

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS ESSENTIAL TO FREE MEN

Suppression Coupled With Imprisonment Without Trial and Denial of Free Speech to Minorities

To the Editor of The Globe and Mail:
The following is taken from Arthur Bryant's weekly article which appears in the Illustrated London News, dated June 27, 1942, and delivered at Hamilton on July 16, 1942:

"We claim, and rightly, that we are fighting this war for freedom—for that we are resolved it is worth making untold sacrifice; laying upon the altar our heritage of wealth, ease and comfort, the transmitted treasures of our great civilized past and, for the second time in twenty-five years, the blood of our noblest and bravest youth. Since this is so, our first care after the war should be to study how to breed free men. For this is not, it should be remembered, a thing that comes to pass automatically. A man is not a free man merely because he happens to be born a Briton or an American, a Greek or a Norwegian, a Czech or a Pole, instead of being born a Prussian. He is so only because he inherits from his forbears

certain institutions and forms of life and certain aptitudes born of those institutions and ways. Destroy them and you destroy freedom. To keep men in prison without trial, to deny freedom of speech of minorities, to suppress newspapers because they print things unpalatable to those in authority or damaging to popular unity and conformity, is as dangerous as to leave an unexploded time-bomb under one's house. It may be necessary in the exigencies of war against totalitarian powers; it often is. But it is unwise to suffer it for a day longer than is absolutely necessary, for, if allowed to remain, it may precipitate unforeseeable consequences."

The above quotation may be of use to you in some way in your splendid editorial page, day after day. At least this is my hope. I always read Arthur Bryant's articles, and find them invigorating and helpful.

W. Murray Alexander,

Hamilton.