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EDITORIAL

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DAILY EDITION WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26, 1941

Expects Revival . . .

General Charles DeGaulle has made the position of the Free French very clear. He expects that following the terrible crisis through which France is passing a tremendous revival will emerge for the French nation. Outlining the war aims recently he stated them briefly as follows:

1. "Make war . . . give the greatest possible extension and the greatest possible power to the French effort in the conflict;

2. "Let the people speak for themselves as soon as events once more allow them to make known freely what they want;

3. "Bring about conditions in the postwar France which will permit 'every Frenchman to live, think, work and act in dignity and security.' "

Suez Canal Importance . . .

Just now when fighting is going on in the neighborhood of Egypt it is very important to understand something about the importance of the Suez Canal. It was opened to traffic 72 years ago after ten years of constant contruction work and the work of building has been going on since. Since the war started it has been bombed fifty times but not once has it been put out of business, although repairs have proved necessary and are still being carried out. It is just a big ditch, two hundred feet wide and being less than 500 miles from Crete should prove very vulnerable yet all kinds of ships continue to make it a highway. Obstacles have had to be removed to allow free passage of the larger craft but any delays have been very slight.

The canal is owned by a private company representing French, British, Egyptian and the Dutch. For years Turkey acted as guarantor for the company but of late Britain has seen that the canal has been open to all countries on equal terms.

The canal is vital as a commercial lane, and no matter how the war ends, will continue to be a very busy road, for Europe will keep on trading with Asia. Boats from Norway, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, England, France, Italy and Greece will continue to stream through this ditch, making an onlooker think of a caravan of stage ships moving through a desert.

Politically, control of the Suez Canal is of extreme importance for the way in which men and women will live in the future, says a writer in the Christian Science Monitor. If Great Britain maintains its hold upon it, it will be able to preserve its empire and a sort of balanced security will continue in the world. If Britain loses it, the empire might decline to an inferior position, much or all of Africa might pass into Nazi hands and serve the Reich as a base for striking eastward and westward. Seizure of the canal along with Egypt, Arabia, and the rest of the Middle East would create a completely new world situation for America.

During the 72 years that have elapsed since the canal was opened, the world has changed greatly. It has made an unprecedented advance toward freedom, democracy, and international co-operation. During this period, practically all adult men of the western world won the franchise, and most women also. Japan was modernized. China became a republic; and the machine age moved to its apogee.

During most of that time most of the world lived in peace, imperial denomination gave way to international understanding, pirating was superseded by freedom of the seas, and all nations began to co-operate at Geneva. The ships of all nations, passing unhindered from all lands through Suez to all lands, were heralds of a new way of living. The continuation of that way depends on future control of the Suez and of its sister canal at Panama.

MINISTER PASSES

(Continued from Page One)

on Canada's entry into the Second Great War. Leaving to the prime minister and others the task of discussing issues at stake in the war, he set out to show two things—that Canada could not remain neutral, and could not have conscription.

Rather than see conscription in Canada he declared that he and all the Quebec ministers would leave the cabinet. Neutrality would mean civil war because Canadians would not stand for the obligations of neutrality, obligations to intern British soldiers, to stop enlistment in British forces, Mr. Lapointe said.

He ended by quoting Queen Elizabeth's words as she left Canada after the royal tour of 1939: "Que Dieu Benisse Canada." That was a sentimental touch that brought tears to the eyes of veteran parliamentarians who had just listen to what might have been a coldly logical oration.

"Yes, God bless Canada," he said. "God save Canada. God save Canada's honor, Canada's soul, Canada's dignity, Canada's conscience. God give Canadians the light which will indicate to them where their duty lies in this hour of trial so that our children and our children's children may inherit a land where freedom and peace shall prevail, where our social, political and religious institutions may be secure and from which the tyrannical doctrines of naziism and communism are forever banished. Yes, God bless Canada. God bless our Queen. God bless our King."

M.P. in 1904

Although Mr. Lapointe in 1904 entered the House of Commons with but a slight knowledge of the English language, he became in time one of the ablest and most eloquent of speakers in English as well as in French. His accent never lost its unmistakable French influence but whether expounding a nice point of constitutional law in the House of Commons or mixing in the rough and tumble debate of election campaigns he was both lucid and entertaining.

Mr. Lapointe was born on a farm at St. Eloi, Temiscouata county, Quebec, Oct. 6, 1876, and was educated at Rimouski College and Laval University. He was called to the bar and began his practice in the county town of Riviere du Loup. In 1904 he was elected to parliament for Kamouraska and represented that seat until Sir Wilfrid Laurier's death in 1919.

Then he had established a law practice in Quebec city and so distinguished himself among the French-speaking Liberals that it was considered fitting he should succeed Sir Wilfrid as member for Quebec East, the old chieftain's constituency. He was elected at a by-election Oct. 27, 1919, in Quebec East and held the seat in six succeeding general elections, 1921-1940.

At the national Liberal convention in 1919 Mr. Lapointe threw his support to Mackenzie King although he might, had he wished, have been a strong contender for the leadership himself.

"I cannot think of an occasion when he (Mr. Lapointe) and I, with respect to any public question in Canada, have ever materially disagreed," said Mr. King on an occasion several years later.

Entered Cabinet

When the Liberal party came into power in 1921 Lapointe was appointed minister of marine and fisheries. Sir Lomer Gouin, for many years prime minister of Quebec, was the senior Quebec minister but when he resigned as minister of justice in 1924 Mr. Lapointe took over the post.

From then on, literally as well as figuratively, he was Mr. King's right-hand man. He shared a desk with him and sat at his right hand in the house. He led the house in Mr. King's absence and served as acting prime minister. He was one of the most powerful spokesmen for the Liberal party at election time both in Quebec and the English-speaking provinces.

During the difficult session of 1926 when the Liberal party lacked a working majority in the house and Mr. King was without a seat Lapointe proved his parliamentry ability by leading the government until Mr. King obtained a seat at a by-election.

Perhaps the greatest test of Mr. Lapointe's leadership came in the fall of 1939, shortly after the outbreak of the Second Great War. Then Maurice Duplessis, union nationale premier of Quebec, called a provincial election and challenged the soundness of the federal government's policy of leading Canada unreservedly into the war.

Challenge To Victory

Mr. Lapointe answered the challenge by announcing that if Mr. Duplessis won the election he and other Quebec members of the King government would resign. He threw himself into the provincial campaign in support of Adelard Godbout, leader of the provincial Liberal party. The result was the overwhelming defeat o fthe Duplessis government, an event construed in other parts of Canada and abroad as a demonstration of the unity of French-speaking Quebec with the English-speaking provinces in favor of full participation in the war.

Mr. Lapointe was regarded as the hero of the victory. In the federal general election which followed a few months later the Liberal party made almost a clean sweep of Quebec constituencies.

In the 1940 Dominion election Mr. Lapointe's only son, Hugues, was elected to sit with his father in the House. The minister's former private secretary, Pierre Picard, also won a seat.

Mr. Lapointe was married to Emma Pratte of Riviere du Loup in 1904. A daughter, Odette, prior to her marriage to Roger Ouimet, was a leader in the 20th Century Liberal Club movement.

"GREEN LIGHT" FOR AMERICAN SKY FIGHTER AT SEA

Looking something like a football cheer-leader, a signal officer aboard a U.S. navy aircraft carrier in the Pacific gives the "Go" sign to a fighter plane about to take off from the flight deck. At the moment, with the situation in the Pacific as tense as it has been for many years, these carriers are on their toes as the eyes of America's first line of defence.

1000 Women Staff War Area YMCA

Oversea Committee Headed by Well Known Business People of London.

TORONTO, Nov. 26: (CP) — One thousand Canadian and British women are volunteer workers in Canadian Y.M.C.A. centres overseas. For two years these women have been performing a yeoman service in making these centres "a home away from Canada" for the men of Canada's armed forces overseas.

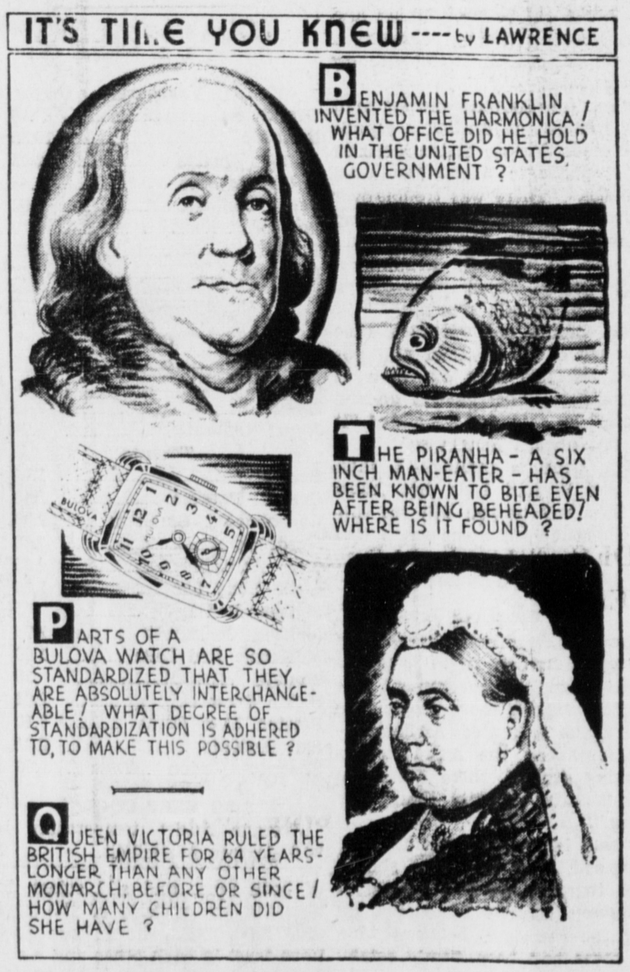
Operating under the Canadian Y.M.C.A. Overseas Committee which is headed by Sir Edward Peacock, G.C.V.O., honorary chairman, and W. N. McIlwraith, chairman, this group of women has given generously of both time and experience to gain the gratitude not only of the Y.M.C.A. War Services, but also of the sailors, soldiers and airmen of Canada to whom they have rendered service.

Canada at War 25 Years Ago

Nov. 26, 1916 — Germans made naval raid on Lowestoft. Serbians captured important hill position as Allied troops advanced beyond Monastir, Macedonia. Allies at Athens demanded surrender of 10 mountain batteries by the Greek government.

LONDON, Nov. 26: (CP) — Divorce court judges have 2000 suits for trial at the Michaelmas term—the busiest since the outbreak of war

IT'S TIME YOU KNEW ---- by LAWRENCE



Answers on Page Five

JOHN BULGER LTD.
JEWELERS

Twenty-Five Years Ago

November 26, 1916.

The Canadian Fish & Cold Storage Co.'s coal barge Donald D., which piled up on the rocks in Codfish Passage some time ago, is now reported to have broken up with no chance of salvage.

Word has reached the city of the death from wounds received in action at the front of George Kerr, brother of Peter and Billy Kerr who are both on active service themselves.

The oil tanker Richmond is in port with 60,000 barrels of fuel for the Imperial Oil Co.'s tanks.

FIGHTING GREEKS

ALEXANDRIA, Nov. 26: (CP)—With their country in the hands of the Nazis, the Greek's warfleet of one cruiser, six destroyers, five subs and other craft is still fighting beside the British fleet in the Mediterranean.

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