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Affirmative Answer To Plebiscite Called For

(Continued from Page One)

it in terms of our national interest and that of our Allies in this struggle for existence and freedom. It should be purely a question of strategy. The decision should depend only on how we can make our best and most effective contribution. This, and this alone, should be the governing consideration. If we can think in these terms we shall see that it is important to leave the government and Parliament free to act as the future developments of the war may demand. No one can foretell what may be the situation six months from now.

"The war has entered on its most critical period. The great Russian army is faced with the certainty of a vast spring offensive by Hitler's desperate might. Our brothers in Australia, New Zealand, and India are all in immediate danger of invasion by Imperialist Japan. China is fighting bravely and barely holding its own. The sinkings of allied shipping in the Atlantic and Pacific are becoming daily more serious. These are, briefly, the facts of the situation. If we are honest with ourselves and refuse to be lulled by false optimism, we will realize fully the grave dangers which lie immediately ahead. In such a situation all of us, whatever our ancestry or language, must act unitedly as Canadians, proud of the measure of freedom which our French and British forbears won for us and determined to preserve it and extend it for the greater happiness of future Canadians.

Papineau, McKenzie and Canadian pioneers of self-government struggled united for freedom a century ago. Let us today prove worthy of their pioneer efforts and build an even greater unity and win an even greater freedom —a freedom securely based on economic security and social equality.

"One the plebiscite has been disposed of, the true issues of maximum production and equal sacrifice should be faced by Parliament. Thus far we have operated our war effort on the basis of business as usual. We have been producing automobiles and refrigerators when we should have been making tanks and guns. Only recently have serious restrictions on these commodities been imposed and even now we still employ too large a percentage of our labor power and machines in non-essential production.

"As our National Council stated last month, "What Canada needs is maximum production and equality of sacrifice, which can only be secured by conscription of wealth and war industries."

All-Out Effort

"A complete all-out war effort is essential to victory. This involves a comprehensive planning of our economic life. Not only must we have the power to control war industries but such control must be taken out of the hands of dollar-a-year men who represent monopoly interests and placed in the hands of men and boards who represent the people and are free to direct production for the national effort without concern for the interests of Big Business. Only in this way could every plant and every machine be fitted into its proper place in the national plan of production. This must be financed without inflation or the burdening of the nation with unnecessary debt. To do this, total war planning requires the complete national control of all our financial institutions.

"This is a people's war, and farmer and labor organizations must be adequately represented upon all war controls; the workers must be treated as partners with management in industry. This is an accomplished fact in Britain, Australia and New Zealand now. In other words, an all-out effort requires the active participation of all the people wholeheartedly and enthusiastically. Industry must forego its profits, accumulated wealth must be placed at the service of the nation without interest, incomes must be restricted, and a national minimum standard of living assured in town and on the farms for all families, in order to maintain efficiency and morale. These are essential to the all-out war effort which we insist must follow an affirmative vote next Monday.

"I want to make it clear, beyond the slighest chance of misunderstanding, that we of the C.C.F. will not only continue but will intensify our demand for the conscription of war industry, accumulated wealth and the financial institutions, on the same basis and at the same time as compulsory mobilization of human power. To us the value of the plebiscite lies only in the opportunity it gives our people of clearing away the underbrush of irrelevant argument. Once that is cleared away, the path to a total and just war policy will be open. We shall accept an overwhelming and united "Yes" vote next Monday as another illustration that the people of Canada are anxious for a war policy which places all of the nations resources at the service of the nation's cause—without profits, without special privilege, and without the evils of monopoly control.

"This is important not only for victory in the war but for the reconstruction problems which will face us afterwards. The way in which our war effort has been organized today is freezing and intensifying the control of our national economy by the same small group which was responsible for the years of depression and unemployment before the war.

"It is in this belief that on January 26 I moved in Parliament, on behalf of the C.C.F., that (and I quote) "the forthcoming plebiscite should seek the support of the people of Canada for the complete and effective conscription of war industries, accumulated wealth and financial institutions, at the same time and on the same basis of sacrifice as the suggested extension of the conscription of manpower." (end quote).

Part of Problem

"Unfortunately, the majority of the members in Parliament voted against this amendment, and the plebiscite therefore covers only a small part of the vast problem facing our country at the present time. But we shall continue to demand the all-out war effort contained in the amendment just quoted. I believe that in time events will force the authorities, no matter how unwilling they may be, to adopt some of these proposals even as they have been forced to introduce measures of social control which three years ago they would have shunned.

"I have pointed out that the present situation is most critical. During the past year there have Russian army, the quantity and military fronts — North Africa, China, and Russia. Let us see if we can find reason for this, and from that learn the lesson which might help us to appreciate the needs of the moment and the correct policies which could meet those needs. I repeat tonight what, in substance, I stated to Parliament on January 26 on this point.

"In North Africa we have held our own because, so Mr. Churchill told us, we have concentrated most of our equipment there, and so at last a British army meets an Axis force on nearly equal terms. The reason for the stubborn resistance of the Chinese is that they fight for a China that had begun to make progress towards a greater measure of economic security, more than old imperial China ever knew.

"This, too, is the secret of Russian courage and Russian success. Whatever criticism we might have of their methods of government, the Russian people believe firmly that they are fighting to preserve and extend those economic and social advances which they themselves have made during the last twenty years. That these advances have been real and marvellously efficient, the effectivness of the quality of their equipment, and the magnitude of their industrial reserves, amply demonstrate. Surely we can learn some lessons from these facts. Laboriously, for over two years, we have been mobilizing our war effort, and in spite of our boasted industrial strength we have failed to provide the tools to get on with the job. It is true that Russia had built great war industries before the war. But she was also able to build new cities, new homes, new universities, new standards of life, while we did neither the one nor the other.

When the test came, there were no private monopolies, no trusts, no vested interests, no contractors who refused accept war conditions no business men who needed the incentive of gain or the acquisition of wealth, to slow up her war effort and bring her to the brink of defeat. In a few weeks Russia was geared for total war, with the full support of a people with a future to defend.

"I say to you: Next Monday go to the polls and vote 'Yes' in the plebiscite. But don't stop there. Go forward from that first step toward national unity to an effective compulsory mobilization of all our resources for victory. Unitedly we can achieve this end and in spite of opposition. Unitedly we can win on the battle front and win also on the home front. We must win this war, but it is wrong to say, 'Nothing else matters.' We must make sure that we can win the peace too.

"Because of all this, I urge you to make every effort to get to the polls on Monday next and place your cross opposite the word 'Yes'.

BRITISH EASTER TRAVEL

LONDON, April 22 (CP)—Declining to authorize additional trains for Easter travel Minister of Transport Lord Leathers advised "Don't travel for pleasure at Easter—have your rest but have it where you are."

CONFETTI FOR WAR

LONDON, April 22 (CP)—Under the new waste paper order throwing of confetti on newly married couples or anyone else is a punishable offence.

HE'S AN OLD HAND

Civilization first learned of the gorilla through exploration of the Carthaginian Hanno in 450 B.C.

DON'T FAIL TO VOTE

Nazi propaganda has said that Democracy is a failure, but Democracy can work. *MAKE IT WORK* by voting at the Plebiscite.

ON APRIL 27th

Your direct answer is wanted on the question:

"Are you in favour of releasing the Government from any obligation arising out of any past commitments restricting the methods of raising men for military service?"

There is ample time to vote on this question.

★ **Polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.,**
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