Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Quid Pro Quo

Has it struck Canadians yet that, though Britain has a 20 per cent. tariff against the rest of the world, her markets to Canada, Australia and the remainder of the Dominions and Colonies of the British Empire are free? Canada maintains a high tariff against the Motherland. Britain gives free trade markets to us.—Lethbridge Herald (Lib.)

Canadian Tobacco

A. I. Phillips, chairman of one of the leading tobacco firms in Great Britain, said during the course of his address at the annual meeting of his company: "Canadian tobacco in the opinion of myself and my associates is equal to the finest raw leaf tobacco in the world. It has all the pleasing characteristics of United States Virginia tobacco." This new channel of Canadian export is clearly marked for great future development.—The Brantford Expositor.

Farmers' Co-operation

Co-operative farm movements are the salvation of the soil producer. Farmers must never forget that organization will beat disorganization every time. Unorganized, the farmer, whether he is farming fruit or wheat or poultry or animal husbandry, is a prey for every middle man, for every financial and political group that can get a toe-hold on his work and products.—Vancouver Sun.

King George

Twenty-two years ago May 16th King George ascended the throne of England. Tis reign has witnessed the most terrible of all wars, the worst of all depressions, a complete unheaval of organized forces, and more national crises than the previous hundred years together held. Throughout these twenty-two years of grave responsibility he has won for himself a place in the hearts of his own people and in the high esteem of the civilized world second to none. He has set a splendid example of a constitutional monarch labouring unceasingly for the welfare of his people, discharging his onerous duties with tact and skill, and exercising his influence ever on the side of peace, progress, prosperity and international goodwill. That he may be spared for many years yet to continue his invaluable services to Britain and the Empire was the sincere prayer of all his loyal subjects.—Montreal Star.

French Canada

The American tourist, who travels through our villages, hardly finds any difference between the country which he has left and the one which he had hoped find was new and picturesque and had something of France about it. More than this, the people who offer you a "chicken dinner" are doing all they can to adopt the universal and banal forms of international catering. It is quite conceivable that the tourist who has been attracted by the publicity given out about "French Quebec" may feel he has been deceived by a hotel like every other one he has seen on the roads of New York and of New England.—La Patrie, Montreal.

Much-Quoted Papers

With justifiable pride, the Stratford Beacon-Herald points out that it stood eighth in a list of 104 Canadian newspapers "most frequently quoted" during the three months ending with March last. It is a tribute to the daily papers in smaller centres not only that the Beacon-Herald was right on the heels of a large city paper and only one removed from the fourth Toronto paper, but that such journals as the Brantford Expositor, Woodstock Sentinel-Review, St. Thomas Times-Journal, Brockville Recorder and Times, Kitchener Record, St. Catharines Standard, Kingston Whig-Standard, Sault Ste. Marie Star, Chatham News, Guelph Mercury, Peterboro Examiner, Sudbury Star, Owen Sound Times, Oshawa Daily Times and North Bay Nugget were in the first half of the list.

It is charged frequently that the larger the newspaper the more pointless its editorials. While this cannot be said to apply as a rule to Canadian papers—this rule always carrying its exception—it is a fact that those in secondary cities, and especially in this Province, have become notable for constructive contribution to thought on public affair. The compilations of the Dominion Press Clipping Agency show how valuable this thought is considered by contemporaries which add to their service by passing it along.—Toronto Globe.

Pay As You Go

The argument is always made that as posterity will get the benefit of improvements, posterity should help to pay for them. This is done by issuing long-term debentures. Would it not have been the part of wisdom to pay cash for everything in the city as it was built? Posterity have their own things to buy for the benefit of the community. A father would never go and deliberately leave his son a legacy of debt. Why should a city do any different? And, as a parting thought, if past councils had paid cash for their purchases, they would have been much more careful in making expenditures.—Kitchener Record.

THE EMPIRE

The Future of the Empire

The Empire has recently emerged from a great war, shaken, but intact. Profound changes have been brought about in our social and industrial fabric, and some faint hearts fear the future. Yet the Empire possesses wide spaces which may support many millions of our people, while our agricultural and mineral resources are unmatched. Given a bold plan of constructive organization of Empire resources, the future has dazzling possibilities.—Wolverhampton Express.

Every Man His Own Garden

Allotment growers in this country are producing at least $10,000,000 worth of vegetables every year. This is the estimate given by the National Allotments Society. Their figures show that every ten-rod plot grows on the average between £7 and £10 worth of vegetables, which works out at between £112 and £150 per acre. Much of this is produced on land which formerly lay fallow or derelict. In England and Wales there are to-day over a million allotments, and allowing for large numbers in Scotand and Ireland, the £10,000,000 estimate is believed to be on the conservative side.—London Evening Standard.

Optimism in Britain

Most favorable feature of the year's revenue figures is the increased yield from customs, partly due to the new tariff duties, though most of them have been in force for only a month. A new budget year opens in an atmosphere of confidence and restrained optimism. It will not be an easy year; but the back of our financial problem has been broken. Those who, in many cases at great sacrifice, have paid their taxes promptly, and those who have cheerfully submitted to "cuts," may justly claim an important share of the credit due to a splendid achievement.—London Sunday Dispatch.

Canada's Example

The representatives of the Free State cannot but gain in knowledge from contact with men who have helped to build up the Dominion countries. If we were to select examples for consideration, the principles on which Canada solved her racial problems are worthy of investigation. Some persons in this country who know nothing about Canada may look on it as an overgrown "English" colony. It is nothing of the sort. Before England acquired Canada by the fortunes of a very complicated war, it was a French colony. The French still form the largest individual racial section of the population—and they are the most loyal to the Crown. There is an Irish section, or rather two Irish sections—Northern and Southern. There are Scottish and English sections, there are Teutons and Scandinavians. One and all, they are Canadians. Canada is their country, and they have gone a long way to develop it, and they propose to go a longer way still. When we have done as much, proportionately, to develop the resources of the Free State, we shall have done something of which to be justly proud.—Cork Examiner.

Crown Colonies and the Empire

Whatever the political ambitions of a future federated West Indies, the economic advantages of being welded within the British economic union would be too great to lose. We may aim to increase our stature as Crown Colonists, but Dominion status would not pay island colonies, which advertise themselves as the tropical orchards and sun-parlours of Great Britain. It may seem a far cry from the present increase of preference to British Colonial Empire Free Trade, or to an economic future such as we have indicated but we must not lose sight of the fact that the Chamberlain theories of pre-war days are now undergoing transition into technique and that the best economists in the Empire are engaged on hammering out that technique.—Trinidad Guardian.

OTHER OPINIONS

Log Cabin Survives

Our national architecture was a few felled lengths of forest crudely built up with the hide and hair still on it. The log cabin was mythically, if not actually as in Lincoln's case, the incubator of our great men. And we are still likely to think of it as peculiarly an American feature, although it appears, human geographers say, wherever the same woodland circumstances prevail, or prevailed fairly recently, as to-day in parts of Russia, Sweden, Finland, and even in Switzerland and in Northern Italy. The Germans have just perfected a portable copper house that can be erected by six men in 24 hours. You can take it to the seashore or to the mountains with you almost as handily as if it were a tent. It boasts an unequalled "rationalization" in housing. But who could recuperate from the machineage in such a contraption? Not the run of Americans, certainly, who came out of the woods only day before yesterday and have the shack and the log cabin still in their blood.—New York Herald-Tribune.

The Powers and the Far East

It is always a mistake to think that there is any clash between altruism and "practical affairs." The Powers have not intervened in the Far East to uphold this or that petty theory of some dreamer's brain. Peace in the Far East is a business necessity which concerns everyone.—Hong Kong Press.

Distinguished Visitors in Canada

Lady Gweneth Cavendish, sister of Lord Bessborough, arrives at Montreal on the Montcalm. The party from left to right: Hon. Margaret Thesiger, daughter of the Earl of Chelmsford, R. S. Baring, nephew of the governor-general, and his mother, Lady Cavendish.

Electrical Ear Warns Ships at Sea of Fog Peril

Tests made recently in New York harbor indicate the possibility of replacing human ears with electrical ones in listening for distant fog signals. By means of a microphone and a noise meter, set up on a lighthouse tender, engineers took readings at distances ranging from a few hundred yards to several miles from fog signals on Governors Island and Robbins' Reef.

The measurements were designed primarily to establish a new method of making the government's regular inspection of the operation of these signals. In addition, says Popular Mechanics Magazine, electric filters eliminating sound frequencies above 500 cycles were tried, since the fog signals have a much lower frequency. The results indicated that the filter system can be so sharpened as to cut out the sounds of ships' whistles and other harbor noises and admit to the sensitive noise meter only the fog signal itself. This would notify a skipper at once that he was within range of a signal.

Modern Women Modest Declares Beach Inspector

Savannah, Ga.—Dennis Lysaught, the veteran chief of police of Savannah Beach has just been elected to serve his twenty-second continuous year as a member of the force. Savannah Beach is the tidewater bathing centre for all this section of Georgia and a part of South Carolina.

During the long time he has been connected with the department, Chief Lysaught has seen the feminine bathing costume develop from a thing of skirts and trousers to the present incidental garb. The Chief approves of the change. It has come gradually, he says, but with each season's abbreviation he has not found a corresponding shrinkage of modesty. "It's all a matter of custom", is the Chief's conclusion.

Controlling Sunlight

Natural sunlight all day long in any room of a house, even in rooms that open only on dark wells or airshafts, is promised by a new device reported from the Institute of Optics of Paris, France, writes Dr. E. E. Free in this week's Science. This device uses one of the new photo-electric cells nicknamed the "electric eye." Mirrors are provided to catch the sunlight on the roof of the house and to direct some of it vertically downward outside each set of windows. Other mirrors then reflect parts of these vertical beams through the windows into the individual rooms. Extra large roof mirrors may be used to catch a great deal of the sunlight and divide this into smaller individual beams. Any dimming of the sunlight due to reflection from the mirrors can be counteracted by using lenses or curved mirrors to concentrate some excess sunlight in the beginning.

Where the electric eye enters is to keep the first mirror always pointed directly at the sun as that body moves through the heavens. In previous mirror systems for distributing sunlight this needed movement of the first mirror to follow the sun has been done by clocks like those used by astronomers to move their telescopes, a method which is too expensive for practical use. The new Parisian device works by placing a small and inexpensive photo-eletric cell in the first beam of reflected sunlight. As the sun moves in the sky so that the beam of reflected sunlight tends to move away from this photo-electric cell, the cell operates a small electric motor and turns the first mirror just enough to bring the reflected beam back into the proper line.

When A Broken Leg Straightened Matters

It may sound too optimistic to describe a fractured leg as a lucky break. Yet the victim in this particular instance, it is hoped, will eventually think so.

Years ago, he fractured his right leg so badly that when the bones healed, the limb was an inch or more shorter than the other. Recently, te left leg was broken in an automobile accident. In setting this fracture, a Toronto surgeon adjusted the fragments in such a way that when repairs are completed both legs will be the same length, and the patient a wee bit shorter than he used to be.

"Guiding" Comes of Age

The Girl Guide movement in England is celebrating its twenty-first birthday this month.

Really, it is more than twenty-one years old, because there were Girl Guides before the movement started officially. Liverpool had a contingent of them in 1909, and Manchester in 1910. It was the spontaneous springing up of these little companies of "Girl Scouts," as they had called themselves, that led to the launching of the national movement.

At first there was a good deal of prejudice against the Guides — people thought the training would turn out "tomboys." That fear has now vanished, and the coming-of-age will be celebrated by services in many important churches of various denominations. The twenty-first year of the Guides will also be marked, in the autumn, by a week of tree-planting along public roads.

There are to-day over 1,000,000 Girl Guides throughout the world. A feature of the movement is the work that the Guides have done to lighten the lot of the blind, deaf, and crippled.—Answers.

Excavation in Balkans Reveal Metal Pieces

Most European countries have valuable metal articles in their churches and monasteries, a heritage from the Middle Ages. The Baltic states, however, writes the Riga correspondent of "The Christian Science Monitor," have suffered so severely from wars that these articles come to light only during excavations.

One of the most valuable of these excavated articles is the Emperor Otto cup, which is to be seen in the Dom Museum in Riga. This cup was found scores of years ago in the north of Livland (now Estonia) in a field in the neighborhood of Fellin Castle, which was built by medieval knights.

The cup, which has a diameter of thirteen inches and is made of dark bronze, more than 900 years ago was used as a patena chrismalis, a vessel in which the consecrated oil was kept during church services. It is an exceedingly valuable relic, as the only other specimen known was found in the neighborhood of Madgeburg, Germany.

The cup derives its name from the portrait of Otto the Great (936-973), which is to be seen on five medallions at the extremities and in the center of a flat cross covering the bottom.

Court Makes Patient Live Up to Gratitude

Toulon, France.—Happy over his recovery from an illness, M. Bespalov, a Russian resident, wrote a grateful letter to his physician in which he said:

"If ever, doctor, misfortune should strike you, I will give you 100,000 francs ($4,000) and this not as a gift, but because you have well earned it."

Recently the doctor had to undergo the amputation of both legs and, finding himself in need, suggested that his former patient make good his promise. Bespalov could not see it that way and the doctor went to court.

The tribunal ordered payment, holding that the written promise was formal and binding.

Stream Flow in the Maritimes

Stream-flow in the Maritime Provinces during March, as reported by the Dominion Water Power and Hydrometric Bureau of the Department of the Interior, was considerably below normal. In southern New Brunswick the mean run-off was only 17 per cent., in northern New Brunswick and western Nova Scotia it was less than 60 per cent and in eastern Nova Scotia about 73 per cent. of the March average. The reason for this subnormal flow was the continuanse of the cold dry weather in the Maritime Provinces which had persisted throughout February.

GENERAL — — — — — — TRAVISS

How Birds View Man's Invasion

The airplane, as might be expected, is viewed with suspicion by the birds, writes T. J. C. Martyn in The New York Times. Occasionally they have aided their feathered friends, as when they swiftly moved stranded swallows south from Austria and Switzerland, thus assisting in a winter migration.

But more usually the larger ones have cocked a hostile eye on the airplane. He proceeds:

"There are several authenticated cases of condors attacking airplanes in the Andes. Eagles, too, resent airplanes. They usually prefer the frontal attack, but a German eagle, who thought he knew better, decided on a flank attack from a frontal angle. This was a grave error. He was picked up sometime later with a broken neck.

"In these days when pigs, dogs, lobsters, and even a camel have been transported by air, queer things will out. A hen took to the air once with great and evident pleasure. To show her gratitude she laid an egg.

"Often the mere presence of an airplane is enough to cow the smaller birds. It seems that they take them for large eagles. Thus, in a war on some marauding crows, the presence of an airplane flying low overhead was enough to keep the chattering black birds in the trees, while the farmers massacred them with shotguns.

"Airplanes were used for hunting lions in Africa, until a government decree halted them. Hers of horses out West have at times been much alarmed by the passage of airplanes. But there have been times when the animals have scored. Once a horse found an airplane in a field. He approached it stealthily, gave one lick at the fabric, and found it rather tasty. In a few minutes he had demolished the entire tail, eschewing the wood and chewing only the doped fabric.

"One of the most curious of queer happenings in the air occurred in the war. One day, about noon, a British 2C was sighted gliding down toward its airport. But instead of circling to land it kept steadily on and passed over the field. Instant suspicion crept into every man's mind that the Germans were landing a spy in a captured machine. A truck was manned and a half dozen stalwarts, armed with revolvers, made off in the direction in which the airplane disappeared. In a few minutes the machine was discovered, standing still in a large field, its 'prop' turning over slowly. From ample cover some one called out. There was no answer, though two men could be seen sitting in their cockpits.

"Finally, some intrepid soul stealthily approached, only to find that both airmen were dead. The machine had actually flown them home and landed them safely, without any damage to its structure.

"There is the story of a pilot who went looking for trouble. Up in front of him loomed a giant thunderhead. He thought to himself, 'I should like to see what is inside.' As soon as the pilot got into the cloud he felt his heart sinking into his shoes, as if he were being shot upward in an elevator. He was elevated at the alarming rate of 1,400 feet a minute. He pushed the control stick forward as far as it would go. It made no difference: he was still being carried upward and—to make matters worse—sideways at a speed of some seventy-miles an hour. Eventually his experience came to an end; for he suddenly shot out of the cloud in a dive, yet several thousand feet higher than when he had entered it."

Highway Menace

It would be interesting to know how many motorists, reading the warning given by Hon. Leopold Macaulay, Minister of Highways, about the importance of headlights, have bothered to check up on this particular equipment of their own cars. Every driver, out on the highway after nightfall, knows that the headlights of the majority of approaching cars are a menace to his safety . . . but in all probability he hasn't taken the trouble to ascertain whether or not his own beams of illumination are as annoying to others. There were 250 accidents in Ontario last year directly attributable to faulty headlights, the Minister of Highways declares. Twelve of these had fatal termination.—Hamilton Spectator.

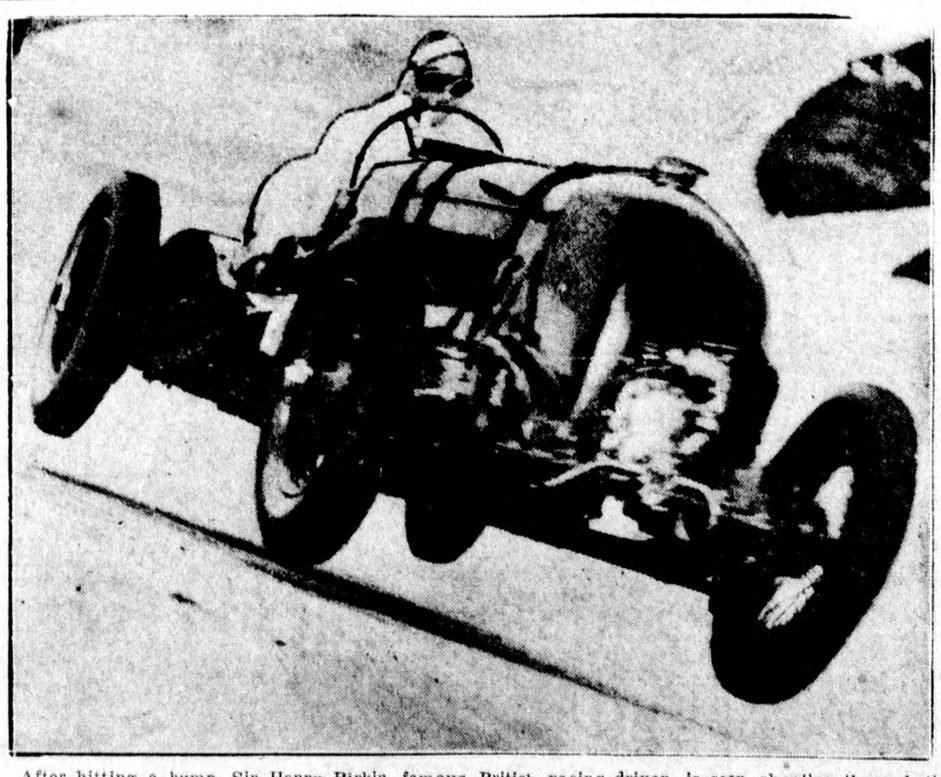
Traveling in 'Good Old Days'

Traveling in the olden days was a dangerous and sometimes amusing experience, according to P. J. Pybus, Minister of Transport, who quoted history during an address in London recently. He said that Edward I took the coach by degrees, and "tried it on the dog," for when he went to Scotland he himself was carried in a horse litter, while the ladies of the court traveled in coaches.

In the reign of George IB, Sidney Smith recorded that in his coach journey from Taunton to Bath he received from 10,000 to 12,000 contusions. "This," said Pybus, "worked out at one for every eight yards. Possibly on that painful journey Sidney Smith allowed his mind to dwell longingly on the comfortable swinging of the horse litter in the good old days."

HAPPINESS.

Our happiness does not depend on circumstance or place or time; it is something that lies within us, here and now.



After hitting a bump, Sir Henry Birkin, famous British racing driver, is seen shooting through the air with wheels off the ground, during a practice for the British Empire trophy at Brooklands, England.