Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Too Much Optimism

If anything could hurt the forthcoming Imperial Economic Conference it would be the raising of extravagant expectations leading to inevitable disappointment and disillusion. The warning hint dropped by Sir Charles Gordon, therefore, is timely and useful. Like other authorities, he feels a quiet optimism about the Conference, and at the same time recognizes the danger of inflated expectations. As he points out, the Conference will not revolutionize the whole trade of the Empire. Indeed, the violent wrench which comes with trade revolutions, as with other revolutions, would be most unwelcome. Instead, those who are far-sighted will look forward to laying at Ottawa the foundations for a steady and permanent increase in Imperial trade. And there is every promise that this practical ideal will be realized.—Montreal Star.

All-Canadian Restaurant For London?

A Canadian resident in London writes to the newspaper Canada suggesting the establishment of a Canadian restaurant in the capital of the Empire as a focus point for resident and visiting Canadians. Greeks, Chinese, Italians and Russians can all repair to centres where they may meet their countrymen and eat and drink nationally. Canadians have no such amenities, and the aspersion on their initiative is no small one.

Now the gauntlet has been thrown down by a South African. Mr. Lewis Leuw, a retired Cape Town hotel proprietor, has courageously braved the bristling difficulties of the situation and has just opened a South African snack bar and lounge in the Adelaide Street wing of Gatti's Restaurant. A springbok's head faces the entrance; there is a counter laden with snoek, biltong, mebos, mealies, crayfish and other typically South African delicacies; and the selection of Dominion wines does credit to Mr. Leuw's mature judgment and provides, incidentally, an unrivalled opportunity of converting sceptics of the Empire's vinicultural abilities.

The South African community has been quick to take advantage of Mr. Leuw's enterprise, and already, in addition to a regular restaurant clientele, the foundations have been laid of a South African Reunion Club, for which headquarters have been taken in the roomy premises of the first floor. "London Canadian" feels strongly that some Canadian should go and do likewise.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Farmers in Northern Ontario may have from the government supplies of red pine and spruce trees for purposes of reforestation. Every advantage should be taken of this offer. Planting trees is not much trouble, and future generations will bless those who do such work to-day.—Toronto Globe.

"All For Each; Each For All."

In Calgary, Alberta, some seventy-five unemployed war veterans have secured premises, pooled their slim resources, and set out to maintain themselves. By concerts and other entertainments they secure funds. Barbers, cobblers, tailors, and so on, in this little community work for the benefit of all.

Commenting on this venture, the Calgary Albertan says it is doubtful that other than ex-soldiers could make it succeed. "Organization made the scheme a success. All the good-will in the world would not have placed these men where they are now had they not agreed to sink their individual interests in their common interest, had they not submitted willingly to a certain discipline, and had not somebody planned and organized.'

This enterprise proves two things; the value of discipline, and that necessity remains the mother of invention. The undertaking has the advantage of appealing to popular sympathy on patriotic grounds, as it presents a definite plan for assisting the returned man; and it is well worthy of a trial in other parts of the country.—Toronto Globe.

There's a silver lining to every cloud, and the hard times have produced one of the best epigrams in years from Mr. B. P. Alley, of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, who says: "The way out of a depression is not around a corner but up a hill."—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Not Wanted As Boarders

We have all we can do in Canada now to look after those who are in need of assistance without having shipments of Doukhobors thrust on us as star boarders. Tell them plenty—and they can understand English — that they must quit their defiance at once or immediately become participants in an excursion party headed for the land from which they came, and with no return privileges. — Strafford Beacon-Herald.

Canada's Confidence

While Europe showed a tendency to flee from the dollar, because of the conviction its value was to decline, Americans were fleeing to this same currency and withdrawing it from circulation in commodity markets and from banks, despite the implication that money being tucked away was to be made less valuable. Such unreasoning and contradictory shifts of capital reveal the way fear is demoralizing world finance. They also point to the advantage Canada has held over almost all other countries during the entire period of the depression through the fact that confidence of Canadians in their fiscal system and financial institutions has not been disturbed.—Toronto Telegram.

THE EMPIRE

What is "British?"

A point that will have to be discussed at Ottawa is the definition of a British product. Originally, Canada, which led the way in preferential trade in the Empire, regarded as entitled to preferential treatment any article in which British material and (or) labour represented 25 per cent. of the total value. That definition has been amended and now, not only in Canada but elsewhere, the British proportion must not be less than 50 per cent., and the danger of importation here on preferential terms of goods mainly foreign but passing as Empire products is very real. The need for uniform definitions in all parts of the Empire seems obvious.—London Times Trade Supplement.

India at Ottawa

During the week the composition of India's delegation to the Ottawa Conference has been announced, but it is impossible to feel any enthusiasm over the names. Sir Atul Chatterjee, the High Commissioner in London, is a highly competent official, but Sir George Rainy and Sir P. P. Ginwalla, two successive Presidents of the India Tariff Board, have throughout their official career been exponents of the highest and most Chinese type of Protection. Whatever the report of the delegation—and on that we are not hopeful—India possesses full fiscal autonomy. Action can only be taken on agreement, if any, reached at Ottawa through the agency of tariffs, and tariffs can only be passed by the All-India Legislature.—Calcutta Englishman.

Empire First

If the Mother Country and the Dominions go to Ottawa each expecting to reap immediate material advantages, the soreness of disappointment will be a danger to good relations. If each member goes with a spoken or unspoken cry of "For ourselves first; for the Empire second," why should any deserve to gain at all? They must put the Empire first and all these things shall be added unto them, for they are partners in the Empire; as partners, not rivals, they must discuss their business; and as partners they must claim to share the advantages that come from their discussion. As partners, yes, and partners in a family business, but business relations are the severest test of family affection. This is a caution of which we would remind, day in and day out, everyone throughout the Empire whose duty it is to make any of the preparations for Ottawa. If one of the delegates at Ottawa, thinking to do his duty by those who sent him, tries to get the better of another delegate, the rift in the family is opened.—Spectator (London).

The Bountiful Banana

Were is not for the banana we should be in a terrible position to-day. It is almost the one product in the world the producers of which are still receiving, if not prosperity prices, at any rate prices that represent a margin of profit. That is why, in spite of the depression, Jamaica has up to the present been able to carry on as successfully as she has. If we had sugar representing 50 per cent. of our exports to-day, and bananas only 20 per cent., we should be in a very precarious position indeed with sugar at its present prices.—Kingston (Jamaica) Gleaner.

OTHER OPINIONS

Economic Isolationism

The tariffs and quotas and embargoes that are going up everywhere would be bad enough if they were emergency measures reflecting the operations of a war mentality. But too often they are now being defended not as expedients but as a new economic dispensation. The gospel of the "self-contained" nation is preached with a vehemence which is in the main part, no doubt, the outcome of our distress. But it is mischievous, just the same, to read on every hand that every country should try to forget, to the utmost possible extent, that there is a world ouside. Forget exports, forget shipping, forget foreign investments, go in for cultivating your own garden, and around it raise as high a wall as you can make.

Canadian Broadcasting

Canada's need for wave-lengths becomes obvious when the vast stretches and the many isolated regions of that country are taken into consideration. A population basis for wave-length division is hardly usable since the area to be covered is the question, not the number of people crowded into a given area. With the proposed Canadian system, more cleared channels will be needed for Canada. The Mexican side will have to be heard also. The Madrid conference, scheduled for this fall, is a logical place to iron out these difficulties. It is obvious that the United States must give up some of its wave-lengths to Canada and Mexico, which will make the present shortage of wave-lengths even more acute.—Boston Christian Science Monitor.

Toronto-Windsor Service Inaugurated

Miss Helen Oakley and Miss Stair Lyon, Toronto debutantes, were the first passengers to enter the Canadian Airways plane, inaugurating the service between Toronto, Windsor, Chicago and Winnipeg. They were accompanied by Rupert Oakley.

The Superiority of British Military Aircraft

The great reputation of the Royal Air Force and of British-built military aircraft is shown by the fact that flying officers and cadets from no fewer than 27 foreign countries have received courses of training at Royal Air Force establishments, or have been attached to them, since the beginning of 1928. Included in the list of countries represented are several of the Latin-American states: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Mexico; 16 continental countries. Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Latvia, Norway, Holland, Portugal, Poland, Roumania, Sweden, Spain, and Yugoslavia; and seven other extra-European nations: China, Japan, Siam, Turkey, Egypt, India and Iraq. Altogether 138 officers and cadets from these countries have been attached to British service establishments.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Night Flying in Africa Now Made Possible

London—A further speeding-up of Imperial Airways service in South Africa has ben achieved by equipping some of the airdromes for night flying.

It is now possible to fly from Salisbury in Rhodesia to Cape Town in 15½ flying hours, a journey which takes 68 hours by train.

Canada Facing Active Trade Era

In Better Condition Than Any Other Country, Says Trade Commissioner

London.—The Overseas Trade Department recently made public a report from F. W. Field, British Trade Commissioner in Canada and Newfoundland, in which he said there was ground for the opinion the Dominion was about to embark on another era of active development.

Canada, the report said, had resisted the forces of depression in notable manner, and was probably in better general condition than any other country. Should world conditions improve, it added, the Dominion was likely to be one of the first countries to recover.

The condition of Canada, Mr. Field wrote, has been ascribed largely to the hardy character of the Canadian people. "While that is true," he continued, "the country's industrial and financial fabric received considerable strength during the good years from 1925 to 1928.

"If the depression continues much longer Canada may find its common daily round task more difficult. As soon as world conditions improve the Dominion is likely to be one of the first countries to recover. At this time it appears to us an attractive avenue scarcely explored for co-operation between units of the Empire in their mutual interests and for a combined attack upon present problems."

His Wife—"It's about time to think about where we shall spend the Summer." Husband—"I wish you'd say "pass" the Summer, Helen, "spend" is so confoundedly suggestive."

Helen Keller, famous American authoress, blind since birth, is shown sitting on the veranda of her hotel at Loos, Cornwall, before proceeding to Glasgow for an LL.D. degree. Her secretary stands beside her.

World Peopled By Two Billions

Alaska Has Least Density of Population, With Belgium Highest Ratio for Europe

New York—The population of the world is about 1,992,500,000, and there are 39.2 persons for every square mile of land on earth, according to figures issued recently by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The department has compiled data for 103 countries on area, population and density of population of the largest city, using official statistical publications of the individual nations.

The United States, with a land area of 2,973,766 and an estimated population of more than 124,000,000, has a density of 41.7 persons a square mile, it is shown. Alaska has the smallest density of any country listed, with only 59,000 inhabitants for 586,400 square miles of land, the density is 0.1.

People are more closely packed together in Hong Kong than in any other listed area. Based on a land area of only 390 square miles and a population of 853,000 in 1931, the density is 2,187.2 a square mile.

CHINA MOST POPULOUS.

China, the most populous nation, with 474,821,000 inhabitants in 1930, had a density of 110.4 for the 4,300,000 square miles of land area. Among the major countries having a high density are the United Kingdom with 489.9 persons a square mile, Japan with 347.2, Belgium with 691.6, the Netherlands with 599.4, Germany with 353.8 and Italy with 343.6.

Greater London is reported to have 8,203,000 inhabitants as of 1931 and New York 6,930,000. It is pointed out, however, that the figures are not closely comparable, as the area of greater London is 693 square miles, but that of registration London is only 117 square miles and the population of the latter area only 4,396,821.

In seventy-four instances of 103 the country's largest city also is the capital.

WOMEN OUTNUMBER MEN.

Females generally outnumber males throughout the world, it is indicated on the basis of data for thirty-three nations. In only ten of these is the population more than half male. Argentina is reported to have the greatest percenetage of males with 53.6, and Ceylon is next with 52.9. Fifty-one out of every 100 persons in the United States are men. Latvia reported the smallest percentage of males, with 46.6, and France was next with 47.5.

Clemenceau Museum

Paris—Paris has added yet one more to its long list of museums. The little flat on the ground floor of a house in the Rue Franklin, where Clemenceau lived, has just been opened to the public. His bedroom, which was also his workroom, contains a bed without a mattress—for the "Tiger" always slept on boards—and a work table with the manuscript of the last page of his book, "Grandeurs et Miseres de la Victoire," kept in place by the goose quill that he used In the dining room, on a table, there are three large rusty keys which had been given to Clemenceau. They are the keys of the Bastille. The famous skull cap still hangs on a hook in the tiny hall, and several of Claude Monet's paintings adorn the walls of the apartment. Behind, in a little garden, a few small rose bushes provide the flowers that Clemenceau loved so well.

Small Farms Gain Favor in England

Birmingham, Eng.—In Worcestershire and Warwickshire Counties there has been a decided increase recently in the number of small farms of from two to five acres, on which owners have built, or are building, homes.

Poultry farming is one of the chief industries on these farms and eggs are sent every day into Birmingham and other large towns in the neighborhood. Eggs are cheaper in the Midlands this spring than they have been for years.

Eclipse to be Viewed By British Astronomers

London.—According to latest reports three British expeditions will leave for Canada in July to observe the total eclipse of the sun, which will be visible over a large portion of Eastern Canada.

Parent, Que., will receive the party from Greenwich Observatory Cambridge astronomers will establish themselves at Magog, and the Imperial College of Science party wil have headquarters at McGill Observatory.

MUST BE SERIOUS.

Mother came down the stairs wearing a worried frown.

"Henry," she said to her husband, "don't you think we had better send for a doctor? Little Bertie says he feels so bad."

Father smiled a little callously.

"Tut, tut!" he replied. "He's felt bad before this and soon got over it."

She shook her head.

"Yes, dear, that may be, but never at holiday time," she replied.

Sees Golden Age For the Empire And Dominion

President of C. C. of C. in Address Declares Canada Sound

San Francisco.—In an address here before the United States Chamber of Commerce, W. L. McGregor, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, declared Canadian institutions were essentially sound and the country in a position to go ahead as soon as the economic horizon clears.

"Canada to-day is absolutely sound" he said, stressing the strong position of banks, trust, mortgage and insurance companies in the Dominion.

To the forthcoming Ottawa Imperial Conference and to foreign countries in which she is regarded highly, Mr. McGregor said, Canada can hope to look successfully for increased trade. Those who imagined the British Empire was a dead issue, he added, would find they had based their belief on mis-information.

Empire-Minded

"We of the British family of nations, he continued, "have become more Empire-minded than ever during these past two years. The Empire Economic Conference in Ottawa to be held this July is an indication that we are now committed to an Empire economic policy. The practical translation of that policy means that the Empire's imports from foreign countries, both through sentiment and by preference, will be increasingly deflected to British sources, while there promises to be an absolute, apart from a deflective, development of reciprocal trade.

"Those who are not of the Empire," Mr. McGregor said, "are unwise to under-estimate the commercial potentialities and trading power of the British nations, and may well keep an eye on the Conference..

The president of the Canadian chamber added, however, that there would be no attempt at the conference to promote exclusionism or economic isolation for the British Empire, which had been in business too long for that sort of thing.

Empire First

"We shall, however, certainly adopt in the job ahead the commercial policy of Empire first," he said, "and, if foreign nations also want to do business with us on reasonable terms and on a mutually profitable basis then we doubtless will be quite prepared to negotiate with them."

Mr. McGregor suggested that United States interests, owning many millions of dollars worth of investments in Canada stood to gain materially from any concrete advantages Canada might secure at the conference or from any measures of Empire-wide preference which might be adopted. He suggested it would be worth while for the United States chamber, and particularly its members with interests in Canada, to watch closely progress of the conference during the summer.

"It looks as though the development of Empire trade will give Canada more than ordinary commercial opportunities overseas," he said ,"and I venture to think that with American ingenuity and brains working through Canadian factories, these opportunities may also be shared by you."

Prince Defends Graduates of Public Schools—Varsities

London.—The Prince of Wales recently deprecated the opinion that public school and university graduates became inefficient business men.

Addressing a sales managers' conference, the Prince said: "I have heard it contended some employers will not engage public school and university graduates because they are unaccustomed to hard and sustained work. If this were true it would indeed be a heavy indictment against our public schools and universities.

"While it may have been true of some, and still true of a few, I do not believe it is generally true."

During the Great War, the Prince said, the country turned to her public school boys for officers. He could not remember an instance of a public school man shirking duty and hardship, however arduous and fatiguing it might be. While the urge to serve their country might be a partial explanations of the valor of public school men, the Prince believed sound education and training played an important part in fitting them for national emergency.

At the present time an Englishman's duty was less heroic, but none the less vital. Today's call, the Prince stated, is for national service through courageous conduct of commerce.

Close Check Kept on Manitoba Autoists

Winnipeg.—Manitoba drivers, where the accident damage exceeds $25, now have to prove financial responsidibity before obtaining a 1932 driver's license under the law.

Drivers charged with being intoxicated while operating their car or truck must also give proof of financial responsibility. The form acceptable is an automobile insurance policy.

New regulations are being stringently enforced, and they are also retroactive. Drivers who had an accident two years ago are being refused a license this year, even though issued one in 1931, unless of the proof of responsibility is now forthcoming.