British Mountain Climbers To Attempt "Home of Gods"

Expedition Planned Early This Year to Scale Second Highest Peak in Empire

London.—A group of British mountain climbers is planning a new attempt to reach the home of the Buddhist gods.

Plans are almost complete for an expedition early in 1931 to Mount Kamet, in the Himalayas, second highest peak in the British Empire, and yet unscaled. If the climbers succeed they will have reached a higher summit than any other party.

Led by Frank Smythe, a member of the expedition which was defeated on Kinchenjunga slopes last year, the party will leave London for India late in February.

Mount Kamet, 25,431 feet high, is one of the loftiest of the western Himalayan range. Other attempts to scale it have been made, but the most successful did not reach within 2,000 feet of the top.

Smythe will be accompanied by Squadron Leader E. B. Beauman, R. L. Holdsworth and Dr. Raymond Green, of Oxford.

"We shall start from Almore at the east base of the mountain." Smythe said, "We shall, of course, have to encounter the opposition of superstition.

"Buddhists believe that the mountain tops are the homes of the gods and that a strange race of extraordinary ape-like men—the snowmen—inhabit the mountains. I hope to be able to break down these beliefs."

Flowerpot Island To Be Reinforced

Ottawa Acts to Protect Land From Erosion in Georgian Bay

Ottawa.—Flowerpot Island in Georgian Bay has been turned over to the National Parks' Branch of the Department of Interior. It is situated at the north end of Bruce Peninsula and is known as Flowerpot because of two rock formations that resemble huge flower pots. They have been formed by erosion of the waves and have trees growing on the top. The parks branch will reinforce the "Flowerpots" as their bases are in danger of being entirely eaten away by the action of the waves.

The island contains 475 acres and will be left in its present wild state, except that shelters and other accommodations for campers will be provided. The lighthouse and lighthouse keeper's home will not be disturbed; the portion of the island they occupy will remain the property of the Department of Marine.

The National Park will now have 28 or 29 islands in Georgian Bay for the use of the public. Flowerpot Island was surrendered by the Chippewa Indians in 1956 and has been held in trust recently by the Department of Indian Affairs, to which the parks branch will pay $165 for it.

Farmer Finds Diamond Worth a Fortune

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil—A magnificent blue-white diamond, weighing 51 carats, has been found accidentally by a poor field worker near the village of Balisa, State of Goyas, who sold it for less than $10,000 to some wealthy farmers of the Araguaya River diamond district. The unique stone was later resold to a Rio diamond merchant, its price not being disclosed. It had to be cut in two sizes, the largest weighing 20 carats and the smaller 10.

This is not the first large diamond found in Brazil. Since the first diamonds were discovered in 1725, Brazilian mines have yielded numerous matchless stones. The crown stone of Portugal, known as the Braganza, was discovered in Brazil, on the slopes of the Itambe Mountains, State of Minas Geraes. It has the fabulous weight of 1680 carats. The famous "Star of the South" which weighs 125½ carats and which belongs to the Gaekwar of Baradio, was discovered in the Bagagem diamond district, and weighed 255½ carats before cutting. It is one of the most marvelous gems of its kind, being valued at over $100,000

Among the most important recent discoveries, the matchless pink diamond "Southern Cross" stands out. The purchasers of this stone say it is the largest pink diamond in the world. It was found July, 1929, in the Abaete River diamond district, Minas Geraes, and weighs 118 carats. The stone is still uncut.

Ottawa Seismograph Registers Earthquake

Ottawa.—An earthquake of four hours' duration was registered on the seismograph at the Dominion Experimental Farm Observatory here the morning of January 2nd. The quake, whose epicentre was estimated to be 2,530 miles distant from the Capital, was described by the seismologist as severe. Owing to the light character of the preliminary tremors, it was impossible to determine the direction from here of the quake's origin.

Australia to Limit Alien Immigration

Canberra, Australia.—The Government has decided to restrict alien immigration until the country's position improves sufficiently to warrant the lifting of the ban.

The Commonwealth wishes to cooperate with all countries concerned and has notified the shipping companies that it is undesirable to give facilities to immigrants for travel to Australia.

Apart from British immigrants, only those already possessing permits issued on behalf of the Government will be permitted to enter the country. Tourists and business men will not be affected.

Toronto to Have Huge Telescope

Astronomical Observatory Will Be Erected By Mrs. D. A. Dunlap

Toronto.—An astronomical observatory which will be one of the finest in the world will be erected in Toronto in the near future, according to a recent announcement by Prof. C. A. Chant, head of the Department of Astronomy, University of Toronto. The observatory will be erected by Mrs. D. A. Dunlap, and her son, D. Moffat Dunlap, as a memorial to the late David A. Dunlap, who died six years ago and will be known as the "David Dunlap Observatory."

The outstanding feature of the observatory will be a large reflecting telescope 74 inches in diameter. There is only one of greater aperture in the world, that on Mount Wilson in California. The instrument is already under construction in England, and will be housed in a circular metal building. The building will be erected near the city on a large acreage to be converted into a park, and the park itself will be known as David Dunlap Park. The observatory will be under the department of astronomy, of the university, while the faculty of forestry will be in charge of development of the park.

Astronomy and geology were both favorite studies of the late David Dunlap, but the former had a peculiar attraction for him. He was a keen student of the heavens. The new project, Prof. Chant stated, has been under consideration for the last five years, and will now be brought to completion. In working out the plans, Mrs. Dunlap has had the assistance of Professor Chant, one of Canada's best known astronomers.

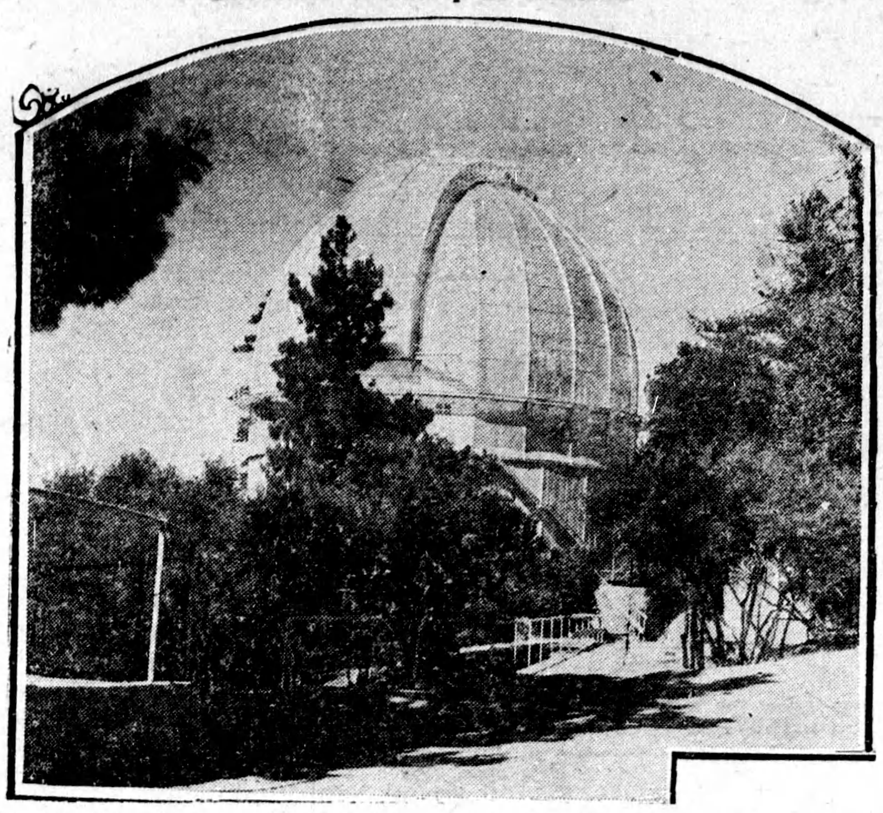
Telegraph Wires Sing Weather Note

Like the proverbial squeal of the pig in the packing houses,, science finally has found a use even for the singing sound of telegraph wires in the wind. At a recent meeting of the Academy of Sciences, in Paris, M. Albert Nodon, already known for researches in weather science and in radio, described a way of using this singing of the wires to forecast the weather. If two reasonably long wires are strung on pole lines at right angles to each other, one wire running north and south, for example, while the other wire runs east and west, it is noticed, M. Nodon reports, that the singing of one of these wires represents at any one instant, a different intensity or a different musical note from the singing of the other wire. Using special electric recorders to keep track of these variations, M. Nodon found that they correspond almost exactly with the arrival of oceanic or other storms. Sound waves or air currents from the storms themselves cannot explain the phenomena, M. Nodon states, for the wires begin to sing while the storm still is scores or hundreds of miles away. The true mechanism, he believes, is that electric charges in the atmosphere in advance of a storm set the wires into vibration as a result of electro-static charges on the clouds or ets on the plains and prairies long the ground. Amateur weather prophhave claimed that telegraph wires sing before a storm, only to be ridiculed by weather experts. Now M. Nodon brings them the beginnings of vindication.

Swans

Seven swans, like galleons,
Came sailing by today,
Seven yellow beaks over seven white throats,
Down among the mud-banks and bones of old boats,
Thinking all the time of their quiet castle moats
Where the cool-leafed, broad-leafed water lily floats.
Seven swans, like galleons,
Came sailing by today,
Cream curving necks like the prows of stately ships,
In among the dead wharves and gangrene-rotten ships.
Thinking all the time of where the placid willow sips,
And the rainbow-flashing, lightning-dashing kingfisher dips.
—John Desmond Sheridan, in Everyman.

Einstein's Workshop In California



Mount Wilson Observatory, near Pasadena, Calif., inside which is 100-inch telescope, where Prof. Albert Einstein will carry on his research work while on his visit to California.

Gold Crisis Parley Opens in Paris

Paris—The problem of gold reserves, which is troubling both France and England, the former because they are too large, the latter because they are too small, is being discussed by treasury representatives of the French and British Governments, who are meeting in Paris for a series of preliminary discussions, leading to a later conference in London. While France has been accumulating the world's second largest gold reserve, there has been a simultaneous drain on British gold stocks, and the present conversations are being undertaken with a view to the best means whereby the two countries can cooperate to solve their respective problems.

It is now generally recognized that the Bank of France has been for some time seeking means to prevent a further influx of gold, it is said, which has not come about through any desire to accumulate vast stocks, but from natural economic causes. The manager of the Paris branch of the Westminster Foreign Bank, in a statement to the continental edition of the Daily Mail, declares that the only real remedy appears to be the increase of French foreign investments, which he considers imminent.

There is no doubt that, should Franco-British conversations result in a better distribution of gold, an important step would have been taken toward amelioration of economic conditions in Europe generally.

Solitude

By BETTY GOURRE (Toronto) ..

O- blessed Solitude!
Midst jostling crowds,
That press upon each side,
The hostile eyes,
That stare,
These strangers
Everywhere.
How I long to be alone,
Leave the busy towns behind,
And, in solitude
True friendship find.

O! blessed quiet!
Away from noisy cars,
That throng the roads,
The chattering, the talk,
Of the people, as they walk,
How I long to be alone,
Leave the noisy towns behind,
And, in perfect quietness,
True peace find.

Linen as made to-day is not as good as the material turned out 7,000 years ago, according to some experts.

Aviators Have Battle With Coyotte in 'Plane

Belle Fourche, S.D.—Details of a battle between two aviators and a wounded coyote in an airplane above a Dakota prairie were told recently by Clyde Ice, aviator.

With a gunner as his companion, Ice was cruising over the prairie when the coyote was sighted and shot from the plane. The aviators landed, tossed the animal into the cockpit and took off.

As the plane attained altitude, the coyote suddenly revived and attacked the gunner. He fought with his bare hands and was severely bitten. Ice left his controls a moment and joined in the battle.

The plane began to fall and spin while in the cockpit both men fought the beast.

Finally Ice struck the coyote on the head with a wrench and returned to the controls in time to prevent a crash. He also suffered severe lacerations.

The aviators took no more chances. The coyote was thrown overboard and they landed to have their wounds dressed.

Communication in the Far North

The Canadian Air Mail Service established a record for communication with Canada's Northland, when the through initial mail flight from McMurray, Alberta, to Aklavik, N.W.T., was completed in eleven hours running time—a distance of 1,676 miles. The revolutionary speed of this accomplishment, as compared with former methods of land and water communication, may be gauged when it is pointed out that the scheduled time of the winter service was formerly about 73 days between the points mentioned and the summer service 15 days.

Empire Reforestation

Canada is yearly playing a bigger part in Empire reforestation. Fifty-three per cent. of the tree seed exported from the Dominion has gone to Great Britain, 40 per cent. to New Zealand, and the remainder to Australia, Ireland and other parts of the Empire. During the past 10 years the British Forestry Commission has planted 140,000 acres of softwoods, the greater part of the seed having been sent from Canada.

Canadian Paintings Go To Argentina

Seventy-five Pictures Taken Mainly From National Gallery Collection

Ottawa.—Canadian art will be exhibited at the British Empire Trade exposition which is to be held at Buenos Aires during the months of March and April next year. Through E. L. McColl, Canadian Trade Commissioner in the Argentine capital space has been set aside in the Canadian section and a group of 75 Canadian paintings will be displayed. Those pictures have been taken mainly from the National Gallery collection.

1931 Exhibition.

The 1931 exhibition of the National Art Gallery wil lbe opened formally by His Excellency the Governor-General on January 15, it was announced here recently. Unless Lord Willingdon remains in Canada for the opening of the next session of parliament, this function will probably be his last public one in this country.

There will be the customary exhibition of Canadian art, the collection being more nationally representative this year than previously. Every province of the Dominion will have representation, it was declared

Ontario House Will Open February 12

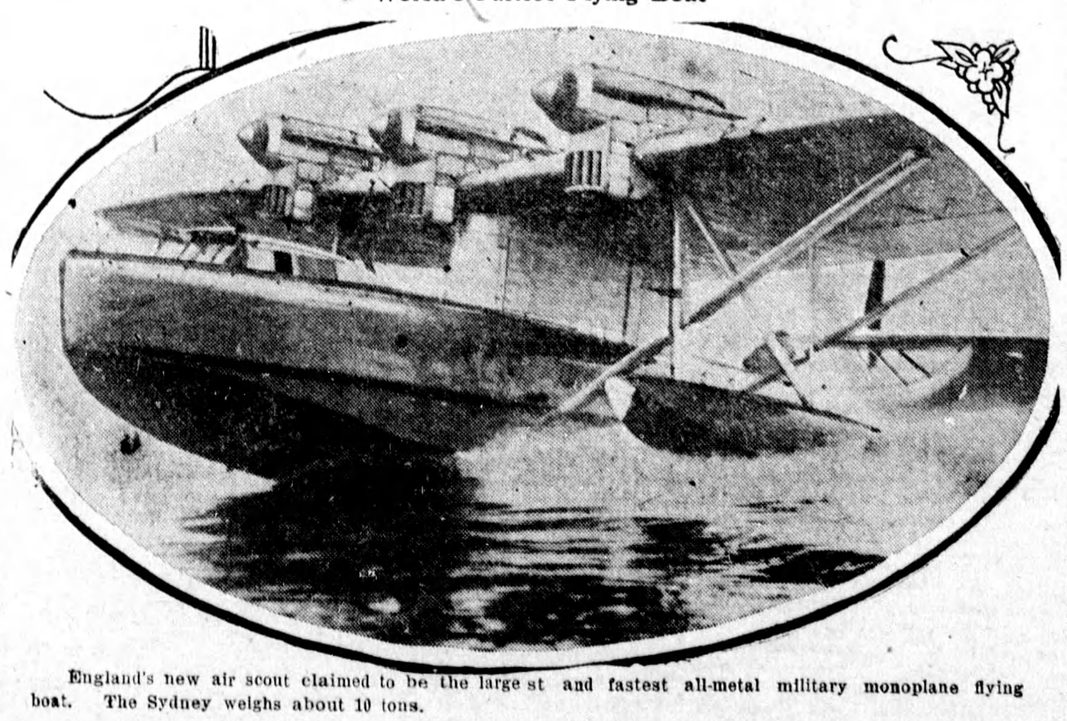
Toronto.—The Ontario Legislature will open on Thursday, Feb. 12, Premier George S. Henry announced recently. It is expected the hous will sit for six weeks and be adjourned before Easter.

The date set for the opening is that immediately following the polling day for the by-elections in Hamilton West and Grenville, the former made vacant by the death of Hon. Fred T. Smye, minister without portfolio, and the latter by the resignation of Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, on his appointment to the Canadian High Commissionership in London.

Canada's 1930 Field Crops

Ottawa.—The total value of Canada's principal field crops in 1930 is estimated at $629,146,000, compared with $948,981,400 in 1929, and $1,125,003,000 in 1928, according to an estimate in the crop report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Value of the wheat crop last year is placed at $173,589,000, compared with $319,715,000 in 1929.

World's Fastest Flying Boat



England's new air scout claimed to be the large st and fastest all-metal military monoplane flying boat. The Sydney weighs about 10 tons.

Canadian Imports Touch Billion Mark

Domestic Exports Estimated to Total $900,000,000 for Year

BASIS OF 11 MONTHS

Ottawa, Jan. 1st.—When returns are all in for 1930 it is estimated that the total imports of Canada will be found to have reached a value of just over one billion dollars. The value of domestic goods exported from the Dominion will probably amount to about nine hundred million dollars.

Figures covering the trade of Canada for 11 months of the calendar year are now available. They show that, up to the end of November the Dominion imported goods valued at $948,141,545. During the same 11-month period exports from Canada reached a value of $819,086,698. These totals constitute a considerable falling off from the corresponding 11 months of 1929 when imports amount to $1,214,627,537, and exports to $1,093,891,958.

In order to arrive at an estimate of Canada's trade for the calendar year it is useful to turn back to the figures of imports and exports for December, 1929, and make them the basis of the estimate for the month just ended. In December of last year the Dominion's imports of foreign goods were valued at $84,365,155. Domestic exports were valued at $88,520,355. Taking into consideration the general falling off in trade, it is estimated that both imports and exports during the present month will approximate sixty-four millions. This figure added to the known totals for the 11 months gives total imports of approximately $1,012,000,000 and total exports of approximately $883,000,000.

Total Tax Revenues

The total customs, excise and income tax revenues for the 11 months of the past calendar year, that is up to November 30 last, was $302,036,000. During the corresponding period of 1929 it was $375,090,695. Again December figures are not available, and the total for that month must necessarily be estimated. During December 1929, customs and excise net revenue amounted to $23,831,187, while income tax revenue totalled $611,293. This was a total national revenue, from these sources, of $24,442,480. With the decrease in trade it is expected there will be a falling-off in customs revenue during the past month, despite the higher tariff schedules. However, should customs, excise and income tax last month approximate the corresponding month a year ago and yield 24 million, the total revenue from these sources for the calendar year would be in the neighborhood of $326,000,000.

For the calendar year, 1929, customs and excise net revenue amounted to $330,247,881, while income tax yielded to the extent of $69,285,295. This was a total of $399,533,176.

King George Answers Lord Mayor's Message

Sandringham, England.—The King, in answering New Year's greetings of the Lord Mayor, addressed the following message to citizens of London:

"Pray assure Londoners that I reciprocate their warm greetings. I am touched by their kindly allusions in their message to my complete restoration to health, for which I am thankful to God.

"While I am hopeful for satisfactory results from the recent important conferences, the most sanguine minds cannot fail to realize the difficulties and anxieties which confront us at home and overseas.

"All the more, we must stand united with the people resolutely determined to find and follow the sure road which leads the Empire to lasting peace and prosperity."

Unmarried Workers' Wages Cut in Chile

Santiago, Chile.—A decree by Don Rodolfo Jaramillo, Finance Minister, on Dec. 30, fixed the 1931 budget at 1,054,636,714 pesos, approximately $127,000,000, for expenses, and estimated 1,039,617,387 as receipts. The apparent deficit is more than overcome by the order for a 15 per cent. reduction in salaries for all unmarried public employees.

Canada Leads World With Hydro Electrics

Ottawa.—With $1,000,000,000 invested in electric stations Canada emerged from 1930 one of the world's leaders in water power development.

The Department of the Interior estimates a maximum of 43,000,000 horsepower could be generated from Canadian rivers and turbines totaling 6,000,000 horsepower have already been installed, most of them in the past decade.

Four Travel Cheaply

Air-minded parties of four will soon be able to make trips from Manchester, England, in a specially fitted airplane at a lower rate than from any other airport in Great Britain. The rate will be 8d. a mile for parties of four, and the new plane which Northern Air Lines are putting on will have luxurious seating arrangements and a special heating and ventilating system.