Dominion News in Brief

Kentville, N.S.—The farmers of the Annapolis Valley are going in more for mixed farming, including conspicuously dairying and hog raising. At the same time they are extending their apple orchards and in many parts of the Valley large areas of virgin land are being broken up for this purpose.

Saint John, N.B.—A modern fish curing plant will open here in April next year, operated by McCormick and Zatzman. It will be located at Strait Shore.

Sherbrooke, Que.—A census just completed shows Sherbrooke's population to have increased in a year from 23,454 to 25,021—a gain of 1,567.

Hamilton, Ont.—The city of Hamilton claims the largest and most important telephone repeater station in the Dominion, according to the Chamber of Commerce here. The new toll terminal equipment is entirely new in design. It has 46 circuits passing through Hamilton between Toronto and points east and as far as Buffalo and beyond, and between Toronto and points west as far as Detroit. In addition there are 194 circuits composed of physical and phantom, which terminate at Hamilton. The composite ringers recently installed here are the first to be put in in Canada by the Bell Telephone Co.

Winnipeg, Man.—The fur branch of the Industrial Development Board is devoting its attention to muskrat farming in Manitoba. The question of a land survey, food supply and Provincial Government co-operation are being discussed with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Regina, Sask. — According to a statement made by Louis Rosenburg, field representative of the Jewish Colonization Association, Saskatchewan has a bigger proportion of farmers among its Jewish population than any province or state in the world. Out of a total Jewish population of 5,400 nearly 1,500 are permanently settled on farms. Of the fourteen Jewish Farm Colonies established in Canada eight are located in Saskatchewan. In 1925 they marketed approximately 500,000 bushels of wheat.

Calgary, Alta.—The Vulcan well in the Turner Valley field has taken its place as one of the deepest oil wells in the world, having passed the 5,000-foot depth. Both oil and gas have been encountered but the drillers are prepared to go 6,000 feet.

Victoria, B.C.—A record mangel, weighing 38 pounds, has been grown by Dr. Colvert, of the "White House," Sooke River, following other near-records produced on his farm. He has just sold a ton of them, consisting of 100 mangels, averaging 20 pounds apiece.

A Canadian Economic Commission.

BY CHARLES W. PETERSON.

Our colonization problem in Canada is, comparatively speaking, elementary. Money and intelligent organization would solve it. The more difficult problem is holding our rural population. But with greater agricultural prosperity in plain sight, even than will be largely simplified as time goes on. But that we should, in the meanwhile, do everything in our power to arrest our abnormal population leak can hardly be open to argument. What should we do about it? The answer, if answer there is, would obviously constitute a detailed and complete chart of the economic sea showing the safe harbors, the shoals and the hidden rocks. We must, of course, make the average man in Canada so contented and prosperous that emigration would have no attractions for him, which would naturally be the goal of all rational statesmanship.

THE POLITICAL CHART.

Theoretically, our political leaders and our public services should work out these detailed, sailing directions in co-operation. Practically, one can hardly imagine a more hopeless machine for such a purpose. Democratic politics is primarily concerned with party welfare. Its appeal is to the great body—the least intelligent of voters. It is swayed this way and that way by popular prejudice. Politics is concerned with herd psychology and mass hysteria. Political leaders frequently—perhaps generally—know what should be done in the best interest of the country, but uninformed, mass opinion dictates policy in the end. As to the public service—our bureaucracy—it has in its multitude of watertight compartments all the detailed data we may need to form intelligent conclusions on economic questions and it contains within its ranks may brilliant and resourceful technical men, but co-operation and team work—the conference spirit—is totally lacking.

THE LIGHT THAT FAILED.

We did, however, once upon a time, actually make a gesture designed to get below the surface and to attempt to make an intelligent survey of Canada's economic situation from which, presumably, public policies might have been formulated and placed before the country, backed by the very considerable prestige naturally attached to a program worked out by a non-political body of able men, many of them of national reputation, giving their services gratuitously and solely from motives of public spirit. I refer to the late, lamented "Economic Commission," which, after gathering a vast amount of vital information, for some reason that has never been explained to the public, failed to complete its labor and make a report. I am credibly informed that its preliminary findings were "uncomfortable" to the government of the day, resulting in even these being sternly suppressed. It is understood that a mass of useful information was gathered by this body and drastic recommendations were made on many subjects. These are, presumably, still on record in the dusty tomes at Ottawa.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

I may, however, be permitted to offer the suggestion that in spite of the fact that public policies in Canada have always, and to a glaring extent, revolved around urban interests, the "high spots" in our economic riddle will not be found in our towns and cities, but in our countryside. All our troubles would admittedly be over if Canada could to-day boast of a reasonably self-contained and prosperous agriculture, producing and consuming on double the present scale. That such a situation could be brought about within a limited term of years admits of no argument whatever. We have the "manless land," elsewhere they have the "landless men." The task of bringing them together is merely a question of intelligent business management and agricultural prosperity is in the offing. If the average Canadian could create a state of mind which would conscientiously regard this task as the supreme responsibility of his government, not omitting to articulate his convictions, the thing is done.

George V. to Have Office Building as Neighbor

London.—With the announcement this week of a new property deal by which an imposing mansion in Buckingham Palace Road will be converted into an office building it appears certain that King George within a short time will be surrounded entirely by tradesmen and professional men.

Formerly Buckingham Palace was the centre of the fashionable residential district of the West End, but the King has been losing his neighbors rapidly in recent months as commercial interests have encroached almost up to the palace gates. The King's new neighbors now include the headquarters of the Boy Scouts, the Girl Guides and the Imperial Refence College, as well as cookery experts and pupils, the sanitation authorities and a school for dress designers.

Good Guesser.

A lady engaged a new gardener, and after breakfast one day she sauntered out among the flowers. Seeing the new man hard at work, she said:

"Well, and how is my Sweet William this morning?"

"First rate, thanks, ma'am," replied the man of the spade. "But how did you know my name?"

The best art: Painting a smile upon the face of a child.

GREAT HORNED OWLS KILL FIVE GEESE AND SEVEN PHEASANTS IN TWO DAYS

Ontario great horned owls are numerous in the Toronto suburban districts at present and are causing serious loss among game and barnyard fowl. Among the heaviest losers has been George Hebden Corsan, senior, owner of the Echo Valley Game Farm at Islington. Within two days Mr. Corsan lost five blue geese averaging ten pounds in weight and seven pheasants. A flock of blue and snow geese are shown at the top. The inset shows the first blue goose victim surrounded by traps to catch the owls. The lower picture shows Mr. Corsan with a female great horned owl. Two owls have been captured but the one above killed and ate her companion.

Successful Meeting Ornithologists Union.

Representative bird-lovers from the United States, Australia, and Canada to the number of 140 gathered in Ottawa for the meeting of the American Ornithologists Union in the Victoria Memorial Museum during the four days October 11 to 14. The opening day was devoted to the business of the Union and the election of officers.

Dr. Alex. Wetmore, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, District of Columbia, was elected president for the ensuing year. The other principal officers of the Union are: vice-presidents, Dr. Joseph Grinnell, Berkley, California, and Mr. James H. Fleming, Toronto, Ontario; secretary, Mr. T. S. Palmer Washington; treasurer, Mr. W. L. McAtee, Washington.

The next three days were taken up with papers on different phases of bird protection and one of the most important resolutions passed deprecated any general compaign against hawks or owls and protested the use of the word "vermin" in reference to these two species.

Luncheon was served to the members during the meetings at the Museum and through the courtesy of the Department of the Interior buffalo meat was included in the menu. This treat, which was supplied from the great herd in Buffalo National park at Wainwright, Alberta, was greatly enjoyed by the delegates.

Official field excursions were conducted after the business of the meeting was finished, the first being to Kingsmere on October 15. Some of the excursionists had the pleasure of inspecting the gardens of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King, who had kindly opened his grounds for this occasion. An excursion to Blue Sea lake in the Laurentian highlands was attended by thirty-nine members.

The next meeting of the Union will be held in Washington, D.C., in the fall of 1927.

Men Make Best Cooks British Novelist Claims

London.—Men are more interested in food and therefore make the best cooks, declares Norman Venner, novelist, in "The London Soroptimist," official organ of the Soroptimist Club.

"No woman should ever be a cook, as men manage much better, being more interested in things to eat," says Mr. Venner, who contends that no woman should ever be captain of a ship, as the sea is too masculine an element. No woman, he goes on, should ever be in charge of an automatic road drill, or a steam crane, or a battery of howitzers; no woman should ever be a soldier, sailor, tinker, tramp, professional wrestler, driver or boilermaker. But apart from these the world of human effort is open to the woman worker.

"And I for one," says the author, "only hope they will get on with it in large numbers."

Has Sufficient Ships to Protect British in China

London.—Word has come from Vice-Admiral Sir Edwyn Alexander-Sinclair, of the British China station, that he believes he has sufficient strength to protect British lives.

W. C. Bridgeman, First Lord of the Admiralty, announced the receipt of the message while speaking at Bromley. He said the Admiralty had replied to the Admiral telling him, "If you haven't enough we will do our best to send you further reinforcements."

What About Wrong Numbers?

There is a firm of watchmakers in Paris who, with every watch they sell, give a guarantee that the owner may be telephoned free of charge and told to get up in the morning; reminded by telephone of urgent appointments; and have the right to telephone any hour of the day or night and ask the exact time!

BRITISH VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES

Detachment from the Outside World, Press Says, Cannot Long Endure.

London.—The United States' independence of world conditions is featured in British newspapers, which have at last begun seriously to discuss the recent elections.

The Times says: "The people of the United States are in the full enjoyment of a period of extraordinary prosperity and wealth, diffused more widely among all classes than in any other country or at any other time. They are content with the felicity of their condition, and contentment disinclines men to large changes in the system under which they are happy and under which they know themselves to be happy. This period may be transient, and some of its financial and economic foundations are insecure in the judgment of many American financiers and students, as well as in that of European experts.

"But no popular electorate is likely to listen to the prophets of evil, however eminent and however well-informed. They will not listen unless and until they begin to feel the pressure of economic laws and economic facts in their own personal affairs. If and when that day should come, they will scrutinize election programs and exercise their electoral franchises even in 'off years,' with a new sense of interest and of responsibility."

The Manchester Guardian is more explicit. "Apart altogether," it says "from such disruptive forces as prohibition, fundamentalism or Ku Klux Klan, we may expect to see, perhaps by the time the next President is elected, the evidence of complicated changes strong enough to force the political parties into new forms and with fresh methods of popular appeal. Nor, again, is it conceivable that the American electorate can maintain its present remarkable detachment from and indifference to the concerns of the outside world."

Natural Resources Bulletin.

Perhaps one of the least known or explored parts of Canada is the great peninsula of Gaspe jutting out into the Gulf of the St. Lawrence for 160 miles and with a width about half as great. Yet this is one of Canada's most picturesque and oldest regions with great resources of timber, fisheries, game and minerals.

The peninsula may be said to be, historically, the oldest part of Canada, for it was on its shores near the town of Gaspe that Jacques Cartier, in the year 1534, landed and claimed the country for his sovereign, the King of France. Although the first discovered part of Canada, the peninsula is still largely covered with primeval forest.

There being no roads or railways across the peninsula, direct communication between the settlements in the north and those in the south does not exist. The lack of roads from north to south is, of course, accounted for by the chain of Shickshock mountains which are very rugged and run from 2,000 to more than 4,000 feet in height. The Quebec Provincial Dept. of Roads will shortly open a highway which will run completely around the peninsula.

The population of the two Gaspe coasts is quite different. Along the north coast the people are mainly French Canadians of the "habitant" type. Along the south shore the Acadian French are in the majority, although here and there is found the habitant who has drifted in from other parts of the province. The two differ in both language and customs; as a rule the habitant is agricultural while the Acadian is a fisherman. Settlements of Scotch and Irish are also to be found, sharply marked off from each other and from their French-speaking neighbors. Another important group on the southern and eastern coasts of Gaspe are the Jersey and Guernsey people who have for generations been fishermen on these coasts. In fact, from the point of view of race, language and folklore, Gaspe forms one of the most unique parts of Canada.

The Serf.

His naked skin clothed in the torrid mist
That puffs in smoke around the patient hooves,
The ploughman drives, a slow somnambulist,
And through the green his crimson furrow grooves;
His heart, more deeply than he wounds the plain
Long by the rasping share of insult torn,
Red clod, to which the war-cry once was rain
And tribal spears the fatal sheaves of corn,
Lies fallow now. But as the turf divides,
I see in the slow progress of his strides
Over the toppled clods and falling flowers
The timeless, surely patience of the serf
That moves the nearest to the naked earth
And plows down palaces and thrones and towers.

—Roy Campbell.

Black and White.

Farmer (proudly showing off his pig)—"Yes, sir, that is the cutest little pig I have, and I've named him 'Ink.' "

Visitor—"How's that?"

"'Cause he's always running out of the pen."

Girl Makes Baking Powder.

Among Norway's successful business women is a girl of eighteen who owns and operates a factory for making baking powder from a recipe that has been for generations a secret in her family.

Just Like That.

The newlyweds had moved into a home near a railroad. As the fifth train rumbled by the bride said:

"These trains do make a great deal of noise, don't they?"

"Oh, after the first few days you won't mind it," replied the husband.

"Then let's go to mother's for the first few days."

Happiness at work comes from working, not shirking.

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher.

That's Carrying the Deception Too Far.