Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Prince of Wales—Agriculturist

As demonstrated in the development of his E. P. Ranch in Western Alberta, the Prince of Wales is an enthusiastic breeder of live stock. At the recent Northampton Show at Rushden, His Royal Highness beat some of the most formidable breeders of cattle. One of his Shorthorn bulls and a Shorthorn heifer calf captured first prizes. These animals came from his farm at Lenton. At the Devon show in Tavistock he showed some fine animals and made a great display of farm produce. The Prince pays special attention to the needs of consumers. He has arranged for his tenants to study the provision department of a London West End store to learn exactly what the public requires of them. Not long ago he visited the store himself to see how they were getting on. His Royal Highness takes a deep interest in every aspect of the nation's life and the life of the Empire. —Mail and Empire (Toronto).

Canada's Future

We are firmly of the opinion that Canada offers to-day, despite all the difficulties of the time, as many if not more material advantages to honest and intelligent citizens who are willing and ready to work as she did in the past. The important thing is to work, and to face with calm and energy all the trials through which we have to pass. Better times are coming and Canada will very probably be one of the first countries in the world to overcome the obstacles which are temporarily obstructing our progress. —La Tribune, Sherbrooke.

Canada and the U.S.

The United States Senate recently voted virtually embargoes against Canadian lumber and copper. It voted to place a duty of $3 per 1,000 board feet on lumber; to place a duty of four cents a pound on copper. This affects, practically destroys, $28,000,000 of Canadian trade. All but a crippling blow to our lumber industry, and a severe check to our copper exports, this action by the United States Senate may yield good. It may be that it is just what is required to impress upon all of us the vital importance of not permitting failure in the coming Imperial Economic Conference. For the real meaning of this news from Washington is that Canada may as well make up her mind that she cannot hope for anything like dependable trade arrangements with the United States. That country, whether it is under a Republican or a Democratic administration, and no matter what the political complexion of Congress, doesn't propose to buy anything from Canada that it can help; and any arrangement that it may make with Canada of a contrary character will be a temporary arrangement, subject to withdrawal at Congressional caprice.—Ottawa Journal.

Wide Open Sjaces

Undoubtedly gardening is not only splendid exercise, but a profitable occupation for all who are in a position to take advantage of it. It has been undertaken on a considerable scale this season in Brantford, as a result of the scheme to provide garden plots for those who desired them. Those who have not plots for gardening will do well to engage in whatever suitable outdoor recreations they can find convenient. The main thing is to live a life of activity in the open air and sunshine as much as possible during the spring and summer months while the weather continues favorable. This applies both to children and adults. Medical authorities have never placed as much emphasis on the necessity of living in the fresh air as they are doing at present. Happy are those who can devise ways and means to spend at least a portion of their spare hours in the open air.—Brantford Expositor.

Incredible Change

Two years ago a picture of the United States of America as it is today could have been placed only in the category of the imaginary and utterly incredible. The national treasury is faced with a deficit of £500,000,000, and the richest country in the world will be driven to defy all the recognized canons of sound public finance by borrowing to balance its budget. President Hoover's sun is setting in a stormier dusk than his worst enemies could have predicted.—London Spectator.

The Farmer's Lot Improves

It is difficult to speak for farmers all over the Dominion, but certainly so far as the farmers of Western Canada are concerned — apart from the drought area of 1931—they are generally speaking getting into better shape now than they have been at any time in the past three years. Leave he farmer alone—build up no fraudulent hopes by appointing Government boards on this and that—and he will eventually come through in pretty sound condition.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Prophets of Ruin

Last December Sir George Paish made our flesh creep by telling us that unless war debts and reparations were fixed up in some way by February the world would go smash. The old perverse world didn't fix up war debts or reparations or much of anything else, and it refused to go smash. Now we have a lot of other experts telling us that unless the coming Lausanne Conference does succeed we'll all go bust for sure. Well, our own humble expectation is that Lausanne will settle nothing, and that the world won't collapse. The world is extraordinarily tough. Somehow or other it possesses intangible assets that economists and experts invariably fail to reckon with; so that just when it seems to be on the verge of ruin something or somebody comes along to save it, or to give it a few more years of grace.—Ottawa Journal.

The B. C. Loan

A British Columbia loan of £1,500,000 is being underwritten by London financial houses at 5 per cent. interest and selling at 99. The feature of the loan is that it should be the first launched on behalf of this Province in London for the last eighteen years. It indicates a return to a process of imperial financing for Empire needs. That the loan should be underwritten in London is an excellent evidence of faith there in the future of this Province. What British Columbia has been able to accomplish may mark the beginning of a rejuvenated interest among English investors in Canadian development. The present happening comes at an appropriate time when so much attention is being centred on the forthcoming Imperial Conference at Ottawa.—Victoria Colonist.

Eastern Coal in Ontario

A few days ago the first cargo of coal from Nova Scotia under the new system of bonusing by the Dominion Government was unloaded in Toronto Harbor. It was a practical illustration of what can be done by Government assistance for the extension of markets. Nova Scotia was able to penetrate further into Central Canada than was possible under ordinary economic laws. Coal produced in the United States had found a new competitor in coal mines in the extreme eastern portion of Canada.—Mail and Empire (Toronto).

The Hudson Bay Route

It is perfectly clear that something more must be done before the West will get full advantage of the Bay route. The $50,000,000 was not spent on the Hudson Bay Railway and the port and aids to navigation merely to enable grain and other exports to be shipped at a total transportation cost just a shade lower than the cost by way of Montreal. There would have been no justification for spending such a large sum for that purpose. It was spent to give the West the benefit of materially lower rates than by the St. Lawrence route. It was spent to give the West the benefit of its geographical advantage.—Winnipeg Free Press.

THE EMPIRE

British Agriculture

However much its fortunes have declined, British farming is still one of the most important industries in the Empire, with an annual output enormous in quantity and still more enormous in value, owing to the quality of its products. In different parts of the Empire statistics are compiled in different ways and exact comparisons are therefore impossible; but all the available figures go to show that the annual value of the agricultural production of Great Britain is very little, if any, less than that of Canada and greatly exceeds that of any other of the Dominions.—London Times.

The Toll of the Roads

Sir Herbert Samuel suggests the remedy of kindliness and friendliness for the slaughter of the roads). This is a serious question which has to be settled one way or the other. In any view, and I speak as one who has controlled the police, it must be settled on the penal side. I do not believe that the 2,000,000 motorists, including the commercial drivers, are going to drive in such a kind and friendly manner as to prevent any accidents on the public roads. . . . There really is no answer, and having regard to the years during which we have tried to deal with the question by courtesy and friendliness, and by seeking to make the motorist and the pedestrian more cognizant of one another's rights —a method which has completely failed—I have come to the quite definite conclusion that the State should intervene, that it is its duty to intervene, and that such steps should be taken as may prevent the holocaust of death and injury on our roads. The population is an asset of the State. Not only are men and women entitled to their personal safety, but the State is entitled to see that its people are preserved from danger in order hat the great asset of human life and human activity may be preserved for the good of the State as a whole.—Lord Brentford in the Spectator (London).

OTHER OPINIONS

The Empire in the Lead

Nothing could be of a greater advantage to the world than that the United States should solve her own domestic problems, and, by solving them, provide the stimulus and the example to other countries. But observing from a distance—a nearer view of the prospect might modify my pessimism. I am unable to imagine a course of events which could restore health to American industry in the near future. I even fancy that, so far from the United States giving the example, she will herself have to wait for stimulus from outside. I, therefore, dare to hope, however improbable it may seem in the light of recent experience, that relief may come first of all to Great Britain and the group of overseas countries which look to her for financial leadership. It is a dim hope, I confess. But I discern less light elsewhere.—J. M. Keyes in the Atlantic Monthly (Boston).

The Lindbergh Tragedy

The knowledge that there exists somewhere in America a man or woman capable of snatching a baby from his crib and doing him to death has been the occasion for nation-wide revulsion and horror. But what shall be said of the fact, revealed since the announcement of the baby's death, that more than one hundred demands for ransom were received from persons anxious to capitalize this outrage? What shall be said of the whole regiment of those who have thrust themselves in front of cameras, invented stories of "contacts," carried on petty battles for prestige and generally bemired the trail and made mock of a family's grief and a nation's shame and indignation.—Baltimore Sun.

Follow Old Ceremony

With grooms holding traditional crowns over the bridal couple's heads, Mrs. Waveney Trew of London, England, became the wife of Vladimir Provotaroff at the Russian church.

To Mark Polar Year

Amsterdam.—The Netherlands will establish a magnetic station at Angmagalik on the east coast of Greenland, as part of its contribution to the "Polar year" experiments in 1932.

A first "polar year" took place in 1882-83, with the practical result that the magnetic conditions around the north pole were ascertained, while magnetic charts for the use of shipping in the northern part of the Atlantic Ocena were drafted.

Bookie's clerk: "'Ere, you can't lay them prices—there's only three runners." Bookie: "You watch me, laddie—and you'll see four!"

U. S. Machinery Export To Canada Decreases

Washington.—The decline in exports of metal-working machinery to Canada from $5,410,000 in 1930 to $3,400,000 in 1931 is noted in a report issued by the Department of Commerce on the United States exports of this commodity during 1931. "The curtailment of industrial activity in Canada and France during 1931," says the report, "was bound to have an unfavorable effect on the demand for high-production tools and equipment. The outstanding items of shipment to Canada were rolling mill machinery, sheet and plate metal working machines and foundry and molding equipment."

The report points out that exports of these products practically maintained their level of value in 1931 as compared with 1930 and 1929. The totals for those three years were respectively $40,000,000, $42,000,000 and $40,800,000. The reason for this was the largely increased export to Russia, which jumped from $2,600,000 in 1929 to $14,200,000 in 1930 and $22,000,000 in 1931.

Back-to-Farm Move Noted By U.S. Bank

Springfield, Mass.—Applications for loans and loans granted at the Federal Land Bank of Springfield continue to run well ahead of last year.

Since Jan. 1, applications have been made for a total of more than $3,000,000 and loans granted have totalled $1,449,000. Those seeking loans include many owning their property, indicating a scarcity of local credit. While farm product prices are termed ruinously low, payments are being kept up at the bank to a gratifying extent.

Among those at the bank in the last few days was a foreign-born unemployed resident, having $75,000 saved and previous farm experience, and anxious to get back to the land. Another with $35,000 had walked through the Connecticut Valley, looking for a farming job without success, and had decided to purchase, and still another stood ready to pay as high as $15,000 for a dairy property.

Life

Life is a quarry, out of which we are to mould and chisel and complete a character.—Goethe.

Maine's Farmer-Governor

Governor Gardiner of Maine is shown here clipping a sheep while Lady, his favorite mount, oversees the operation. To complete a home-product, his sister will card, spin and weave the wool into a suit.

Engineer Describes Errors of To-day

How Research Can Improve Life in Machine Age

A Milwaukee engineer, John P. Ferris, recently told a joint meeting of the Engineers' Society of Milwaukee and the faculty of the College of Engineering of the University of Wisconsin what is wrong with this machine world of ours, now that it has fallen upon lean days. He suggests, moreover, that the research engineer can help us by attacking problems which manifestly cry out for solution. Economists may not agree with Mr. Ferris's contentions, but there is no denying that he stimulates the imagination with some of his proposals.

"We need a better and cheaper house for the average man," Ferris maintains; "one that can be made in a factory to take advantage of factory economies." It must be sold for at least one-third what it now costs for a structure of equal size and satisfy the most exacting taste.

Farmers must be brought closer to one another and urban workers must be spread apart by "new patterns of community arrangement." We need city engineering both for structures and traffic control.

We need new fuels and sources of power. "Perhaps we must find them in some unstable atoms; perhaps in the tides or in the centre of the earth or in cosmic rays."

Flying is not safe enough. Airplanes should be invented which are inherently so stable and so easily managed that the pilot need not possess extraordinary skill.

It takes too much effort now to prepare food. Mr. Ferris, therefore, thinks there are possibilities in synthetic foods. "We need food so cheap and easy to obtain that it will take its place besides air and water as necessaries of life that are almost free, available to all, and thus removed from the list of things for which men must strive. The effects of such a change in our attitude toward food and shelter would revolutionize life and would eliminate much of the drive behind economic strife, warfare and cruelties of all kinds. It would leave us freer to strive after real pleasures and real accomplishments."

Any number of new materials are needed, according to Mr. Ferris, "such as ductile and workable glass, synthetic leather (to make unnecessary the slaughter of animals which will soon be no longer needed for food), synthetic rubber, cheaper materials for clothing, etc." Our wood should be used to better advantage. Reforestation is still crude and haphazard. We need "a technique of harvesting lumber as a crop that our forests may be restored."

Management needs reform. A technique ought to be discovered "which will preserve the merits of the present absolute authority of management as far as technical efficiency goes and yet modify absolutism in order to allow a far greater amount of self-expression for the individual worker."

A Psychological Change

By Jules Sauerwein

Foreign Editor Paris-Soir, in an Interview in New York.

A new and distressing happening in the last three years is that the people no longer seem to have the psychological resistance they had during the war. They had it on the battlefields and in the crisis after the war. But now it seems their mental resources are almost exhausted. At least in Europe it is so. The result is, on one side, fear, and on the other, despair.

The people on the Continent are off balance—no more equilibrium. I think it is equally foolish to think of Germany starting a war and of France fearing an immediate war. I am almost tempted to say the misfortunes threatening Europe are worse than war. By this I mean that with the so-called elite, the leading people, having failed to determine real ways out, this crisis might be taken in the hands of the mob. If the financial leaders fail, then the most brutal element, the mob—and I don't say it contemptuously—will take the case.

Italy Plans Farm Colony

Rome.—Now that Italy, after many years of almost incessant guerrilla warfare with the predatory desert tribes of the hinterland, has at last succeeded in quenching the last sparks of revolt in the colony of Cyrenaica, the problem presents itself of how to populate it, so that it may become an outlet for Italy's surplus population.

Speaking in the Chamber on the budget of his Ministry, General De Bono, the Minister of the Colonies, announced the early creation of a special organization for the colonization of Cyrenaica. This body will purchase land in Cyrenaica suitable for agriculture from the government at the nominal fee of one lira for every two acres and will then cede the land to the farmers who feel impelled to work in the colonies.

Boxing Instructor (after first lesson)—"Now, have you any questions to ask?" Beginner (dazed)—"Yes; how much is your correspondence course?"

Gasoline Sales Up Six Per Cent.

Increase Made for Six Months Despite Drop in Registration

Toronto.—Gasoline consumption in Ontario increased by six million gallons, or six per cent., during the six months ended April 30, 1932, over the corresponding period in 1931, Hon. Leopold Macaulay announced recently.

For the six months ended April 30, 1932, the figure was 104 million gallons, while in the preceding year it was 98 millions, despite an 8 per cent. decrease in registrations of motor vehicles this year.

In an analytical survey of the motor vehicles situation in Ontario, the minister dealt with the respective rights of passenger and commercial vehicles, indicating future regulation of trucking rates and the selection and operations of their drivers.

Registration Drops

Commercial vehicles were about 12 per cent. of the total registrations, Mr. Macaulay pointed out. This year's figures, up to May 28, revealed total registrations of private passengers cars as 409,876, compared with 444,399 for the similar period in 1931, a decrease of about eight per cent., which was much slighter than that obtaining in the United States. Commercial vehicle registrations showed a decrease of only 3.5 per cent., wth 53,286 this year to date, against 55,236 last year. However, Mr. Macaulay was confident that this year's total of commercial vehicles would be greater than in 1931, since trucks were only being registered as there were jobs for them.

Continuing his analysis, the minister stated that while truck registrations were down only 3.5 per cent., car loadings were decreased 20 per cent., which he considered a fair indication of the relative decrease in railway and truck freight business.

"It is a debatable point how far trucks should contribute to the upkeep of the highways," he continued. "The highways were first built at the demand of passenger car owners. In addition to the fact that trucks constitute only 12 per cent. of the total, there is the question of weight," and he referred to an experience of his own, of standing underneath a steel bridge while a 12-ton truck passed over it at about 60 miles an hour.

"We must realize that the roads are here primarily for the motorist. Don't forget that. There are 409,000 cars, and 600,000 licensed operators to consider first."

Not Easily Discouraged

A tale is being told in Johannesburg in illustration of the South African wool-producers' difficulties. A native brought a bale of wool for sale, but refused the offer of a penny per pound. He preferred to accept the suggestion that he send it to the coast for sale at the weekly auction, although he realized that this was a risk.

The storekeeper through whom he did this eventually got the account, which, after deducting rail charges, commission, and other expenses, showed a deficiency of one shilling and sevenpence.

It took the native a long time to grasp this curious transaction and its arithmetic. Finally he said he had no money.

After some discussion, the storekeeper agreed to take a chicken for the money.

In due course the native brought two chickens. The storekeeper pointed out that he only asked for one.

"Ah, yes, I know," returned the native, "but I have another bale of wool I am bringing round."—Christian Register.

Chile Lifts Duty On Wheat Imports

Ottawa.—According to a news dispatch last week from Santiago, Chile, the duty on foreign wheat has been removed due to shortage of the local crop and high prices. While no official comment was made here it was stated that any circumstance that broadened the market for wheat was significant to Canada.

This country has enjoyed very little export trade in wheat with Chile, the total amount sent to that country in 1931 being valued at less than $1,000. In 1930 it was nil. Chile usually raises enough wheat to satisfy the demands of that country, and when imported wheat is required the nearest source is Argentina.

By Appointment

The business man had died and gone to—well, not to heaven. But hardly had he settled down for a nice long smoke when a hearty hand slapped him on the back, and into his ear boomed the voice of a persistent salesman who had pestered him much on earth.

"Well, Mr. Smith," chortled the salesman, "I'm here for an appointment."

"What appointment?"

"Why, don't you remember?" the salesman went on. "Every time I came into your office you told me you'd see me here!"