousands of civilians, men, women and children, at sea and on land. They sank ships without warning. They bombed open towns, as now. They imposed virtual slavery on the people of Belgium and Northern France. Mercy, kindness and decency were words not in their vocabulary. Soft-hearted people then blamed it all on the German military class. The people, they said—as they say now—were essentially kind-hearted—they had been led astray by the Kaiser and his army. They said, in fact, what they offer now as an explanation of the same Germany under the Nazis.

It is, in fact, the same brutal, bloodthirsty Germany. Either they are a stupid people with a singular capacity for being misled, or as a race they are deliberately cruel, offensively arrogant, brutally bent on conquest—and we do not think they are stupid.

A Great Difference.

So common has become the use of the phrase "Fifth Column" that a writer in the magazine America thinks it time to point out the difference between articles and speeches which properly come under that heading and those which are honest propaganda. Says he:

"There is a big difference between Fifth Column propaganda and British propaganda. England naturally wants to obtain the greatest possible support in the war. But England is not interested in undermining our government or institutions. An American who becomes pro-British does not become anti-American; one who becomes pro-Nazi does. Fifth Column propaganda intends to demoralize us so that we become pushovers for the totalitarian powers."

Realization of that truth about British propaganda has become widespread in the United States in recent months and accounts for the more friendly attitude of newspapers and magazines which formerly adhered so strictly to the isolationist theory that they could see nothing good coming out of any European country.

Notes and Comment.

Employment in Canada has reached the highest point in 20 years. Many still wonder why relief has not fallen to the level of 1920—or has it?

Not much is heard these days from the Royal Navy, but it's a comforting thought that it's on the job, day and night, in good weather and bad, guarding the Empire and slowly throttling the enemy.

Side Lights

Kipling Found Timely.

Letter in New York Times. "Sir—Looking at the picture of King George talking to his people reminds me of Kipling's lines:

"When King and People understand each other without a doubt, It takes a foe, and more than a foe, to knock that country out."

A. LANG, Brooklyn, Sept. 20, 1940.

Call for Dr. Post.

The New Yorker. "It is customary in all the big hospitals to notify the staff when an interesting post-mortem is to take place. It would be too blatant to have somebody shout 'Post-mortem! Post-mortem!' through the public-address system, and the usual solution is to pass the word along from doctor to doctor.

At one hospital we know of, however, they have found a way to announce it over the loudspeakers. 'Calling Dr. Post,' the loud-speaker says, whenever something interesting is afoot in the autopsy room. 'Calling Dr. Mortimer Post.'"

Retain the Grand Jury.

Toronto Star. "The list of notable legal authorities who oppose the suggestion that grand juries should be abolished includes Sir William Mulock, past chief justice of Ontario; Hon. R. S. Robertson, the present chief justice; Chief Justice Rose of the high court, and Mr. Justice Middleton; also a committee of supreme court justices who say they can find no suitable substitute. Senior Magistrate Daniel O'Connell, of York, adds his testimony that the grand jury is 'an essential democratic institution and a safeguard to the citizen.'"

Training for Girls.

Windsor Star. "With the decision of Mr. Leonard Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools, that girl students in Windsor schools shall not participate in cadet training, everyone will probably be in agreement. It would go against the grain in this country to have girls engaging in military drill.

But, some suitable outlet should be provided for the patriotic spirit displayed. An increase in physical training will not fill the bill. The girls want to be doing something that has a definite relation to the war effort of the country. Surely the school authorities can evolve some means by which they can be given training which will fit them to perform a service to the country which is suitable to their sex.

Girl's Chances Good.

The Printed Word. "A girl who wants to get married has a better chance in Canada than in almost any other country. Argentina also offers more opportunities. This is because Argentina has 6.58 more men than women in each hundred of population. Canada's male excess is 3.58 in a hundred.

Southern Ireland is still fairly good hunting territory with 2.43 extra men per hundred, while Australia, New Zealand and the United States average 1.39. Chances are much poorer in Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales, for these countries have from three to four more women than men in every hundred. A girl who decides to try Canada will find the Western Provinces somewhat better than the East, but it would be well to act quickly as so many women have been going into the West that the number of spare men is diminishing.

Passing of the Attic.

New York Sun. "Most New York children today could not comprehend the meaning to English youngsters of a recess. An attic is a wonderful place. Many thousands of New Yorkers, juvenile and adult, never saw an attic. They might appeal to the dictionary, but a book that defines 'mother' as 'female parent' is obviously incapable of rendering the rich connotations of 'attic'. An attic is a wonderful place that cannot be described; it must be experienced.

"Emptying an attic is something like emptying a watch or emptying a pet rabbit: nothing significant is left. The children of England with their empty attics will now be no better off than those children of Manhattan who never had any attic at all. The joy of searching for treasure in the old hair-covered trunks, or rummaging through the discarded furniture that is still too good to be junk but not quite old enough to be 'antiques', is no more. Nothing is left but a big, bare, raftered room, depressingly clean and useful for little but drying clothes on a rainy washday.

When those English children who have lost their English attics come over here as evacuees, let them, by all means, be placed in homes that still have attics. And let it be hoped that our American attics will never have to be emptied.

Ottawa in 1915

From The Journal of October 3, 1915. RUSSIA had broken off relations with Bulgaria, recalled her minister from Sofia. Carleton county jail reported 1,175 prisoners in the past year, this being a decrease of 180. A Wisconsin man was using an airplane to spot forest fires. Sir Robert Borden addressed a meeting of the Ottawa Ministerial Association. City Council voted its preference for a highway to Prescott, over the rival claims of the Morrisburg route. The 77th Battalion had a new mascot—a goat named Billy.

From a Window In Fleet Street

Written in The Journal's London Bureau.

LONDON, Sept. 16, 1940. AN air warden in a typical workaday southeast London suburb has encountered an unexpected snag. Among his A.R.P. parishioners, so to speak, are the occupants of a big workmen's tenement. Obviously he had to envisage the possibility of the latter being hit by an incendiary bomb. So he duly allotted this teeming tenement its own stirrup-pump, and saw that the tenants were properly drilled in its efficient use.

Somebody had to be entrusted with the permanent custody of the pump, and the warden chose the wife of an ex-serviceman. Unfortunately this lady happens to be a German. Her husband married her whilst he was with our Army of Occupation on the Rhine. She is a thoroughly capable woman, a much better housewife than most of her neighbors, and thereby perhaps the more readily suspect by them as a potential Fifth Columnist. The warden knew nothing of all this until one day tenement feeling exploded. It seems the frau had been seen using the stirrup-pump to sprinkle her scarlet geraniums. As a bit of real member of the B.E.F. watering her window-box with a stirrup-pump meant putting out Nazi incendiary bombs—that takes some beating.

Blitzkrieg Laggings.

MR. CHURCHILL has pointed out that the present blitzkrieg is really a continuation of the Great War. We obligingly granted Germany twenty-one years' interval in which to prepare while we disarmed for the second half of the game. It is now just over a year since the blitzkrieg was launched, and it is worth remembering that the Great War, which lasted four and a half years, is the briefest important war in which Britain ever engaged.

Confident in the perfection of mechanized technique, the Nazi gangsters planned a quick-lunch second half. Their scheme succeeded beyond expectation up to a point, but not for the first time in Europe's history Britain has upset the ambition of military hegemony. For twelve months of intensive war effort Germany's normal life has been completely suspended. Hitler finds himself saddled with a wide expanse of conquered or occupied territories, still remote from his dream of Germany ever engaged.

One thing is certain: Hitler and his associates have their worries, and very anxious ones, too.

Mystery Deepens.

PERHAPS some day we may get the full and true story of what happened to France. The more the facts so far revealed are studied the more strange appears the mystery of the French military debacle.

We were told that France's incomparable pilots were overwhelmed by German tanks and warplanes, but since then we have learnt that France possessed large numbers of tanks of majestic design and power which never came into action. M. Pierre Cot, former French Minister for Air, tells us now that France had 3,000 first-line airplanes but that only about 1,300 ever took the air. He says further that nothing was destroyed to hinder the German advance. No road, no bridge, no railway line, no munition factory was blown up. Weygand's order will, he declares, when published, "amaze the world."

M. Cot's diagnosis is that France was beaten by opposing generals of seventy to enemy commanders of forty. Somehow that diagnosis sounds incomplete. There was something rotten in the political state of France even before Munich, but our diplomatic repre-

Other Views

ADVICE FROM THE NORTH.

North Bay Nugget. Premier Hepburn might well give some serious consideration to making the appointment of Hon. T. B. McQueen as Minister of Mines a permanent one. Mr. McQueen, who has done such a fine job as Minister of Highways, would unquestionably do credit to this important position.

GETTING ON WITH IT.

The Printed Word. Every few days one hears of the launching of another vessel for the Canadian Navy. One hears also of busy plants throughout the land, making supplies and munitions of war, including Bren guns, tanks and other weapons. It was almost too late. But not quite, which is our good luck rather than good management of the part of this democracy.

WHY THE CONSPIRACY?

Louisville Courier-Journal. While Willkie and Roosevelt are vying with each other in promises to keep America forever out of war, the great battle of the North Atlantic is raging—a battle which will settle our fate. If the North Atlantic passes into the hands of those who have vowed to destroy our way of life, the ocean which we have long thought a bulwark of defence becomes a broad highway for the economic or military penetration of this hemisphere. The President knows this. Mr. Willkie knows this. Why do they conspire to keep the people from knowing it? Why do they feed the detachment, the disgusted detachment, of our American youth by telling them day after day what is not true?

Mr. Willkie promises that never, while he is President, will this country go to war. Mr. Roosevelt quotes with approval the mealy words of the Democratic platform, "We will not participate in foreign wars." A man with pneumonia might just as well say, "I stand with approval upon the platform which declares that I will not get sick."

Paris Press Under The Nazis

From the Manchester Guardian.

SEVERAL copies of the Paris "Matin"—little more than a week old—have just reached me. The paper is virtually run by German hirelings, and one cannot expect it to give a faithful picture of life in Paris. The news and the editorial side of the paper are purely German or pro-German.

Huge headlines announce "Enormous British losses on land, on sea, and in the air." "England loses 500 planes in one week." "England loses 317 planes in three days." "British ultimatum to the King of Egypt." "England fears Egyptian revolt." "British shortage of pilots, and so on. Foreign news items include "Conflict in the British Cabinet," "Threatened strike in Birmingham," and the like, while the foreign photographs show "British equipment abandoned in Flanders," and German troops at "the Jersey aerodrome." Only German and Italian communiques are printed.

Nevertheless the paper throws some interesting, if sometimes involuntary, sidelights on life in Paris under German occupation. There is a picture of a German military band playing in the Tuileries (in the words of the caption) "quite a crowd listening." The crowd is actually rather small.

The small advertisements are revealing. A long list of these is by firms offering to buy jewelry. Others advertise "gazettes"—a charcoal burning cylinder to be fitted to cars in the absence of petrol. The home news items disclose that, in the absence of buses and taxis, the Metro is the only form of transport in Paris. It carries 1,500,000 passengers a day. A gossip-writer remarks on the freshness of the trees this August, and attributes it to the absence of petrol fumes during the greater part of the summer.

There are several small advertisements in German, relating chiefly to cinemas, tailors, and French lessons. A few restaurants announce their reopening. Typical of the nervousness of the Paris population is an appeal—of a warning—in the "Matin" not to hoard potatoes; "there will be sufficient stocks."

The news from unoccupied France in the "Matin" is scanty.

Letters To the Editor Of The Journal

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL.

Sir—The last English mail brought me a letter from the Rev. H. W. Allen, Canon of Salisbury Cathedral, which is one of the most beautiful and interesting of the many in England.

The following is an extract from the letter which might be of interest to your readers. There must be a few from that beautiful part of the Old Country who reside in the district of Ottawa to whom I would address Canon Allen's words, and I know no other way in which to carry out his request than by sending them to your influential paper.

"Thank all in Canada who are continuing to remember England in their prayers, for we indeed need this help. Fortunately here in Salisbury, although enemy planes are over the city by day and night, I do not actually see them. I have so far had no bombs dropped in the city, though some have fallen on the outskirts. Our Cathedral is safe, though we dread to think of some German airman dropping bombs, any one of which might fall near, not actually upon it. Unlike our airman, the Germans drop bombs anywhere. Rochester Cathedral was struck by a bomb this week.

"Our people are showing a splendid spirit—calm, brave and confident. We are all determined to see this thing through. Canada has given us magnificent help for which we are most thankful. With renewed thanks and best wishes." Salisbury Cathedral has the highest spire of any church in England, and the second highest in the world. H. C. F. Ottawa, Oct. 1, 1940.

THANKS.

The Journal has received letters of thanks from the following: L'Institut Canadien-Français d'Ottawa, Antonio Plouffe, secretary. The Ottawa Lawn Bowling Club, E. D. Berry, honorary secretary; Ladies' Section of the Ottawa Lawn Bowling Club, Lillian A. Booth, secretary.

Lighter Vein

She: "What sort of house shall we move to?" Husband: "Let's try a bungalow, dear—then you won't always be hearing burglars moving about downstairs."

"All you can eat for half a crown." The proprietor of an English restaurant which makes this offer was congratulating himself on a plan which attracts good custom when in walked a patron over six feet tall weighing about 18 stone, and settled himself for a comfortable meal. After he had finished the official count was handed to the proprietor by a grim-faced waiter. It read: "Four fruit cocktails, eight veal cutlets, five portions of potatoes, two portions of beef, six ice creams, two tomato salads, five portions of ham."

As the patron left the proprietor smiled, undaunted. "Come and have a proper meal some time," he said.

SUNSET FOR OCTOBER.

Sister Mary Philip in the New York Sun. "Oh, true, your Autumn splendor thrills me—say, How is your dress of gorgeous hue? The harmony of Autumn sings in you. Oh, tell me where those rich reds come from, pray." The tree bent down her branches, whispered: "Lay Your cheek against my leaves and in a few moments they will tell you secrets new." I did. My heart has sung the live-long cases. For this is what they said: "It was the shade We gave upon a hot June day—the rest We offered to a tired squirrel—the nest We let the robins build. These hath God paid."

If God thus lavishly rewards a tree, What riches lie in wait, my soul, for thee!

Toronto Has a Problem

WHEN a judge is seated upon the bench, he is invested with all the awe and majesty of the law. It is right that this should be so. But off the bench to pretend that the judge is anything more than a man is an offence against those principles of equality which are the basis of democracy. To give Ontario judges their due, most of them lack the snob-bishness which officious underlings are too ready to press upon them. It should, for instance, not be regarded as an encroachment upon the judicial dignity for other passengers to ride up in the city hall elevator with the man who is to take his seat upon the bench as His Majesty's Justice. These elevators are large and can amply accommodate more than one judge and one elevator operator, yet the other day a member of the Legislature who wished to go up in the elevator found himself warned off because it was already occupied by the sacred person of judge. Chief Justice Sir William Meredith used regularly to travel home from Osgoode Hall by street car,

MOPSY— By Gladys Parker

