Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

The Empire at Ottawa

A party of Jews and Arabs went down yesterday from Jerusalem. They are on their way to Ottawa. They are orange growers, from that strip of green country which makes an oasis across the ancient country of the Phisistines. They will come down on the military railway that the British built in the Palestine campaign of the Great War, alongside the old caravan route out of Syria and Judea down to Egypt, where the Children of Israel once passed in their flight from the tyranny and the servitude of the Pharaoh. They are coming to Ottawa, to sell Jaffa oranges to the Empire, perhaps, and certainly to tell the Empire that the Jaffa orange is the best in the world.

What a touch of color it lends to the preparations for the Ottawa Conference, this latest pilgrimage out of the Holy Land! Jews, and Arabs are coming, those ancient and modern enemies, reconciled in this imaginative project of a larger trade and communication between the diverse peoples who, in greater or lesser degree, profess a common interest in the destiny of the British Commonwealth.

President de Valera, fresh from his alarums and excursions about the Oath of Allegiance, is seriously considering whether he had better not come to Ottawa himself. Merchants of spices and cotton are coming from India, and tea planters from Ceylon. There will be men there from Kenya and Uganda, rubbing shoulders with the official delegates of Australia and New Zealand and South Africa. All roads of the Empire, all trade routes of the seven seas, lead these days to the capital of Canada, where the Ottawa runs down to the mother of Canadian waters.—Vancouver Province.

He Failed in Mathematics

Much has been said by way of exposing the unsatisfactory character of written examinations as a test of scholarship and fitness for academic degrees and positions of trust. Educationists recognize that while some students have the faculty for expressing what they know on paper, others have not. It often happens that a poor scholar may do better than a good scholar in a written paper. That is one reason why schools, colleges and departments of education have been trying to get away from the straight-jacket of examinations. A school in New York has recently found a novel way out of the well known dilemma. At the Lincoln school a young student, William Beal, could not compass Algebra. Te hopelessly failed in that subject. He did well in languages, wrote plays and essays, shone in music, but mathematics stumped him. The management looked about for credits to compensate for his failure in a single field. It was found in his natural aptitude for creative work. Art came to his rescue. The Lincoln school has a new set of murals of singular merit, and William Beal has his diploma. This is an idea to which educationists may well give consideration. — Mail and Empire (Toronto).

Menace of Faulty Headlights

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.

Holiday for Farm Folk

The municipal Council of the Township of West Luther unanimously passed a novel resolution at its last meeting. The motion expressed the wish of the council that the ratepayers observe every Saturday afternoon as a public half holiday during the month of June and on the first two Saturdays of July in 1932. Coupled with the wish was a suggestion that games and sports be held at convenient centres for the ratepayers of the municipality. The Arthur Enterprise-News, in referring to this action, congratulates the council on the move thus initiated and expresses the hope that it will develop into full fruition. The initiative thus shown by West Luther council is surely worthy of commendation. The municipality is thus linked up with urban centres in which the weekly half holiday has been observed for years by merchants and other business men. This weekly period of recreation has come to be regarded in towns and villages as a necessity. People engaged in agriculture would find it difficult to break the continuity of their week's work with a Wednesday half holiday, such as generally is observed by urban folk. To them Saturday afternoon would be more advantageous and would also give them a longer week-end respite from their arduous tasks.

THE EMPIRE

The Bulldog Breed

The heart of the nation is still high. The British people have borne every burden imposed upon them with courage an dwith cheerfulness. Business and industry, though sorely pressed by the burdens of taxation, are still reaching out to new fields of enterprise. The confidence of the people in their ultimate triumph is as strong as ever.—London Daily Express.

Britain and Ottawa

Britain already has given more than adequate evidence of her sincerity. At the time of her deepest distress, when she was compelled to abandon her century-old tradition of free trade, she deliberately exempted Empire produce from the scope of her import duties. From that action she could expect nothing but good-will, and good-will she gained in plenty—from all Dominions save the Free State, which derived the greatest benefit. If her action, and the reactions of the older Dominions, are a foretaste of the Commonwealth's decisions at Ottawa, those decisoins will be precious and enduring. If the Free State's reaction as illustrated in her fantastic tariff policy, serves as a symbol of her attitude towards the Ottawa Conference, she will be the "wall-flower" of the imperial ball.—Dublin Weekly Irish Times.

Each For All and All For Each

After Lord Beaconsfield, there is one name that stands above all others. Joseph Chamberlain. Because of his work for the Empire, we stand on the threshold of the Ottawa Conference—and because of the movement he founded we have to-day the first practical instalment of his great policy, Imperial Reciprocity. He crystallized that policy in an undyink phrase: "Each for all, and all for each." It is a slogan we should remember when we are apt to become impatient with progress.—Trinidad Guardian.

The Ottawa Conference

The negotiations at Ottawa will necessarily be difficult, and in some cases delicate, but they will be conducted on all sides in the friendliest spirit and with frank recognition of the fact that, while the common good should be teh aim of all, no part of the Empire is in a position to disregard its own material interest, or can be expected to do so.—Cape Argus.

Forest Fires

In view of the immense damage that is wrought every year by bush fires in Australia, the difference of opinion which exists as to their cause is astonishing. Tens of thousands of pounds' worth of property are destroyed, hundreds of people are cast into homeless despair, great suffering and loss of life ensue, yet many talk as if bush fires were occurrences to be included in the legal category of "acts of God" or unpreventable accidents. Careful observers are satisfied that most bush fires are preventable. Is it not time that they were prevented, and that those who cause them, either by act or negligence, were punished?—Melbourne Australasian.

Ottawa and Foreign Trade

As soon as satisfactory arrangements have been made at Ottawa for reorganizing the Empire so as to make the most of its economic capacity in all directions, each foreign nation should be considered on its merits and offered terms for negotiation. If this question of suitably blending our foreign trade relations with our development scheme within the Empire can be settled satisfactorily, so as to give a stimulus both to inter-Imperial trade and to international trade at the same time, the one would react favourably on the other and an important step will have been taken towards the improvement of world economic conditions. But if, on the other hand, Ottawa leads to an all-British economic policy of isolation on narrow, well-contained Imperial lines, ignoring the foreign trade of Great Britain and her Dominions, there will be a grave danger that Ottawa may merely drive one more nail into the coffin of our world economic system.—Major Polson Newman in the Nineteenth Century (London).

OTHER OPINIONS

Europe on the Brink

In an atmosphere of impotence, nervelessness and fatalism Europe is drifting helplessly towards even more stormy waters than threaten already to engulf it. Every day some new evidence of the deterioration of the general situation comes to hand. Not a country, with the temporary exception of our own, hardly one but goes on imposing new restrictions on imports in the desperate hope of somehow keeping the trade balance even. The difficulties at Lausanne are vast, but the consequences of failure would be too grave to contemplate. The temptation is to temporize and drift. The effect f htat would be to double all the difficulties when the Conference met again. The whirlpool does not recede. It stays where it is, and a continuance of drift will carry Europe inevitably into it in no long time unless the leaders of Europe have courage and strength to drive the ship against the current.—The Spectator (London).

Cobblestone Farmers

A prominent citizen of Pennsylvania proposes that the State should finance unemployed city workers in the purchase of farms and stock. That kind of aid might be welcome to a genuine "back-to-the-lander" who had been brought up in the country, but how can it benefit the man who has never known of life outside a city? He could not tell a horse crupper from its headstall, he is helpless when he seats himself on a milking-stool at a cow's flank, he has the vaguest ideas or none at all as to the proper feeding and care of swine. You might as well bring a discouraged farmer to the city and expect him to make a success of running a beauty-parlour or a high-class specialty shop.—Boston Transcript.

Awarded Medal

Even if she didn't make Paris by plane, Amelia Earheart Putnam was given a great reception there. Air-minister Painleve awarded her the Legion of Honor.

Capital in Water Power

The total capital invested in the water-power industry in Canada is now about $1,514,000,000 and of this nearly $1,370,000,000 has been expended on land, buildings, plant, and equipment for the generation, transmission, and distribution of hydro-electric power. This is a much larger amount than is invested in any other single industry in Canada except agriculture and transportation.

Total Eclipse

In addition to the Imperial Economic Conference which will open in Ottawa on July 21st there will be another event in Canada this summer which promises to attract universal attention. This will be the total eclipse of the sun on August 31. The eclipse will be visible from a zone running through the province of Quebec and skirting the city of Montreal.

Though usually total eclipses of the sun occur almost every year, the director of the Canadian government observatory points out their occurrence as total at or near any specified locality it a somewhat rare phenomenon. The last one to be visible as total in Canada was on Jan. 24, 1925, on which occasion the path of totality swept across western Ontario, crossing the Niagara river into the United States and passing into the Atlantic Ocean near New Haven, Conn. After the 1932 total eclipse the next one to be visible in Canada will be in 1954.

For the 1932 eclipse the central line of the path of totality begins in the Arctic regions, sweeping down across Hudson Bay and skirting the eastern shore of James Bay; it crosses the St. Lawrence near Maskinonge and Pierreville, Que., some fifty miles east of Montreal, and passes across the international boundary a few miles east of Rock Island and Derby, Vermont, passing into the Atlantic Ocean in the vicinity of Portland, Maine. The width of the shadow zone in southern Quebec is approximately 100 miles; the western edge passes through Montreal and near Boston, Mass., the eastern edge will be about 25 miles to the east of Three Rivers, Que.

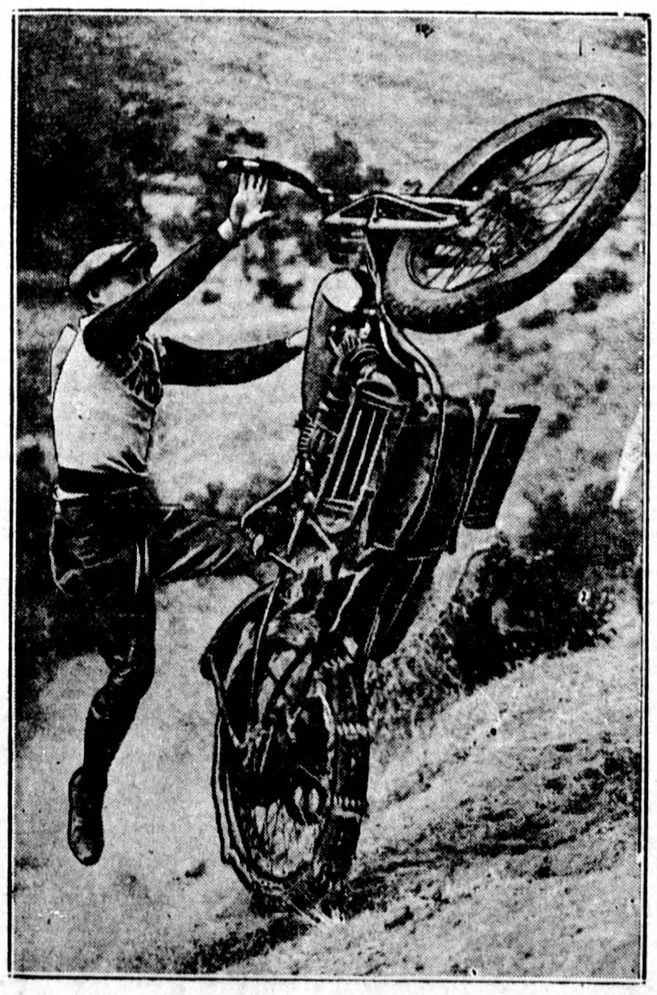
The duration of totality on the central line is about 100 seconds, diminishing to zero at the eastern and western limits. The shadow travels at an average speed of about half a mile per second, traversing the distance of roughly 700 miles from James Bay to the coast in a little over 20 minutes; it crosses the River St. Lawrence at 3.24 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, the international boundary at 3.27, and leaves the coast of Maine at 3.31. The direction of the sun at this time is about 20 degrees south of west and the altitude about 30 degrees.

Several parties of scientists from other countries are coming to observe the eclipse and Montreal will be one of the principal points where these parties will concentrate in order to take advantage of the facilities and co-operation of McGill University.—From Canada Week by Week.

Nine Months' Leave too Short

Shanghai.—After spending nine years doing missionary work in Thibet, E. Rathbone, an Englishman, has just returned to his labors without seeing anything of the "outside world" except Shanghai and Chefoo. Granted a nine-months leave, he left his station, at Tunhuafu, on his way to England. But Thibet is far away, and travel is slow, so when he arrived here, he had already been away from Tunhuafu four months. Returning would certainly be no faster and that left him only one month in which to go from Shanghai to England and back—a manifest impossibility—so he started back to spend another nine years in Thibet.

Falls "Clear"?



A spectacular action picture showing Tom Cox of Pasadena, California, being thrown off his motorcycle in the Murphy Canyon hill climbing ontest.

A "Brainy" Miss

Nineteen-year-old Frances Emerson, graduated this year with a doctor of philosophy degree, the highest obtainable from the University of Missouri.

The Aims of France

By Edouard Herriot, Premier of France.

In accord with the Covenant of the League of Nations, which is the fundamental chart for the future, and in the spirit of the Pact of Paris, we shall seek security not for ourselves alone, but for all nations, all of which, small and great, have equal claims in our eyes.

Within this general framework the government of the republic declares it will favor all solutions, even those which are partial, which in the light of the discussions at Geneva and after a loyal exchange of opinions will permit, without compromising national security, the lightening of military charges and will represent a step toward progressive, simultaneous and controlled disarmament. At once, so as to associate itself with this effort, the government will put in force all possible economies which can be undertaken without imprudence.

Regarding reparations, France cannot permit those rights to be contested which are the outcome not only of treaties but of contractual agreements protected by the honor of the signatories. If the world is withdrawn from the sovereignty of law it must sooner or later fall under the empire of force.

In affiming that principle the government of the republic is conscious of defending no egotistical privileges, but universal interests. For the rest, it is ready to discuss any project, to take any initiative, which will produce the compensation of greater world stability or loyal reconciliations in peace.

Intelligence of Animals

All observers and writers agree that birds and animals are endowed with an extraordinary sagacity and instinct to a far greter extent than we give them credit for. How wonderfully a dog understands his master's habits and wishes, and how faithful in his affection! This has been the theme of countless stories in the past hundred years and what owner of a dog to-day could not tell remarkable stories from their own experience. The horse, too, what wisdom and judgment he can exhibit when treated with kindness and intelligence. These are the two pre-eminent friends of man but the same characteristics will be found in every species of bird or animal when they are domesticated and treated in a reasonable and humane manner. They add immensely to the joy of living and is it not reasonable that we should defend and protect them from cruelty and exploitation!—J. J. Kelso.

Some Queer Laws

Massachusetts has some queer laws, but other states can beat it. It is said that during the making of the film "Disorderly Conduct" search was made for odd statutes and among dozens of others these were found: That Pennsylvania has a law forbidding singing in the bathtub; that in Kentucky any one operating a still must blow a whistle; that impersonating Santa Claus on the street is illegal in Minneapolis; that in West Virginia it is against the law to sneeze on Sunday; that in Newark, N.J., it is illegal to sell ice after six p.m. without a doctor's prescription, and that in Zion, Ill., it is a crime punishable by a prison sentence to make ugly faces at any one.

Pine Blister Spores Fly Far

Amherst, Mass.—Spores of white pine blister rust are known to have flown 700 miles to infect currant bushes, Massachusetts State College research workers report. But spores which develop on currants can travel only a few hundred feet to infect the pines.

France Tightens Check on Aliens

Secret Police Now Ride on All International Trains to Bar Violations on Passports

Paris.—The French police have greatly increased the strictness of their surveillance over all foreigners, according to William P. Carney in The N.Y. Times.

France regrets her past hospitality to political exiles from other European countries, from among whose ranks have come the assassins of two of her Presidents, and the new regulations governing the entry of foreigners into the country and their sojourn here are being enforced by the police in co-operation with the immigration authorities.

Members of the Surete Generale, the secret police, now ride on all international trains to make a second examination of the passports of all passengers after they have been hurriedly stamped at the frontiers by the immigration officers.

The same procedure is carried out on all boat trains, which connect at French ports with steamers from the United States and the Orient.

Fines imposed on hotel keepers who fail to report to the police within twenty-four hours that they have given lodging to foreigners have been greatly increased. Foreigners wishing to remain in France more than sixty days formerly were required to obtain identification cards from the police. Now they are obliged to get such cards after staying only two weeks.

Inasmuch as there are now 4,000,000 foreigners who desire to live indefinitely in France, a tremendous amount of documentation is necessary and large clerical staffs are kept continuously busy in the identification-card department of the Prefect of Police. In 1906 there were only about 1,000,000 foreigners residing more or less permanently in France.

The number of foreigners who have fled to France from their own countries to escape starvation of the tyranny of oppressive governments has steadily increased since the reign of Louis Phillipe.

The secret police are responsible for surveillance over political exiles who have sought refuge in France. Whenever one of these is caught engaging in any kind of plot against the existing government in his own country his identification card is withdrawn and he is summarily expelled from France.

Such police measures as these might have prevented the assassination of President Doumer by the Russian extremist Gorguloff last month. President Sadi Carnot was murdered by an Italian anarchist in 1894.

100-House Villages Planned by Chinese

Nanking.—Ten rules for a systematic construction of villages in the northwest have been issued by the Suiyuan Provincial Government. The plan will cover a period of four years.

Five persons will be elected as a construction committee for each village to be constructed. Each village will be limited to 100 houses. The first year will be devoted to the building of homes and barns; the second year to the village walls and streets; the third year to the building of government buildings, and the fourth year to public buildings, schools, amusement places, and parks.

Each village will be constructed according to a definite plan. Each house owner must pay $30 Mexican to the village committee, or may pay in terms of labor.

King Alfonso's Fortune Confiscated by Spain

Madrid. — Former King Alfonso's private fortune was declared confiscated recently by the director of the Spanish Republic's treasury.

The fortune included more than $2,500,000 in cash and securities, as well as other possessions valued at more than $500,000.

The money and bonds would be attached to the public treasury and the immovable property would belong to the state, the director said. He revealed that 21,000,000 pesetas (about $1,700,000) worth of seized property had not belonged to the deposed king, but to societies over which he presided.

"Mystery" Rail Excursion

A "Mystery excursion" is the latest venture of an American railway company to stimulate passenger business. Neither the passengers nor the trainmen know where the excursion is going until the train leaves. After the train pulls out the engineer receives his sealed orders.

The first trip was a 100-mile ride; a twenty-five-mile automobile ride, a chicken dinner, and a ride home—an eleven and a half hour holiday for $1.75. There were 650 passengers on the first adventure, and the railway company announced there would be more excursions in the near future.

Pinch of Salt

A pinch of salt placed in the water will preserve the freshness of flowers for a longer length of time than their natural life.