Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Log Schoolhouses in Ontario

Far more attention is being paid to the esthetic phase of education in rural schools now than in years past. Evidence of this is seen in the modern design of rural school buildings and in the school gardens surrounding them. It seems a far cry, indeed, from the rural schools of the present day to the little log schoolhouse of our fathers' or our grandfathers' youth. And yet the annual report of the Department of Education for 1931 reveals the fact that the time-honored log structure has not actually disappeared.

In fact, some counties in Ontario added log schoolhouses to their quota in 1930 and 1931. York County, for instance, is shown to have added one log school during the year, while Simcoe reported two in 1931. Neither of these counties had any in 1930. The total decrease in this type of construction of 14 for the province, however, is unchanged from the previous year. In all there were 87 log schools in Ontario, chiefly in Northern Ontario, but a decrease there of five from the previous year.

An aggregate of 6,503 public schools in the province is reported, or a decrease of 63. Classified as to construction, 3,517 are built of brick, 409 of stone, 176 of concrete, 2,214 frame and 87 log. Every category shows a slight decrease in comparison with 1930. York County has 187 public schools, of which 160 are brick, 1 stone, 2 concrete and 11 frame, while Halton has 59 schools, 35 being brick, 13 stone, 4 concrete and 7 frame.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Free Medical Service

According to a statement at the convention of the Canadian Medical Association, Canadian doctors gave $10,000,000 worth of free attention in 1930. This year the amount is expected to be trebbled or quadrupled. This is a financial sacrifice which is not appreciated as it should be.—Calgary Herald.

Young Ontario Craftsmen

If genius is correctly defined as an infinite capacity for taking pains, there are at least forty-seven Ontario boys who have demonstrated their right to a place within that classification. This number of youths, of ages ranging from twelve to nineteen years, have spent many spare hours in producing replicas of a Napoleonic state coach. The exhibition of these tiny working models which have been on view for several days, reveals the high level of craftsmanship of the boys of this province.

These young workmen have followed with remarkable fidelity the design and measurements furnished to them. They are competitors in a contest under the auspices of The Telegram Chapter Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild, the winners in which go on to an international competition, the higher awards in which are university scholarships.

In wood-work, metal-work, painting, upholstery and glazing the competitors have emulated the minute attention to detail of the craftsmen of the mediaeval guilds. They have put into their work the loving interest that characterizes good workmanship of all time. The exhibition is a credit to the persevering industry and the constructive ingenuity of the Ontario boy. —Toronto Telegram.

Piano Returning

An exchange asserts that the last few months, particularly, have seen a great change in the attitude of the people of Canada toward the piano. In the United States the turn of the tide set in earlier—about a year ago. Some observers of the situation there have attributed some of the piano's revived popularity to the interest stimulated by the extensive series of piano talks and piano lessons that have been given over the American broadcasting chains and to the widespread system of piano class teaching in the public schools—a movement that is now well established in Canada. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

Industrial Progress

During the year just closed 78 new industries have been established in Manitoba. In addition to the new industries, existing industries added 47 new products to their lines, which is another phase of the same movement. These facts indicate vitality and adaptability which, to borrow a phrase from the biologists, are prime factors in survival. Actually the foundations of a great industrial development in Manitoba are being laid under present conditions. Industries which can gain a foothold and make progress now are bound to forge ahead rapidly with returning prosperity. — Winnipeg Tribune.

Self Help Necessary

There are thousands of cases where, employment being lacking, it is necessary to subsist by the charity of the community; but how many people refuse to try and help themselves, and, instead of persisting in looking for work or in organizing their lives so as to emerge from their misery, resign themselves to complete inaction and are ready to live like parasites on their fellow-citizens, abandoning all their pride and dignity. People of this character are surely holding back the return of the world to normal activity and are helping to prolong the crisis. —La Presse, Montreal.

Symbol of a Nation's Power and Culture

The August number of the National Geographic Magazine, official organ of the National Geographic Society, Washington, has as its leading article "Ontario, Next Door." This article of 53 pages, accompanied by a map and 55 beautiful illustrations, was written by Frederick Simpich of the Geographic's editorial staff, after an extensive survey and study of present-day Ontario, during which he traveled by airplane, train and boat from Windsor to Hudson Bay and from Ottawa to Lake of the Woods.

Mr. Simpich must be an accurate and intelligent observer, for this is how he describes Toronto:

"The symbol of a new nation's power and culture. You cannot gauge it by mere figures. You may set down that greater Toronto has 850,000 people; 2,350 factories producing each year more than 654 million dollars' worth of goods; or that it has ten miles of waterfront, welcomes hundreds of conventions a year, besides two million paid visitors to its Canadian National Exhibition ;the fireatest hotel, the highest building and the largest department stores. But Toronto is more than that. It is, to a singular degree, the focal point of much of all fresh thinking and industrial planning that goes on in the Dominion."—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Needed

Instead of a New Year's resolution why not a week-end pledge to drive carefully and help prevent accidents generally? — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Back to the Land

The back-to-the-land movement may not be as extensive as some of us have hoped. But even reduced to less ample proportions, it will have accomplished a useful work. There has been too much readiness to believe that the towns are paradises, and that money can be picked up there in abundance. The sad discovery has now been made that they are far from being Klondykes. Though there may be something alluring in the thought of receiving every week a salary which the farmer would take a month or more to make, the needs of a town life multiply so rapidly that wealth often disappears as fast as it is earned.

THE EMPIRE

Britain's Foreign Loans

If Ottawa does nothing else, it will have been worth while if it ensures that a check is put to the headlong rush of British investors to put their money into foreign loans. In ten years £203,000,000 of British maney has been thus subscribed—seventy per cent. of the interest now being in default. Before the crisis—the sum is much larger now—Britain was owed by foreign countries the stupendous sum of £3,000,000,000; and an uncomfortably large amount of this must be regarded as a bad debt. But loans within the Empire are not bad debts; not to the extent of a single farthing has any colony or dominion defaulted. —National Graphic (London).

Mutual Concessions

What the Conference will have to seek is agreement on some general principle which can be applied equally to the agricultural industries of Great Britain and to the manufacturing industries of the Dominions. Whatever compromise is adopted must apply to all. There is no need to measure too exactly concessions against concessions, but any glaring inequality would defeat its own ends. Public opinion in none of the Dominions would long tolerate an arrangement under which, for instance, British textiles were admitted freely into its market while its meat, or flour, or fruit was only admitted into the British market on conditions which prevented any competition with the British product. And the converse is equally true. Any agreement to be lasting must be reciprocal in its advantages, and the lower the scale of protection on which that reciprocity can be effected the better will the general interests be served.—London Times.

United Europe

Dealing with the aspect of Lausanne, psychologically the fact is of saving value to a disillusioned world.. It means that its self-respect and its belief in its leaders have been re-established. It means that realism has at last won the day, and that the crazy system elaborated at Versailles and precariously maintained by every prop and artifice since has been decisively discredited. Materially, it means as much or more. Epropo has done what the doubters said she would never do —she has achieved unity on the central condition of economic recovery. She has forgotten the past in determining to make a saner future, and in so doing she has presented America with a situation which, Presidential or no Presidential elections, America will find herself unable to ignore.—London Sunday Times.

Reward of Industry in the U.S.

A recent issue of Collier's mentioned that a gentleman named Magnan, of Fort Ripley, Minn., shipped to market a 215-pound hog that cost him ten dollars to raise. The commission company that disposed of the hog sent Mr. Magnan notice of the sale, with a cheque and statement c the transaction. The animal was sold for $1.61. From the tremendous sum the company deducted expenses, state taxes and its own commission, and sent Mr. Magnan the balance—5 cents. Such an incredible thing was almost too much for Mr. W. H. C. Carriere, of this city, who dropped a line toMr. Magnan. Here is the answer: "What you saw in Collier's was straight goods. It was a small enough rice, so I had it put in the paper. I am saving the cheque, which I am going to put in a cheap frame as an evidence of the hard times we had in Minnesota in '32 —and I think the hard times are not over yet."—Ottawa Citizen.

Montreal's Beauty Queen Arrives in Paris

"Miss Montreal," selected to represent Quebec's metropolis in the international beauty pageant at Paris, is shown here aboard a liner as it docks in France.

Swedish Family Has Owned Homestead 14 Generations

Falun, Sweden.—At a meeting of Dalecarlian homesteaders, called by the Provincial Government, it was found that 700 families had possessed their homesteads for more than a hundred years, and several of these had owned theirs for many centuries.

Special attention was attracted by the family of Anderson, of the Erk homestead, who produced documents in evidence of their claim ot having owned their farm for more than fourteen generations covering a period of 500 years or since 1435. The present Governor of Dalecarlia, Herman Kvarnzelium, distributed several diplomas to the homesteaders in recognition of their love for their native soil.

Prince of Wales Has Become Own Physician

London.—The Prince of Wales has become his own doctor—to a certain extent — according to his own testimony before the British Medical Association.

"I have had so much advice," he told the learned physicians, "and have also learned, like many others, how to keep myself fit—that I have to some extent become my own doctor. The doctor," he added gravely, "is certainly our first friend in life and last."

Canada-Argentina Sales Show Steady Increase

Montreal—Canada's sales to Argentina are on the increase as reflected in shipping here. Last season shipments from this port were negligible. This year a regular service is being maintained with 8000-ton motorships of a speed of 15 knots. On each sailing, additional cargo space has been booked. Newsprint is being shipped in large quantities, and manufactured goods, rubber goods, electrical appliances, shoes, tires and miscellaneous articles.

The carriers pointed out that they were not making a profit, but are confident that if the present rate af improvement is continued they will gradually be able to produce substantial profit. Within the next two years the trend toward a betterment of world conditions will have accelerated and it is then hoped to undertake a fortnightly service. Conditions are beginning to mend in the South American republics, it was stated.

Trans-Atlantic Survey To Map Air-Mail Route

Truro, N.S.—R. E. Parkes, of New York, representing the Pan-American Airways, announced here that Halifax might become a regular base for a trans-Atlantic air mail route. A survey flight will begin at Minneapolis this month, the Northern route itinerary including Holy Roof, Newfoundland, Labrador, Greenland and Norway. The flight will take about a month.

Data will be assembled on this trip and a regular service will be started within the next year, Mr. Parkes said. The craft to be used is an amphibian.

Milady Taking to Monocle

New York.—Women of the United States are taking up the monocle as a fashion feature for the fall season. The "monocle" to be worn is merely a heavily-circled hole over the left eye in a very fine veil adjusted over a turban.

A Difficult Turn

A picture that calls forth the envy of all who have not yet been swimming this season. Alfred Phillips, Toronto, of the Canadian swimming team is giving the olympic pool a try-out.

Girls of Ancient Greece Were Barred from Olympics

The girls of ancient Greece were keenly interested in sports both as contestants and as spectators, but they were prohibited from attending or competing in the great games held every four years at Olympia in ancient Greece, according to Science Service.

The regular Olympics of those days, unlike those to-day, were exclusively masculine affairs, the only woman present being the priestess of the old earth cult of Demeter Chamyne, who sat at an altar in the stadium.

Although the male athletes competed completely nude, without even the loin cloth of earlier times, modesty was not the reason for the exclusion of women from the games. Some early religious taboo probably prevented the women from joining the regular Olympics, in the opinion of Dr. Walter W. Hyde of the University of Pennsylvania.

The Greek girls did not forego competitive athletics simply because they could not participate in the masculine Olympiads. They had their own athletic festival at Olympia. This was in honor of Hera, the queen of the gods in Greek mythology. It was held every four years like the Olympic games for the men. The winner received an olive crown and a share of the cow sacrificed to Hera. Just as the male victors were allowed to erect statues to commemorate their prowess, the feminine winners were allowed to set up painted pictures of themselves in the temple of Hera.

The separation of the sexes in athletics was not customary throughout the Grecian world. Ionian women could witness games and Spartan girls took part in athletic contests with boys.

Chicago Industrial Area Swept By Six Million Fire

Chicago.—Fire swept through more than two blocks of buildings on the near southwest side of Chicago's industrial area last week, causing damage estimated at more than $6,000,000.

Two firemen and a spectator were injured while more than half the city's fire fighting equipment battled to keep the flames from getting out of control.

The plant of the Omaha Packing Company was virtually destroyed at an estimated loss of approximately $5,000,000.

Fire officials said the conflagration was started by a dust explosion in the ten-storey elevator of the Quincy Elevator Company.

Damage to the elevator and its contents was placed at $800,000.

The flames also spread to the lumber yard of the W. D. Crane Company and the coal yards of the Consumers Company.

At the packing plant, 3,000 hogs, 800 cattle and 700 sheep were burned alive in the livestock pens. Only a few minor buildings belonging to the slaughter house were saved.

Heavy Fruit Crops In New York State

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. — Heavy fruit crops are expected in New York State this year with the single exception of the Baldwin apple, according to Mr. Walter R. Clarke, president of the New York State Horticultural Society.

Returning here from a tour of the principal fruit-growing sections of the State, Mr. Clarke said uniformly favorable weather conditions had contributed to the preparation of bountiful crops of fine quality. In the Hudson Valley, apples, peaches, pears and grapes are doing unusually well. The New York State pear crop is expected to be 116 per cent. greater than last year, although in other states it will take a drop.

Former Kaiser Owns Czech Church

Prague.—The seventy-fifth jubilee of the German Evangelical Church in Marienbad, North Bohemia, revealed that the former German Emperor is the owner of the building of this congregation. Twenty-five years ago the Kaiser when still ruling Germany presented the church with two valuable windows. On the present occasion, in a letter from Doorn, William offered his congratulations and bestowed on the preacher of the church the Order of Hohenzollern.

Students' Cars Must Pass Safety Test in Iowa

Ames, Iowa.—Safety tests and the requirement of liability insurance point to the abolition of "campus flivvers" at Iowa State College here.

A new ruling of the school administrative board requires that students driving automobiles invest in liability insurance up to $5,000 and that they submit their cars to light and brake tests.

Five and a Half Months' Fast Ended

Near Warsaw, Indiana, July 15, 1931, a 500-pound hog was accidentally covered with straw while threshing. After five and a half months the stack was taken down, and as it was being removed out walked the hog, alive and well. As a result of its fast its weight had been reduced by one-half.

Suitor: "Sir, when I'm away from Nancy I plumb the uttermost depths of despairs." Father (fed up with the youth). "Well, I don't want my daughter to marry a plumber, so you'd better give up the idea."

Lime Aids Alfalfa Yield

Attempts to Grow it in Acid Soils Are Wasted

Fertilizer, seed and labor are largely wasted if an attempt is made to grow alfalfa on acid soils, according to Professor A. W. Blair, soil chemist at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. In the East, where the rainfall is heavy, the soil is generally very deficient in available lime, he says. Alfalfa grows most luxuriantly where the soil is well supplied with lime, and since there is a great abundance of limstone and shell material in this section of the country the lime necessary for the improvement of acid soils is easily obtained.

"For a number of years the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station has conducted experiments for the purpose of determining the value of lime in connection with the growing of alfalfa," says Professor Blair. "The work has shown that if sassafras loam soil or soils having similar characteristics are allowed to go for a period of years without lime the soil becomes so acid that alfalfa will not grow and weeds and crab grass take possession of the land. Even with moderate application of lime the yield of hay is often much below what it should be.

"In 1931 three cuttings of hay on the experimental plot without lime yielded at the rate of 1,713 pounds an acre. The crop, which was largely weeds and not alfalfa hay, was low in nutriment value and contained less than half the protein found in clean alfalfa hay. Where lime in the form of ground oyster shells was used at the rate of 1000 pounds an acre the yield was two tons of hay of a fair quality to the acre. The yield was nearly four tons of excellent hay to the acre when 2,000 pounds of the ground oyster shells were used. With 4,000 pounds of the ground oyster shells the yield was four and a half tons of hay to the acre, the crop having a protein value of almost two and one-half times that of the hay from the and without the lime.

"In the majority of cases, a ton of ground limestone or ground oyster shells, or about a half ton of burned lime to the acre, applied once in five years, will be sufficient to keep the soil in good condition for growing alfalfa. The cost of this application should not exceed $1.50 an acre per year. There are, however, exceptional cases where more lime will be required."

Dairyman's Expenses

The cow that produces less than 250 pounds of fat cannot make a profit for the dairyman, believes E. J. Perry, extension dairyman at the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, who bases this contention on present milk prices and the cost of running a dairy farm. It is difficult at present for a herd averaging even 300 pounds of fat to yield a return over all expenses, he says and there is a need of a weeding out of all inferior animals from the rank and file of the New Jersey herds.

Milk and fat records, regularly kept, are indispensable in eliminating the unnecessary expenditures caused by low-producing animals, low testers and speculative feeding. Mr. Perry advocates the establishing of monthly records of milk flow, with regular fat tests on each cow. Reports show that cows producing 9,500 pounds of milk for the past year in the Salem County Herd Improvement Association ate only 25 per cent more feed while making 88 per cent more in returns over-feed costs than animals that produced 4,500 pounds of milk, he states. During the year 467 different cows were entered in the association, and of the 326 for which full year records of milk, fat and feed costs were kept 12 per cent produced less than 250 pounds of fat. Eighty per cent of the herds in the Salem Association exceeded an average of 300 pounds of fat. The average yearly production of each association cow was 7,300 pounds of milk, 327 pounds of fat, while the average production of all New Jersey cows, according to the last census, was approximately 6,200 pounds of milk and 240 pounds of fat.

The mating of the profitable cows with well-bred bulls of proved ancestry is largely responsible for the high average of the cows in the Salem County herds, Mr. Perry declares. Culling and careful feeding are other important factors.

Charting Sea Highways Begun by British Navy

London—A fleet of British naval sloops has begun the annual task of recharting the ocean highways. This undertaking requires several months and costs more than $500,000.

The vessels engaged on the undertaking, equipped with many delicate instruments, will take tens of thousands of soundings and calculations, and the reports from them will keep the hydrographic department of the Admiralty busy for months.

An Admiralty official says that every year several hundred new rocks are discovered by the survey. It is not unusual for 100,000 alterations to be made on the existing charts.

In addition to charting new rocks and changes in the level of the seabed alterations in coast lines and the position of buoys and lighthouses have to be noted.