Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

No Sentiment in Business

Canada and Great Britain, if they want to extend their trade exchange, must be prepared to meet the most exacting demands of the purchaser. Nothing short of this will be of much use. Sentiment cuts an insignificant figure in business.—(Victoria Times, Lib.).

Idle Money

In February, according to an official report, Canadian deposits in savings banks were $22,000,000 more than in January. This is extraordinary. Here we are with $1,390,000,000 in our savings banks—this despite all the money absorbed by recent loans—which is $22,000,000 more than we had at the beginning of the year, yet everybody is afflicted by the psychology of hard times, and most of us are too fearful to take our money out of the banks to buy things that we need. —(Ottawa Journal.)

Trees For [illegible] Protection

One of the important effects of the drought and gale-damage experience of the prairie provinces has been to stimulate tree planting enormously Thousands of farmers, completely "blown out" in 1931, have witnessed the phenomenon of profitable crops gathered by neighbors who had the foresight to shield their farms with shelter belts of trees ten or fifteen years ago. As a consequence, shelter belts have assumed a new importance and the rate of tree planting in future will be rapidly accelerated. More than 100,000 prairie farmers already have established tree shelter about their homes and farms.—(Brandon Sun.)

Farmers' Credit

It is invariably the mortgage companies that are singled out for attention in these demands for legislation to protect the farmer. As a matter of fact, anyone who knows Western conditions knows that the mortgage companies on the whole are just as anxious to keep farmers on the land as the farmers to stay on it. Without advertising their plans at all mortgage companies are making adjustments with farmers, reducing interest rates where necessary, spreading over principal payments, paying taxes on mortgaged farms, and generally doing their utmost to aid the farmers through their difficulties. The farmers' financial difficulties arise in much the greater number of cases from taxes and short-term credits from the implement houses, oil companies, banks and casual creditors, than from mortgages.—(Winnipeg Tribune.)

It is gratifying to observe that during these admittedly hard times the citizens of Toronto did not forget the appeal of the Humane Socity, whose taggers recently secured $20,000.—(The Toronto Globe.)

Better Prospects in the Prairies

There is more justification this year than for many previous years for the long-looked-for amelioration of farm conditions. Not for a long time has precipitation been more plentiful and it is anticipated that the seed-bed will be in a more satisfactory condition than for at least three years past Every effort is being made by the Seed Commission to provide for the needs of the farmers who have been so hard hit by drought, with the result that new hope is springing up with the brightening of the prospects. —(Regina Star, Cons.)

Canada's [illegible]gn Trade

The countries which will first emerge from this unprecedented depression are those whose leaders are astute enough to see and grasp the new operations in trade and world business. That is why Canada should be on the job with respect to Russia instead of sitting around watching six million dollars of aluminum trade go to Sweden. We are letting our hard coal business go to the United States and letting wages and commodity prices go down and interest rates go up. Compared to England, the condition of this country is perfect. Yet England, with few opportunities, is making herself the brightest spot in the world picture.—(Vancouver Sun, Ind.)

THE EMPIRE

Britain's Surplus

The smallness of the surplus and the magnitude of the nation's effort to achieve it point to the seriousness of the situation ahead. The limit of taxation has been reached. The limit of the Government's wage reduction has been reached. How then can we make the budget balance next year without imposing a burden that would prove ultimately disastrous? 1. By increasing production at home. 2. By developing trade with the Dominions. 3. By bringing about complete Free Trade between Britain and the Colonies.—(London Daily Express, Ind. Con.)

Britain and the Empire

While this country cannot segregate itself from the difficulties of Europe neither can it afford to look to Europe alone. If Europe were to collapse our efforts elsewhere would be endangered, but meanwhile we must build up for ourselves a new framework of trade outside. For the first time the economic opportunities of the Empire have a definite chance of being realized. Ottawa is the key to a new door which may open the way to a new prosperity.—(London Sunday Times, Cons.)

Empire Tobacco

All our experience has gone to show the necessity for looking ebfore leaping, and for keeping supply within the bounds of demand. It is, therefore, essential that real and co-operative thought should be given to the tobacco question before Ottawa is entered upon. What applies to tobacco, applies to all our export industries and to our domestic industries in their relation to Imperial issues. The more thought which this Colony can give to her own questions involved in the general Imperial outlook, and the closer the investigation of all suggestions forthcoming, the better hope there will be of achieving really worthwhile results.—(Rhodesia Herald, Salisbury).

"Practical Politics in the Far East"

The key to the strength and prosperity of the British Empire lies not in London, Ottawa, Canberra, or Cape Town, but in British prestige, political and commercial, in the Far East. The two great Powers principally concerned in resisting the advance of Sovietism in the Far East are Japan and Britain. Japan has watched with anxiety the progress of Soviet influence in Manchuria. What Britain has done and is doing in India, Japan has done, and is doing, in Manchuria. The Union Jack is the symbol of law, order, justice, and progress; the emblem of Japan is worthy of similar admiration, for it stands for the same ideals. Are we to permit the League, composed of nations not one of which has interests comparable to our own in the Far East, and most have neither knowledge nor judgment of the issue involved, to break our friendship with our prototypes of the East. The wisest thing the League can do is to recommend and give a mandate to Japan over Manchuria. That policy should receive our active support.—(Orient in the Empire Review, London.)

The Curse of Unemployment

We speak of unemployment as bad, but we shall not be thinking of it rightly until we consider the effect of this situation upon those who as they leave school and go out into the world cannot find employment for themselves. It creates a sense that they are not wanted. With the more serious and earnest natures it produces an intense bitterness. Bitterness is never right, but such bitterness is surely very pardonable in a young man who is conscious of having some qualifications to serve the community, and to make for himself and those dependent on him a decent home, and yet finds no niche for himself in the society of which he is a member. That young man is bound to be deeply embittered against society as organized today; and that is not only unwholesome for society, but desperately bad for him.—(The Archbishop of York in the Contemporary Review, London.)

OTHER OPINIONS

The Ottawa Conference

The plan of procedure confines the Ottawa discussions to representatives of nations under the British flag. But Ottawa is to be followed by similar negotiations between Britain and other States. Denmark, Scandinavia and Holland have low tariffs, though capable of assimilation to that policy now adopted at Westminster, and are to be next approached. Other nations may be invited to join later on. A growing world circle of mutually lowered tariffs may thus develop. Freer trade relations generally are hoped for as the eventual outcome. The whole scheme is so vast that its implications have as yet only partially been realized, though Whitehall is being kept busy working out its program. It is a hope, nevertheless, containing much that is good and much, too, that is by no means impossible of fulfilment.—(Boston Christian Science Monitor.)

U.S. Wants No More Immigrants

The tide of immigration has been turned back to the Old World for the first time since records have been kept, with the full approval of the public. It is improbable that unrestricted immigration will ever again be permitted. The United States is now a grown-up nation. It does not need vast numebrs of immigrants to develop the country. What it really needs is opportunity to digest and nationalize the excessive number of aliens who are already here.—(Washington Post.)

Immigrants and Natives

Persons who ancestors came to America two or three centuries ago hardly regard themselves as colonists. Nevertheless, as many have pointed, out, the only real 100 per cent. Americans are the Indians. All the rest of us are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants. A more frequent recognition of this fact might lead to greater tolerance on the part of all. —(Worcester Telegram.)

It is unwise ever to give up a great thing because it is caricatured."—Harry Emerson Fosdick.

Countess of Bessborough in France

Countess Bessborough, wife of the governor-general of Canada, is here shown leaving the home of her father, Baron Andre de Neuflize at Neuilly, France, where she is stopping with her son, Viscount Duncannon.

Youth Organization Calls World Athletic Congress

Prague.—While attention of sports followers the world over is being turned to the Olympic games at Los Angeles, preparations are going forward here for an athletic congress of slightly different nature to bring together athletes of the international youth organization Sokol this cummer.

The Sokol numbers 750,000 members, and invitations have been sent to branches in twenty-two countries. So far, it is certain that Russia, Poland and Czechoslovakia will be represented.

The congress is being planned in observance of the birthday anniversary of the organization's founder, Dr. Miroslav Tyrs. It will begin June 26 and the chief days will be July2 to July 6.

The Czech Sokol branch is building a stadium to hold 150,000 spectators and 50,000 athletes. Besides the gymnasium events, contests in rowing, swimming, riding, fencing, shooting, track and even singing, dramatics and oratory will be held.

Diamond Cutters Prefer Low Wages to Dole

Amsterdam.—Even the lowest earned wages are infinitely better than a dole, is the reason given by Amsterdam diamond polishers and cutters for accepting a scale below that in Belgium and Germany. They have thus made it possible for a number of diamond works to reopen their shops.

As the municipality is to pay in extra allowance on these wages, equal to the amount paid otherwise for unemployed and poor relief, several hundred Amsterdam diamond workers will go to work again after an extended period of involuntary loafing. The total wages an Amsterdam diamond worker will thus receive amount to slightly more than $10 a week.

"My wife found a white poker chip in my pocket this morning and I told her it was a dyspepsia tablet."

"And did she swallow it?"

Meteorologist Predicts Fine Summer For England

London—The odds are that England, and the rest of the world as well, should have a fine, dry Summer, according to E. L. Hawke, meteorological superintendent of the Hampstead Observatory. A cautious prophet, Mr. Hawke bases his conclusions on several reasons, having chiefly to do with sun spots.

"There are many so-called weather cycles," he declared. "Perhaps the best known is that which is supposed to be governed by sun spots. These sun spots reach their peak every eleven years, so that if this cycle holds good we should have a repetition of the dry Summer of 1921.

"This weather cycle is certainly true of the west of Scotland and other parts of the world, but does not always work well as far as England is concerned. Still, the fact that according to this cycle the weather should be warm provides hope for a fine Summer."

As for other reasons, during the last ten years England has had enough rain for eleven years. "The seasons have been wet since 1921, particularly the last two Summers," he said. "That sort of thing should not continue indefinitely. There is bound to be a change sooner or later. The time for a change seems due, for we have had one of the wettest periods of years known."

Swiss Cut Deposit Rate

Geneva—"We have the honor to inform you that because of the persistent abundance of money and difficulties for banks to find a use for it, the banks of Geneva are forced to reduce as from present date their interest rate to one'half of 1 per cent per annum."

This notice recently greeted Geneva depositors with their breakfast mail. It is another proof of Switzerland's prosperity and its plethora of cash, while the inconveniences of too much money are revealed. Owing to difficulty of finding safe ways of placing their funds, Swiss capitalists are falling into many financial pitfalls, but banks are marking time, eagerly awaiting opportunities for useful investment.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police have replaced the Provincial Police in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Alberta, thus cutting law enforcement costs in half.

Adults' Taste In Studies Tested

International Affairs Course Has Big Lead in Attendance — Interest in World Topics

New York—What chance has a program of adult education of inducing men and women to forsake their comfortable homes occasionally to attend afternoon or evening lectures? And what kind of programs could exert enough pull? In an effort to answer such questions the American Association for Adult Education, acting for the Carnegie Corporation, is making a case study of the town of Radburn, N.J., a study that is throwing some fresh light on intellectual interests of adults. The study is not completed, but considerable data is already available.

This little community near Ridgewood was chosen as seat of the experiment because of the unusual homogeneity of its population. Almost all of its 1,220 residents were born in America. Virtually all of the adults are married and the average of the heads of the families is 34. Of the men 90 per cent are college graduate and of the women 60 per cent.

Through community enterprise the adult education program was started last September. The Citizens Association, after discovering by a questionnaire in what subjects the people were most interested, made arrangments to hold the most popular courses. The charge was only $1 a course.

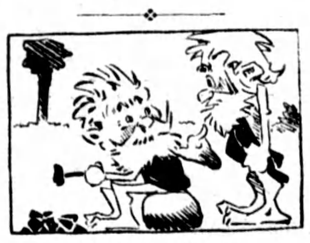
There was no attempt to urge uninterested persons nor any follow-up among those in a course but failed to attend when it was offered. The opportunity was merely put before the people and the association has been watching to see what would happen without artificial stimulation.

Popular Among Women

About one-quarter of the adult population have entered courses and of the total number of students—which appears as more than a quarter of the population since those enrolled in several courses are counted more than once—a little more than one-fifth are men. However, six of the twelve courses are held in the afternoon for women, and when these classes are deducated, the percentage of men mounts to nearly two-fifths.

By far the most popular course is the one on international affairs. Ninety-one persons enrolled for this and although the division between the sexes of the students is almost equal the slight edge of five students is, contrary to expectations, held by the women. Next most popular is a course on contemporary fiction and drama, in which the women predominate heavily, for only nine of its forty-one registrants are men. An afternoon class in child study, dealing with the pre-school child, is the third largest class and has a membership of thirty-four women.

"Timeliness is evidently the factor that causes the greatest interest in a course," Major John O. Walker, director of the Radburn association, says. "If a foreign situation or a book o ra play or a piece of music is being discussed in the newspapers, we are sure to have a large attendance at classes which also discuss it. Courses which people think will help them to better their situation do not hold nearly so much attraction."

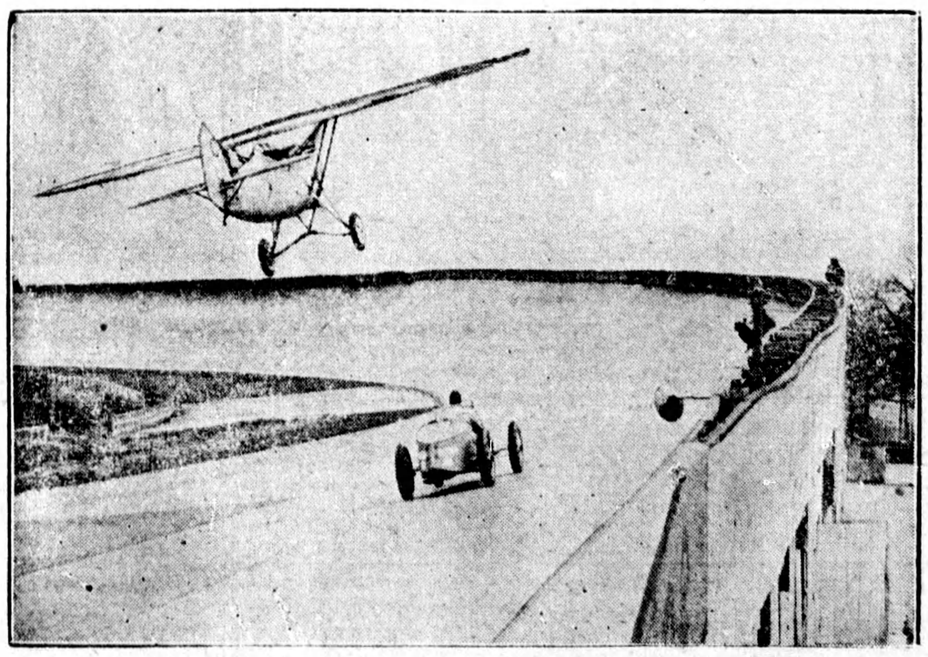


Stone-Age Stunt

Rocky—"That's a fine hammer you have there."

Stony—"Yep! It's made out of a couple of my wife's first biscuits."

A Close Race



Marcel Doret, famous pilot, matches his speed with that of Albert Divo, auto racer, at Montlhery, France. By a scant margin, Doret won, having gone 216.36 kilometers an hour.

Dominion Notes

St. Thomas, Ontario.—Production is starting at the new plant of Canadian Vitrified Products near St. Thomas, Ontario. The plant, which is on a 20-acre site about one mile east of the city, is being equipped with eight oil-fired kilns, and will turn out a full line of heavy clay products. The total cost of the plant including buildings and equipment, will be in the neighborhood of $185,000.

Fort William, Ontario.—The black granite from the deposits at Penninsula, on the north shore of Lake Superior, is attracting considerable attention and the market for this artistic building material is extending to various new centres of the United States and Canada.

Winnipeg, Manitoba. — The gross value of dairy production in Manitoba during 1931 was $11,938,990. The report of Mr. J. R. Bell of the provincial live stock branch points out that production in 1931 was much heavier than in 1930, butter being 33.5 per cent. up. At June 1 there were 26,690 cows being milked, which number was 15,179 head more than at the same date of 1930.

Brandon, Manitoba. — The pen of barred rocks owned by Mr. J. R. Beer of Brandon is well ahead in the Manitoba egg laying competition being conducted at the experimental farm in Brandon. Its total production at the end of the 15th week was 538 eggs, for which it was awarded 557.4 points.

Regina, Saskatchewan.—During the last five years a total of $540,760 worth of honey has been produced in Saskatchewan, according to Mr. R. M. Pugh, provincial apiarist in the Department of Agriculture. This means that the bees have paid for themselves for development work and for equipment, returning their owners 100 per cent. on their investment, Mr. Pugh pointed out.

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. — The coal industry in Saskatchewan shows an advance. In 1929 approximately 580,000 tons of coal were produced; in 1930 over 570,000, and in 1931 between 625,000 and 650,000 tons.

Medicine Hat, Alberta.—In a fine new structure, the Gleichen Flour Mill Company has now commenced business, with early reports indicating a rapidly developing output. The building has two stories and a cupola on a full concrete basement, with a driveway at one end and an office bulding and heating plant about 35 feet away. The mill is heated throughout by steam, which is also used in tempering the wheat and heating it to the proper temperature.

Lethbridge, Alberta.—In the annual report of the Lethbridge Board of Trade for 1931, it is pointed out that, "Once more, southern Alberta set a high mark in the quality of wheat produced. As in 1930, much No. 1 Hard was marketed, while practically all the remainder was No. 1 Northern and No. 2 Northern. Good quality, high protein wheats are invariably produced in years of low rainfall and 1931 was no exception, the year's precipitation being 11.64 inches against a 28-year average ot Lethbridge of 15.84." It is also noted that, "an important development of the year was a strong trend towards mixed farming."

Novel Punishment Meted To Gypsy Wife-Beater

Prague.—Gypsies living in the County Tihanovce, near Kosice, Slovakia, with the consent of the State authorities, have established a district council headed by a Mayor of their own nationality.

Recently the council which enjoys judicial authority tried a man who had whipped his wife. He was sentenced to crawl home on hands and knees, carrying his wife on his back, and to publicly beg for forgiveness.

As a further punishment he was ordered to stand all night before his hut, bearing a pail of water on his head, stirring the water occasionally with his hand to prevent it from freezing.

English Schoolgirls "Adopt" Whole Schools

Birmingham, Eng.—Two secondary schools for girls here have now "adopted" schools for younger children in the poorer districts of the city.

The girls of King Edward's High School led the way two or three years ago by "adopting" an infant school in which nearly all the children come from lowly homes. The high school girls supply the pupils in their adopted school with slippers to wear during school hours, and entertain them at Christmas parties and at picnics. Now the George Dixon Secondary School has followed the plan, which seems likely to spread.

Gems Cached by Vikings Found On Swedish Island of Gothland

Visby, Sweden.—A viking cache of pearls, gold ornaments and inlaid jewelry was found under a large stone near here by two fishermen. There were 150 pearls, 9 gold pendants and 25 necklaces of bronze with silver inlay.

There is no burial place near the spot, indicating that the jewelry was hidden by the owner for safe-keeping. Gothland, the Swedish island in the Baltic Sea of which Visby is the capital, frequently yields similar ancient relics. It used to be an important trading point during the time of the vikings and later in the days of the Hanseatic League.