Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Steps Forward Again

As usual, John Bull has taken the initiative in showing good faith toward his obligations by a tentative arrangement for payment to the United States of war debts deferred during the past year. The Hoover moratorium applied to all debtor nations, but none except Britain, so far, has come forward to make a settlement, as she was also first to make the original war-debts settlement. Her arrangement at that time was the most costly of all, and the present proposal, rather than bringing relief, increases the expense. The interest rate is 4 per cent. instead of 3, and if the pound remains at less than par when the money is forwarded the pament in pounds will be that much heavier.

The fact that Britain's arrangement is conditional does not alter the principle. Westminster hopes a way will be found to wipe out all war debts or adjust them to prevailing conditions. Payment of arrears will depend upon the outcome of negotiations at Lausanne on the major problem. John Bull has let it become known that he will follow his traditional policy of meeting obigations, no matter how it hurts.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

The New Zealand Treaty

Any treaty or trade arrangement that gives Canada a preference in a $200,000,000 a year market cannot but be a good thing for Canada. That is what has happened in the case of the new treaty entered into with New Zealand, and the consequences are bound to be beneficial.—Ottawa Journal.

"Holding On To It"

It is understood here that United States railways, in order to hold Canadian traffic for their lines, are accepting payment in Canadian funds. It means that in these transportation matters the Canadian people are receiving no compensating advantage from their depreciated dollar. It also demonstrates the determination of United States carriers not to relinquish the Canadian traffic which is diverted from our own lines and our own ports.—Halifax Herald.

Sunny Ontario

Those who talk so freely in this country of Sunny California do not seem to realize that Canada's most southerly point in as far south as the northern boundary of California, and that this point is in Ontario. Pelee Island, in Lake Erie, about 45 miles from Windsor, is the area in question. The Dominion's southernmost point is farther south than 11 of the states of the neighboring republic, and south of part of eight other states. The states farther north than this part of Canada are: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, while those partly north are Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming. Giving further consideration to the physical geography of this continent, what do we find? Merely this—and contrary to what is generally believed—that the 49th parallel of latitude is not the southerly boundary of Canada. It separates only the four Western Provinces from the adjacent states. The most populous sections of Ontario and Quebec, and the provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are located south of the 49th parallel.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Lancashire's Change

With ruin staring them in the face if the present situation is prolonged, the cotton spinners of Lancashire have at last taken their courage in their hands and moved to break the deadlock created by the refusal of the workmen to stand by the tentative agreement regarding more looms and wage limitations reached towards the end of March. They have decided to terminate the agreement of 1929 under which working hours were reduced from 55½ per week to 48 and a compensating wage scale provided. This simply means that each individual mill owner will be able to conclude a separate agreement with his own employees. In fact, a number of firms have already done so, introducing more looms per operator and cutting wages, and are now working full capacity under the new agreement. — Montreal Star.

What of the "Dole?"

A year or two ago nearly everybody in Canada and the United States was blaming conditions in Britain on what they called "the dole" and predicting that nothing was so necessary as the ending of this system which was described as paying a cash bonus to idleness. In Canada and the United States, where unemployment is widespread and where "relief" has to be given to multitudes of people running into large and increasing totals, one hears no more censure of the British method of dealing with a problem which is now our problem also. It is more with envy than reproach that the British method is now being regarded. —Toronto Star.

Preparing for the Conference

The Winnipeg Board of Trade has done an excellent piece of work in the brief prepared at the request of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in preparation for the Imperial Economic Conference. Its detail is exhaustive, and represents the results of a very thorough survey of commerce and industry in Manitoba. The leading recommendation is that a permanent Inter-Empire board shall be formed, to meet at least once a year for the purpose of promoting the development of Inter-Empire trade and the fullest possible utilization of the Empire's resources and man-power. — Winnipeg Tribune.

The Last Canadian Frontier

"The Men of the Last Frontier," by Gray Owl, a Scottish-Indian trapper who served overseas during the war, gives a vivid picture of Indian life in the northern Canadian wilds. The book has considerable merit as a Canadian product by an aboriginal Canadian. It constitutes a real addition to the literature of the nation. It has been considered worthy of a full-page review in the Sunday edition of the New York Times. The exclusive Canadian rights are owned by the Macmillan Company of Canada, Limited, St. Martin's House, Toronto. — Toronto Mail and Empire.

THE EMPIRE

British Finance

The financial typhoon which has devastated the whole commercial world hit Great Britain with terrific force. It even waterlogged the pound sterling. But cool, competent navigation has righted the ship, and it seems likely that she will reach quiet waters before any other of the nations have weathered the storm.—Melbourne Australasian.

Violence in India

During the past few weeks there has been an epidemic of serious dacoities and murders from which few parts of India have been exempt. It is not necessary to assume that all these crimes are necessarily due to political or terrorist motives. That is not to say that the Congress does not bear a very serious share of responsibility. For ten years Congress have consistently preached the virtues of breaking the law and every day in every way have done their utmost to make the task of the guardians of law and order as difficult as possible. It is, however, a well known fact, confirmed by Police records in all parts of India, that economic depression is at once reflected in an increase of cognisable crime; that there are more dacoities when the monsoon fails. This year, as if the worldwide economic depression were not serious enough, the winter rains have generally failed in Northern India.—Calcutta Englishman.

This Patriotism

Foreigners resident in Egypt often share the opinion of many Egyptians that the British community appear indifferent to the pride of their heritage. The truth can be witnessed at least once a year, whn the 24th of May brings round Empire Day. It is essential that if this celebration of a great national occasion must be made, it should be made well. Apart from the necessity of imparting the correct impression, it is necessary to remind oneself in an impressive way that one belongs to a world-wide community of the greatest kinship that history has ever recorded. The children must have the important fact deeply planted in their growing and impressionable minds if they are to carry on the traditions and work that their parents will one day bequeath to the. The undying spirit of Britain is as powerful and virile to-day as it has ever been.—Cairn Sphinx.

The Plague of the Roads

Every day eighteen people are dying on the roads, and 550 are being injured, many of them for life. Imagine the outcry through the country if some plague spread through the towns and villages of the land and struck down as any victims! How can we fight the plague of the roads? It seems little use to pile Act of Parliament upon Act of Parliament. The reckless driver will still be reckless even though he is condemned by a thousand Acts. The only remedy is the sterner application of the powers to punish the careless man at the wheel. There is no need for any penal code against the careless pedestrian. He is already punished by death.—London Daily News.

Britain and Europe

Great Britain's troubles lie in and proceed from Europe, which has drained her through the centuries of how any millions of lives and what unaccountable wealth. The British people mean to be free of this incubus. They mean to regain their liberty of action and to conduct themselves with friendship towards all nations, and to engage in entangling alliances and agreements with none. And they mean to take their own measure of their liabilities and to provide against them as they think fit. The first step to the recovery of our political freedom must be to make an end of this farce of conference after conference at Geneva and Lausanne—futile political teaparties that end in nothing but strife, distract our statesmen from the Empire, and are proving the dearest investment we ever made.—The London Daily Express.

Empire Settlement and Ottawa

We have got to prove to the Dominions that it is to their interest to broaden their policy on a foundation of inter-Empire preference. This does not apply merely to goods and to produce. The Federation of British Industries rightly insists upon the importance of people. In 1913 we sent 285,046 emigrants to the Overseas Empire; by 1931 the number had dropped to 27,151. The flow must be started again—to their advantage as much as ours. There can be no thought of dumping either in people or in goods; any arrangement that is likely to be acceptable to the Dominions must be as much to their advantage as to ours. The bargain must equally benefit both sides.—London Evering Post.

Ottawa Prospects

Already Ottawa is becoming the battleground of many diverse commercial interests from every part of the British Commonwealth, and the Conference is threatened with "log-rolling" on an unprecedented scale. Already, too, Canadian manufacturers are making it increasingly plain tht they do not intend to agree to plans which will admit British manufactured goods more freely into Canada. It is extremely doubtful whether a comprehensive scheme of Imperial Preference can be contrived.—London Daily Herald.

OTHER OPINIONS

The Sentimental English

The reluctance of the English to accept a newcomer can scarcely be exaggerated. It is a formidable fact founded upon a basic, racial characteristic—a complete lack of curiosity. This queer people does not like variety novelty or change. It likes sameness, monotony, repetition. There are two kinds of pleasure—the pleasure of surprise, adored by children, and the pleasure of recognition, cherished by the aged. The English are an old people. They are more mature and less childish than any other race on earth save the Chinese. They love "old favourites"—old tunes they've heard for years, old singers who can no longer sing, old jokes and old comedians who crack the same old jokes; they will go in their thousands to hear an old woman with a cracked voice sing dreadfully the songs she sang beautifully fifty years ago, and they will enjoy it. They will not hear the pathetic threadbare screech of the worn-out instrument; for something queer has happened to them, and they will hear again the echo of the old, vanished loveliness. Their memory is strong; it is, for them, the source of all sentiment.—Mary Borden in the Woman's Journal.

Lone Aviatrix Rests After Atlantic Flight

Amelia Earhart Putnam taken at Londonderry, Ireland, after proving to world that women have the stamina to withstand the fatigue and strain of flying the stormy Atlantic.

Scotland Yard Prepares To Forestall Burglaries

London.—Scotland Yard has created a new department whose job it is not to catch burglars, but to get ahead of them. The new bureau, which has a staff of three men, is expected to devise plans for preventing a class of crimes which have caused London police much trouble recently—the breaking and looting of show windows, holdups by bandits with fast automobiles, and burglaries of art objects.

The bureau was established by Lord Trenchard, new head of the Yard, as part of a general overhauling. It will be staffed by a former army officer, a civilian who worked at Scotland Yard and a detective from headquarters.

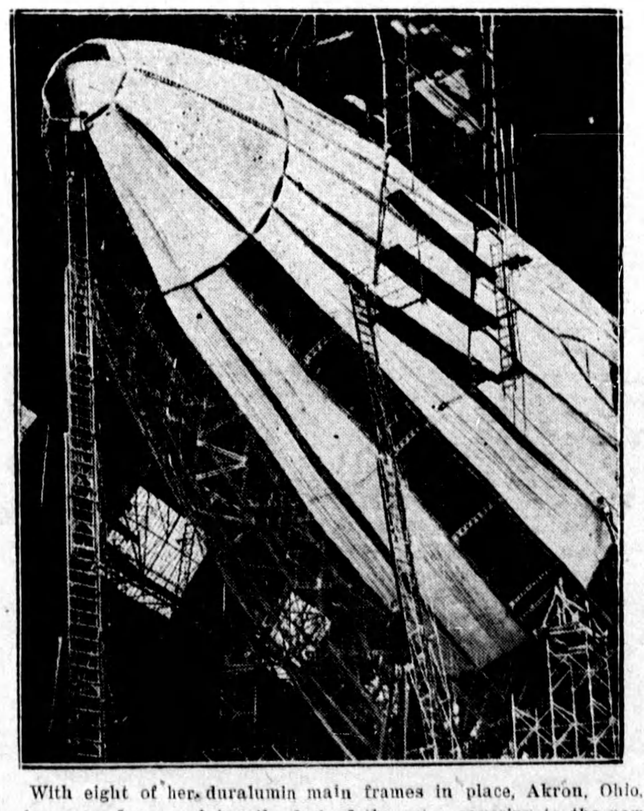
Novel suggestions will be considered, the announcement said, and no counter-crime project, no matter how fantastic, will be ruled out.

Engineer's Discovery Offers New Use For Pine

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.—After many months of research work, Otto Brauns, technical engineer of the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, announces he has developed a system which eliminates pitch trouble from the manufacture of paper from pulpwood. The new system, now in operation at the local mill, will mean a much greater percentage of balsam and jackpine can be used for paper-making than formerly, it was said.

Toronto.—If the new system eliminates pitch from jackpine to such an extent that newsprint can be made, it is a great thing for the north country, declares Dr. C. H. Howe, Dean of Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto. Experiments along this line have been carried on for ten years.

New Dirigible Well Under Way



With eight of her duralumin main frames in place, Akron, Ohio, workmen are busy applying the first of the outer covering to the new dirigible, Macon—the latest air queen.

Leave The Wild Flowers In Their Natural State

A timely hint and warning was given by Dr. Vernon A. Young of the Dept. of Forest Botany, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse University, that well applies to all peoples. Canadians might well take heed of the sad example set forth in the following statement made by Dr. Young. ". . . flowering dogwood and redbud trees have suffered so severely that many states have been compelled to pass laws in order to protect these flowering trees of the forest and in some areas near large community centres policing has been inaugurated.

"The destruction of wild flowers will be followed by the destruction of the forests and watersheds," says Dr. Young. "Ages before the trees of a forest obtain their foothold the pioneer wild flowers prepare the way. Year after year their bodies add to the soil, thus building up the humus, one of the most valuable constituents of soils for tree growth. With the addition of humus, the raw state of the soil is changed until the physical and chemical properties essential for tree growth have been provided.

"Flowering plants are necessary in order to pioneer the raw soil areas which later are to be inhabited by forest communities," explains Dr. Young. "Moreover, the flowering plants must stabilize the forest after it has been established. This is accomplished by firmly binding the soil with their fibrous root systems which mingle with the large roots of the trees. This root assemblage, in addition to regulating the water supply of the soil, prevents erosion of the forest floor. If the herbs and shrubs of the forest floor are destroyed preservation of the forest becomes a very serious problem. In fact there is no way the forest can be saved except by the introduction of shrubs and herbaceous flora.

"So complete has been the hunt for wild flowers that many species are now practically extinct. It is alarming when we stop to think that the public may be robbed of many more wild flower species in a few years if the habit of picking wild flowers is not stopped."

Dr. Young states that it is almost futile to pick wild flowers because they wilt quickly and few of them retain their fragrance more than 24 hours after being picked.

Summer Time—Fly Time!

No one is physically afraid of a fly because it can do no actual hurt of itself. It has, however, many bad habits which make it a dangerous insect to the human race.

When a fly eats, it steps into the food and not only eats all it wishes but covers legs, body and wings. In this way it may collect a few typhoid germs from a yard-toilet, or tubercle bacilli from an open cuspidor.

It then next alights on some article of food such as the milk pitcher, fruit or vegetables, bread or cake, or the baby's bottle. After that it is only a short time till some individual, old or young, is infected.

Once the fly enters the home, it is impossible to provide protection from the germs which may enter with the insect. It is necessary, therefore, to take such measures as will not only keep the flies outside but reduce their number in the neighborhood to a minimum.

The prevention of fly breeding may be assured by the elimination of its breeding places. This requires the proper care of stable manure and the removal or disinfection of other decomposing refuse such as garbage, wet papers and rubbish of all sorts. The treatment of manure and other refuse with chemical disinfectants for the prevention of fly breeding is a development of recent years and progress has been rapid. Flies love the garbage pail, so this receptacle should always be kept tightly covered.

Flies breed in almost any rotting or fermenting matter. They breed in any kind of dung, whether from horses, cows, pigs, or human beings. Decaying grains, rotting fruit or vegetables, waste cotton or woollen garments, sacking and paper—all furnish admirable breeding places when the materials are moist and warm and especially when mixed with ashes or earth.

Flying the Atlantic

By Amelia Earhart Putnam.

First Woman to Fly the Atlantic Alone, in a Speech Before the Institute of Journalists, London.

I came over with no plans and no special purpose—I felt my trip was just a vacation, and I enjoyed myself very much. About my flight: It was different types of flying than I expecdifferent types of jying than I expected; there were clouds, storm and fog most of the time. My flight adds nothing to aviation. It has no significance at all; it is simply a social visit on my part.

You see, I have an aviation point of view. But if I've helped break through the barriers of tradition that women are helpless, that's something, isn't it?

I'd rather have you think of me just as a pilot, an ordinary pilot; it doesn't matter whether it's Mr. or Miss Earhart.

But what I did was not a great draft on my strength. I have danced all night lots of times, and flying all night isn't very much. In fact, I wasn't very tired when I reached Londonderry and only went to bed because I knew I ought to be tired.

Gold Produced In Ontario

There was an increase of over 12 per cent in the gold production of Ontario in the first quarter of the present year. This statement is based on the March gold bulletin issued by the Department of Mines of the Province. The mines of the province gained in March in quantity of ore milled over the previous month, though the figures were slightly below those of January. On the other hand, the value of gold recovered in March was considerably in excess of either of the first two months of the year. For the first quarter gold and silver values of the ore milled was $11,133,309 compared with $9,919,492 in the first three months of 1931.

Kirkland Lake again led in the value of its production, while both Kirkland Lake and Porcupine were higher than in the first quarter of last year. There was also a sharp rise in the prouction of the mines in north-western Ontario. The output of Kirkland Lake for the quarter this year had a value of $5,707,397 compared with $4,974,062 in the first three months of 1931. The Porcupine production this year was $5,071,630, while in the corresponding period of last year it was $4,761,383. In north-western Ontario the output for the first quarter of 1932 was $354,282 against $184,047 for the first quarter of 1931.

Largest Production

Lake Shore in the Kirkland Lake field was again the mine with the largest individual production, second place being held by Hollinger of Porcupine. After Hollinger in March Teck-Hughes came next in the value of its output, being followed in order by McIntyre, Dome, Wright-Hargreaves, Howey, Sylvanite, Coniarum, Kirkland Lake Gold, Vipond, Parkhill, Minto, March and Barry-Hollinger.

Ontario is the primary gold field of the Dominion. In 1931 production from that province accounted for over 75 per cent. of the total gold output of Canada. Gold production from Ontario last year was 2,085,818 fine ounces out of a total output for Canada of 2,695,219 ounces. The other chief gold producers among the provinces are Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba. The growth in Quebec and Manitoba has been particularly rapid in recent years. World production figures for gold are not yet available for 1931, but from the information so far published it is evident that Canada has maintained her position as the second largest producer of the metal.

Bank Messengers Chain Money Bags to Belts

London.—Owing to the number of attacks by thieves on persons carrying money in the streets of London, city banks have issued instructions that their messengers must revert to the system of chaining their satchels to belts round their waists. This was formerly a regular practice, but in some cases the messengers have compromised by wearing the chains attached to their wrists.

The new order is not popular with some of the clerks, who feels that they could give a good account of themselves if attacked. It is pointed out that there is a possibility that desperate thieves would not hesitate to kidnap men suspected of carrying large sums of money to make such an offence appear to be worth while. As the thieves who specialize in this form of crime invariably work in gangs, the possibility of kidnapping is by no means remote, and in certain cases messengers are now accompanied by body-guards.

Rail Fares Reduced In Germany for Summer

Berlin—The Reich railways have reduced their fares, effective June 1, in the hope of stimulating travel and halting the decline in revenues.

The fare reductions halve the express train surcharges. Communtation and pupils' tickets are reduced from 8 to 21 per cent. For the first time the German railways are to offer special summer commutation rates, with a 20 per cent reduction on round-trip tickets involving a distance of ore than 200 kilometers, or approximately 125 miles.

Copenhagen Opens First College For Women

Copenhagen—Although women were admitted to the University of Copenhagen as early as 60 years ago, only this spring was the first women's residential college opened, affording convenient and inexpensive housing for women students.

The new college, ceremoniously opened by the Queen of Denmark and various educational authorities on May 15, is near Langebro. It provides accommodation for about 60 students. It includes among other conveniences, a kitchen where the students may cook their own meals.

Silver Lining

Sorrow with his pick mines the heart; but he is a cunning workman. He deepens the channels whereby happiness may enter, and hollows out new chambers for joy to abide in when he is gone.