# Voice of the Press

## Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

### CANADA

#### The Royal Bank of Canada

The president and the general manager of the Royal Bank look forward to the year ahead with something like optimism, both with regard to their own institution and the Dominion. As Sir Herbert Holt puts it: "Prophesy continues to be dangerous. . . . My feeling is that present indications point to the initiation of a substantial recovery in 1933, if a reasonable degree of international common sense and co-operation can be assured."—Montreal Daily Star.

#### Living Costs Have Shrunk

A grocery firm in Dutton, Ont., has contrasted the buying power of the dollar in a most effective way in a window display. The comparison is made between the prices of to-day and those of a few years ago.

A bag of sugar costing $17.75 in 1919 was used as a basis of the display. Alongside this bag was placed the goods which the store was prepared to sell for $17.75.

The same bag of sugar, 3 packages of shredded wheat, 2 of corn flakes, 1 pound of tea, 2 pounds of coffee, 3 cans of salmon, 1 jar of pickles, 1 jar of olives, 3 cans of tomatoes, 2 cans of corn, 1 package meal, 1 package cake flour, 100 pounds flour, 2 packages Pep, 10 bars of soap, 3 cans of cleaner, 1 can of baking powder, 1 jar of jam, 1 box macaroni, 2 cans of pumpkin, 4 bottles ketchup, 3 packages of corn starch, 2 pounds of cheese, 2 packages of oatmeal, 2 cans spaghetti."

Truly the cost of lving has shrunk remarkably.—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

#### Few Bright Spots

It cannot truthfully be said that 1932 was a good year for Canada but the Dominion did remarkably well despite the world-wide impasse. Here are a few facts from which may be extracted a liberal measure of comfort. Last year Canada retained world leadership in the export of wheat, printing paper, asbestos; was second in gold, platinum, and cobalt; was third in wheat flour; fourth in automobiles and wood pulp; fifth in rubber tires. Canada concluded the year with a favorable trade balance of $50,000,000 contrasted with an unfavorable balance of $10,000,000 in 1931.—Kitchener Daily Record.

#### Publishers Feel Stress

The Oshawa Daily Times has changed from daily publicaton to three times a week and will be issued Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; and one does not need to read the publisher's announcement to realize that the change has come about after every other possible means of retrenchment has been tried. It is pointed out that the Times started publication as a daily in 1925 and at no time since that time have any dividends been taken out of the business.

It has been a problem for many publishers to continue putting out a product of high calibre with diminishing revenues; but it may fairly be said that the quality of the average newspaper still is unimpaired and that when everything is cheaper than ever before, there still is nothing so cheap or necessary as your daily newspaper. —Niagara Falls Review.

#### Inviting Enough

We wonder why so many people appear anxious to spend the Winters in Florida. The Garden of Canada is surely inviting enough for anyone, and it's only about ten weeks to the first day of Spring.—St. Catharines Standard.

#### Empire Migration

Migration schemes to place British unemployed in unpopulated areas in different parts of the Empire through State aid have been tried out, but on the whole their history has not been one of outstanding success. Any scheme of the kind would depend upon the full co-operation of the Dominions and Colonies with the Motherland, and at present the temper in Canada, at least, is against further immigration because of the existing widespread unemployment. — Calgary Herald.

### THE EMPIRE

#### Prices of Farm Produce

There can be no effective rise in prices until there is an expansion in the purchasing power of the people of this country. The cuts in wages must be restored. The unemployed must be put to work. Farmers who live near industrial districts need little convincing that the inability of people to buy agricultural produce is the cause of their own difficulties. Facts stare them in the face every day.—London Daily Herald.

#### Japan and the League

Japan defies the authority of the League. She threatens to withdraw from membership. No one desires that, yet worse things might happen. If we must choose between condoning Japanese action and losing Japan as a member of the League of Nations, the choice is absolutely clear. Japanese "loyalty" in the sense in which we have experienced it is no compensation for the loss of all respect and all authority.—Manchester Guardian.

#### World Conference's Opportunity

I believe the road back to freer trade lies largely through such (regional) agreements, if, as in the recent convention between Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg, they involve no increase against any country, secure a substantial and progressive reciprocal reduction and are open, on similar terms, to other countries. For the rest, the most useful action the approaching World Economic Conference could take would be to lay down principles in the light of which each country would undertake to reexamine its own tariff system The most important of these would be a clear explanation and explicit condemnation of the "compensatory" or miscalled "scientific" principle of making a tariff equal to the difference of costs at home and abroad. Trade is based upon exactly the difference, and the compensation for the difference by tariff is destructive of the very foundation upon which trade rests.—Sir Arthur Salter in The Yale Review.

#### Enough to go Round

If we could only see it, for the first time in history the astounding advance of productive machinery and swift transport make it possible for everyone to be rich beyond the bounds of Utopian imagination. Men are not worse or much better than they used to be, but they are the creatures of habit and tradition and fail altogether to enlarge their loyalties to fit a larger world. When we can at last be rich by sharing, why should we perpetuate the greedy habits we learnt when there was not enough to go round?—New Satesman and Nation.

#### Watch Germany

There is no longer anything to dread from Prussia's naval yards, nor her armament firms. The challenge now is from her factory chimneys, her modern industrial equipment, and her potential financial position. The Germans vowed when they lost the war that they would win the peace. There are significant signs that the vow will be kept—London Daily Express.

### UNITED STATES

#### Social Trends

The report of President Hoover's Committee on Social Trends suggests strongly that the ills of the nation are to be laid at the door of the social theorists rather than of the business man. The business man has done his job pretty well. Those who like to call themselves social engineers—the politicians and the social workers, among others — have fallen down. America has lacked not mechanical but social invention, the committee finds. Our industries push ahead, but our social mechanisms are laggard, and the substitutes which are attempted often prove even less serviceable than the institutions they replaced. Yet the specialists who have failed in their self-appointed tasks insist on dictating to the very men who have succeeded in theirs. — Chicago Tribune.

#### Stock Invades Hollywood

Speaking of courage, a real old-fashioned stock company has crept into Hollywood. Something of a feat, in view of the fact that not a single other legitimate production graces the downtown theatres. It is a genuine relic from the past, even to the antediluvian heroine with the rural accent who proves to be an opera singer in disguise. Even to the company manager who steps out after the second curtain to announce next week's attraction.—San Francisco Argonaut.

## World Economic Parley To Be Held This Spring

Ottawa.— The World Economic Conference likely will be held next Spring or early in the Summer in London, it was learned on good authority here last week. No definite decision, though, has been made. The matter is one to be arranged shortly by the council of the League of Nations.

Prime Minister R. B. Bennett probably will head the Canadian delegation. Naming of the personnel of the Dominion delegates, however, would be somewhat premature at the moment.

The general tariff policy on which an economic committee is working includes economics, quotas and prohibitions. The monetary sub-committee is devoting its preparatory work to monetary and economic policies, involving price levels, export restrictions and movement of capital from one country to another.

## Feminine Canada Spent $5,946,292 On Cosmetics

**Ottawa.—Madame and the young ladies did not stint themselves in 1931 where toilet preparations were concerned. The output of Canada's toilet preparations in that year made a large increase, the factory value being $5,946,292, as compared with $4,206,513 in 1930. Incidentally the larger Canadian output caused a decrease in the importations from $1,267,969 in 1930 to $1,112,635 in 1931.**

## Sino-Japanese War Still Waging

Major-General Yuji Takanami, one of the Japanese military leaders in northern China, surveys Shanhaikwan just before the Japanese began their latest drive which would indicate that Mars still rules the eastern front.

## Much Prized Scholarship Won By Surrey Girl

A 20-year-old Croydon, Surrey, England, girl has won Oxford's most sought after award — the Craven Scholarship.

The girl, Miss Barbara Flower, daughter of Dr. Robin Flower, the poet and deputy-keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum, is the first of her sex to win the prize.

Latin and Greek, for which the Craven scholarship is awarded, are not Miss Flower's only linguistic accomplishment. She speaks French and German and is a Celtic scholar.

Two previous holders of the Craven Scholarship were Lord Asquith and his son Raymond.

"I am at Lady Margaret Hall," she said, "where the Latin is optional. In the examination you have a piece of English poetry to translate and it is most difficult at times, but to me it is always of interest."

Dr. Flower said his daughter went to Croydon High School and won a scholarship to Oxford just over a year ago.

The Craven scholarship is worth £40 (about $160) a year for two years.

## Beam Tells Course of Distant Storms

Adelaide S. Aust. — Interviewed when passing through this city on his way to Cambridge University, having won a British Empire Carnegie Fellowship, Prof. Percy W. Burbidge, professor of physics in the Auckland University, related, with great interest to natural scientists, how in New Zealand meteorologists were now able to detect cyclonic disturbances 1,000 miles away without the aid of other stations.

This is done through atmospherics caused by light flashes originating in the storms, most of which pass over the Tasman Sea. This is of great meteorological importance owing to New Zealand's isolation, and the absence of outside information to assist in weather forecasts.

The instrument used, said Professor Burbidge, consists of two loop aerials which intercept the storm signals, and transfer them to a special instrument where they are made to focus a beam of light on a screen. The direction of the beam's movement indicates the course, and intensity of the static disturbances.

## Can't Sell Eggs Before 7 a.m. in Berlin

Berlin.—He who goes shipping at 6.30 a.m. may buy rolls and milk for breakfast. But if he wants eggs, he must wait until 7 o'clock.

A Berlin police regulation, which rigidly controls the hours for sale of all retail goods, has recently been changed to permit the sale of milk one-half hour before the regular opening time. Baked goods had previously been permitted to be sold at 6.30 o'clock. Dairy products such as butter and eggs cannot, however, be sold until 7 o'clock.

## Infantile Mortality In Quebec Decreases

Quebec.—A decrease of 47.4 in infantile mortality rates in the Province of Quebec has been recorded since 1926, when the Provincial Health Department commenced keeping vital statistics, and health units were first established in the Province, for whereas the infantile mortality rate in 1926 was 142.0, it dropped to 94.6 for the first 10 months of 1932.

While a total of 68,480 infantile deaths have been registered since January 1, 1926, the numbers have gradually decreased with each year. The 1926 total of 11,666 decreased to 10,730 the following year, and 10,332 in 1928. The next year saw a greater drop to 9,810, but 1930 recorded a slight increase, 10,045 being recorded while the lowest rate was shown in 1931, when the infantile mortality total was 9,443. For the first ten months of 1932 the number was only 6,445, or a little over 50 per cent. of the 1926 figure for the same period.

The infantile mortality rate shows that for 1926 it was 142.0, for 1927 129.3, for 1928 123.6, for 1929 120.5, for 1930 120.1, for 1931 112.1 and for the first ten months of 1932 94.6, this being the first time that the rate ever dropped below the 100 mark.

Mother — "Does your husband make a report to you of how he spends his time?"

Daughter—"Yes, but he censors it."

## To a Pessimist

If conditions were as hopeless as the pessimists sometimes paint them, we should still have our honor; and that could not be taken from us. If it were true that the battle is lost, we should have the great consolation of dying with faces toward the foe, and with scorn of fear. The pessimism in which a great deal of modern art is steeped is the cursing of those who cannot look fate in the face. The air of the last two decades has been filled with the eyes of the panic-stricken, the defeated, the disheartened. "The old sources of hope are lost," they tell us; "the old leaders are shown to have been mistaken; the old faiths were lies; the old enthusiasms are dead; we are defeated and the cause is lost." Well, if there are those who believe all this, let them go to the rear in silence, and give their places to men who have courage, even if they have lost hope.

## Canadians Ate Less Apples in '32

### Pomologists See Challenge in Loss of Popularity of Fruit

Montreal.—The per capita consumption of apples in Canada has decreased 10 per cent. during the past five years, the average being 29.7 pounds per person per annum as compared with 34 pounds which was the per capita consumption in the five years from 1921-25; but the consumption of oranges, bananas and other fruits has considerably increased, and this was regarded by apple growers as a challenge to them to increase the public demand for their fruit, J. L. Webster of Macdonald College, reported at the meeting of the Pomological Society of Quebec here.

Dr. J. E. Lattimer, professor of agricultural economics at Macdonald College, declared that taking the country generally the fruit grower occupied one of the bright spots in Canadian agriculture. He maintained that growers should take a keener interest in the British market which they had neglected for the past ten years.

W. B. Gornall of the Fruit Branch, Ottawa, followed with an analysis of the British market and ruling prices. Canada's interest in the British apple market was between September and April and during that time it imported an average of 3,523,977 barrels of apples, of which the United States supplied 65.35 per cent. up to last year. With the new trade agreement it is anticipated this figure would be cut in half.

#### Better Handling

Some of the many problems that have to be solved by apple-growers of the province in order to bring their fruit to the market in an attractive unblemished condition were discussed by over 200 apple growers at the meeting.

Among the questions discussed was that of pollination—the selection of the proper varieties of trees necessary to ensure proper pollination and consequent fruit production. From the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa came H. Hill, of the Department of Agriculture, who went into an analysis of the pollenizing values of old and new varieties of apples that have been produced in the experimental plots.

## Canal Traffic Gains

Ottawa.—Traffic through Canadian canals in 1932 increased 10 per cent over the previous year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. The total was 17,955,700 tons, an increase of 1,766,600 tons.

The improved shipping conditions on the Welland ship canal, says the Bureau report, showed their effect and traffic increased from 7,273,886 tons in 1931 to 8,535,641 tons, a new high record for the canal, the previous record being [illegible]317 tons for 1928.

## Golden Gate to Be Spanned

Steam shovels making way for the $32,077,000 bridge which will span the Golden Gate at San Francisco. The job will take at least four years.

## Death in the Dark

Electrical News, a trade journal serving the electrical industry, has launched a campaign for better highway lighting. Campaigns are not unusual in these days of business depression. But in this particular instance the journal in question advances facts and figures which are well worthy of public attention. In presenting an imposing array of official statistics it argues that lack of highway lighting is a chief cause of motor accidents and automobile killings.

"The main outstanding conclusion," says the paper, "is that, although a smaller percentage of automobiles travel at night, more than 40 per cent of accidents occur then. For the two year period ending August, 1932, there was a total of 17,581 acidents in Ontario. Of that number 10,067 occurred in daylight, 1,378 at dusk, 6,095 at night. Of these 993 were fatal, 47 per cent. of which occurred after dark.

A table supplied by the Ontario Department of Highways gives the following information:

| Hour of Occurrence | Total Accidents | Fatal Accidents |
|---|---|---|
| 12 to 1 a.m. | 531 | 27 |
| 1 to 6 a.m. | 1,049 | 69 |
| 6 to 7 a.m. | 155 | 12 |
| 7 to 8 a.m. | 251 | 15 |
| 8 to 9 a.m. | 482 | 38 |
| 9 to 10 a.m. | 452 | 23 |
| 10 to 11 a.m. | 727 | 34 |
| 11 to 12 a.m. | 799 | 42 |
| 12 to 1 p.m. | 886 | 43 |
| 1 to 2 p.m. | 786 | 38 |
| 2 to 3 p.m. | 892 | 36 |
| 3 to 4 p.m. | 992 | 63 |
| 4 to 5 p.m. | 1,254 | 64 |
| 5 to 6 p.m. | 1,691 | 76 |
| 6 to 7 p.m. | 1,310 | 82 |
| 7 to 8 p.m. | 1,297 | 86 |
| 8 to 9 p.m. | 1,217 | 84 |
| 9 to 10 p.m. | 997 | 57 |
| 10 to 11 p.m. | 872 | 54 |
| 11 to 12 p.m. | 836 | 47 |
| Not stated | 105 | 3 |
| Totals | 17,581 | 993 |

In order to understand the true significance of the above compilation it would be necessary to have figures showing density of traffic at the hours indicated. But the relationship of inadequate lighting to highway accidents is self-evident.

Incidentally, it would be interesting to know to what an extent the drinking driver is responsible for the accidents after midnight. The proportion of accidents between midnight and dawn as shown in the table above, appears to demand some other explanation than insufficient electric illumination.

In any event, the Electrical News has rendered a real service in presenting the results of this research to the public.

## Obsolete Ships Scrapped

Hamburg. — German ship-owning concerns are thinning out their fleets, sending vessels upward of 12 years old, a total tonnage of roughly 300,000, to the scrapping yards.

Many of the older ships bear names that were well known on the North and South Atlantic and Far Eastern passenger trade routes.

The Hamburg-American Line is scrapping about 100,000 tons, including the 10,000 ship General Belgrano.

The North German Lloyd is discarding 14 bottoms, including the 8000-9000-ton vessels Derfflinger, Seydlitz and Lutzow.

The Hamburg-Sudamerika Line is breaking up the Argentina, Villagarcia, Santa Fe, Bilbao and Santa Teresa. The Hansa Line is scrapping several of its old 5000-ton freighters.

## Groom Rowed to Wedding

Following an old custom, G. W. N. Ramsay, wearing the uniform of the Atholl Highlanders, was rowed across the tidal waters of Loch Etive from Achnacloich to Argylshire, Scotland, to meet his bride, Miss Maryel Campbell-Preston. The wedding was then solemnized in the historic Archattan priory at Archattan, before clan chiefs and guests representative of many Highland families. The wedding reception was held in the old priory refectory, where King Robert the Bruce, held the last Scottish parliament.

## Creamery on Cash Basis in Far North

Victoria. — North of the 53rd parallel opportunity does not even have to knock, it is sought. Word received here says provincial interests are installing creamery machinery in a plant with a capacity of 200,000 pounds to operate on a strictly cash basis. Farmers of the area will take the milk and cream to the plant and will be paid in cash for it. A flour mill was installed last year in the Fort St. John district on a co-operative basis to handle the farmers' grain without the long haul out to existing mills and the return journey to the area where the flour is used.

## British Trade Figures

London.—The following are the Board of Trade figures for the month of December: Total imports, £60,630,000; exports of British products £32,440,000; re-exports, £4,130,000; total exports, £36,570,000; excess of imports, £24,060,000.