Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

White Collar Morale

A noteworthy experiment has just been successfully concluded in Montreal. It has been demonstrated that there is a real demand for adult education and intellectual stimulus amongst the white-collar unemployed in this city. The Department of Extra-Mural Relations at McGill offered three regular lecture courses of seven weeks' duration without fee to the unemployed. The response was little short of astounding. Those in charge agreed that if as many as forty or fifty attended regularly the experiment would be well justified. Actually an average of one hundred and fifty attended the historical and literary lectures and eighty odd followed the medical course. —Montreal Star.

British Speed

The flight of Mr. J. A. Mollison, remarkable young Scotsman, from England to Cape Town, 6,300 miles in the astonishing time of four days 17½ hours, surpassing the previous record by 15 hours, has demonstrated again, in the words of the Air Minister's congratulory message, "What British airplanes, engines and pilots can do." He has actually brought the South African city nearer in time to London than was Edinburgh a century ago. An even more notable achievement is in prospect.—Mail and Empire (Toronto).

Away with the snow shovel and out with the rake.—Toronto Globe.

'Tis a Mad World

The United States with nearly all the gold in the world—with fifteen hundred million dollars of free gold above the minimum reserve—is so beset with anxieties that there is even talk of her going off the gold standard, although, officially, it is denied as ridiculous.

The other extraordinary thing is put into words by the New Statesman and Nation (London) when it says: "At present the Bank of England is hard put to it to stop the £ soaring back to something like parity."

When one considers the enormous sacrifices made by the Bank of England and the British government to hold the £ at par and cling to the gold standard as if the very life of the nation depended on it, the average man must be puzzled to hear that the Bank of England is deserately seeking to save the £ from the disaster of getting back to par.

A similar puzzle presents itself when one considers the hard and desperate efforts the United States has made to grasp all the gold she could lay her hands on, only to find at present that a surplus of hundreds of millions of it is an embarrassment, and with gold by the ton it may be deemed expedient for the dollar to fall below par.

The rest of the world cannot take this gold from the United States, but what if the rest of the world, being deficient in gold, should decide to get along without this metal? — Toronto Star.

THE EMPIRE

Empire Co-operation

Rightly or wrongly, the British people feel that they have suffered from their generosity towards the rest of the world. Imperial sentiment is strong in Great Britain, and it has been kept well in the foreground, but the driving force which has brought about a radical change of policy has arisen from the grave situation of British trade and from the necessity for doing something for millions of unemployed men and women. Far-seeing men perceive in the promotion of Imperial trade a great ideal which will incidentally and inevitably promote the welfare of Great Britain.—Melbourne Argus.

New Zealand Population

However unfavorable present conditions may appear, it would be absurd to suppose that, in normal conditions, the Dominion is incapable of sustaining a more rapid growth of population than its own natural increase. The absorption of those now unemployed must precede the renewal of immigration, and when that phase has been completed, there will be a more reasonable attitude toward new settlers from overseas, for the Labour Party has abandoned its former hostility and latterly has been proclaiming the advantages of increasing the population to provide a larger domestic demand for New Zealand products.—Auckland Weekly News.

Triumph of Economy

Few more remarkable statements can ever have been made than Sir Josiah Stamp's almost sedate account of how he saved the greater part of over four and a half million pounds in the working expenses of the L.M.S. It is evident that some people regarded his methods at first with some irreverent merriment; they were held to be an example of "statistics run mad." That is really not so very extraordinary. It would not have occurred to the average man that the supervision of what Sir Josiah calls the "vast machine" which we know as a railway company would naturally include a keen interest in glass-lined milk tanks, in cast iron chairs, in drawing paper, in pins for office use, in various kinds of soaps, and in the life of carriage washing brushes. But Sir Josiah studied the minute to some purpose; and undeniably he has the laugh on his critics.—London News-Chronicle.

Indian Disorders

Congress is the political organ of orthodox Hinduism. Orthodox Hinduism is the heir of 4,000 years of a static social system; we are the exponents of a brummagen democracy; and the older civilization distrusts the younger. How deep this aversion goes few Englishmen can fathom unless they have lived with it. It is far greater than any racial animosity, any religious odium, in our Western experience. It is based on the conviction that our democratic practice, if forced upon Inda, would mean an end to the sanctity of the family, the confusion of righteousness with impurity; the overthrow of an ordering of human life which is divine in its origin. If any of us felt equally strongly about a political creed which is being pressed upon us, the odds are that we should be just as vehement as Congress in resisting it.—Lord Meston in the Nineteenth Century (London).

Germany Struggles to Her Feet

Germany's spinal cord is and remains her middle class. It was their treason to progressive ideals in the hey-day of the country's commercial prosperity which made possible the anachronism of the Bismarckian Empire. Since the war their children have suffered for it, with a vengeance! For the salent feature of the post-war regime in Germany is the "proletarianization" of the bulk of her middle class. Economic stress would in any case have meant for them, as in England and other highly industrialized countries, a very much more modest existence; the lunatic inflation period, together with the chronic crisis, has definitely reduced them to the proletarian ranks. It is difficult for English people who have not lived in Germany during these years to realize the demoralizing effect of such experiences. At the best, the effect must be to destroy any faith in the values which we take as a matter of course. —W. Horsfall Carter in the Fortnightly Review (London).

OTHER OPINIONS

Laughing Stock of World

Out of a total of 285 kidnappings within the last three years in these United States, only seventy are recorded as achieving any convictions whatsoever. California stands third on the list of states with high kidnapping records. In three years California has had twenty-eight kidnapping cases, three of which resulted in murder. But there were only four convictions. By all means increase the penalties, but not until we have increased the vigilance of the police, the judges and the juries. We have too many impotent penalties now that are a laughing stock of the underworld.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Canada's Fur Business

Canada keeps a sharp eye on its industries. Fifteen years ago the muff helped to sustain its fur industry; it passed out of fashion with long skirts and high shoes. Now, in its less voluminous forms, it shows signs of regaining favor. The modern muff is limited to about twenty-two inches around, a serious come down from the pillow muffs of a short time ago. In 1930 Canada made 420 muffs valued at $6,938. Furs must struggle against various other materials nowadays in muff making. In 1930 the Canadian fur-goods industry amounted to $15,733,768. Women's coats and jackets, stoles, scarves, cuffs and collars accounted for $12,516,231 of this sum; men's fur-lined gloves and fur coats brought only $243,497. Robes, gloves, hats and coat shells brought the total up to the recorded figures. The British Isles took the major share of the fur exports of Canada in 1930, the United States running second.—New York Sun.

Effect of British Tariff

The Port of Baltimore Bulletin notes that a large chemical company of this city has leased space in Toronto "and will commence production in the Canadian factory" to supply export business, "especially to British Empire countries." No reference is made to the new British tariff, which has been brought into being largely as a reply to other nations' policies. But it may be safely assumed that if products of the company could be shipped from Baltimore without paying burdensome impost duties this would be done.—Baltimore Sun.

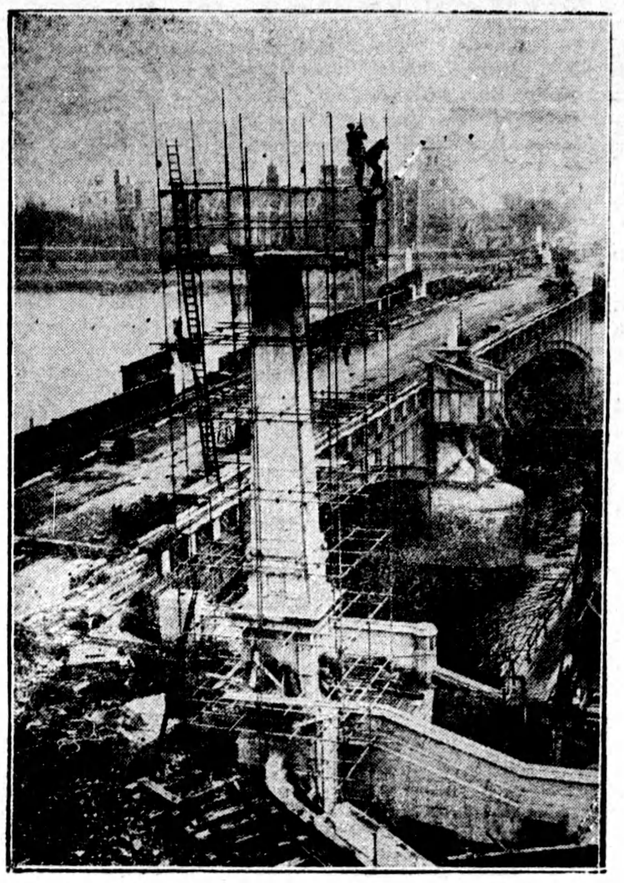
Security of Family Farm

America needs the stability and security of an agriculture made up of family farms. In a properly managed economic system corporation farming might perhaps be useful, but until society learns better how to direct its present complex economic machine there will be little gain in making it more complex. Instead of industrializing the United States in the sense of replacing the family farms with large corporation farms, we need to find some means to give to the city family some of the stability and security that is the heritage of agriculture.—From The Christian Science Monitor.

Waking Up

"The world is not getting worse, but we are getting more sensitive to its evils."—Dr. Carl Sumner Knopf.

Extensive Bridge Building Program in London



Lambeth Bridge shown here nearing completion will be officially opened this summer. Kew, Putney and Mortlake spans are also well under way, offering new outlets for London's ever-increasing traffic.

April

'Tis April when
The forest beeches burn with redder flame,
Before they ope their tips, and then
Burst forth in green along the lane!
When Spring's much traveled feet,
Return to rest awhile. And in the fields
As carpet from the primrose sweet,
Its pleasant fragrance yields!
When Spring steps forth, all wrapt in silver rain,
Then has April come again!

—Elsie A. Koefoed.

Father—"I got a number of sealed proposals in my office to-day."

Daughter—"Oh, pa, were any of them for me?"

Cross-Channel Air Travel Set Record in the Last Year

London.—There is no sign of the world depression in the cross-Channel air traffic. More passengers were carried between London and Paris by tht British Imperial Airways during the financial year which ended March 31st, than ever before.

The multi-engined airliners which this company employs carried 20,315 passengers above the Channel, compared to 20,104 for tht previous record year, 1928-29. Women were among the company's best patrons, and a remarkable feature was the growth of winter air travel, passenger figures during the past winter being more than double those of the winter of 1930-31.

The only thing that gives weight to a fish story is the scales.

British Leper Colony Fast Routing Disease

London.—The battle modern science is waging against leprosy is achieving results which arouse hope the disease can be exterminated, Sir Leonard Rogers, authority on tropical diseases, reports.

Experiments on the Island Nauru, in the Pacific Ocean, have shown that by segregation and special treatment it will be possible to rid the island of lepers within ten years, although 50 per cent. of the islanders were afflicted when the work began. It is hoped now to carry out the same experiment, on a larger scale, in Zanzibar.

Ancient methods are combined with modern ones in treating leprosy. The disease in its early stages can be stopped with old Indian chaulmooga oil treatment, Sir Leonard said. Even most of the advanced cases respond to treatment now.

Another vast stride has been made recently with the discovery that it is no longer necessary to segregate lepers afflicted with the nerve type of the disease, as distinguished from the inactive skin type.

Immense progress has been made in combatting leprosy within the last fifteen years, Sir Leonard said. The British Empire Leprosy Relief Association alone sent out supplies last year for administering 1,000,000 treatments.

Feminine Staff to Run Women's Coast Prison

Bakersfield, Calif. — Women prisoners in San Quentin and other state institutions wil move to a new industrial farm near here this summer. By July 1 four building of old English and Norman architecture will be ready to receive them. The absence of prison appearance characterizes the structures in a small valley near here.

Alicia Mosgrove, of SanFrancisco, the institution's first superintendent, says the program will be rehabilitation of the inmates through farming, gardening, stock and poultry raising on the 1,628-acre "farm." The prison, to be run entirely by women, is known as the California Institute for Women and will be dedicated May 22 by Governor James Rolph, Jr.

Argentine Banks Plan To Popularize Checks

Buenos Ayes.—Argentine financial houses are considering the advisability of launching an educational campaign to demonstrate the advantages of checking accounts. The aversion here to the use of cheques is believed to be one of the principal reasons for the comparative stiffness of the machinery for handling commercial paper.

For generations "cash down" has been the invariable rule among the thousands of small traders throughout the country. Most hotels, restaurants and establishments of a similar nature have been insistent on the rule that all their transactions be of a cash nature. Insistent propaganda by the banks had led to a more widespread use of cheques, at least among the larger firms, and two years ago it had appeared that the cheque was gradually gaining ground as a method of payment among the Argentine people.

But the severe competition, the rapid drop in prices and the gradual restriction of credit in all lines of business have once more led to a general refusal to receive or handle cheques, not only among the small retailers and the public but also among the larger firms, which had hitherto given signs of welcoming this form of currency.

U. S. Imports of Scotch Tweed During 1931 Show Decline

Approximately eighty-eight firms are engaged in the various branches of the Scotch tweed industry (including spinning and dyeing) says "U.S. Commerce Reports." Normally the industry employs about 13,700 workers, but the number reported about the end of October, 1931, was only 10,400. In June, 1931, the mills were working at 40 to 45 per cent. of capacity.

The output of the industry is said to consist principally of Harris tweeds and similar cloths and the annual value of production to fluctuate between £4,000,000 and £6,000,000. More than 50 per cent. of the production, it is estimated, is exported in normal times. The United States, the best foreign outlet for Scotch tweeds, took only $352,000 worth in the first three-quarters of 1931, compared with $745,000 in the full year 1930.

"What do the reports from the Southern training camps indicate?"

"That we will have eight championship teams in all of the big leagues."

Women Require Less Food Than Adult Males?

London.—Women need less food than men. The question is no longer in doubt.

That eight women need the same amount and quality of food as rather more than five and a half men is one of the discoveries made by the Advisory Committee on Nutrition to the Ministry of Health, England.

They arrive at this conclusion as a handy method of determining manvalue for rationing purposes. At least one member of the committee is a woman.

The report in which this discovery is announced—a discovery which will have repercussions at every breakfast table in the land—is a memorandum for the use of medical officers who are asked to criticise and suggest improvements in dieting.

Its findings involve calculations of the relative values of various foods in terms of proteins, calories, mineral and vitamin content.

In the matter of calories it is computed that a woman requires .83 of an adult male's needs.

News Oddities

Rain of Goats Breaks Roof of Coffee House in Smyrna

Smyrna, Turkey.—A shower of goats falling through the roof of a waterfront coffee house here shattered for once the somnolence of Turkish backgammon, coffee and hubble-bubble addicts.

Investigations showed that 2,000 goats had been parked for the night by the waterfront, to be shipped to Athens in the morning. One member of the herd jumped up on the low roof of the coffee house. Then came a follow-the-leader scramble until the roof crashed. Coffee cups were smashed, but nobody was hurt, not even a goat.

Didn't Need Divorce

Vancouver, Wash. — When Walter and Pearl Priddy sought a divorce, they discovered that they never were legally married. They immediately obtained a license, married.

Too-elderly Ostrich Is Given Chloroform

San Ontonia, Tex.—Nellie, 22-year-old ostrich at Brackenridge Park Zoo here, has been chloroformed to end the pains of old age. The hen had lived 12 years beyond the average life span.

Zoo officials believe Nellie holds the record among ostriches for length of years in captivity. She was born in the zoo here, and narrowly missed the fate of her mates in the flood of 1921. River waters carried her out of the zoo. She was revived and lived another decade.

Seeks Wife at 79 With a Rule Book

Evanston, Ill. — After performing 1,600 wedding ceremonies for others, 79-year-old Samuel Harrison, Evanston's marrying justice of the peace, announces himself in the market for a wife of his own. He is a widower.

His bride, he said, must subscribe to a set of rules which he has worked out in his experience as a justice. Among them are:

The husband must say every day to the wife: "I love you." She must say to him: "How strong you are, and how clever."

Don't put your wife on a pedestal. It's too cold up there. Give a lot of praise and get to mean it. Do not open each other's letters.

If the husband snores, comes home too frequently under the weather, talks too much to other women, or if the wife is untidy, serves much canned food or fish, they should tell each other about it two times a year in writing.

282 of 300 Villagers Serve Jail Terms in Groups of Thirty

Prague.—Practically the entire population of the village of Hidveg in Slovakia were recently condemned to serve sentences of three days' imprisonment.

Some time ago an airplane came down in the village of Dregely Palanka, just across the Hungarian frontier, and 282 of the 300 inhabitants of Hidveg, who are Hungarians by race, believing that it was the machine of the famous Hungarian pilot Endresz, hastened across the border regardless of the efforts of the Czech frontier guard to prevent them.

On their return all were stopped. For the offence of crossing the frontier without a permit they were sentenced to fines of 50 Czech crowns or three days in jail. As the local jail is too small, they served their sentences in Turnussen prison in batches of thirty at a time.

Only 1 Comic Magazine Survives Under Soviet

Moscow.—Only one humorous magazine remains in Russia, where formerly five or six flourished. The chronic shortage of paper explains, in part, this limitation on humor. The serious mood of the country, however, also may have something to do with it.

The surviving comic magazine is "Crocodile," issued weekly, and real comedy is almost the hardest thing to find in it. No joke, or cartoon, is published for its own sake, but only for the sake of some political moral. The subject matter is thus extremely limited. The jokes are at the expense of foreign capitalists, domestic kulaks, official bureaucrats, followers of Trotsky, etc.; in other words, the same people who come in for serious attacks in the regular non-comic papers.

Writers and artists obviously find it hard to keep up the satirical barrage in the same direction week after week, so that the humor is always weaker. Several gifted artists, however, contribute extremely good caricatures.

Spain Develops Devil's Island In Torrid Western Africa

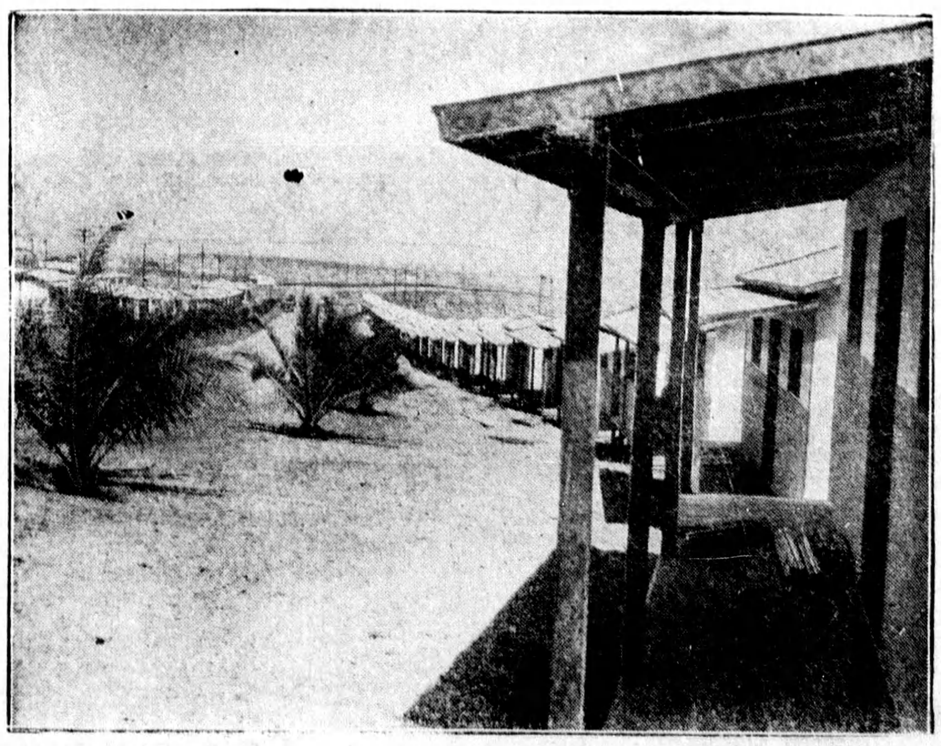
Madrid.—Spain may have its own "Devils' Island" for political and other convicts if many more prisoners are sent to Fernando Po. Within six months many offenders have been sentenced to exile in that Spanish possession on the west coast of Africa. It has only three small villages. Its climate is torrid, and there are 20,000 natives.

Nitrogen To Be Extracted From Air in Manchuria

Washington.—Nitrogen is to be extracted from the air by the South Manchurian Railway Company, formal approval from the Tokyo Government having been applied for, according to the Department of Commerce here. The enterprise will involve an outlay of some $7,200,000.

The project calls for the establishment of a large sulphate of ammonia plant at Dairen.

Where Male Athletes Will Live During Olympics



This is going to be a man's town when they finish building the tiny bungalows to be occupied by visiting male athletes who compete at the Olympiad.