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German Peace Offers . . .

We appear to be making headway as far as Adolf Hitler is concerned. According to a Stockholm dispatch he is ready to "surrender unconditionally" but, to save Germany from chaos, he holds out that he and Heinrich Himmler should maintain power in Germany.

Of course, complete overthrow and elimination of Hitler, his cohorts and all his evil works are an essential part of any armistice. To entertain anything else is stupid even to think about. Hitler goes so far as to admit it is time for unconditional surrender for Germany but, doomed man that he is, he is not ready to go through with the act as far as he is personally concerned. If Hitler's desire to remain in power is the last obstacle to Germany's unconditional surrender, it should not take long to remove it.

Not Just Political Talk . . .

Mr. Churchill, whose war leadership has been so often endorsed in overwhelming measure whenever he chose not to ask for, but demand, a vote of confidence, has now, in his usual blunt and forthright manner, informed the British people that he also intends to guide his people through the trials of peace.

Of course, nobody ever even thinks of a change in the chieftainship of the British state as long as Mr. Churchill lives in health and competence. When the tense days of war are over, however, Mr. Churchill, for all his dogged determination, may meet stronger challenges than are within the range of any probability during the war. Such is the character, leadership and forcefulness of the man, of course, that he may never be overthrown even in a peacetime general election.

Certainly none can rise to say of Mr. Churchill that he is possessed of any other motive than the conviction that his is the right way for his country and that he himself is best able to see by his own personal direction that his way is carried out. With some this might be regarded as egotism. With Mr. Churchill we will have to admit it is sincere conviction.

There is nothing equivocal about Mr. Churchill's feelings towards the Socialists and it might be remembered that in his war cabinet he has some Socialists. Mr. Churchill is all out for free enterprise after the war and he does not mince his words when he says "their (Our Socialist friends') program . . . implies not only destruction of life of the whole of the existing system and society and life and labor but the creation and enforcement of another system or systems borrowed from foreign lands and alien minds." In

Canada those words coming from Liberals or Conservatives might be called insincere political talk designed as propaganda to bolster up the capitalistic system.

Mr. Churchill warns against "humbbug and blandishment" and cautions his own party against bidding for votes and party popularity by promising what cannot be performed. Mr. Churchill's warnings are as applicable to the body politic in Canada as they are to that of Britain. Canada will soon be in an election campaign where there will be "humbbug," "blandishments" and "promises which cannot be performed" and the words of the British Prime Minister are therefore coincidentally timely.

St. Patrick's Day . . .

Canadians of Irish descent along with Irishmen all over the world tomorrow celebrate the feast day of Erin's patron saint, St. Patrick, but appropriately enough the very day of the holiday was decided after a lengthy Irish argument which according to legend ended in a truly Irish compromise.

With their traditional propensity for disagreement on any and all subjects, one faction in Ireland claimed the Saint's birthday fell on March 8, while an opposing party claimed the birthday was really March 9. A Solomon-like Irish priest, Father Mulcahey, is said to have settled the argument by adding the eighth to the ninth to total the seventeenth—the date which was set for the rest of the time.

St. Patrick's Day in Canada this year will be celebrated quietly in the absence of so many young Irish Canadians fighting with their fellow countrymen overseas. But no Irishman in whatever clime he may find himself on the day, will be able to pass it by without a "top of the morning" to the shade of the good saint and his followers who have fanned out all over the globe from the little island of their origin.

In view of the saint's obscure origin argument about the birthday of Patrick is a futile pastime typical of genial Hibernians who are notoriously "agin" accepting anything without a century or so of thorough discussion. His legendary birthplace ranged from Scotland to France. Historians, on the contrary, say Patrick was born about the year 389 in Wales and carried off at an early age by Irish pirates who sold the young Christian into slavery as a swineherd in county Antrim.

Patrick entered the priesthood after his escape to France several years later and returned to Ireland eventually as a missionary. After a remarkably successful career in converting the pagan Irish to Christianity, Patrick died in 461 bequeathing to his converts numerous legends which became more and more elaborate as the years passed.

The shamrock, Ireland's trefoliate emblem, was chosen by Patrick in the course of his work to explain the dogma of the trinity to his listeners. Snakes and toads were banished from Erin by the saint, according to legend, and the fact remains that reptiles are unknown in Ireland although they are found in Scotland and England.

THIS AND THAT



The George Mathews - Adams Service, Inc.
"Jack's got laryngitis."

Canada's Front Line Generals

A. B. MATTHEWS

Maj.-Gen. A. B. Matthews, a peacetime investment broker, served with such outstanding ability in the war that he was given command of an overseas division. Son of Hon. Albert Matthews, lieutenant-governor of Ontario, he went from college to the financial field on the staff of Matthews and company

forward with the leading infantry to select advanced positions for medium and field regiments of artillery under his command. By this method, his citation said, he was able to bring effective gunfire to bear on enemy points, enabling the infantry to advance with speed.

Gen. Matthews was a star cricketer in his youth and plays a non-handicap round of golf. His wife, Mrs. Victoria Thorne Matthews, lives in Toronto.

He was mobilized with the rank of major at the outbreak of the war and went overseas with the 1st Canadian Divisional Artillery.

He became second in command of the 1st Medium Regiment, R.C.A. in August, 1940 and following this he commanded the 7th Medium Battery until Sept. 22, 1941, when he was promoted acting lieutenant-colonel and appointed to command the 5th Medium Regiment. He held this appointment until Sept. 4, 1942 when he received an appointment to headquarters, 1st Canadian Corps.

His promotion to the rank of brigadier dates from January 15, 1943, when he became commander of artillery of the 1st Division. He held this appointment in the Sicily and Italian campaigns until March 14, 1943, when he was appointed commander of corps artillery.

Maj.-Gen. Matthews was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for personally reconnoitering ground for the attack on Agira in Sicily when he went

forward with the leading infantry to select advanced positions for medium and field regiments of artillery under his command. By this method, his citation said, he was able to bring effective gunfire to bear on enemy points, enabling the infantry to advance with speed.

Gen. Matthews was a star cricketer in his youth and plays a non-handicap round of golf. His wife, Mrs. Victoria Thorne Matthews, lives in Toronto.

Better English

By D. C. WILLIAMS

1. What is wrong with this sentence? "It was nerve to ask it."
2. What is the correct pronunciation of "different?"
3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Hippodrome, hilarity, hipodermic.
4. What does the word "interminable" mean?
5. What is a word beginning with cont that means to go or act contrary to?

Answers

1. Say, "It was impudent to ask it." 2. Pronounce different, three syllables, not dif-fer-ent.
3. Hippodermic. 4. Endless. "The days and weeks of waiting seemed interminable." 5. Contravene.

Small bouquets are used to absorb the salt from sea water and thus provide lifeboat survivors with drinking water.

PRINCE GEORGE FESTIVAL OF DRAMA - MUSIC

PRINCE GEORGE, March 16—Schools as far west as Hazelton are hoping to send children to the first annual Prince George District Drama-Music Festival here May 3 and 4.

With between 300 and 400 public school children expected, the festival may well be the biggest of its kind ever held in Central British Columbia.

In the music section, competition in chorus, vocal solo, and rhythm band classes is limited to pupils of grades 7 to 8. In the drama section children and adults will compete.

Entry forms are required to be returned to the festival committee here by the end of March.

All net proceeds from the festival will be equitably distributed among the schools taking part.

LETTERBOX

JAPANESE QUESTION

Editor, Daily News:

I was present at the Liberal convention the other day and heard the discussion on the Japanese question which was given a prominence it did not deserve.

The main resolution was based on ill-tempered revenge and the amendment was charged with a high-tailed disregard of realities. The fundamentals of the question were not at all in evidence.

1. The original Japs who came to B. C. did not come as emigrants with the idea of becoming useful citizens seeking the welfare of their adopted land. They were delegates sent, paid and sustained by the Japanese government, with the ulterior purpose of laying the basis for the conquest of the land by the Japs.

2. Their first loyalty has all along been to Japan. They have not encouraged naturalization and even their children are registered with the Japanese council. They are unassimilable and do not intend to be Canadians.

3. They definitely undermine the economic life of the province for their standard of life is far below that of white men.

In Canada they are a form of national exzema, repugnant and irritating, only curable by the explosion of the virus.

H. HALLIWELL.

LILAC FROM PERSIA

The common lilac is said to have come from Persia in the 16th century.



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