

THE DAILY MAIL

FREDERICTON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1936

Military Powers and Wheat

The German wheat shortage, which news despatches have described with more candor and color than seems natural for Nazi officialdom to approve, throws a harsh light on the condition of the Reich purse. And because it does it is difficult to accept the sudden "bread crisis" as without an ulterior motive. Admittedly grain crops were light in Europe. But in view of all the circumstances crop failures can hardly be taken as full explanation of the 33,000,000 bushel discrepancy between first German estimates and present requirements.

Of course the shortage may be real, and through frankness the Nazi authorities hope to create a more sympathetic response to their attempt to find new financing abroad. It may be that sympathy will expand markets that are otherwise inelastic to barter trading. Since Versailles the Germans have found "poverty propaganda" a most valuable agent in promoting economic concessions and in securing treaty readjustments.

But again it may be something very different, although if these things could be gained on the side, so much the better. The first thing that should be taken into consideration, then, is that reconstruction under the Hitler regime has been 90 per cent. military. Such a programme, and the ambitions has for it, is not confined to troops, guns and munitions alone. No matter how great the army or how efficient its weapons, a food shortage will defeat it.

Germany has amply demonstrated her ability to produce synthetic raw materials for her army and industries. Synthetic food is another matter. And while it may be unfair to suggest grain hoarding as the underlying cause of the present shortage, there is good reason why many people will be suspicious.

There are other developments which, considered in the light of German foreign relations and the general alarm of Europe, give support to such suspicions. For example, the Soviet was to have 80,000,000 bushels of wheat for export at the beginning of the current crop year. Five months have passed, and no Russian wheat has been offered. Italy harvested her crop and announced total requirements would be 16,000,000 bushels. Within recent weeks that estimate has been revised to 56,000,000, "possibly more." Such errors in calculation cannot be entirely faulty mathematics.

The fact is that much has happened in Europe in five months. Situations have developed because of which the British Government has several times been urged to make provisions for wartime requirements. Europe is short on wheat and rye, but, being short, some nations may have been reminded that they are widely separately, politically as well as geographically, from the exporting countries of Canada, Australia and Argentina, which this year control four-fifths of the available supplies.

Russia Grows at Spanish Rebels

Acting upon reports of the sinking of a Russian merchant ship by a Spanish rebel cruiser, Moscow is to take steps of various sorts. Among them is consideration of the advisability of sending Russian warships to convoy freighters through waters in which Spanish rebel ships are operating.

Moscow is aware of the fact that one of her ships of war may be met with a challenge by German craft. Any such "incident" might precipitate war between Russia and Germany.

Dispatches from Moscow say the opinion is growing in high Soviet quarters that Hitler may bring about a violent crisis, perhaps even war, in order to divert German attention from a food shortage to the enthusiasm of war.

Hitler has on his hands a critical internal situation. He has been using German foreign trade credits to buy war materials rather than foodstuffs. He has been actually selling German food in order to import war materials.

German attention must be diverted from domestic ills. Hitler, the hysterical showman, has prolonged his reign by sensational acts, defiance of the Versailles treaty in many ways and by focussing national hate against the Jews.

The day may not be far off when the veil is lifted from German eyes and the hate directed at Hitler. Even now considerable undercurrent opposition to the whole Hitler crew is developing within Germany.

Knowing that he is doomed, Hitler may choose to go down in a blaze of what he thinks is glory, by defiance of a natural enemy, in this instance Russia.

King's First Achievement

As his Majesty King George VI, his Queen and their family leave for the traditional Royal Christmas at Sandringham, the resiliency of the British spirit is again emphasized by the complete and undivided loyalty which has been accorded them.

And the Royal couple themselves have taken the surest way to remove all traces of the disappointment through which the Empire has passed.

The palaces at Sandringham and Balmoral will resume the aspect they wore under his late Majesty King George V, and the courts there, as well as in London, will be the quiet and dignified assemblies they have been since the days of Victoria.

The Royal households, too, will not be changed, and there is to be no additional pomp or ostentation in the name of modernity.

Thus, the new King's first accomplishment—and it would be hard to imagine a greater—is to resume, as though there had been no break, the even tenor of life which has characterized the British Throne for a hundred years.

Spain Remains Dangerous

The absence of Spain's civil war and complementary international complications from the news does not mean that the dangers of the situation have been reduced to a proportionate minimum. Spain has been out of the news because of the relative calm on the various fronts and because unsuccessful proposals for mediation are not subjects of official loquacity. The complications are still present, and their dangers intensified, if anything, by the uncertainties of the war's deadlock.

It is now obvious that German, Italian and Russian "volunteers" are becoming major factors in an ultimate victory. It is obvious that neither rebels nor Reds will accept a truce and settle by a plebiscite so long as they can draw strength from outside. If there were some means of knowing the numbers of these "volunteers", what quantity of arms had been bought by or pledged to both sides on credit, the strength of an Italo-German accord and the real value to those Powers of a Fascist victory; if it were possible to determine accurately the extent of Kremlin influence in Catalonia, the dangers could be gauged more closely.

But no one can even guess what form international strategy is taking. No one can imagine what has been going on behind the veil of mediation conversations. Britain and France are sincere, but the others play along to be diplomatic. All that can be surmised is that three Great Powers would not have gone as far as they have if their interests were not vital.

Distractions in Britain, the Far East and in the domestic situations have not altered the nature of the Spanish crisis. Foreign Offices have relaxed in public, but the strain remains intense. This prolonged strain is, in itself, a danger. There is a limit to which nations can hold on in such circumstances without cracking. And when they crack with vital interests involved they frequently plunge foolishly forward. For dictatorships, in particular, it is unwise to retreat.

SNAPSHOTS

We have a long letter regarding business conditions at U.N.B., and showing how some supply orders are handed out to favourites, ignoring the just claims for recognition of those who have endeavoured to be friendly to that institution. We are holding the letter as some of the personal references, we think, might be eliminated.

It is time that the Canadian Pacific Railway did something to eliminate the bad condition that exists on the Gibson Street, South Devon (Marysville Road) Crossing. The crossing is practically a blind one and is one that is on the main trunk highway from this city to the North Shore. Sheds, woodpiles and dwellings obscure the view. One of the leading physicians in Canada and his chauffeur who is a very careful driver, narrowly escaped death there this week.

What kind of a domestic triangle is that now being enacted at Devon? Will the man get a divorce and marry the girl? Will she give up her job and marry him? Eh what!

The crowd in front of the Liquor Commission store on Thursday afternoon extended out into the street. This did not look like hard times.

We just met one of the homeliest looking girls we have seen for some time. We were surprised to learn that her name is Rosebud.

Generalissimo

(Continued from Page One) tion of all the painful works of unification carried forward under General Chiang's leadership.

The government's announcement said the generalissimo and Marshal Chang, their roles of captive and captor reversed, would continue tomorrow by airplane to Nanking, where they were expected to arrive about noon.

With them, were expected also Madame Chiang, her brother, T. V. Soong, and W. H. Donald, Australian adviser to the Nanking regime, whose flight to Sian-fu two days ago to treat directly with the rebel leader for the generalissimo's freedom was followed quickly by today's dramatic news from Loyang.

Referring to Marshal Chang Hsueh-liang, the government announcement said:

"The marshal is coming to Nanking in person—to give himself up to the National authorities, if necessary, but preferably to state clearly and openly his case to the leaders of the country."

When Marshal Chang, overlord of Manchuria until expelled by the Japanese army in 1931, launched his revolt at Sian-fu two weeks ago he broadcast three demands:

Immediate military resistance to Japan's "encroachments," recovery of Manchuria for China, and readmission of Communists to the political life of the nation.

The Nanking foreign office asserted the generalissimo's release was "unconditional," that no political terms had been made with his captor, who declared to have "seen the error of his ways."

A spokesman of the Executive Yuan said:

"Not one cent of cash was involved other than the expenses of emissaries to and from Sian-fu."

What began as a gloomy Christmas for China changed quickly into a day of rejoicing as the news from Loyang was flashed throughout the country.

The people of Nanking and Shanghai were especially jubilant. In the capital a hectic celebration continued until midnight.

Many Nanking authorities gave major credit for the generalissimo's release to skillful negotiations carried out at Sian-fu by Madame Chiang and her brother.

When the wife of the Nanking leader flew to Sian-fu two days ago to plead directly with the rebel chieftain she had to disregard the advice of many high officials who insisted any negotiated settlement with Marshal Chang would weaken the government's authority.

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OUR MAIL BAG

IS FREDERICTON BECOMING INHOSPITABLE?

Editor of The Daily Mail, City.

Dear Sir: As your live newspaper is always on the job when there is any hitch on matters pertaining to the welfare of the community, perhaps you can supply information as to the why and whereof of a recent act of omission which seems to have combined neglect and inhospitality.

We should all be proud of the reputation which our city long ago built up in the matter of hospitality and courtesy to visitors. Few conventions have been held here in bygone days when our chief civic dignity to wit: His Worship the Mayor or somebody in his behalf would not put in an appearance and extend a glad hand to the strangers within our gates.

That being so, can you tell me why it was that the Mayor or his young deputy who is supposed to be in the futurity class for that office did not extend some official recognition to the members of that fine organization, The New Brunswick Guides Association who met in annual convention here this week? I am told that there were more than half a hundred outfitters and guides in attendance representing the central and north shore counties and I am sure that they were deserving of some act of courtesy from the civic corporation. If the Mayor and his deputy were too busy over things material to show up why did they not delegate an alderman or the President of the Board of Trade to say a word of welcome to the guides? Last year the guides met in Saint John by invitation and the lavish entertainment provided for them by civic authorities included a banquet. A big fuss was made over them and they greatly appreciated it. Now if Saint John could do that surely Fredericton as the sporting centre of the province and the outfitting point for hundreds of non-resident sportsmen could have provided something in the way of entertainment for the sturdy men who entice thousands of Yankee dollars to come our way every season. As everybody knows there was no lack of civic energy and hospitality displayed a few weeks ago when a party of American baseball stars paused here for the week-end while en route home from a hunting trip from down country. It strikes me that if the city authorities can only afford one such blowout during the season the preference should go to our own talent. The Farmers' and Dairywomen's Association used to meet annually at the Capital but of late years have shown a tendency to go elsewhere. In January they are to meet at Moncton. Is the change due to civic neglect and inhospitality? If so the guides may for the same reason follow suit next year and make a move. I would think that a visit from a party of fifty guides who arrange their meeting so as to synchronize with Christmas shopping activities should have made an appeal to the powers-that-be, but apparently not. Can you not arouse them from their lethargy, Mr. Editor? With thanks for the space I remain

Yours very truly, D. LEE McCUTCHEON.

DIED

McKNIGHT—At Fredericton, Dec. 24, 1936, Carl "Buddy" McKnight, aged 11 years, under tragic circumstances.

The funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon with prayers at the home, 414 University Avenue, at two o'clock and service at Christ-church Cathedral at 2:30 o'clock, to be conducted by Very Rev. Dean W. H. Moorhead. Interment will be in the Forest Hill cemetery.

UP TO THE CITIZENS

(Continued from Page One) with the School Board holding secret meetings and ignoring the public and the press. But the people of your city seem to put up with a whole lot of things that other towns would not stand for. The citizens know that things are being handled this way. If they continue to put up with it they deserve all they get.

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WHAT THE WELL DRESSED ICE STAR WEARS COSTS \$80

MONTREAL, Dec. 26—What the well-dressed professional hockey player wears on the ice this winter costs his National Hockey League team approximately \$80, according to Charlie Barbour, trainer of the Montreal Maroons.

"The high cost of materials is necessary to give the best possible protection, and at the same time not hinder the hockey player with excess weight," Barbour said. "The three main essentials in selecting equipment are protection, lightness and durability."

Connell's Pads Lightweight

Total weight of uniform and equipment carried by Rightwinger Jimmy Ward of the Maroons is 17 3/4 pounds, Lionel Conacher, defenseman, carries 17 1/4 pounds, and Goalie Alex Connell 21 1/2 pounds.

The difference between wing and defense equipment is due to the length of pants worn, Barbour said, while Connell's comparatively light padding is explained by the fact he is one of the lightest goalers in the N.H.L., and refuses extra protection. Strange to say, the sticks of goaler and player weigh about the same.

Tommy Gorman, manager of Maroons, estimates this season's outlay

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for equipment and medical supplies for his club will be approximately \$4,000.

What They Wear

Before each game the players don: One pair of pants, approximate cost, \$5.50; one pair shoes and skates, \$20 to \$32.50; one pair shoulder pads, \$9; one pair elbow pads, \$3; leg guards, \$7.50; sweater and stockings, \$6; undergarments, \$1.50; suspenders and other accessories, \$4.50; hockey stick, \$2, and one pair of gloves, \$11.

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