Our American Cousins Fed on Misinformation

American Farm Journal Gives Extraordinary Editorial Which Invites Comment From Our Hydro Electric Province

THE FACTS FOR OUR READERS

Under a prominent heading an American farm journal ("Successful Farming") gives its readers some strange information. The article is headed as follows:

ONE-THIRD OF FARMS ARE MODERNIZED

Then comes the bald statement:

One out of every three New York State farms uses electricity. It is also shown that each home has an average of 23 outlets, 12 for each tenant home and 9 for the barn.

The editorial continues: "There were 860 motors on 1,181 farms, nearly 30 per cent. of which were of quarter horsepower and the great majority were of one horsepower or less, used mostly for milking machines, pumping, cream separating, shopwork, etc.

"Aside from lighting, electricity is most used in these New York homes for irons, vacuum cleaners and washing machines. And in decreasing number used for toasting, battery charging, curling irons, heaters, percolators and sewing machines. Less frequent use is made of electric pads, stoves, grills, fans, waffle irons, hat plates, ranges and refrigerators.

"It would seem that these New Yorkers have stuck pretty closely to the cheaper equipment and the uses that most relieved the workers from drudgery. If it were not for this factor, refrigerators should stand well at the head of the list, and fans have a very important place. Only about a fifth of them are pumping water by this efficient method.

"In other states or localities the equipment will vary according to the way in which equipment has been made popular by salesmanship or demonstration, or perhaps buying ability."

Worthy of Comment

If this journal did not have any Canadian circulation one might simply pass the article by with a shrug and a smile, but many Canadians will see it, and the editor of this page cannot refrain from comment.

U.S. Authority (?) Quoted

A certain Professor A. E. Stewart of the United States has recently been in the public eye owing to the publication of a pamphlet striving to point out how much better privately operated electrical production plants are than publicly-owned projects. In this pamphlet he failed adequately to bring out the accomplishments of the Ontario electrical undertaking, effecting certain comparisons, on the basis of percentage of farms served, between Ontario and some of the States of the Union.

Doesn't Mention N.Y. State

Of the States cited by this writer, the State showing the greatest percentage of farms using electricity was California, where the extensive use of electric power for irrigation pumping has simplified the difficulties of rural electrification. Even in the case of California, however, only 23 per cent. of the farms were reported as using electricity. In the other States mentioned, the percentages ranged from 7 per cent. to 2 per cent. The per cent. of farms using electricity in New York State was not even mentioned, and it seems certain that if the figure had been 33 per cent., or even one-tenth of that amount, it would not have been omitted by Professor Stewart. For the whole of the United States, Professor Stewart estimated that about 2.6 per cent. of the farms were electrified, and as this includes California and the other selected States, it seems clear that the per cent. of farms receiving electrical service in New York State must have been very small indeed.

The New York State Public Service Commission has jurisdiction over all electrical utilities serving consumers in the State, but, in the extensive statistical reports published by it, rural consumers are not regarded as being sufficiently numerous to justify separate classification.

Ontario's Rural Service

The rapid extension of facilities for electrical service in rural Ontario is a noteworthy source of satisfaction to all who have at heart the best interests of the Province as a whole, and agricultural industry in particular. Every since, in 1910, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario began to transmit power from Niagara Falls over the first sections of its transmission lines, the problem of providing electrical service in rural districts has been studied. Various means of overcoming the handicap of high cost of service which is inherent in territory where consumers are so much more widely separated than in the cities and towns, were investigated, and the first rural lines were constructed in 1912. It was not, however, until some years later that the co-operation of the farmers and of the Provincial Government had been enlisted to such an extent that a really rapid expansion of the service was possible.

Some Startling Figures

The activity that has been in evidence in recent years may be illustrated from figures taken from the Annual Report of the Commission for 1927. To the end of that year, rural primary lines totalling 3,100 miles in length, and costing over $6,600,00, had been approved for construction. Of these, over 2,900 miles were in actual operation, serving 25,000 consumers, distributed over an area of about 12,000 square miles in 211 townships. It is planned to construct, in 1928, and probably in subsequent years, additional rural lines at the rate of about 1,000 miles per year. Extensions can be made from the power lines that traverse the Province wherever there are thre farm consumers or the equivalent for each mile of line needed to distribute the electrical energy.

The Cost of Power

As in the case of the towns and cities, service is given at cost, with the additional advantage in the case of rural power districts, that the Provincial Government, as part of its policy of assisting agriculture in various ways, makes a grant towards a part of the original cost of constructing the lines, which reduces the interest an dsinking fund payable by the farmers. The average charge for rural consumers in 1927 amounted to about $4 per month. Considering that the service, in a large portion of cases, included lighting of barns as well as houses, the operation of motors for such farm work as feed-chopping, milking, separating, silo-filling and water pumping, and also in many cases, an electric range, and other household appliances, the average charge of $4 is remarkably reasonable. Out of the revenue derived at these rates, however, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission pays all expenses of producing and delivering the power, pays off a part of the original cost of all the equipment used, from the generating station to the last distribution transformer, and has a substantial surplus in hand that can be returned to the consumers. Last year, there was returned in cash about $230,000, from the surplus of previous years.

Users Benefit

It is found that, when a rural power district is first built, some of the farmers are hesitant about taking the service, and others do not make full use consumers enter into contract with of it. In a short time, however, more the Commission, and all soon find it profitable to extend their use of electricity. Under service at cost, the effect is to reduce the charges, as is clearly seen from the figures in the report. While the "service charges" for farmers in the "light farm service" class, for example, may be as high as $4.55 a month in some of the newer districts, yet in the older districts the "service charge" may be as low as $2.50 per month for the same classification. It is anticipated that this tendency to increase the use of this beneficial service, as well as to reduce the cost, will characterize future operations in the field of rural electrical development in the Province of Ontario. So, on the whole, Ontario compares not so badly with any State in the Union to the South.

New Mayon Crater Terrorizes Filipinos

Villagers at the Volcano's Base Flee Beore Flowing Lava as the Earth Rocks

Manila (Sunday).—Belching tons of lava, the volcano Mayon early to-day was in the throes of its worst eruption since 1900, with a series of earth shocks rocking the countryside and spreading terror over the western portion of Albay Province.

Hours after the first molten rock shot high into the air the lava flow and earth rumblings continued. At the first sign of renewed activity natives fled and, with the disturbance continuing, the few remaining inhabitants of the little town of Libog, near the foot of the mountain, moved to safety.

As molten rock, fire and ashes shot skyward from a new crater which opened yesterday about 500 feet from the summit, women and children paraded the streets of Legaspi, their song sand prayers for divine protection mingling with cries of alarm. When lava from the new crater hit the base of the mountain it splashed a quarter of a mile.

A vast area slowly was being covered as the lava flowed to lower levels. Considerable damage had been done in the higher country and a stream has been dried up by the hot liquid rock.

Mayon began eruptions of serious proportions in June and continued until early July, when the disturbance apparently had been ended. At that time Governor General Stimson visited the province to inspect the situation and added his assurance to that of scientists that the worst of the cycle of eruptions had passed. Thousands of natives who had fled at the first rumbling then gradually filtered back to their homes.

If the colleges are going in for intellectual championship contests, some provision should be made for the lightweight class.—Springfield Republican.

Will Vie With England's Best

LATEST AND LARGEST ZEPPELIN IS CHRISTENED

The L-127, which its German builders hope will cross the Atlantic with passengers, before the English complete the R-100, now building.

Alsatian Chief Is Released By M. Poincaré

Dr. Ricklin, Leader of Autonomists in Chamber, Receives a Pardon

Paris. — President Gaston Dermergue, at the instance of the French Government, has pardoned Dr. Ricklin, leader of the Alsatian Autonomists, whise condemnation to prison at the Colmar trials last May aroused a furore in France and whose election to Parliament created consternation in Government circles. Three other Autonomists imprisoned at the same time have been recently set free, and that action is regarded as among the most courageous which the Government has taken since Raymond Poincare has been Premier. Thus Poincare follows Britain's methods with subject rebels. Smutts and Botha of recent date made true imperial subjects. So, France will find, will these Alsatians.

These Alsatians, however, in the course of their trial, pleaded that their demands for an autonomius government in Alsace was the limit of their wishes and that never did they desire Alsatian withdrawal from France. They reiterated that they had fought the Germans on the same point as strongly as they have opposed the complete absorption into France.

Following the armistice there have been French governments which have admittedly proceeded too fast in trying to make all Alsatians good Frenchmen. The efforts were too strenuous to teach French to the inhabitants who knew only German, and to break up a system of confessional schools which applied to Alsace and not to France. M. Poincare saw that Alsace must be absolutely a part of France, but that the process of assimilation must be gradual.

The Alsatians could be encouraged and were ready to be loyal Frenchmen, but could not be bullied. Wisely, Mr. Poincare has busied himself reversing the mistaken policies and has promised that the Government would "respect their traditions and customs and preserve so long as they had the desire their school and religious system, namely the confessional and bilingual instruction and a regime of the concordat."

M. Poincare went further and appointed an Alsatian, Alfred Oberkirch, Undersecretary of State to advise on Alsatian matters. Finally he has allowed the sentenced Alsatian leaders to go free. In every way the Government has shown its good will, and though there may be some grumbling now, if the Alsatians are wise and show in Parliament their sole wish is to be thorough Frenchmen, the past will be forgotten and the Alsatian problem may quite probably be completely liquidated. Certainly a splendid beginning has been made.

Magistrate: "You say the plaintiff is a relative of yours?" Witness: "Yes, by bigamy."

Canada's Treaties

By R. J. Deachman.

This is the open season for Trade Treaties. Minister of Finance Robb has put through a few more. Financial experts on the other side of the House cry "Ruin!" The cry is a bit far fetched. The fountains of the Great Deep will not be broken up because we increase either our exports to, or our improts from Checko-Slovakia, Esthonia or Portugal.

Our Trade Treaties.

We have made a number of Trade Treaties in the past andthey seem to have done some good. Our trade with those countries is in a really prosperous condition. Canada has treaties or has admitted to treaty privileges, France, Belgium, Holland and Italy, and a number of others. The United States, on the other hand, has a stand-and deliver- tariff. No concessions are made to anybody. They work on the theory that the foreigner pays the tariffs. Mr. Dooley exploded that long ago when he said: "Yis, the forinerpays, providin' he gets past Ellis Island!"

It is not difficult to determine what has really happened in regard to our Treaties with different countries. We can get a clear idea, by making comparisons between Canada and the United States. We can also go back to the days before those Treaties were made and note the changes which have taken place since. It is customary to suggest that we have been in the habit of giving away our birthright. How we sell our birthright in disposing of wheat out of which the "Dagoes" make macaroni, is a problem which we prefer to leave to others. If a part of our birthright goes with each bushel, wouldn't the same amount of birth-right go out with a bushel of "Yankee" wheat?

Nineteen hundred and twenty-two, as everybody knows, was the bottom of post-war depression. If we take the comparative imports and exports of Canada and the United States with France, Belgium, Holland and Italy in 1922 and again in 1927, we will have an idea as to the relative progress made by the two countries during this period:

Canadian and American Trade With France, Belgium, Holland and Italy

	Exports of United States	Imports of United States
1922	$602,353,364	$296,848,737
1927	624,865,134	436,116,177
	Exports of Canada	**Imports of Canada**
1922	$45,488,260	$22,171,140
1927	82,190,104	49,083,598

You will note from these figures that exports from the United States to the countries named increased in the period by more than 3 per cent. Exports from Canada went up over 80 per cent. Total increase of exports from the United States amounted to over $22,000,000. From Canada in the same period, exports increased over $30,000,000. On the other hand, American imports increased $140,000,000. Canadian imports by approximately $26,000,000. It is interesting to note that United States figures reveal exports as fairly stationary—in Canada there is a sharp increase. In both countries imports are up. In 1922 the United States imported 49c for every dollar of exports—Canada, 48c. In 1927, the United States imported 70c for every dollar of exports—Canada 60c for every dollar of exports.

The Credit Balances

Then, having failed in all other arguments, the apostle's misery proceeded to tell us that anyway, if we have increased our exports, it is only in agricultural products and these, of course, make no difference. Glance back for a moment at the figures in the story. In 1922, we had in round figures, a credit balance in our trade with these four Treaty countries of $22,000,000. That is, after paying for our imports from these countries we had $22,000,000 of a credit balance available for the purchase of other things. In 1927, our balance was $32,000,000. Nor were all our exports agricultural products. The Belgium convention was made in the fiscal year of 1924. We shipped to Belgium that year, goods to the value of $17,452,442, of which $14,850,206 was composed of agricultural products. In 1927, the exports were $21,341,116, of which $16,445,885 were agricultural products—in other words, our exports of products other than "crude agricultural" are now almost double what they were before the Treaty, or exports of non-agricultural products increased as much during three years of treaty operation as in all previous times.

The world's trade continues to grow from generation to generation. Yet the world to-day, is only at the beginning of commercial development. We shall laugh a generation hence at the puny volume of the nation's business as transacted to-day.

Of course, it is quite true that the Treaties are not of tremendous importance. They are however, minute tiny infinitesimal lowerings of the blockade of production which stifles our growth and checks the progress of agriculture, mining and manufacturing. No one could criticise them, save in the sense that they do not go far enough to do much good. The arguments used against them in the House of Commons are senseless beyond words. Still, members of Parliament must have their fling—the common people take a saner view—more treaties would be welcome—broadening out th existing ones would be a help. Every stone knocked off high tariff walls helps forward National development.

The Canada Year Book, 1927-28

The publication of the Canada Year Book, 1927-28, is announced by the General Statistics Branch of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This comprehensive volume, which is now ready for public distribution, is the official statistical annual dealing with the resources, history, institutions and socal and economic conditions of the Dominion. The present edition has been thoroughly revised throughout and includes in all its sections the latest information up to the date of going to press.

The present issue of the Year Book extends to 1,100 pages, and is divided into fifteen sections, as follows:—(1) Physiography, including the geography, topography, geology, climate and natural resources of Canada: (2) History and Chronology, including a chronology of Canada by years since 1497; (3) Constitution and Government, with an account of the history of the Dominion Parliament and the Dominion franchise; (4) Population, including summary figures of the census of 1921, and a detailed treatment of vital statistics and immigration, together with a statement on immigration policy; (5) Production, including a general survery of Canadian production and sections dealing with agriculture, forestry, furs, fisheries, mines and minerals, waterpower, manufactures and construction; (6) Trade and Commerce, giving details of Canadian foreign trade and of interprovincial and local trade; (7) Transportation and Communications, with subsections on government control over transportation agencies, steam and electric railways, express companies, roads and highways, motor vehicles, air navigation, canals, shipping and navigation, telegraphs, telephones and post office; (8) Labor and Wages, including an account of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Labor and the International operation, industrial combinations and current wages, as well as wages statistics based on the census of 1921; (9) Prices, including wholesale and retail prices, security prices and prices of services; (10) Finance, with detailed treatments of Dominion, provincial and municipal finance, national wealth and income, currency and banking, and insurance; (11) Education, dealing with general education, technical and higher education; (12) Public Health and Benevolence; (13) Administration, including subsections dealing with the adminstration of public lands, national defence, public works, Indian affairs, soldiers' civil re-establishment and miscellaneous administration; (14) Sources of Statistical and Other Information Relative to Canada, with lists of the publications of Dominion and Provincial Government Departments, including those of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics; and (15) The Annual Register, 1927, with a review of recent Dominion and Provincial legislation, principal events of the year and important extracts from the Canada Gazette.

Among the new features incorporated in the present edition of the Lear Book are the following:—A special article on the Climate of Canada, contributed by Sir Frederic Stupart, Director of the Meteorological Service of Canada; a summary of the results of the census of the Prairie Provinces, taken in 1926; improved statistics of immigration, including the languages, nationalites and birthplaces of immigrants; preliminary results of the census of manufactures for 1926 as well as detailed analyses of these statistics for 1925; an extended discussion of Canadian trade; a summary of the first authoritative statement on the tourist rade of Canada; maerial on the traffic and the financial opsition of the Canadian National Railways; a special article on Canadian legislation respecting Combination in Restraint of Trade, by the Registrar of the Combines Investigation Act; an important study of the wages statistics collected at the Census o 1921; he results of a new study of the national wealth of Canada as in 1925. The appendix contains figures of immigration and of trade for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1928. The volume, which is illustrated by many more maps and diagrams than in previous years, also includes an index with some 4,000 page-references, and an eight-page Statistical Summary of the Progress of Canada since 1871.

The Year Book is obtainable from the King's Printer, Ottawa, at the price of $2.00, this figure covering merely the cost of paper and binding.

England's Green and Pleasant Land

New Statesman (London): By what process or machinery can we arrest the devastation of England, prevent the absorption of fields, woods and downs, and make certain the means of access for the towns populations to open country? In none of the three speeches at Winchester in which he touched upon the theme —nearest, perhaps, of all themes to his heart—did Mr. Baldwin hint at a positive policy. . . He has himself proclaimed that the period of grace for the English countryside is brief enough. In these columns last year year the suggestion was made that the conservation of the English country, being a national concern, can be dealt with only by a national authority, within or allied with, the Ministry of Health. If there is an alternative, what is it? If there is none, why should not the present Prime Minister, more closely identified with this vital interest than any of his predecessors, resolve to face the challenge while the power remains in his hands?

BLOTTO!

If you dislike stories about tipsy men, then do not read this one.

It concerns the man who phoned his hostess that he was very drunk indeed and had decided not to come to her formal dinner that night.

She implored him—he is a wit and a handsome fellow—to plunge into a cold bath, for her sake, and appear somehow or other. An hour later he did appear, clad, the hostess was relieved to see, in the conventional things and able to carry himself off as brilliantly as ever even to a happy phrase when he took his departure.

Thust she was greatly surprised to receive a note from him the next afternoon, written in obvious distress.

He was so sorry, he wrote, and he begged her forgiveness for something which was, he realized, unforgivable, but he had been suddenly called out of town on urgent business the day before and that was why he had not been able to attend her dinner.

The travelling man opened the telegram and read: "Twins arrived tonight, more by mail."

Etiquette note in English paper—"You may tilt your plate slightly if you need to, but always away from you; don't try to scoop up the very last drop. And never break your bread or roll in your soup."

The following schoolgirl howlers are genuine and were given by some pupils in a school near Cape Town: "A mammal is the female of all things except worms and insects"; "Hooted mammals are such as oxen. Their feet are hoofed to assist them in climbing"; "Bats are very blind and are especially attracted by the light."

Our Royal Family Are True Lovers of Sport

QUEEN MARY AND KING GEORGE WATCH HELEN WILLS WIN AT WIMBLEDON

Prince Arthur of Connaught, the Earl of Athlone, Queen Mary of England (who is seldom seen wearing spectacles), the Countess of Athlone, King George and at the extreme right, Lady May Cambridge, at the final matches when Helen Wills won for the second consecutive year.