Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

No Great Men

George Bernard Shaw says there are no great men or women in the world. "I can write plays and you can't. That is all," he remarked. "If I couldn't I should probably be a tramp. As it is, I am so well off that everybody pretends I am much more respectable than I really am."—Hamilton Herald.

He Tanned the Hides

A prominent Pictou County farmer brought two calf-skins to market, and could only get twenty-five cents for them. He also wanted a few yards of leather belt lacing. He could not get enough for the calf-hides to buy the few laces. He was mad clear through. Being a long-headed Scot, he threw the hides back into his wagon and started homeward. "Hang it," he muttered to himself, "I'm not going to let these fellows beat me. In the old days they tanned hides; why can't I?" He did. The process entailed some work. He used the river for a soaking tank. He applied the proper solution to soften and toughen the leather. It worked. He cut a lacing from the hide, and tried to break it. He couldn't, and came to town to show the result of his work. He has several dollars worth of good strong lacing for the belts of his machines. But what pleased most was that he beat the machine that was opposing him.—New Glasgow Chronicle.

Out of Place in the City

There is little joy for a rollicking big-framed animal running loose in a world of crowded streets. The nervous tension of dodging car wheels and being chased from pillar to post because of a succession of wrong-doings innocently arising from the sheer joy of living, is sufficient to arouse irritability in the most companionable beast and eventually bring down coals of fire on his head and that of his owner. There are few things more touching or more worth while than the loyal company of a big, good-natured rascal who, through his very freedom of though and action can make life seem a much pleasanter business to the harried human mind. Like everything else, however, he has his place and, if he is not intended for the kennel or the leash, that place is in the country, or at least, the less cramped portions of the city where he may enjoy the liberty so essential to bringing out the best that is in him.—Edmonton Journal.

A Fallacious Notion

Motorists who clamor for the removal of speed limits claim that it is not speed in itself but reckless or incompetent driving that is responsible for so many distressing highway accidents. But a member of the staff of the National Safety Council of the United States, Curtis Billings, argues in the Atlantic Magazine for October that the increase in the death rate due to motor accidents coincides with increases in the power and speed of motors in that country. With the coming of fast cars and broad, paved roads the notion became fixed in the minds of motorists that speed in itself is not dangerous. "That notion," he says, 'is as fallacious as it is alluring." Having reviewed the statistics on the subject, Mr. Billings quotes one engineer as saying: "The faster a vehicle is going the more damage it can do because its energy increases as the square of its speed. That is to say, if the speed is doubled the force of the impact in case of accident is four times as great. This is a common-sense as well as an engineering view to take of the effects of increased speed. The significance of the argument lies in the fact that it comes from an expert engaged in Safety First work.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Too Much Cutting Down

All over the province the high schools and collegiate institutes are trying to cut down expenses. In fact all over the province everybody is trying to cut down expenses, even those who have no reason at all for doing so. People who have their 1928 income are pinching like the rest. This reducing of expenses, this refraining from buying anything that can be done without, retards the return of business activity. And yet a force like this operates inevitably and no argument can prevail against it.—Toronto Star.

Hanging

The official hangman in Poland gets $15 per execution, and says he can't make a living at that rate. His services are not sufficiently in demand and most of the time he is just hanging around.—Stratord Beacon-Herald.

THE EMPIRE

Ottawa and World Trade

A revival of trade within the Empire is calculated to increase British prosperity everywhere, and nothing can prevent that from operating beneficially elsewhere in the world. It means much that so great a commercial nation should find its feet again. Ottawa, it is well said, has furnished a link between Lausanne and the World Economic Conference. The ultimate outcome must be the benefit of all, and the immediate result is to simplify the wider problem, although the first foreign reaction is to compel adjustment to the changed conditions.—Auckland Weekly News.

British Capital in Crown Colonies

British capital is tremendously needed in all the Crown Colonies, and there are bitter complaints from time to time that British investors are shy of investments in them. Yet when it comes to a practical effort by a British investor to begin an enterprise in these colonies, he is met, as often as not, with a cold water douche of suspicion.—Trinidad Guardian.

Anglo-Danish Relations

Denmark has been one of the first foreign countries to show readiness to adjust itself to the new trade conditions created at Ottawa; and its peculiarly intimate commercial relations with Great Britain are illustrated by the fact that last year this country took no less than 67 per cent. of all Danish exports. The Danish people seem determined to overcome the difficulties created for them by the new Ottawa duties; and a new trade treaty will no doubt be negotiated at the earliest opportune moment. In the meantime the British Exhibition will exemplify the enlightened self-interest that draws the two countries economically and culturally together—London Times.

"Has Recovery Begun?

I believe that the process of recovery has begun and is well under way, even though there is little visible evidence of it as yet. But convalescence must at the best be slow, owing to the terrible network of constrictive bonds in which the world has contrived to envelop itself in its desperate and futile efforts to escape from the consequences of its own economic folly. I have little faith in the powers of a World Economic Conference to produce a formula for the unravelling of the tangle. The only real hope lies in a steady and unrelenting pressure of business men for the piecemeal removal of obstacles to trade, and in the natural ingenuity of the trader. Every importer or exporter who can find a way (preferably legal) through, round or over a tariff, quota or exchange control deserves well of humanity at the present juncture.—O. R. Hobson in The Spectator, London.

The Reds in China

The cure for the Red movement in China is peace and prosperity. This is not to say that active and resolute action is unnecessary, but Communism grows from the hot-bed of distress arising from famine, disorder and corrupt government. Aeroplanes and local volunteers can disperse a minority of bandits and rogues; but a great peril arises when normal and orderly people are drawn into such a movement. Then the revolt grows to the proportion of civil war, with illimitable possibilities for mischief. — Hong Kong Press.

OTHER OPINIONS

Monotony

Most of us can draw up our belts another hole and cut our lunch allowance in two for a spell of weeks, but there comes a time when, if we are blest with a spark of imagination, we crack under the strain of monotonous existence. A brain-storm sweeps away all our good resolutions, the self-denying ordinance is overborne, we are almost ready to play ducks and drakes with our insurance premums and payments to the co-operative bank and like Pippa, give ourselves a holiday. It is worth all it costs sometimes, to waste the price of a plain nourishing meal on a red necktie or the price of a much needed pair of shoes on a broiled lobster with all the fixings. — Boston Transcript.

Obnoxious Billboards

There are two counts against the billboard on the highway. It not only mars the landscape and destroys the natural beauty of roadside scenery, but its garishness also distracts the attention of the driver of the car. Important traffic directions posted along the road are often lost in a welter of commercial signs. In the interests of safety the most conspicuous signs on the highway should be those placed there by the highway department to direct traffic.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

B. C. Salmon Pack

Vancouver.—Canned salmon pack in British Columbia up to Sept. 29 totalled 949,211 cases, compared with 645,015 for the corresponding period last year, according to a statement issued by Major J. A. Motherwell, chief of the Provincial Department of Fisheries.

British Motor Trains Installed in Roumania

Bucharest, Roumania.—Eight motor trains from England have been installed on a number of secondary lines.

It is believed that they will be cheaper than the regular trains and will help reduce the large railroad deficit.

If they prove satisfactory, more will be introduced.

England's Star Walkers

Miss V. Horwood, right, and Miss C. Mason, well-known woman athletes of England, as they finished the mile walk in a dead heat during the Duke of York's inter-country championships.

Maple Sugar Industry Reports Good Year

The maple sugar industry of Canada has experienced increased activity this year. Lower prices appear to have stimulated sales, and there was an increase in the production of both sugar and syrup over the results of 1931. In the Maritime Provinces and Quebec the season was long and productive, while in Ontario the flow of sap was much restricted.

Production of maple sugar, so far as reported for the season of 1932, was 7,217,300 pounds for the whole Dominion. Last year the sugar output was 5,484,100 pounds. Syrup production this year was 1,744,479 gallons compared with 1,314,700 gallons in 1931. The highest production of sugar during the last five years was 13,798,109 pounds in 1928, while the biggest yield of syrup in the same period was 2,185,379 gallons in 1930. The total value of sugar and syrup sold this year was $2,746,757 for the Dominion, a reduction of about $800,000 from the previous year, owing, of course, to the decline in prices. The record of production value for the five years was $6,118,656 in 1929. Of the total value for the current year sugar yielded $692,480 and syrup $2,054,277. The values given for the present year should be regarded as preliminary since the full production has not yet been sold.

New Guinea Home of One Hundred Races

Sydney, N.S.W.—More than 100 different races are to be found in New Guinea, which is Australian mandated territory, declared Mr. E. W. P. Chinney, government anthropologist for the territory, in a recent address before the Advancement of Science Congress here.

Probably many more are not known, he said, for part of the territory has not yet been explored. Natives numbered so far total about 400,000. Mr. Chinney advocates teaching the natives trades and agriculture.

Combine Formed in Britain To Protect Trust Companies

London.—An association of investment trusts, representing a combination of 250 to 300 of the largest British Trust companies, with a total capital of about 300,000,000 pounds sterling, has been formed here. The objects of the organization will be to protect the interests of the investment trusts and their shareholders, especially against default of home and foreign borrowers. The central organization, it is also pointed out, would enable the trust companies to speak with one voice in any particular problem of default.

The trusts represented include the Investment Trust Corporation, Industrial and General Trust, Mercantile Investment and General Trust and the British Investment Trust.

It is anticipated that the association will act in co-operation with continental and American organizations where firms with which they deal have foreign interests.

Land Plane Flies 300 Miles An Hour

Los Angeles.—A speed of 300 miles an hour, the fastest time ever made by a land plane over a distance course, has been accomplished in an official flight between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Colonel Roscoe Turner raced his monoplane between the two cities, 370 miles apart, in 1 hour, 14 minutes, an average of a flat 300 miles an hour. The flight lowered by 17 minutes the mark set last year by Jimmie Wedell of New Orleans, pilot-designer and builder of Colonel Turner's ship.

Colonel Turner, making a non-stop round trip between the cities, flew the distance of 740 miles in 2 hours, 41 minutes, averaging 275.77 miles an hour. The 300-mile average was made on the southward trip with the aid of a tail wind. National Aeronautic Association officials timed the flight.

Friendly Enemies

Tomorrow they'll battle it out, but today they walk arm in arm. Miss A. de Gunsbourg and Miss Pauline Doran were finalists in the girls' open golf championship match at Stoke Poges, England, recently.

Oxygen Bricks In Popular Sizes

Berlin.—"Canned oxygen" is the name given by the Vossische Zeitung to an invention which, it is claimed, may save hundreds of lives in peace, and hundreds of thousands in war.

This beneficent discovery consists of the chemical fixation of oxygen in such a way that the gas may be carried about in the form of briquettes and yet be immediately available for breathing purposes.

The briquettes are contained in tins similar to those used for canned asparagus. They will cost from 50 to 60 pfennigs (about 10 cents).

The canned oxygen may be stored for years and moved about to any extent without risk of explosion or fire.

After an initial warning—set in action by a blow—the briquettes (it is explained) give off for hours, without pressure, an even exhalation of oxygen.

The gas is so highly concentrated that it could be contained in one of the usual steel bottles now used for the purpose only at a pressure of 350 atmospheres.

If canned oxygen had been available a little earlier all the hundreds of lives lost through the colliery explosions in Germany during the past few years would, it is said, have been saved.

Every collier, every member of a submarine crew, and, during the war, every inhabitant of a town threatened by gas attacks will, it is suggested, in future always have his tinned oxygen briquette handy to save him from death from asphyxiating fumes.

Discovery to Effect More Cures of Cancer

New Haven, Conn.—Professor William P. Graves of the Harvard School of Medicine, to the Clinical Congress being held at Yale University, has announced the discovery by Dr. Walter Schiller, of Vienna, of a method of detecting cancer of the cervix uteri in its early stages, when cures can be effected in a high percentage of cases.

At that period of its development, Professor Graves pointed out, such cancer was not apparent to the eye or the touch. The cancer, he said, had its origin in irritation of an indifferent cell in the epithelium, which produced a virus stimulating surrounding cells to abnormal growth and spreading laterally.

Dr. Schiller, he said, discovered that normal cells of the epithelial layer contained an appreciable amount of glycogen, a form of sugar, and he devised a method of staining part of the layer with an iodine solution, which caused glycogen particles in the normal cells to appear almost black under the microscope.

The cancerous cells, containing no glycogen, appeared white or pink.

Professor Graves said that Dr. Schiller's test had been subjected to intensive investigation in the Harvard laboratories and was believed to be of "inestimable value," being simple and apparently reliable. He advocated its general use in the campaign against cervical cancer.

Ontario Ranks Third in Highway Mileage

Ottawa. — Saskatchewan leads all the provinces of the Dominion in highway mileage, with 155,609 miles open for traffic on Dec. 31, 1931, according to a report issued recently by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Alberta came next with 62,426 miles, and Ontario with 52,119 was in third position.

Other provinces with their mileages were: Quebec, 35,763; British Columbia, 22,459; Nova Scotia, 14,719; New Brunswick, 11,825; Manitoba, 5,230, and Prince Edward Island, 3,650 miles. The total highway mileage in Canada is 378,094.

Birth Rate In Britain Shows Upward Tendency

London—After 11 years of declines in the birthrate of England and Wales, the Registrar-General report announces a slight increase, amounting to 2 per cent., per thousand, for the June quarter of 1932, the first such gain in that period for the 11 years.

There were 165,456 births, of whom 1,051 were boys to each 1,000 girls.

Infantile mortality also showed some little improvement, deaths among infants one year old and under being but 7 per 1,000.

Whole Family Celebrates Weddings

Budapest.—The peasant family of Brandhuber in the village of Csobank indulged in an orgy of matrimony recently. The grandfather, Joseph Brandhuber, and his wife celebrated their golden wedding; their son, George, and his wife their silver wedding, and two grandchildren were married in the parish church. The whole village took part in the fourfold wedding celebrations.

Brazil Raises More Fruit

Rio De Janeiro.—Fruit culture in Brazil has made great strides in the last few years, according to a Department of Agriculture report, which states that the 1931 crop was valued at $25,000,000 and that the 1932 crop will be larger. The largest users of Brazilian fruits are the British and the Argentines. Fruit exports during 1913 amounted to $200,000 and soared to $8,000,000 in 1931. Oranges, bananas and pineapples are the chief products for exportation.

How Long Do Animals Live?

Elephants are probably the longest-lived members of the animal kingdom, their lives averaging between one hundred and two hundred years. It is said that when Alexander conquered India he took one of King Porus' largest elephants, named Ajax, and turned him loose with this inscription on his collar: "Alexander, the son of Jupiter, dedicated Ajax to the sun." This elephant, the story has it, was captured three hundred and fifty years later

It has been claimed that as a general rule there is a direct relation between the duration of life and the time required to develop fully: but to this there are manifest exceptions. The cat is mature before it is a year old; yet it may attain the age of twenty years.

Size also seems to have a certain relation to longevity, the elephant and the whale being generally held to be the longest-lived of mammals; but here again enters the exception, since the little beaver lives more than twice as long as the rhinoceros.

The average age of other animals is estimated as follows: ass, thirty years; bear, twenty years; beaver, fifty years; camel, seventy-five years; cat, fifteen years; chamois, twenty-five years; ox, twenty-five years; deer, twenty years; dog, fourteen years; fox, fourteen years; goat, twelve years; guinea pig, four years; hare, eight years; hippopotamus, twenty years; horse, twenty-five years; hyena, twenty-five years; jaguar, twenty-five years; leopard, twenty-five years; lion, forty years; monkey, seventeen years; moose, fifty years; mouse, six years; pigs, fifteen years; rabbit, seven years; rat, seven years; rhinoceros, twenty years; sheep, ten years; squirrel, eight years; stag, five years; tiger, twenty-five years; wolf, twenty years.

While the average age of the whale is somewhere between one hundred and two hundred years, Cuvier asserted that it is probable that some whales attain the age of one thousand years.

Mule Dons Snowshoes

An educated mule that walked on snowshoes was the latest addition last winter to the transportation facilities of Northern Manitoba.

Natives of this northern trapping and mining centre were becoming somewhat bored by the frequent arrivals of roaring airplanes, screaming locomotives and barking dog teams when Bill Klonwick walked in from his trap lines with his snowshoeing mule quietly pulling a toboggan to give them a new thrill.

The mule's name is Lizzie and her snowshoes were about 18 inches in diameter. Klonwick taught her how to use them while working on his trap lines 600 miles north of Sherridon, Man., and now she refuses to walk in the snow without them. She makes good speed over the high drifts.

"Extinct" Australian Animal Revives

One of Australia's rare marsupials, which had been lost for nearly 100 years, has been rediscovered, following the bountiful rains that recently reawakened plant and animal life in the centre of the continent. This is the rat kagaroo (caloprymnus campestris), which was found by Mr. Harry Finlayson, of the Adelaide University staff, on a recent trip in Central Australia.

The little animal, which stands about a foot high, was believed to be extinct. It is said that the only three specimens of it in the world are in the British Museum.

The Ascent of Man

Robert Briffault in Scribner's Magazine (New York): Human nature is no less capable of good than of evil. It has at times appeared vile, that is because vileness has been thrust upon it by a social anarchy that has made internecine strife its law and fostered the basest impulses. The pall of that agelong pessimism is lifting. A new faith in humanity is possible. We know that the way to amend human nature is not to profess high sentiments, but to amend the social and cultural factors that mould and fashion it.

Tyrol May Bar Autos

Vienna.—Tyrol is threatened with a total prohibition of motoring, the local press was informed recently by the roads department of the Tyrol Government, as many areas complain that they have no funds to pay for the upkeep of the roads. The local authorities demand the right to levy tolls on passing cars, as was done up to two years ago, in order to be able to keep the roads in repair.

Britain Mints Yugoslav Coins

London.—New ten dinar silver coins recently put into circulation by the Yugoslav Government through the National Bank of Yugoslavia were coined at the British mint in London. The Yugoslav coins are similar in alloy to the British silver coinage. At current rates the ten-dinar piece is the equivalent of approximately one shilling.

The Contrast

The optimist sees sunshine, prosperity, success and opportunity.

The pessimist sees gloom, panic, failure and limitation.