Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Moral For Motorists

There is a bit of a moral for all motorists in the story of the Texan who wanted to inspect the scene of a fatal traffic accident the other day.

A car had gone off the road on a mountain highway, killing its driver, so this Texan drove out to see, and not so interested looking at things that he lost control of his own machine—and it, too, went off the road and down into a ravine, killing the driver. The moral, of course, is self-evident; never get so interested in the sights around you that you forget to watch where you are driving. But that is a fault fatally easy for a motorist to lapse into. All of us have been guilty of it at one time or another. Usually we come through it all right. But we might as well remember that it can be a horribly costly little error.

Other People's Opinions

It is not always easy to decide how much attention we should pay to other peoples opinions. It is a difficult course to steer, sometimes, between a slavish bowing to the opinions of those around us and a wrong indifference to such opinion. There is a wholesome middle course to follow; not a middle-of-the-road policy which has no convictions, but a fearless combination of rightful indifference on the one hand and sane sensitiveness on the other.—Toronto Globe.

A Matter of Opinion

If you see a woman wearing something nowadays, and the last thing on earth it looks like is a woman's hat, you can bet your life it is a womans hat.—Ottawa Journal.

Newspaper in Every Home

The extent to which newspapers are read in Canada has been illustrated afresh in figures announced at the nineteenth annual meeting of the Association of Canadian Advertisers. It was announced that two and a quarter million copies of newspapers are sold every day in Canada. "This means," it was explained, "that every accessible family in the Dominion is receiving its daily paper."

This is an impressive showing, and indicates that even in these present very trying years people are loath to give up their daily paper. On this continent at least the daily newspaper is the most widely read of all publications. It is an indispensable part of virtually every family's daily life.—Regina Leader-Post.

Come Again!

A California newspaper says: "Canadian ports are frozen for a good portion of the winter and wheat cannot leave these ports." The more we see of a lack of general world information on the part of the United States people the more respect we have for our own educational system.—Halifax Herald.

Twice-Written Works

The death of the Detroit author, Will Levington Comfort, recalls the fact that he had to write his most successful book, "Routledge Rides Alone," twice. He labored at it for months while his family almost starved, and when on the way to the publishers, he lost the manuscripts and it was never found. He had no duplicate copy, and although physically exhausted, he set his teeth and wrote the book over again. Other authors have performed much greater feats. Thomas Carlyle, whose "French Revolution" is one of the most stupendous volumes ever penned, involving the assembling of an immense amount of historical data, also wrote it twice. He loaned the first copy to a friend, and it transpired some weeks later that a maid had seen the manuscript on the table, and not realizing what it was, had used the pages every morning to light the fires of the house. Carlyle wrote it all over again. "Lawrence of Arabia" is another who had the same experience. He wrote his famous book on the Arab campaign, numbering 200,000 words, and one day a thief stole the bag containing the complete manuscript at a railway station. So Lawrence re-wrote the whole opus.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Carbon Monoxide Dangers

A season of danger to motor car owners is on, that wherein garage doors and windows are closed against the cold and there is temptation to start the motor under such restricted ventilation. Peculiarly there are many motorists who know nothing of carbon-monoxide gas, and would be astounded to learn that the exhaust from the motor may contain one of the most deadly and quick-acting gases known. — Welland-Port Colborne Tribune.

Australia Making Headway

It is spring time in Austaralia now, and the winter has been a sharp one. But the crops promise to be bountiful, and it is anticipated that the wool clip will be larger and better than for some years past There has been an abundant rainfall, with correspondingly abundant feed. The relief provided by the land tax reduction has heartened the farmers, who are now looking for an upward trend in produce prices.—Montreal Daily Star.

THE EMPIRE

A Fair Deal for the Farmer

With the proper organization of and security for the agricultural producers there is room for a million or more of the urban unemployed in the fields which they or their near relatives but recently quitted. But proper organization and effective security are vital, and both these will be fruitless unless the producer is assured of a fair deal. —London Daily Telegraph.

Retrenchment in the Colonies

Whatever hardships the future holds in store for officers in Malaya they will follow on the heels of similar sacrifices which have been borne by officers in other administrations of the Colonial service for some time past. Moreover, this Colony is one of those where an income tax does not operate and, so far as we are permitted to know official intentions, is not contemplated. The fact may help Government officials here to face future financial sacrifices with rather greater equanimity than might otherwise be the case. It's a hard life, but it might so easily be harder.—Singapore Free Press.

World Problems

The return of prosperity to Britain, and all other countries, depends first and foremost on the achievement of sane international agreements to relieve the burden and the increase of armaments, to remove the incubus of debts, to remedy the causes which have thrown the currencies of half the world into the melting pot, and to cut the bonds which strangle international trade.—Economist (London).

Quality and Quantity

The Americanization of industry in Europe has clearly not been a success. High tariff protection, rationalization, old-established societies of highly and mass-production are of no use to skilled people. They bore remarkable results in the United States because of its vast internal market, its undeveloped resources, its continuous supply of cheap immigrant labour, its self-sufficiency in raw materials. Even in the United States the limit of the benefits to be obtained from rationalization and mass-production seems to have been reached, and indeed overpassed. There never were any benefits for Europe in turning from craftsmanship to mass-production; and to craftsmanship Europe should return.—Prof. R. B. Mowat in The Contemporary Review (London).

AMERICAN

The League and Japan

The League of Nations is in a rather tight place. It can by no means afford to order the Japanese to withdraw their control from Manchuria, for the Japanese would simply refuse and the League would have no means of enforcing its order. No nation or group of nations is ready to go to war with Japan over Manchuria at this time. No nation is willing to break off diplomatic relations with Japan. Even the aggrieved Chinese have not done so.—Philadelphia Ledger.

French Plow Horse Leads To Interesting Discovery

Chalons-Sur-Marne, France.—A neolithic tribal tomb has just been discovered at Villeneuve-Saint-Vistres, where the soil caved in under the hoofs of a plow horse, leaving a hole about a foot wide. The farmer went on unheeding, but some passing hunters looked in the hole and saw human skeletons.

M. Roland, a Villeneuve archaeologist, informed of the discovery, brought to light a burial place sloping down to a flat stone When this was lifted, an underground chamber was found in which were several skeletons on the ground resting against the sides heads of men, women or children. Six of the room. There were twenty-eight flint-headed arrows, three flint knives, three sandstont knives and an axe-holder were also found.

Mexican Gold Supply Consumed Chiefly in U. S. and Britain

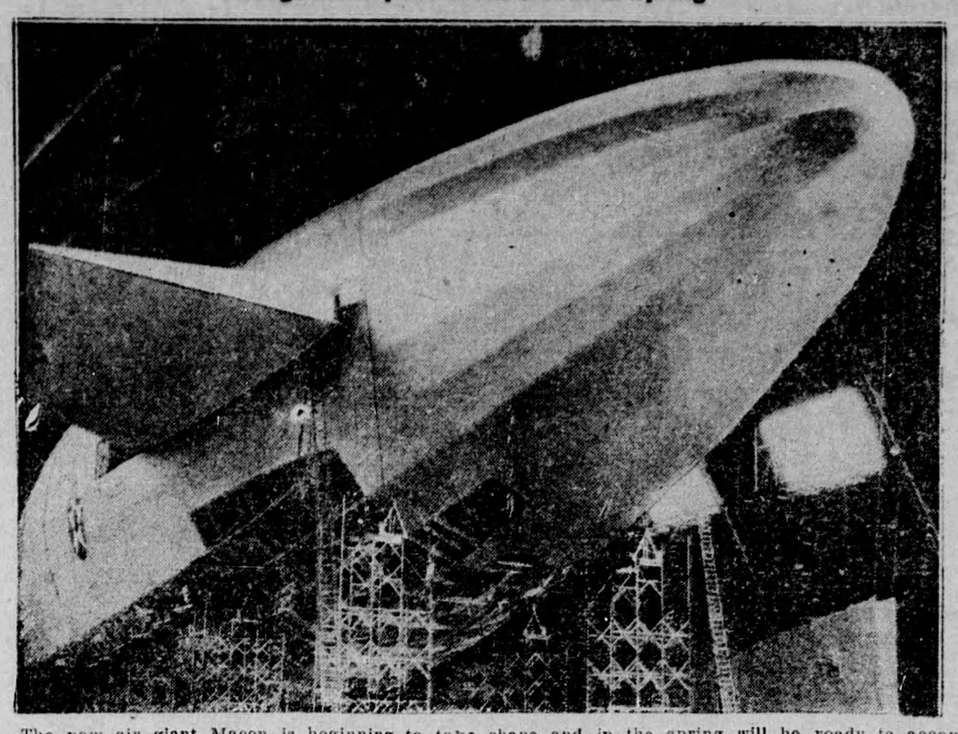
Mexico City.—Gold production in 1932 totaled 7,530 kilograms, of which Mexico during the first five months of only ninety-six kilograms were consumed in this country, the rest being exported. During the same period, Mexico produced 910,899 kilograms of silver, of which only 199,079 kilograms were consumed in Mexico, the rest being exported.

The figures also reveal that United States and Great Britain are the principal consumers of gold. Silver went in largest quantities to these two countries and to India, China, France and Germany.

Smokers' Eyes Better At Seeing Red Lights

Los Angeles.—Tobacco smoking, it has been shown in experiments conducted at the University of Southern California, tends to increase the sensitivity of eyesight to red and green colors. This sensitivity, experimenters point out, may in future determine whether a person is a good or poor accident risk for insurance.

Huge Airship To Make Debut in Spring



The new air giant Macon is beginning to take shape and in the spring will be ready to accompany her sister ship the Akron. Fins are being put in place now.

Insurance Officers to Spend $75,000 in Publications

Toronto.—For the third consecutive year in its record 12 years of progress, the Canadian Life Insurance Officers' Association voted to expend $75,000 in Canadian publications during the forthcoming year. A series of advertisements, expounding the principles of life insurance as protection for dependents and for old-age income, will appear in 73 English and French newspapers and 18 English and French farm publications from coast to coast in Canada.

In 1931, in the face of the financial situation, the association's members voted to more than double its advertising outlay feeling that the necessity of acquiring life insurance and retaining existing policies should be stressed during periods of reduced income. The following year it repeated its decision, voting $75,000 again. This year it voted to maintain the standard set two years ago.

For 12 years the association has been widening its active sphere until in the past two years it has attained a record, it is stated, unequalled on the North American continent in co-operative institutional advertising.

Finds Monoxide Gas Can Act in a Minute

Albany.—Numerous deaths recently from carbon monoxide gas poisoning, have led B. R. Richards, director of State Public Health Education, to issue a warning to the public.

The State Labor Department is distributing a pamphlet containing instructions for avoiding the gas that comes not only from automobiles but from indoor gas heaters and similar burners.

"Just to see how it works, I tried an experiment," he said. Leaving my son to watch outside our garage, waiting for a signal from me, I closed the garage doors and started the motor of my car. This, mind you, was in a three-car garage.

"In just a minute I felt a sort of metallic taste in my mouth. Then I got dizzy and drowsy. I rushed to the door just as my son, realizing what had happened, threw it open."

Children's Ails Psychic

"Fifty per cent. of the disturbances of children are psychic rather than physical," states a prominent children's specialist.

He adds that he can determine whether he can be of assistance to the child by the behavior of the mother when he walks into the sick room.

Ancient Chinese Wall Offered for Sale

Shanghai.—The Mayor of the City of Meihsien, in Kwangtung Province, has hit upon the ingenious plan of selling the city wall in ten-foot lengths and using the proceeds to erect modern fortifications to protect the city from the attacks of Communists or bandits.

Several years ago the city walls began to disintegrate when bricks were removed to provide culverts for new bus roads. Then, in 1929, came two attacks by Communists and the battlements were hastily repaired.

Recently there has been agitation in favor of tearing down the wall to make room for shops. The Mayor finally decided to divide the wall into ten-foot length, each selling for a little more than $100. Each buyer is responsible for tearing down his portion of the wall and he may retain the bricks as building material for the construction of his shop.

Half of the wall has been thus disposed of at a total return of about $60,000. This money is being expended on the building of fifteen two-storey towers commanding all of the roads entering Meihsien. Ten of these forts have already been completed, the towers being of reinforced concrete.

Meihsien is an important center for the distribution of goods to the interior of Kwangtung Province.

New State Pictured of Canada's Future

Toronto.—A bright picture of Canada in the future was painted by Reginald H. Dean for the St. Lambert Women's Club at its recent meeting here. Mr. Dean visualized a new world where the "God standard" not the gold standard would prevail, and the teachings of the Great Master of nineteen hundred years ago would find a definite place. Poblems would be faced from a different angle than that of ten years ago; a greater individual responsibility would be apparent.

The speaker pointed to the great resources of Canada and its stable institutions. He noted that banking institutions had stood the test of the critical times.

France Builds Big Locomotive

Rouen, France—The state railroad shops here are putting the finishing touches on a locomotive represented to be the most powerful in the world. It develops 2,800 horse power, makes seventy-five miles an hour and has an automatic stoker.

Young Men of Britain Have All-Year Camps

London.—An organization known as Grith Fyrd Camps has come into existence in response to the popular demand. A chain of permanent camp communities is being formed in which young men of all classes can live a worth-while life, even if precluded from earning a living. The project was initiated by the Order of Woodcraft Chivalry, a social and educational organization, which has had sixteen years' experience of year-round camping.

It is more than an unemployment scheme, for it aims at filling needs which would be urgent if there were no unemployment—(1) for the regaining by young men of that personal experience of primitive adventure which was lost in the migration from country to town; (2) for the constructive use of readiness to face danger and difficulty in serving their country; and (3) for education in the purposeful use of the leisure which humanity has secured by the elaboration of machines.

Members of Grith Fyrd Camps set about the task of learning by first-hand experience how to control themselves and each other, or, in other words, how to live in communities and yet find life adventurous and satisfying.

The first camp has been constructed close to the bank of the Avon at Godshill near Fordingbridge, on the north-western edge of the New Forest, twelve miles from Southampton.

Spain's Navy Shrinks

Madrid.—Spain, although a Mediterranean and Atlantic power whose strategic position is well known, is demonstrating its desire for peace both in theory and in fact by allowing her navy to dwindle in importance until it already is inferior to the Argentine fleet.

The navy, as things now stand, is headed by only two dreadnoughts of 15,700 tons, and three cruisers, two of them of 7,975 tons and one of 4,725. The other craft are small destroyers, submarines, and gunboats.

Poles Not Artistic

Paris.—The French do not consider telephone poles things of beauty. Within the past month, because of a decree passed by the French Government, 249 telephone poles have been removed from the vicinity of various historic monuments, ruins and picturesque landscapes.

Santa Claus Down South

Santa Claus has indeed gone modern. He landed his new plane in San Francisco, last week, to inquire of Jack and Jill what their wishes were. In addition he took 'em for a ride.

Wheat Shipments To Grow Stronger

Likely to Increase During December—Slow Up First of New Year

Ottawa.—With Russia out of the Empire market, Canadian wheat sales to Great Britain during October were 17,204,000 bushels, or nearly four times what they were a year ago, according to official figures reaching here from Liverpool. This Canadian sale of 17,204,000 bushels represented 57 per cent. of all the wheat bought by the United Kingdom during the month. It made a striking comparison to the figures for October, 1931, when Canada, unable to compete with Russia, sold to Britain only 3,070,000 bushels, or 12 per cent. of the total British purchases.

Grain authorities here have every expectation that the volume of Canadian sales to Great Britain will remain at their present high level until the end of the year. After that they fear that the currency situation, the disparity between the pound and the dollar, may work to Canada's disadvantage.

Russia, of course, is selling little or no wheat to Britain or any other country this Fall. Information is meagre, but most authorities are of the opinion that the granaries of the Soviet steppes hold scarcely enough grain to supply the food-rationed Russians themselves. The Danubian countries, too are practically out of the export market, crop failures having greatly reduced their production.

Canada Unchallenged

Thus Canada at the moment stands unchallenged in the British market, because the United States, the only other competitor of size at this season, has not yet got its prices down to an export basis. As British stocks, according to the latest figures, are at an unprecedentedly low ebb, it is considered here that Britain will be buying at the rate of 20 million bushels a month during November and December. Canada should sell the bulk of this wheat, it is declared.

January, however, is normally the month in which the Argentine and Australia begin shipping out their crops. In these countries, harvesting is just starting now. It is when these two great producers, both of which have currencies depreciated as low or lower than the pound sterling, that Canadian wheat exporters may feel the pinch of their relatively high-priced dollar, grain men say.

As expressed in terms of dollars the price of Canadian heat would have to come down in order to meet this Australian-Argentine competition The wheat preference accorded by the Canada-United Kingdom trade agreement applies equally to Australia, so that Canada would find no protection there. Moreover it is probable that currency values notwithstanding, the Argentine wheat would be regarded in England as setting a world price lower than Canada's price and, consequently under the terms of the trade agreement Canada would not qualify for the preference.

Libraries for the Congo

Brussels.—There is a movement on foot to provide the larger cities in the Congo with libraries. The project was planned long ago, but in many cases has not been put into execution. Bad times are reminding those in authority of the necessity of providing the white population with books of reference of first necssity in a colony and with recent works on Central African colonization and research work.

The colonial reference library and museum in Brussels will probably serve as a model for these Congo libraries. As always in Belgium, pictures and diagrams serve better than books. More value is attached, for instance, to specimens of cotton or copper from the Congo, than to works on minerals in general.

Eminently practical, the Belgian is not a reader of newspapers or books He prefers practical to theoretical instruction, but the Colonial Government is preparing to supply the need where practical facilities do not exist and where they already exist, wants to supplement them by book knowledge.

1,530,890 Peiping Population Is Largest in History of City

Peiping, China.—Peiping, the ancient capital of China, has a population of 1,530,890, according to the latest figures. Of this number, 62,963 are foreigners, chiefly Japanese and Russians.

Peiping now is more populous by 70,000 persons than it was even during the first year of the republic. This is accounted for by the large influx of refugees from Manchuria during the last year. In having attained its largest size in history, Peiping face an acute housing problem which grows more serious as refugees continue to arrive from the disturbed areas to the northward.

Disappointed

As the result of an operation a thirteen-yearold boy, who was born blind, has just gained his sight at Adelaide, Australia, and his first remark was, 'I often used to wonder what things could look like, but blow it all, when I see them they are just about what I thought they would be."