# Voice of the Press

## Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

### CANADA

#### The Landward Movement

There is a landward movement in all countries. It is inevitable, and the present efforts in Manitoba and the other provinces of Canada may draw attention to this and may encourage a wider, voluntary movement from the cities to the rural districts. But the success of the efforts now being made here will depend on adherence to the strict and almost severe methods that have been followed thus far, and on giving only a minimum of assistance so that the settlers will know that they must mend for themselves and make the utmost use of their opportunity.—Winnipeg Free Press.

#### Independence Impossible

Nothing has so far emerged from republican Ireland to give the least promise of Irish economic independence. Politically Ireland may be as independent as Canada, but financially Ireland is no more independent of outside money power than Canada is independent of New York. President de Valera may know how to bring about Irish independence, but it certainly never will be independent so long as the national credit has to be pledged to private sources. The present Irish administration will be made to toe the line, just as surely as England had to toe the line last September or as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries have been compelled to submit to the policy of deflation imposed from outside sources. —Ottawa Citizen.

#### Dangerous Drivers

Picked observers of the American Railway Association who made a survey of the actions of motorists at grade crossings, report that 74 per cent. of the drivers exercised reasonable care, 14 per cent. were reckless and 12 per cent. doubtful. Reasonable care meant reduced speed, looking in both directions and obedience to warning signals. It is pretty safe to say that the 74 per cent. class had little or no representation in the accidents that did occur at crossings. The fact that 26 per cent. are either reckless or "doubtful" shows that at this late day there is still need for safety lessons for motorists, and for highway police to control the dangerous ones. —Montreal Gazette.

#### Automobiles on the Farm

At the present time Canada counts one motor car for every 2.27 farms, Ontario having the highest percentage, with one car for every 1.53 farm. Quebec comes last on the list with a car for 5.06 farms, which, by the way, cannot be considered a drawback, for though the car may be a great convenience, it is still very often an object of great luxury and, for young farmers, a constant invitation to relaxation and idleness.—La Tribune, Sherbrooke.

#### Never Satisfied

If prices are up, we are not satisfied. If they are down, we are still grumbling. What, then, will bring us content? The thing that is needed is stability. It is not the fact that prices are high or that they are low that matters so much as that they refuse to stay anywere. When they go up, the dollar goes down, and people who have dollars find they are worth only 90 or 80 or 70 per cent. of ther former value —in goods, that is. When prices are down, the dollar becomes worth more, and the individual who borrowed at a different level finds he has to produce more goods or put in more hours of labor than he had counted on to pay his debt. It is this fluctuation which has given rise to the demand for "the honest dollar"; that is, the dollar that will buy approximately the same quantity of goods to-day as to-morrow and next year as last year. — Vancouver Province.

#### Saving on Health

If there should prove truth in the report that among the economic measures the Provincial Government contemplates the abandonment of the services of the Public Health nurses as built up since 1916, then the full measure of the risk should be known. Six months ago the staff of 50 nurses was distributed over the whole Province and not as heretofore only in those municipalities willing to pay a part of the cost. The equipment for the welfare stations, the first aid and the educational work is all at hand. The only cost is that of maintaining the nurses in the field, which averages about $2,000 per nurse. The total amount saved if the whole service is wiped out is estimated at $100,000. And the whole structure of years which has yielded blessing far and wide will go into the discard. — Winnipeg Free Press.

### THE EMPIRE

#### Reasons For Conference Success

They (the delegates at the Imperial Conference) have worked as they have never worked before; and let it never be forgotten that it was the initiative, the resources, and the organization of the Canadian Government, whose circumstances have tended to make them the storm-centre of criticism, that provided the opportunity for this intense concentration on a single task. There could never have been the same dispatch of business, or the same measure of agreement, if the delegations had been scattered — as they must have been at Lausanne, or for the matter of that in London—in a dozen separate offices and hotels. They owe not a little of their success to the spacious capacity of Parliament Buildings and the Chateau Laurier. But political leaders everywhere are bound to justify themselves in the end to their constituents. Oppositions are not to be controlled. There will be attacks and counter-attacks, suggestions that too much has been conceded and too little secured, complaints that there has been no dramatic climax and no immediate decline in unemployment. It is quite inevitable that every Government should be driven to make the best case for its own performance at the Conference; and there will be no harm in it so long as they observe the one essential condition that the case is not made to the detriment of any other Government.—London Times.

#### Motorbus and Public

Regulation of motor-coach traffic out of London is a problem both urgent and difficult. When the Road Traffic Act came into force last year, the roads were overburdened with superfluous coaches whose owners were not concerned so much to serve the public as to establish their claims to the Metropolitan Traffic Commissioner's sanction. Accordingly the Commissioner, faced with the enormous task of bringing order into a vast, spontaneously-generated chaos, did not hesitate to be restrictve. The final report of Lord Amulree's committee of inquiry just issued deals with the appeals against the Commissioner's restrictions, and in the majority of cases it recommends modification, complete or partial, of his original decisions. The obvious common sense of the situation is that there should be on the road enough motor-coaches to supply the public need, and no more, and, second, that the economic laws of supply and demand will realize that ideal, in the long run, better than arbitrary legislation.—London Morning Post.

#### Better Food

Not the least of the human victories of these latter centuries has been the conquest of new foods, of better foods, of more varied foods. Explorers and scientists and inventors have all played their parts. And the good work still goes on. The Food Investigation Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is a body for which the public cares little. It is neither spectacular nor costly. But its work, amongst other things, gives us promise of fresh British fruit all the year round. The time is near when it will be no queerer to have fresh raspberries than fresh beef at Christmastime.—London Daily Herald.

### OTHER OPINIONS

#### British Redivivus

Far from being discouraged by world economic conditions, Great Britain is redoubling its efforts to assure its industrial future by great national enterprises. One of the most important is a scheme for electrical power distribution known as the Grid System, expected to be more simple and economical than any other in operaton in the world. The basis of this enterprise which is to link up the entire industrial system of Britain is in a great electric station, the first unit of which recently was opened with national ceremony on the bank of the lower Thames. The site in 1923 was a desolate and remote marshland and to make a foundation for the buildings vast superstructures of piles and cement had to be prepared. When completed 40 acres of the 100-acre tract will be occupied by the station. A jetty has been built at which ocean-going vessels can discharge their cargoes of coal at all states of the tide.—Detroit News.

#### Peasant and Soviet

The peasant and his wife have no use for Soviet notes except as means of purchasing the goods they require, and if they cannot obtain these goods they will stay at home and keep their produce for themselves. The Soviet Press is now denouncing the light industry organizations for not supplying suitable wares, and efforts are being made to meet the deficiency. Even the big factories engaged in heavy industry have been ordered to utilize their scrapheaps to make nails, buckets, and other articles for peasant use. And to cope with the difficulty from the other side all the factories have been nstructed to organize "self-supply systems," to relieve the Government's task of finding food by establishing pigsties and poultry farms, and to make their own bargains with the peasants for the supply of produce from the country. To make the outlook still more depressing, the reports of the condition of crops grow steadily more discouraging.—London Times.

## Return to Mountain Farms

Lexington, Ky. — The back-to-the-land movement is being translated into back-to-the-mountain in Kentucky. Seven thousand families have returned to farms in twenty-six eastern mountain counties of Kentucky in the last two years.

## New Altitude Record

The other day, Maryse Hiltz, daring Frenchwoman, hit 32,500 feet in her plane—a new record. Men aviators better look to their laurels.

## France and Defense

By Paul Reynaud, Recent Minister of Finance of France, on arriving at New York.

I am afraid that the spirit of peace in Europe is not controlled as we would like. It is a serious question, requiring great thought and meditation. We never speak of peace in France except with enthusiasm. We suffered too much from the war. The love of peace is just as great in France as it is here. The American a the French views are the same on this question.

President Hoover but recently declared, when the issue arose as to reduction in effectives, that America should never be left in such a position as to make her susceptible to the invasion of foreign troops. We in France have the same feeling. It is the feeling of the peasant, and the spirit of the peasant of France is the soul of France.

France is governed by fact. However many changes in Ministries may take place, the policy of France, which is influenced alone by fact, remains the same. The transition from one party leadership to another is scarcely observable.

## Spanish Farmers Seek Relief on 800 A.D. Tax

Madrid. — Thirteen farmers from Logrono Province called on Premier Manuel Azana recently and sent him delving into history books. They asked merely to be relieved of a tax system imposed in 800 A.D. by the Visigoth King, Ramiro of Leon.

Administration of the property has descended from the princes to a board of assessors, which visits the farmers each spring. This year the assessors threatened the farmers with eviction.

Man is only miserable so far as he thinks himself so.—Sannabaro.

## Fruit Production In the Dominion

The final estimate of the commercial fruit production of Canada in 1931 gives the total value as $14,756,-636, thus confirming the preliminary estimate previously published. Ontario led the provinces in the value of its commercial fruit production, with British Columbia second, Nova Scotia third, Quebec fourth and New Brunswick fifth. The value of the output for Ontario was $5,894,017, British Columbia $4,894,143, Nova Scotia $2,-851,881, Quebec $911,545, and New Brunswick $206,050. The total value for the Dominion showed a decline of $3,408,640 from the value on 1930. There were decreases in all the provinces but New Brunswick, the largest falling-off being in British Columbia.

Although 1931 showed a reduction in the total value of the Dominion fruit production from 1930, nevertheless there were increases in the crops of a number of varieties of fruits. The yield of apples showed an advance, as did also that of peaches, apricots, strawberries, raspberries, and grapes, but there were declines in the yields of pears, plums, prunes and cherries. The value of the apple crop of the Dominion last year was $8,863,797, second place being held by strawberries at $1,691,471, while peaches came third at $1,173,654, raspberries fourth at $822,362, and grapes fifth at $813,280.

## Women Voters Exceed Men—in Barcelona

Spain's premier city, Barcelona, has a total of 545,152 registered voters. Women surpass the men by 53,-102. The two sexes list as follows: Women voters, 299,127; men voters, 246,025.

## Team Work

"Road work with hubby makes one fit," says Mrs. Max Baer, better half of the fisticuff ace. She believes a wife's place is with her husband and rises early to accompany Max through his paces.

## Canadian Notes

Edmonton, Alta.—The immediate construction of a $40,000 warehouse in Edmonton has been authorized by the Motor Car Supply Company of Canada, according to an announcement by Mr. C. D. MacKenzie, manager of the Edmonton branch. The new building, which will contain 20,-000 square feet of space, will be constructed on a site owned by the company, and is expected to be ready for occupation by October 15.

Calgary, Alta.—Cars of cattle being shipped at the present time are reported to be in better condition than for many years. Pasture and moisture conditions have been excellent since early spring and are still favorable. The C.P.R. Holstein cows from the Strathmore farm were the winners in this class of livestock at the recent Calgary Exhibition. The condition of these cows was the subject of much favorable comment ment.

Vernon, B.C. — The Co-operative Growers at Penticton are going in for crystallizing cherries this year, under the direction of an expert from the Dominion Experimental Station at West Summerland. Plans provide for treating 20 tons of Royal Anne cherries for consumption at soda fountains and as candied or Maraschino cherries. A good market has been assured for the product.

Vancouver, B.C.—Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company's chemical fertilizer industry is being developed along extensive lines and more than $250,000 worth of sulphate of ammonia has been shipped during the last few weeks. The company is shipping fertilizer to the plantations of Hawaii, the citrus orchards of California and the farming regions of China and the Dutch East Indies. A cargo of 3,000 tons of fertilizer fertilizer was recently sent to the Dutch East Indies. Indian agricultural interests have asked for samples, and it is expected that a large quantity of fertilizer will be marketed in India later in the year.

Nanaimo, B.C.—Fisheries Experimental Stations at Nanaimo and at Prince Rupert have found the liver oil of halibut off this coast rich in Vitamin A. There is value also in salmon livers, formerly a total loss, and in the livers of the grey or ling cod and the grey fish (dog fish). Tests are still being carried out with salmon, grey fish and grey cod, but halibut liver oil is now an established factor and brings steady commercial returns from eastern manufacturing laboratories.

Victoria, B.C. — The fisheries of British Columbia constitute one of its principal industries. The total value of output of the province in 1931 was $11,'09,822. The size of the annual revenue from the British Columbia fisheries is dependent chiefly on the size of the salmon pack. Last year the total marketed value of the salmon, including used fresh, canned, dry-salted, etc., was $7,196,-'74. The halibut catch, which is second in importance in British Columbia to the salmon, amounted to '82,005 cwt. The catch of fish of all kinds in British Columbia in 1931 amounted to 4,649,962 cwt. with a value to the fishermen of $5,880,985.

## Business in Germany

By Dr. Hans Luther, President of the Reichsbank.

Regarding German debts abroad, I would like to refer to a recent interview given by Dr. Warmbold, the Minister of Economics, in which any idea of unilateral interference by the government in German interest obligations was unequivocally repudiated. . .

I shall not say that the economic crisis has actually passed the turning point, but the elemental force of the economic shrinking process is no longer so great as to prevent our now making the utmost efforts to re-encourage enterprise. . . Much which, in the former phase of the crisis, would have been engulfed by the weight of events can now be undertaken with the prospect of success, especially since Lausanne has de facto eliminated the superpressure of reparations. . . .

But the stagnation of business can be overcome only by the will of business men no longer to stagnate. Even if the government's economic program seems to be a way toward vigorous co-operation, what matters in the last analysis is that those called upon to conduct private enterprises should now really be minded to set them going.

The contention that the credit stringency of Germany is due to the fact Germany has so little gold is a fairy tale. Nor is it made truer by being maintained by persons who ought to know better. German industry and business can perform the enormous tasks facing them only if their currency is safe against unforseeable fluctuations—briefly, only if Germany maintains the gold standard.

## Saskatchewan's Butter Output Up

The output of creamery butter in Saskatchewan for the first six months of 1932 was 9,038,489 pounds, according to the agricultural department of the Canadian National Railways. This is an increase of 4.7 per cent. over the corresponding period of last year.

## News Tit-Bits

#### Elephants Beg for Coppers

Brussels.—The director of the Antwerp Zoo, who has little sense of humor, reported that there have been "no cases of sickness from overfeeding" among the thousands of animals in his care. He mentioned the tons of horse-meat fed to the carnivores, the hay and beet sugar provided for the elephants in Winter and the fresh clover for the dainty antelope. But he said nothing about the hundred and one tricks used by the animals to beg food from visitors to supplement their diet.

Judging by the actions of the beasts, the official menu is about 50 per cent below par. Lions and tigers patrol their cages, beating their lean flanks against the iron bars, the sea lions lift their voices in protest and sea fowl rush the visitors for food.

The elephants know best how to improve each shining hour; they bew for coppers to be turned into tid-bits by their keepers.

#### Executioner Sells Books

Prague.—The former public executioner of Prague, Broumarsky, who lost his job because he gave an unathorized interview to a newspaper, is now making a living by selling books from a public stand in one of the leading streets of the city.

#### Idle Musicians to Give Opera

Paris—Hoping to relieve somewhat the plight of hundreds of unemployed musicians in Paris, an association they have just formed will produce the opera "Aida" in the open-air sports stadium at Colombes. Singers of the Paris Opera have promised to play leading parts in the cast of more than 500 persons. There will be an orchestra of 120 unemployed musicians and the brass band of the Mounted Republican Guards will be present.

#### Eiffel Tower to Be Painted

Paris—The Eiffel Tower soon will weigh thirty-eight tons more, when the task of cleaning and painting it is completed. Thirty-eight tons of paint will be required to cover the entire surface of the steel structure, which weighs 7,700,000 tons. The painting is done every seven years.

#### To Ski Over Aegean Sea

Vienna.—Fritz Ettelmayr, who in 1928 at the age of 19 made the first crossing of the English Channel in a collapsible boat, left Villach in Carinthia recently on water-skis, on which he intends to walk by water to Athens.

He is following the course of the Drave and the Danube to the Black Sea, and will then ski through the Bosporus and the Dardenelles across the Aegean Sea to Athens. He will return to Austria by skiing over the Adriatic along the Dalmatian coast.

He is being accompanied only by his friend Ferdinand Schwamberger in a collapsible boat.

## Restoration of "Angelus" A Two Month's Task

Paris.—Two months of work by experts will be necessary to repair "The Angelus," the Millet masterpiece which was slashed recently by a man, believed by police to be a lunatic, at the Louvre Museum.

The process is a delicate one. First of all, the severed threads of the canvas have to be drawn together and gummed. Following this a new foundation is formed by a piece of fine gauze. This operation alone takes three weeks. After that the cut in the actual painting has to be repaired. Artists, experts in this class of work, are employed. The tints of the old paint are exactly matched and the scar is filled so cleverly that when the paint is quite dry nothing of the rent can be detected.

Jean Mistler, Under-Secretary for Fine Arts, has brought formal charges against Pierre Suillard, 31 years old, an engineer, living in Paris. If alienists find him responsible, the maximum punishment of seven years at hard labor will be sought, to discourage repetitions of his crime. The man who stole Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" received five years.

## Illiteracy Shows Drop Of 6 Per Cent in U.S.

Group data compiled by the Census Bureau on the 1930 reports, says "The Philadelphia Bulletin, "show a reduction from 6 to 4.3 per cent. in illiteracy in the United States. The efficacy of the school system and the effectiveness of compulsory attendance are reflected in the fact that only 420,538 of American illiterates in 1930 were under twenty-one. This group was 598,-79 in number in 1920, the percentage of improvement beng 1.1 as compared with 2.3 in the group including ages from twenty-five to thirty-four.

During a forty-year drop in illiteracy, from 13.3 to 4.3 per cent., the percentages of male and female illiterates have been nearly equal, in 1930 4.4 per cent. among males and 4.3 among females. Males in 1920 had a percentage of 6.0, females 5.9 per cent., each group making an improvement of 1.6 in the figures. Male and female whites in 1930 had the same percentage of illiterates, 2.7. To reach this equality the male white population gained a trifle more than the females, as in 1920 the percentages were 4.1 male illiterates and 4.0 females