Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Leave Garage Doors Open

In spite of repeated warnings, deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning in garages continue to mount up. The death of a young Kitchener businessman, overcome by fumes from the motor of his automobile, is the latest example of the folly of remaining in a garage while the engine is "heating up." In this case it is stated that the door of the garage was partly open. Under the most ordinary circumstances motorists should be sure to see that the doors of the garage are wide open before attempting to start up their motors. After they are started the safest plan is to get out as soon as possible and let the engine "heat up" in the open air.—Chatham News.

Carrying a Gun

The law and the police ought to make gun-toting so hazardous that criminals will not run the risk of having one about their person.—Edmonton Journal.

Canadian Seed

The numerous prizes won by Canadian grain at the Hay and Grain Show in Chicago suggest that Canada has an opportunity, if she will seize it, to establish herself as the seed-producer par excellence of the world. The vigour of northern-grown seeds is proverbial. It is all very well to produce grain in large quantities for the markets of the world. Canada will, no doubt, continue to do this. But why should she not take full advantage of the rewards offering in the smaller, more specialized field of seed-growing. The rewards are worth gathering.—Vancouver Province.

Over-production in Canada

We have, in the past, put practically all our eggs in two different baskets—wheat in the West, wood-pulp in the East. There is no more wheat being sold, and newsprint plants are partly closed up, three-fourths of them being in bankruptcy. In both cases there has been overproduction, in relation to the possible market. Shall we know enough to profit by the lesson, when business picks up again? Or are we going to repeat the mistakes of the past?—Le Devoir, Montreal.

Back to Small Industries

Are we to experience a revival of the village industries that were forced out of business by the pressure of mass production centred in the larger towns and cities of the country?

A report from the province of Quebec is that recent months have witnessed the re-opening of a number of small tanneries situated in that part of the Dominion that have been closed for from 25 to 50 years. The farmers, seeking a market for their hides, are, apparently, finding it in these small industrial institutions which are in turn contributing to the domestic production of footwear.

These Quebec farmers are evidently finding it profitable to return to the opening of industrial establishments with a limited capacity in order to market their products and also to fill their leather needs.—Brockville Recorder.

Still Waiting

Another Christmas, the fourth of the depression, and the world is still waiting for the sunrise. It's been a long, tough wait, but at least the sunrise is three years nearer than it was in 1929. A lot of grief is behind us.

We look to the future with renewed hopes, enheartened by the indications that things are moving at last. The world has finally awakened to the fact that waiting is not good enough, that positive action is necessary to effect release from the depression morass.

The peoples of the world are at last coming to grips with the real issues of the depression, those of money, credit ,war debts, tariffs, taxation and armaments, and something is going to result. Next Christmas should be a substantially brighter one than this.—P. M. R. in Toronto Saturday Night.

Hospital officials announce that babies now are $15 to $30 cheaper than they used to be. And the quality is practically the same.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

THE EMPIRE

The Canadian Banking System

It must have come as a shock to many persons in the United States to read that part of President Hoover's last address to Congress in which he pointed out that since January, 1930, there have been 4,655 bank failures in the United States, whereas in Canada, "where the situation has been in a large degree identical with our own, there have been no substantial bank failures." This is an open admission of the superiority of the Canadian banking system, a confession that the United States had something of a very important character to learn from a part of the British Empire.—Kingston (Jamaica) Gleaner.

Helping the British Farmer

Though the plight of the meat market may be, and everyone hopes it will be, temporary, the disposition to urge the claims of the British farmer, to place them above those of all others is not likely to pass away. Duties on Empire produce are by no means impossible. It is significant, for instance, that in the Ottawa agreements the schedule dealing with eggs, butter, cheese and poultry assures free entry to the exports of the Dominions for three years, but reserves thereafter the right to impose duties or quantitative restrictions so long as preference over foreign produce is given. No Dominion is entitled to a word of protest against this policy, because, as already suggested, their own practice inhibits them from objecting to the exercise by Britain of a liberty they have always claimed for themselves—Auckland Weekly News.

The Dual Policy in India

In two spheres at the same time the Government are trying to carry out what is known as the dual policy. The principal aspect of the duality which seems inherent in the British Government's mentality at the present juncture is the decision to press on with the new Constitution while firmly striking at all unconstitutional forms of agitation. In a country such as Great Britain, or most Western countries where the Government have an immense backing among the educated as well as among the uneducated portion of the community, such a policy might prove workable. It will never prove workable in India, where the Government has little or no following among the educated Indian communities to whom it is proposed to hand over power. There are no moderate and friendly parties in India to whom Great Britain can hand over with sure expectations that they will play fair and deliver the goods.—Calcutta Englishman.

Britain's New Start

In the heavy industries coal is on the verge of fresh development It is well known that hydro-generation and other chemical processes are ready now to give a vigorous impetus to further output. The opportunities for it are immense. The coal measures of the United Kingdom are greater than those of Germany, the most highly industrialized State on the Continent. The deposits of bituminous coal in this country are far richer than those of even the United States. It remains now for the people of Great Britain to make full use of these unrivalled possibilities by an energetic increase of the national production. — London Daily Express.

Footing the Bill

John Bull is used to paying. He has been paying ever since the war, and has become hardened to standing treat to the nations. The pleasing conviction prevalent abroad that whatever happens John Bull will foot the bill, so sedulously fostered by successive British Governments, is as strong as ever. Even the staggering prospect of handing over colossal sums to the U.S.A. while getting not a penny from our own debtors does not appal the British taxpayer. Nothing appals him any more. He knows from long experience that he is "for it" in any case.—Plain Dealer in Truth. (London.)

The Price of Wool

Australia is easily the world's largest producer of high-grade wool; and its supremacy is not threatened. No largely increased quantity of this wool could come quickly from any other country. Further, the world has been consuming current production. Of almost every other agricultural product there are large stocks; of wool there has been practically no carry-over for years. Yet the committee which was appointed to inquire into the wool industry finds that Australian wool is costing a great deal more to produce than it is fetching in the market This suggests that there is something radically wrong somewhere. Unless competition in some shape or other is driving us to it, why are we selling at a loss?—Sydney Bulletin.

AMERICA

Distress in the United States

It is easily possible for the total economic situation to be worse even though the employment statistics are better. It is worse. And that for at least two reasons. The men who are going back to work are going back at lower wages; and those who still have jobs or businesses of their own have lower incomes and depleted reserves so that it is with more difficulty that they can extend aid to the unemployed.. Careful estimates from every quarter are absolutely unanimous in their agreement that the needs for relief will be greater this winter than ever before in the history of this Republic. — Christian Century (New York).

Italy Educates Libyan Nomads

Rome.—The efforts made by the Italian Government to abolish nomad life in the Libyan colony and to transform the wandering tribes into agriculturists is beginning to bear fruit.

Evidence of this is afforded by the increasing number of children belonging to tribes who attend the Italian schools at the oasis of Hamada el Hombra. The nomad children will remain at the oasis during the school term and will be housed, clothed and fed by the Italian Government.

A Father At 80

Congratulations showered upon England's Brigadier-General Hugh Cholmondeley and wife. Mr. Cholmondeley celebrated his 80th birthday on December 1. On December 4 his wife gave birth to a daughter.

$1,334,962 Is Received On Radio Licenses

Ottawa.—The net cash received by the Department of Marine for radio-receiving set licenses for the first eight and a half months of the present fiscal year, that is up to the middle of December, amounts to $1,334,962, according to a statement issued recently by Hon. Alfred Duranleau, Minister of Marine. This does not include the commissions to those authorized to sell the licenses.

This collection would indicate that about 685,000 radio licenses have been sold since April 1 last, with 3 1-2 months of the fiscal year yet to be accounted for.

The Minister said that the co-operation of radio manufacturers, dealers and service men, in ensuring the collection of all license fees, had proved very satisfactory. Under the regulations no set may be sold or serviced unless the owner, or prospective owner, possesses a license.

It would appear, from bureau of statistics' figures accompanying the Minister's statement, that all radio owners have not paid their license fees. The bureau estimated recently that Canada had a total of 770,436 radio-receiving sets, or 74.32 sets per 1,000 of population.

Ancient High School

At Emmerich in Germany this fall the high school will celebrate its 120th anniversary. When it was first established Charles Martel was fighting to drive the Saracens out of Europe and the so-called Dark Ages were just beginning. In 1592 it became so famous a school that it had 2,000 pupils, and during the course of its history it has been controlled by the Jesuits, and the Knights of Malta and in 1811 it was closed by order of Napoleon Bonaparte. Many well-known statesmen and ecclesiastics have been among its students. Emmerich is on the Rhine, an ancient walled town of Rhenish Russia, about 50 miles from Dusseldorf.

France Plans Abolition Of All Grade Crossings

Paris.—Pending complete abolition of grade crossings, the French Ministry of Public Works has issued an order prohibiting ground-level railroad crossings to be constructed in the future.

In the national equipment bill a regular allotment of funds in each budget has been devoted to suppression of the existing grade crossings. There are nearly 40,000 of them and it will be many years before the work can be finished. From possessing only 100,000 motor vehicles in 1914 France has come to have 1,700,000 automobiles. Although there are fewer accidents in France than in many other countries, the Ministry of Public Works regards grade crossings as a principal cause of accidents.

Five hundred ground-level crossings have been marked for early replacement by viaducts or tunnels.

Barcelona's Police Gayly Clad

Barcelona.—Barcelona's police offer the only anachronist note in this new "pocket State" which prides itself on its modernity. Although they throw the plain khaki-clad army officers into the background when it comes to the reception of admiring female glances, their scarlet coats, blue trousers and tall white helmets are regarded as akin to comic opera uniforms by certain more sober citizens of the Generalidad.

Eminent Radiologist Is Martyr to Science

Paris.—Dr. Georges Haret, eminent French radiologist and head of the radiology department at Lariboisiere Hospital, died here last week as a result of X-Ray burns incurred in a scientic careser beginning with treatment of wounded soldiers during the war. He was 58 years old.

Previously the fingers of his right hand and then his right arm had been amputated.

For The Nearly Blind

These new telescopic glasses designed by Dr. Feinbloom of New York are hailed as a God-send for the nearly blind. Persons only two per cent. normal may have their vision restored.

Recent Quakes in Europe Laid to Zuyder Zee Filling

Berlin. — In a recent issue of the "Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant" a seismologist presents his opinion of the probable cause of the recurring earth tremors in the Rhine Valley and in Holland.

Acording to him these tremors were not of a volcanic nature, but were the direct result of the filling up of the Zuyder Zee. It will be recalled that the Dutch are at present conducting this gigantic work of pumping out the waters of this deep inland bay in order to recover an entire province.

The article in the Rotterdam newspaper recalls that even in 1929, before the filling up of the Zuyder Zee had been under way long, an American seismologist predicted essential terrestrial movements as the probable result of the carrying out of this project. He said that by pumping out the waters of the bay the pressure on the sub-strata would be considerably lessened, which in turn would find expression in tremors.

It appears that these predictions have been borne out by recent events. Records of seismographic observatories, both in Holland and western Germany, agree that the epicenter of the latest tremors in the Rhine Valley was to be sought in Holland.

Brazil to Return Visit Of the Prince of Wales

Rio De Janeiro. — Brazil, like Argentina, will send a mission to England to repay the visit made here by the Prince of Wales two years ago, the newspaper "A Noite" reports. The mission, according to the newspaper, will be headed by Oswaldo Aranha, Minister of Finance, and will leave for London early in January. Argentina's special mission will leave Buenos Ayers for London shortly.

President Aguston Justo or Argentina will confer with Provisional President Getuilo Vargas here in January regarding economic and diplomatic matters, "A Noite" also reported.

"Escape Proof" Block Is Proved Escapable

Ossining, N.Y.—Two convicts escaped from Sing Sing's new "escape proof" cell block recently. They sawed out of individual cells, slipped past three guards, and used the prison's own ladders to get over the wall.

They were John Egan, 33, serving ten years for assault, and William Sutton, 30, serving 30 years for robbery.

The convicts used a length of rope kept by the guards to pull up water and food to slide down the outside of the wall.

An hour after the escape, the men were seen walking along a highway toward Albany. They were still in prison uniform.

Madrid Plans to Electrify Roads

Madrid. — A commission has been appointed to study the electrification of all railroad lines within a radius of forty or fifty miles of Madrid and the construction of an underground station in the centre of the capital. The project is to make commuters of the people living at Aranjuez, Toledo, Avila, Segovia, Alcala de Henares and other nearby cities It is also planned to bring the Sierra Guadarrama mountains, with their Winter sports, within a few minutes of Madrid.

Cigarettes 1 Cent Each

McClellanville, S.C.—Many merchants in this section obligingly break open a package of cigarettes and sell them at one cent each to customers who find it necessary to buy their smokes in small quantities. One day recently a customer came into a local store and asked for one cigarette. The merchant took one from a package and laid it on the counter. The customer then carefully removed an egg from his pocket, laid it on the counter, picked up the cigarette and walked away.

Son is Punished For Disrespect to Father

Rome.—The newspapers give prominence to the action of one of the provincial Fascist chiefs who has suspended a member of the Fascist party for two months on the ground that he "acted disrespectfully toward his father." This, it is pointed out, is entirely in line with Roman traditions, which are based on the principle of "patria podestas." It is also completely in accordance with Fascist principles, which have made of the family unit the foundation of the State.

Capt. Mollison Planning One-Stop Flight to Brazil

London.—Capt. James A. Mollison, only man to succeed in flying westward crossing of the Atlantic alone, is planning a one-stop flight from Ireland to Rio de Janeiro in February, it was learned this week.

Mollison, husband of Amy Johnson Mollison, will use his small biplane "Heart's Content," in which he flew non-stop to New York.

He intends to refuel at Dakar before starting across the south Atlantic, it is understood.

Pluck and Persistence

It was nice of Amy Johnson to time her arrival in England from Cape Town just when Britain needed something to cheer her up a bit after digging down for that $95,000,000 she owed—and paid. Nothing seems to shake the Britisher's bulldog tenacity in "seeing things through" even when the way is as foggy as it appeared to H. G. Wells' elderly and perplexed war-time hero, Mr. Britling. Miss Johnson and her country both did their stunt in upholding the national reputation.

The Sahara behaved quite unpleasantly and ungallantly, for it staged a particularly gusty sandstorm; in southwest Africa a tornado tried very hard all one night to catch up with the little winged clipper, and heavy snow made visibility difficult when topping the Atlas Mountains, but it takes more than that to stop Miss Johnson. "A 'plucky' woman maun hae her way," to paraphrase an ancient Scottish law.

Back of the pluck with which the young aviatrix is so largely endowed stands another admirable quality—persistence. Probably more than one stenographer has dreamed of being an air pilot. Amy Johnston wove her dream into actuality.

She did it by getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning to take flying lessons at a minor airport. She did it by refusing to listen to the limitation that aviation was the sport or avocation of the rich. She prepared herself to cope with mechanical difficulties on her solo epic across-the-world flights by the prosaic method of working for and winning a ground engineer's license. Incidentally, the ex-stenographer was the first woman in Great Britain to get one.

Amy Johnson's accomplishments in the air have stirred the world. Her persistency gives it inspiration.—The Christian Science Monitor.

Women Out-Talked In British Commons

London.—One spot where women do not out-talk men, is Parliament. The record for a year, just compiled, shows that lady legislators were buried, so to speak, under a mountain of male oratory.

The biggest talker in the last session was Sir Stafford Cripps, a Labor Opposition leader. According to the Parliamentary Gazette from November 3, 1931, to November 17, 1932, Sir Stafford spoke enough to fill 374 columns.

Women fared comparatively badly. The highest was the Duchess of Atholl, who had 68 columns.

Second rank to Sir Stafford was taken by George Lansbury, leader of the Labor party, with 348 columns. The Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, had 83 columns.

In the House of Lords, Viscount Hailsham headed the list with 265 columns.

60 Kinds of Taxes Raise Food Peiping Prices

Peiping—Sixty different kinds of taxes are collected in Peiping, according to the returns of the Municipal Finance Bureau. All business operations are heavily taxed while even the small property owner has been made "land poor" because of the levies imposed by the authorities.

Food prices have mounted rapidly as a result of the taxation burden. Social workers have estimated that taxes on meat amount to 30 per cent. From the time an animal enters the city until it is delivered to the consumer it is taxed ten times. This figure does not include levies imposed as it enters the city gates.

Plans British Airship Line

London.—Dr. Hugo Eckener, the Graf Zeppelin's commander, is planning a weekly airship service between England and South America next spring, according to The Sunday Dispatch. He is said to have won the consent of the British Air Ministry to make the English base at Cardington, whence the ill-fated R-101 started her last voyage two years ago.

"The immediate plans are for service between England and the continent and South America," the Dispatch says. 'But it will not be long before a similar service is organized between England and North America."

Albertans See Distant Capital Reflected in Sky

Leduc, Alta.—A number of residents here have reported seeing in the sky a mirage of the city of Edmonton, capital of the Province of Alberta.

City streets of Edmonton, witnesses said, appeared clearly in the mirage, with the Legislature Buildings and other familiar structures standing out in the sky. Edmonton is about twenty miles north of this hamlet.

Dogs Bite 8,000 a Year

Trenton, N.J.—More than 8,000 persons in New Jersey were bitten by dogs during the first year of the enforcement of a law making compulsory the reporting of accidents of this character, a report by the State Department of Health shows. This figure emphasizes, according to Dr. J. Lynn Mahaffey, director of the department, the necessity of the annual inoculation of dogs against rabies.

The report shows further that of 91 dogs examined 535 were found to be suffering from rabies.

There is always a tender connection between the engine and the train.