Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Reckless Driving

Twenty-nine people were killed in automobile accidents on the highways of the province in March. The number will probably be larger for the month of April. As traffic increases during the summer the fatalities will also increase, judged from the experience of past years.

Most of these fatal accidents have been and will be due to reckless and careless driving. In no sphere of human activity is recklessness and carelessness so lightly condoned or visited with such trifling punishment, despite the great danger to human life that is involved.

Severe penalties and severe punishment are the only means of protection for the public against those who refuse to obey the laws and drive with caution and consideration. If every careless driver responsible for an accident were made to suffer exemplary punishment in keeping with the serious consequences of his offence there would be a rapid and substantial decline in the number of highway accidents and fatalities.

Suspension of driving licenses for longer periods than are now imposed in the case of recklessness and drunkenness at the wheel of a car would go a long way toward effective prevention. Permanent cancellation would, in fact, not be too drastic or more than the public interest requires in some cases.—Toronto Star.

Prescribing For Listeners

The amusing feature, however, is the attempt of witnesses at Ottawa to tell the committee the kind of programs the radio listener wants to hear. Does the radio listener really know himself? Isn't it a fact that he is all over the dial in the course of an evening, and that one evening his taste differs from another evening? The fan who wants Amos 'n' Andy may also be an appreciative listener of the grand opera programs from New York. He may take on a medley of old-time jigs and a lecture on the gold standard in the same evening and enjoy them both. In the middle of it all he may wish to learn the result of a hockey match at Winnipeg or Regina. We would like to see the Solomon who is able to say with certainty what a radio program should be made up of to please everybody. He would be such a wise bird that he should be put to work on the unemployment problem.—Regina Leader Post.

Back to the Land

Where an unemployed man is anxious to get busy on the land, he should be encouraged in all possible ways. Given access to suitable land, a willing man, with some initial help, might easily be placed in a position where he could lift himself by his own productive exertion out of the mire of unemployment. Not to give such a man his chance at a time like this is little short of a crime, and it is in this light that the question should now be looked at by the City Council and the other responsible official bodies. Unemployment is striking into a new phase in Winnipeg, and the most strenuous and intelligent measures will have to be adopted to cope with it, and there should be no delay in getting such measures started. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Fortunes in the Making

We have a communication from a well-known New York financial man, who recalls that the world outlook has been much blacker at certain crises in the past than it is to-day.

Dealing specially with conditions on this continent, our correspondent says everyone's income has suffered in the past two years, but in nine cases out of ten it has not suffered enough to interfere with food or comfort. Instead of crying about paper losses and making things worse by continually talking about them, people should be thankful to be alive and well. Untold numbers are out of work, are suffering and desperate, but compared with many parts of the world Canada knows nothing of poverty. "If your business is good, say so. If not, say nothing. The overworked word, psychology, plays a large part to-day in the public attitude. People are waiting now for someone else to make times better, instead of working hard and making them better themselves. They compare commodity and stock prices today with those at the 1929 peak. They refuse to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities afforded by the break in prices. They say they are waiting for business to be good before buying anything, or doing anything constructive themselves. They hesitate to buy securities at a fraction of 1929 prices, but with equally good future prospects."

We certainly do not think of fostering any fresh speculative campaign, but on the other hand the present is the time for courage instead of fear; for work instead of for whining; for sane saving, sane spending and sane investing. New fortunes are in the making. A few wise ones know it and are taking advantage of the situation. —"Toronto Mail and Empire.

Farmers in the Chatham area are being urged to grow soy beans. But the trouble with Canada to-day is that there are too many soys and not enough laughs.—Toronto Star.

A safe has been invented which it is claimed to be impossible to open. It evidently embodies the chief features of a taxicab window and a sardine tin. —Ottawa Journal.

Just as the 1932 wheat crop peeps through the Alberta soil France discovers the need of more Canadian wheat. Which is an excellent form of balance.—Toronto Globe.

THE EMPIRE

Britain and Europe

We in this country are part of Europe. We may regret that we are part of Europe. We may wish that the Atlantic was narrower and the Straits of Dover wider. But sentiment cannot alter geography. Not all that can be said or done at Ottawa will add one foot to the Straits of Dover.—Manchester Guardian.

Nationalism and the World

The world collectively condemns tariffs; the nations individually insist on keeping them. The world collectively says that reparations and international debts are ruinous; the nations individually protest that they cannot abandon their claims. The world collectively says that it is being ruined by armaments; the nations individually fight stubbornly to maintain their own armaments. All these things are linked together in the great world controversy. We are getting to the point when this quarrel must be composed or the system we call "capitalism" will break down. And yet by a queer paradox it is in most countries the capitalists, or at least the rich and well-to-do, who are most ardent in the defence of nationalist economies and national armaments. If between them they kill the capitalist system, it will be they themselves who will have done it.—J. A. Spender in the London News-Chronicle (Lib.)

Education in England

English education is very much alive. There are still dull patches in it, of course, but, go where you will, you are never far from a school which is showing strong power of adaptation to the new needs of the community. Three times before in history English education has flushed with renewed energy: first under Alfred, next at the time of the Reformation, and last in the early years of Queen Victoria. But never till now has it been free from the cramping influences of poverty. To-day it is well furnished and free in its choice of methods of work. Thes teachers are at liberty to try new ways of teaching; to get into the open air; to use other tools than the pen. A school needs space, zest and freedom if it is rightly to train those who a few years hence will make or mar the tone and temper of town and village, of factory, shop and farm. Not all the schools have yet made full use of their new opportunities. But England is now dotted over with good examples of the new education.—The Master of University College, Oxford, in the Spectator (London).

World Prices

While prices of world commodities have been tumbling for the last two years, the British trade unions have nailed their wages and hours to the wall, and refused to lower them an inch. This is called maintaining the standard of living. Other countries fail to recognize the right of the British artisan to a higher standard of living than themselves; they lengthen their hours and lower their wages to suit the changed conditions of the world markets, which, consequently, they snatch from under our noses.—A Truthful Tory in Truth (London).

OTHER OPINIONS

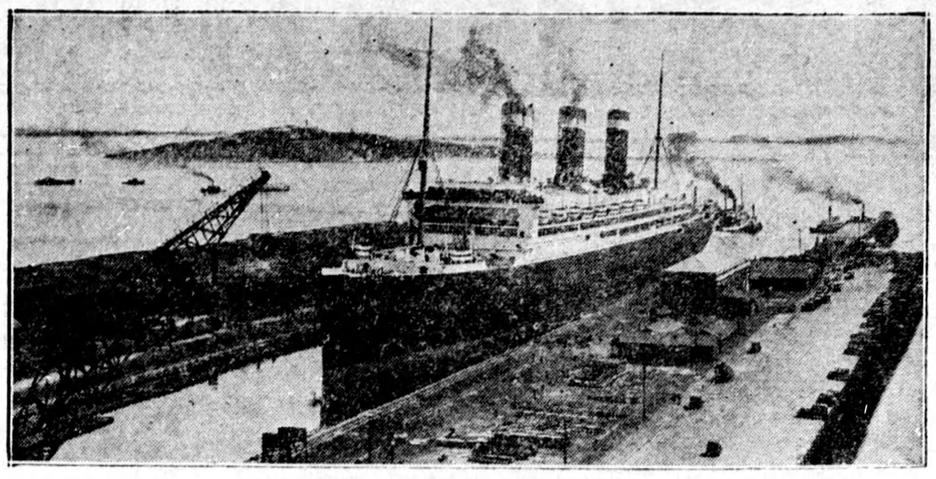
More British Protection

While neither the United States nor any other nation that trades heavily with the United Kingdom can do other than regret that the British are making the entry of foreign products into their country increasingly difficult, the fact stands out that they have definite purposes to achieve. Furthermore, they believe that the attainment of those objectives warrants the means to accomplish them. However unfortunate it may be for the rest of the world, one can hardly disregard the fact that the British are only emulating the example given them by the suffering nations. — Providence Journal.

Crisis Still to Come

If there is no actual starvation anywhere — even Chicago reports that "food is adequate and no one is suffering from cold"—there is everywhere misery and want. More and more workers have exhausted their savings; available relief funds are running low. Spring and Summer may bring seasonal improvement in industrial conditions in some localties, as in Detroit, but no one expects it to solve the problem of relief. From the viewpoint of the welfare workers the real crisis is still to come.—New York Times.

"Leviathan" Starts New Season



After a long winter nap, the Leviathan has had a spring rub-down and is ready for service again. We see her leaving the Boston drydock, bound for Europe once more.

McGill University to Honor Painter and Scientist

Montreal.—McGill University will honor a Canadian painter, a Canadian scientist, and two prominent citizens of the United States at the annual Spring convocation to be held this year on May 26, it was announced at the university. The honor list of those who will receive degree of Doctor of Laws now includes Horatio Walker, Isle of Orleans, Quebec, recognized as the dean of Canadian painters; Dr. John S. Plaskett, director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory at Victoria, B.C.; Dr. John H. Finley, associate editor of the New York Times, and Major-General Robert Y. Patterson, a former Canadian and a graduate of McGill University who is now Surgeon-General in the United States army.

The convocation address will be given by Dr. Finley who represented United States at the unveiling of the goodwill monument on McGill campus last Spring. In addition to the honorary awards, the degree of Doctor of Science will be conferred on Dr. I. M. Rabinowitch, director of the Department of Metabolism and physician in charge of the diabetic clinic at the Montreal General Hospital.

Stainless Steel Secret To Be Opened in 1960

Sheffield, England.—The story of the discovery of stainless steel, a secret for several years, is not to be told for another three decades.

Harry Brearley, discovered of the process, has given the "cutlers' company" of Sheffield a sealed envelope, admonishing the society not to open it until the cutlers' feast of 1960. The envelope contains his story of the discovery.

Irak Government Banishes Chairs For Visitors

Bagdad, Irak.—The Minister of Finance has issued instructions to all departments under his control, that in the future there must be only one chair in the rooms of heads of departments. All other chairs are to be taken away.

It is understood that this order was framed to prevent the waste of officials' time by visitors whose visits to Government offices are apt to be prolonged far beyond the time necessary for the transaction of their business.

5,000 Paris Flats Empty

Paris.—Official housing records indicate that empty apartment space is now available for 5,000 families. The apartments range from two to five principal rooms, with central heating and elevators, and at an annual rental of from $186 to $217.

Earl of Willingdon Escorted By Agridi Tribesmen

In a special despatch from India to the New York Times we read that our former Governor-General, the Earl of Willingdon, recently paid an official visit to the Khyber Pass, on the north-western Indian frontier. Four hundred Afridi tribal elders were there to meet His Excellency and to assure him of a general tribal loyalty to the Rajah and the British Crown. Such unpleasantnesses as have occurred on the frontier in the last two years have been the work of five per cent. of the younger tribesmen, led astray by Russian emissaries. The tribal leaders pdayed the Government "to pity the poor people and show its pleasure" by restoring to them the right to join the army and the police force. As the Viceroy drove through the Khyber Pass the way was guarded throughout, not by British troops, but by local levies drown from the tribes as a mark of confidence—a mark of confidence immensely appreciated by the tribal elders and the Afridis in general. The military roads in this district were originally built for defence purposes, but they now fulfill a most useful function as roads of peace, which make possible the freest intercourse between the tribesmen and the bazaars of Peshawar. Thousands of Canadians will be interested in this bit of news from a remote point on the Empire's far-flung frontiers.

Coal Gas As Motor Fuel Proves Success in Test

Santiago, Chile.—Experiments were conducted recently in utilizing coal gas with a special carburetor as fuel for automotive vehicles as increased prices for imported gasoline appeared inevitable, despite lengthy conferences between government officials and the two oil companies operating in Chile.

An experimental automobile was run satisfactorily for five kilometers (about three miles) on one cubic meter of gas in one trial.

Debts of Edgar Wallage Greatly Exceed Assets

London.—According to the Daily Mail an affidavit of Edgar Wallace's estate, presented for probate showed debts of about £81,000 (currently $340,200) and assets of £18,000 (currently $75,600) while the personal estate of the late author, who died in California on Feb. 10, was nil.

The affidavit, however was subject to correction, the newspaper said, as it was incomplete regarding his earnings in Hollywood. The Mail quoted his widow as having said the debt were due to heavy racing losses, extravagances and excessive generosity.

A native Indian couple, Mr. and Mrs. Himansui Rai, married in India, have given notice in London, England, of their intention to go through a second ceremony, as they are travelling and an English certificate would help them in applying for passports.

Hygiene Council Urges Continuance of Health Units

Toronto — Making an urgent plea that, under present conditions, every effort should be put forward to maintain at full strength and efficiency the health departments and community agencies concerned with health of safeguards, the boards of the Canadian Social Hygiene Council passed unanimously a resolution to that effect and decided to bring the general question to the attention of governments, other national organizations and the public generally.

Reports from many sections of the Dominion, the resolution states, indicated apprehension lest the necessary efforts towards reduction in governmental costs might lead to material curtailments in health services. That health is the first wealth of the people is stressed in the Council's statement which notes that, despite unfavorable economic conditions, the national health has been maintained at a high level. Up to the present time, this level has been raised year after year. It is further pointed out that expenditures for the protection and promotion of public health have been very small compared with outlays for other public services of intrinsic merit and that they do not, for this reason, lend themselves to deflation.

That maintenance of the public health, in the face of disturbed economic conditions, becomes even more vital than in normal times and that any relaxing of vigilance such as reduced health services would cause, would be fraught with danger, are given as reasons which prompted the Council's action. At the session over which Hon. Mr. Justice Riddell presided, with J. P. Bickell, chairman of the finance committee, business and financial leaders as well as public health officials, were present and expressed themselves as strongly in support of the sentiments expressed.

Soviet Industries Plan Order for German Iron

Berlin. — Recent reports from Essen said Soviet industries had placed new orders for 300,000 tons of iron bars and sheets and that possibly 200,000 additional tons would be ordered later.

Russian orders in the Ruhr industries so far this year were estimated at between 300,000,000 and 400,000,000 reichsmarks. Terms of financing are still being considered.

Platinum Deposit Found 20 Miles From Pembroke

Pembroke.—Finding of a platinum deposit in the Township of Fraser, 20 miles from here, was reported in Pembroke recently. More than 40 claims are reported to have been staked, and prospectors from Northern Ontario are reported preparing to flock into the district. It is understood the discovery was made some time ago by John Roberts, mining engineer, for a Beachburg syndicate, which is preparing to develop a rich feldspar deposit.

8,000 Canadians Addicts To Drugs, Report Shows

Ottawa.—Every effort had been made in Canada to restrict drug traffic, yet it was estimated there were 8,000 drug addicts in this country, Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen told the Senate recently. The international convention for limiting the manufacture and distribution of narcotic drugs at Geneva was approved.

Senator Meighen explained the purposes of the convention.

Japan Issues a Warning "Hands Off Manchuria"

Tokio.—A warning to the League of Nations and to Soviet Russia to keep "hands off Manchuria" was issued by General Sadao Araki, Japanese War Minister, in a speech to the Kokuhonsha, a patriotic society at Osaka.

The society is the nucleus of the present country-wide nationalist movement in Japan.

"Wool Week" Palnned

Perth, W. Aust. — The Pastoralists' Association with other local institutions, has set apart the week May 20 to 27 as "Wool Week," to advertise the high quality fleeces grown in this country. Prizes are offered by the association for woolen goods of various kinds.

News Oddities

Partners Solve Problem After Ten Lawyers Fail

Detroit.—Ten lawyers litigated for 13 weeks to effect a dissolution of the partnership of Mr. Jacob Shevitz and his uncle, Mr. Isaac August, principally because the partners hadn't kept books for 10 years.

Then the partners settled it all to their own satisfaction in less than 30 minutes. They wrote on 98 slips of paper the descriptions of the 98 properties they jointly owned, shuffled the deck and started dealing on a "one for you, one for me" basis.

Devotion to Canaries Cause of Divorce

St. Louis, Mo.—Mrs. Leona Sternfels sought a divorce from her physician husband and, although her suit did not specifically so state, 150 canary birds could have been named as co-respondents in the case.

Her petition stated that Dr. Arthur F. Sternfels passes most of his leisure hours with his canaries, that he frequently spent as much as $75 for a single bird and had invested at least $5,000 in his hobby.

Dr. Sternfels denied such excessive expenditures and insisted that every professional man is entitled to a diverting hobby.

Non-Poisonous Reptiles Swallows Deadly Loser

Boston.—The milk snake may be a non-poisonous, comparatively harmless member of the snake family, but when he is aroused it would seem that he is sure death to the venomous copperhead, according to a description of a thrilling battle between a copperhead and a milk snake as related in the Boston Society of Natural History bulletin.

Lewis H. Babbitt came upon the snakes in Simsbury, Conn. He describes the battle thus:

"For 15 minutes I watched this fight in the mountain side. The snakes were twisted into an apparently inextricable knot, with the milk snake squeezing the copperhead harder and harder, maintaining all the while a secure grip with its jaws clamped near the copperhead's tail while the latter sank its fangs into the neck of its antagonist. The contestants were balanced on a small stone but in their struggles fell off, and rolled some two feet down the slope, bringing up against a boulder."

Punctuality of Employe Saves Himself and Wife

St. Catharines.—The fact that he was a faithful and always punctual employe saved the life of Harry Lowe and his wife when they were overcome by gas at their home. Lowe was noted for his promptness in arriving at work, and when he failed to appear his employer despatched a messenger to ascertain the reason. The messenger failed to receive any answer to his knocks at the Lowe home, and he became alarmed. The police were summoned, but before they arrived the constant knocking had aroused Mrs. Lowe from a stupor and she stumbled to the door. Her husband was found in another room completely overcome by fumes escaping from a gas heater. Both responded to medical attention.

Spread of Automats Cuts Waiters' Tips

Brussels.—Twelve months ago there were practicallp no automatic buffets or quick-lunch bars in Belgium. Today there is one at almost every street corner, and they are having a quite unexpected effect. In the automat people serve themselves and pay no tips. The smaller cafe, feeling the effect of the competition, is putting out bills, "No tipping allowed here."

Waiters, with newly acquired dignity, after the war, proclaimed that they want no more tips, but expected 10 per cent. of the bill for service. This they got, but insolence took the place of the former obsequiousness, and none of the small services usually rendered for the tip were given unless more largesse was forthcoming.

This, combined with the blue laws, has been ruining the licensed victualers' trade. Now that tipping in the smaller place at any rate, is to be abolished, better times may be coming.

Medicinal Plants

Brussels.—The Minister of Agriculture has decided to promote the cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants in this country. Land has been selected for the experiments, and lectures with slides will be given at Lessines and other centres. Herbs are largely used in Belgian medicine, and serious complaints are treated with such simple remedies as cherry stalks or blackberry leaves, which curiously enough are quite successful.

More Americans Visit Manitoba

Manitoba had more American visitors in 1931 than in 1930, according to the president of the Winnipeg and Manitoba Tourist and Convention Bureau. Automobiles entering Manitoba Province from the United States in 1931 totaled 47,745—4,500 more than in 1930.—U. S. Commerce Reports.

Tires Match Color of Cars

Tires to match color combinations of motor cars are the latest innovation in the tire industry.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Australia reports an orchid forty-five feet high. Thep come rather high in other places, too.