Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Is Damn Profanity?

Is damn a swear word? If not, we have only to confess that we have misused it for many years.

Not long ago, Governor Murray of Oklahama announced that the word damn is not profanity, and that to call a man a damn liar means no more than that he is a consummate liar.

The Raleigh (N.C.) news, owned by the eminent Hon. Josephus Daniels, recalls a decision by the Maryland supreme court to the effect that damn is not a swear word.

The Petersburg (Va.) Index also cites a famous case. It seems that a certain Captain Carmichael, then a member of congress, sent a postcard through the mails in which he had prefixed a reference to the eminent Gen. William Malone with the word damn. Gen. Mahone took action, and the case was heard by a federal judge who held that damn was not profanity.—McAree in Mail and Empire.

Toronto Taxi Fares

For a city of its size Toronto is years behind others in taxicab transportation. Did you ever find a cruising taxicab in Toronto when you really wanted it? Maybe they're there, but you'd never recognize them, because distinctiveness prevalent in every other city is lacking. Short trips, especially, are too costly for these depressed times. A ride that costs half a dollar in Toronto can be had in Detroit or Cleveland for fifteen or twenty cents.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Wanted Signs Will Go Up

This depression isn't going to last forever; we have seen the lowest levels, it appears, and to-day there is a pin-point of light at the end of the tunnel. One of these days the "Help Wanted" signs will be dusted off, a new and eager crop of youngsters will have their names on the pay-rolls of the nation, and the bad years will be charged up to experience.—Ottawa Journal.

A Fine Record

Nineteen of twenty-one murders committed within the precincts of Greater London were solved by the metropolitan police last year. This is a record the authorities of the great British metropolis may well be proud. Politics and slack court procedure are things that do not enter into the question of justice in the Old Country. Hence this notable achievement.—Guelph Mercury.

Canada Keeps Ahead

Every country saw the figures of its export trade diminish in quantities and values last year. But there are a few, and Canada is one of them, which have succeeded in difficult times in re-stablishing their commerce on a sane basis, that is to say, in selling more than they bought, and importing less than they exported. And we shall see, in a year's time that the agreements we made with Britain and other countries will have improved the situation even more. — L'Evenement, Quebec.

New Braille System

The important announement has been made that, owing to negotiations persistently carried on by Canadian representatives, a new and improved universal system of Braille has been arranged which will be of great advantage to blind students.

In the past it appears that the systems used in Britain and the United States have differed sufficiently to prevent the publication of a universal library in the Braille type. By the agreement that has been reached the best features in both systems will be adopted, and 150,000 blind people of the United States and British countries will be able to enjoy an increased number of books in their own language. Moreover, the new system will be more economical in the printing of books.—Brantford Expositor.

Most Beautiful Words

Our suggestion for the ten most beautiful words in the English language is: "Your application for position accepted. Report for work at once."—Toronto Saturday Night.

An Unpardonable Omission

A Spanish newspaper devoted two columns to the report of a fashionable wedding and next day apologized for leaving out the names of the bride and groom. The man in the case expects to be overlooked but when it comes to the bride—well, if this isn't her day of days then human nature must have changed a whole lot.—Brantford Expositor.

THE EMPIRE

Britain Weathering the Storm

With drops of 37.3, 35.7, and 31.1 per cent. in the exports of France, America, and Germany respectively as compared with 6.9 in our own case, it is obvious that we are weathering the storm better than any of our rivals. Such industries as are active are those fostered by the recently imposed tariffs; and, bad as things are, we have strong grounds to be thankful that a National Government has saved us from a situation that might have been infinitely worse. — Edinburgh Weekly Scotsman.

Ceylon and Empire Preference

The most potent argument for Ceylon's acceptance of Imperial Preference is provided by the Secretary of State's analysis of Ceylon's trade position in relation to Empire countries and foreign countries. On the 1931 figures two-thirds of Ceylon's export trade goes to Empire territories, the figures being Rs. 144 million to the Empire and Rs. 71 million to foreign countries, out of a total of Rs. 215 million. The import trade is proportioned in almost exactly the same ratio, Rs. 71 million out of a total of Rs. 213 million coming from foreign countries. Economically, it follows that Ceylon must stand with the Empire or face almost inevitable disaster. — Colombo Times of Ceylon.

Standards of Life in Australia

The Australian worker has no inalienable right to any particular standard of living, or to a better standard than the worker of any other country. The present standard is 'meagre" only in comparison with the standard enjoyed a few years ago. That standard was sustained by borrowed money, by abnormally high prices for Australia's primary exports, and by mortgaging the future by means of the time-payment system. It is a quaint idea that the Australian worker has an indefeasible right — whence obtained no one knows—to a regimen which includes the best of food and clothing as well as such luxuries as moving pictures, liquor, betting, gramophones, player-pianos, and wireless sets, and that he is being cheated of his due when his reduced wages can no longer support such a standard.—Melbourne Argus.

THE UNITED STATES

Persian Oil Dispute

In accepting for consideration and settlement the controversy between Great Britain and Persia over Persia's cancellation of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's concession, the Council of the League of Nations has seized an opportunity to redeem somewhat its failure in handling the China-Japanese controversy. The two conflicts are in no way analogous; they cannot be compared in their effect upon world politics. At the same time, if the League can bring this controversy to a peaceful conclusion, it will prove that its usefulness as an international arbiter has by no means been irretrievably impaired and its prestige will be greatly enhanced. It is the first time in which a country so well able to defend its interest as Great Britain has put them entirely into the hands of the League when the issue is of such importance as the protection of its naval oil supplies. — New York Evening Post.

Horse Sense

A horse in Cleveland, Ohio, it is reported, went through town without a driver, keeping to its own side of the street, stopping for red lights and proceeding when they flashed green, and did not break a single traffic ordinance. A similar display of horse sense on the part of many motorists would make the streets and highways much safer.—Christian Science Monitor.

Wise Spider

When Mark Twain edited a newspaper in Missouri one of his subscribers wrote him that he had found a spider in his paper and wished to know whether it meant good luck or bad.

Twain replied: "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good luck nor bad. The spider was merely looking over our paper to see which merchant was not advertising, so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward."—Walter Winchell.

Television Principle Not New to Science

Montreal.—Many of the principles embodied in television today are from 15 to 40 years old insofar as science is concerned, H. J. Vennes, engineer of the Northern Electric Company told the Progress Club recently.

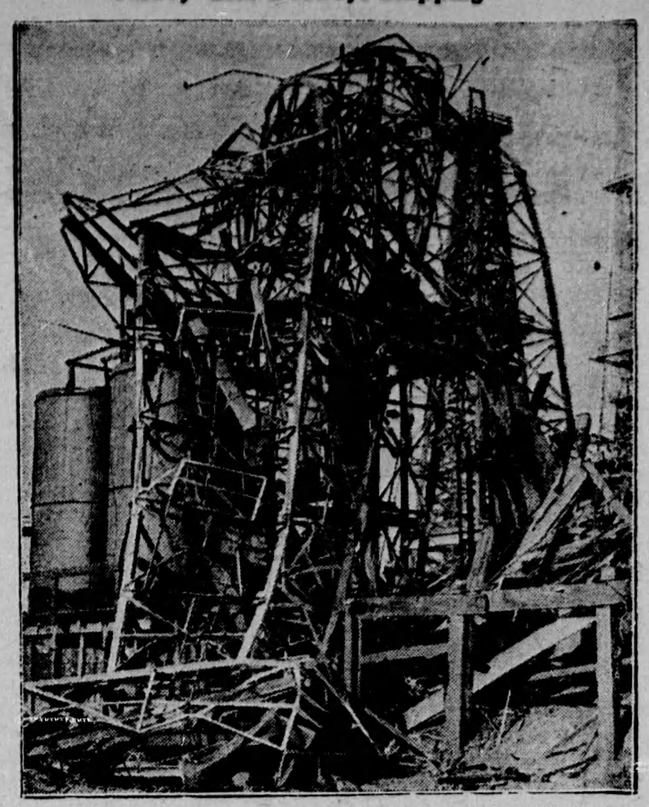
In the course of an illustrated lecture on television, Mr. Vennes described how a picture is transmitted from one point to another. He said that radio television is being carried on by some half dozen stations in the United States at the present time.

"While we have not reached the stage where we are commanding the same public attention as radio," he declared, "progress is in the main." Mr. Vennes envisaged a day when television on a large scale would be common to every householder.

Purchases Bride on Installment Plan

Auckland, New Zealand.—These are boom days in the bride market among Solomon Island cannibals. The natives are agog over news that Sarita-ona, of Sinerango, has paid a record price of 12 "monies" (about $1,800) for a wife. He bought the dusky maid on the instalment plan and will be the rest of his life paying for her.

Heavy Gale Destroys Shipping



When the wind blows in California this is the result. A recent "Santa Ana" or dust-laden gale wrecked shipping in Los Angeles harbor, drowned one man and piled oil derricks into a twisted mass of scrap.

Functions of Modern Hospital Described

Montreal.—Organization of a modern hospital, the inter-relation of the various units, and the functions of the different departments and their officers, were explained in an address at a meeting here by Dr. H. R. Dunstan Gray. Dr. Gray made reference to the new hospital now being built, in which would be provided important departments not possible in the present premises. There would be an outdoor department, also provision for social service, which had been found such a useful adjunct of the modern hospital.

Dr. Gray included in his lecture interesting items in regard to the care of the sick in ancient times.

Ancient Greece had its institutions built on the mountains, with southern exposture, and having verandahs on the style of modern sanatoria. Hydrotherapy was organized in connection with hot springs. Rome followed the example of Greece in providing care for the sick, although the ordinary slave was not given treatment. An Egyptian papyrus described one of the first cases on record, that of a woman suffering from "the unswallowable ball," a hysterical affection.

Rare Shell Able To Turn Two Ways

Adelaide, S. Aust.—A fresh-water shell, which, unlike other shells, can turn both to the right and to the left, has been found in South Australian waters by Mr. Ernest H. Ising, president of the field naturalists' section of the Royal Society. It has been named after him—Planorbis Isingi.

The shell is about a quarter of an inch in diameter and the new species is fairly common along the River Murray. Natural scientists state that all shells turn either to the left or to the right.

Britishers Shown as Great Tea-Drinkers

London.—Oceans of tea, rivers of coffee, trickling brooks of cocoa—that's a comparative picture of old England's taste.

"Statistics show," said Douglas Woodruff, official of the Empire Marketing Board, "that we in England drink five cups of tea per head per day, one cup of coffee a day and one cup of cocoa a week."

French Plan to Reduce High Cost of Living

Paris.—Forty million Frenchmen are preoccupied this winter with one big problem—how to reduce the cost of living.

The people of France, almost alone in escaping the economic depression, have discovered they still are paying predepression prices for almost everything.

Prices in France are higher than in any other European country except Switzerland.

Research by government experts has revealed widespread profiteering in the retail food trade, especially among butchers.

Veal roast in Paris costs 45 to 55 cents a pound, beef roast 65 cents, rumpsteak ("bifteck") 50 cents, fresh roast pork 35 cents. An entire lamb can be bought for $2 on a farm, but a leg of lamb weighing a little over four pounds costs $2.15 here.

Bread costs about 4 cents a pound, butter over 50 cents, eggs 64 cents a dozen, milk cents a quart, and beer to 20 cents a quart. Ordinary table wine is sold for 12 to 25 cents a quart.

Apples and pears, of the domestic variety cost 13 cents a pound, oranges 15 cents. Spinach is 5 cents pound, carrots 5 cents, tomatoes 10 cents, beans 14 cents. Flour sells for 6 cents a pound, sugar 7 cents, salt 3 cents, coffee 55 cents.

Rents here have come down considerably. A three-room furnished apartment can be had for $65 to $90 a month. The same apartment, unfurnished, would rent for $500 to $600.

Piccard Says Trips To Planets Possible

Washington.—Crof. Auguste Piccard said last week that study of the cosmic rays, for which he made his two balloon flights into the stratosphere may help unlock tremendous energy in atoms which might overcome the difficulties of sending rocket planes on "round trips" to other planets.

There is no limit to the heights which rocket planes may reach above the earth, Professor Piccard said, but predicted balloons and airplanes will not rise much further than the 10-mile height he reached last summer, owing to practical difficulties of construction.

Employment in France, is increasing.

Geo. Bernard Shaw "Greatest Man" Says His Printer

Associate's Opinion of Noted Playwright Who Takes Unusual Interest Manufacturing Books

London, Eng.—No man is hero to his valet, but if a writer is hero to his printer he must, despite, the ruling, be among the world's chosen few. Which bit of reasoning puts George Bernard Shaw, Irish wit and world-renowned playwright, very high up on the ladder of fame.

"George Bernard Shaw is the greatest man on earth," says William Maxwell, who has some authority in the matter, since as fine printer of Edinburgh he prints all Shaw's books, has a considerable collection of Shaviana and in addition has carefully considered the claims of Mussolini, Ramsay MacDonald, Hitler and Gabriele D'Annunio to the title of "greatest." Among all the galaxy of writers whose books he prints—Rudyard Kipling, the late Thomas Hardy, Hugh Walpole and Mazo de la Roche, to name only the more important—Mr. Maxwell prefers Shaw.

Great in Mathematics

"There is a greater man in mathematics," Mr. Maxwell admits, "there is one in physics. But taken by and large there is no greater than Shaw." The Irish author takes as much interest in the manufacture of books as in their writing. 'Shaw likes the game of manufacturing books," Mr. Maxwell continued. "He employs us to print them. Then they go down to his publisher who has only the work of selling them and keeping accounts.

Shaw's Wit

Shaw does all his writing in shorthand. He then passes it on to his secretary who types the material in triple spacing. He then works over these sheets making corrctions and these form the actual manuscript from which we set the books. The writing is the clearest imaginable.'

Mr. Maxwell has a valuable collection of first editions and examples of fine printing. Among other things he has a complete set of prompt copies of Shaw's plays, and these are inscribed in the following terms: "This may be added to William Maxwell's collection of shop-soiled literary curiosities."

Sir Malcolm Campbell To Have Wider Speedway

Daytona Beach, Fla.—Nature has provided the fastest beach course ever for Sir Malcolm Campbell proposed attempt to speed five miles a minute in his giant car Blue Bird II.

The highest tide in modern Florida history tore great chunks out of the shoreline sand dunes last fall. The dunes were washed down upon the beach and the constant pounding of breakers between now and February 10-20—the period set for the attempt—is expected to offer a wider speedway than has ever before been utilized.

With the hazard of a narrow course eliminated, Sir Malcolm may achieve his ambition of reaching 300 miles an hour. He holds the present record of 253 M.P.H., established last year on the beach.

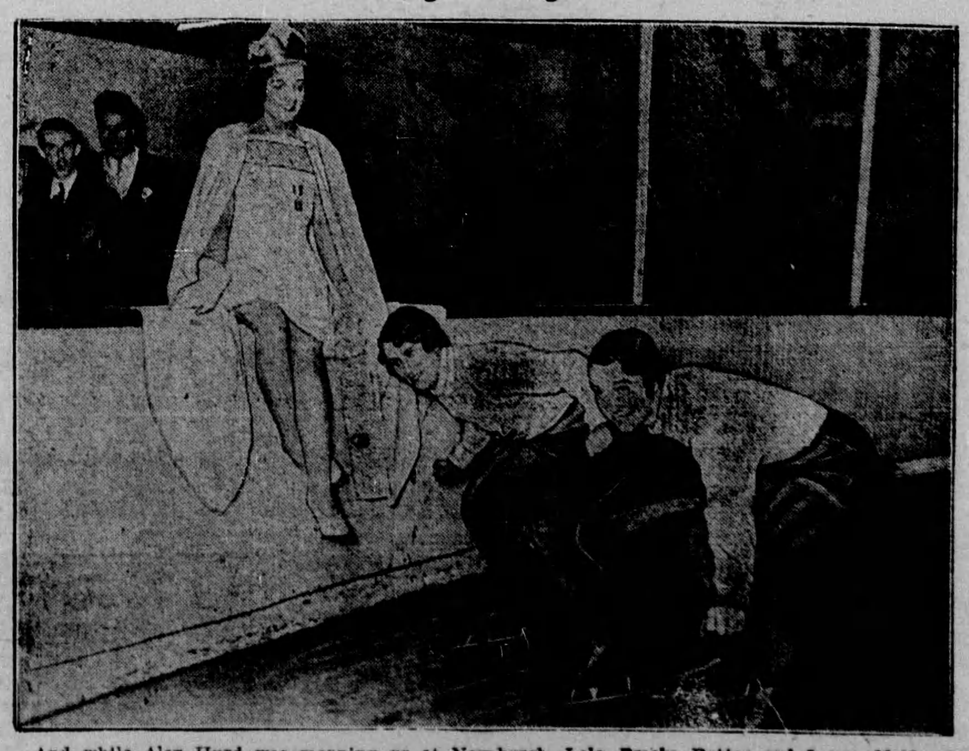
Balkans Now "Invaded" By Technocracy

Belgrade, Yugoslavia. — Technocracy finally has reached the Balkans, The Politica, Yugoslavia's biggest newspaper, recently carried an article attempting to explain it to the nation's agrarian population.

This is rather difficult, for whereas a century ago it took the Serbian peasant 1,000 hours to do a certain piece of farm work, it now takes him 999 hours, his tools being practically unchanged.

The paper does not indulge in an editorial appraisal.

Training in Chicago



And while Alex Hurd was mopping up at Newburgh, Lela Brooks Potter and Laura McNaughton, both of Toronto, trained at Chicago for next month's winted carnival. Lela has challenged Helen Bina of Chicago to race for the indoor championship. Violet Wellfounder, carnival queen, sits on the fence.

The Dominion Coast-to-Coast

Halifax, N.S.—According to the Canadian Trade Commissione in the North of England, oysters from the Maritime Provinces are regarded as of excellent quality. Describing the requirements of the British market, the Commissioner says that oysters most in demand are those which will pack from 1,400 to 1,500 to a barrel. These, he believes, should find a ready market. The size of the barrel referred to is that used for apples or flour.

Fredericton, N.B.—The tenth annual short course in agriculture conducted at the Dominion Experimental Station in Fredericton has recently been concluded with 30 young men graduating. These bring the total graduates for the 10 years up to 200. The present year's graduates are almost equally divided as to origin, there being 16 English-speaking and 14 French-speaking students.

Montreal, Que.—According to preliminary figures for 1930 issued by the Dominion Statistician, on the Island of Montreal and Jesus Island there were 13,630 retail stores and 4,296 service establishments, with business turnovers of $422,093,400 and $46,906,000 respectively. In Montreal proper retail stores transacted business aggregating $387,807,700 and the service establishments $44,382,200.

Ottawa. — Exports of Canadian poultry to the British Isles from April 1 to September 30, 1932, totalled 224,822 pounds, or more than four times the export of 48,322 pounds in the corresponding period 1931.

Regina, Sask.—According to an announcement by officials of the University of Saskatchewan, after 11 years of work, involving 120,000 miles of travel, Saskatchewan's soil survey is now completed. In 1920 members of a better farming conference held at Swift Current proposed a survey of the soils of the province in order to classify and map them so as to assist the development of soil types by systems of farming to which they were best adapted. A soil map of the western part of the province has been completed showing the many soil types, and field work of the present season brings almost to completion the reconnaissance soil survey of the more settled part of Saskatchewan.

Lethbridge, Alta.—For the first time in history the 1932 crop of sugar beets in southern Alberta averaged over 10 tons to the acre. Increased efficiency of the growers and a more liberal use of commercial fertilizer are given as the two main reasons for this exceptional result. The sugar content was about 17 per cent. and the beets came from the silo in excellent condition.

Calgary, Alta.—From 60 to 70 men have been employed in preparing the old coke ovens of the International Coal and Coke Company at Coleman, Alberta, to fill a contract during 1933 for the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company at Trail, British Columbia. Fine weather during the early part of the winter helped rapid construction work.

New Westminster, B.C.—McKechner's, Limited, is a complete tobacco manufacturing plant located at New Westminster, British Columbia. This factory has just commenced manufacturing and packing "Totem" brand pipe and cigarette tobaccos from the British Columbia grown plant.

Titled English Woman Opens a Fish Shop

Over a fishmonger's shop in the main street of Letchworth, Eng., is painted the name "E. A. Reid." This is prosaic enough in itself. The housewife buying her cod and haddock never suspects that its smiling, tactful owner is one of two titled women in England to go into the fishmongers' business.

She is Lady Reid, widow of Sir G. Archibald O'Brien Reid, who, before his death in 1929, was an eminent doctor, and an authority on alcoholism and the effects of heredity.

Her companion in originality and enterprise is Lady Rachel Byng, who has a similar shop at Ascot.

Looking at life from the other side of the counter has developed in Lady Reid a sympathy and understanding which makes her the most enthusiastic of tradeswomen.

When it was suggested that she should open a gown shop like so many hundreds have done before, she replied: "Yes, and have credit accounts running for months and months!"

Then an acquaintance who had been in the fish business before the war suggested that she might do well if she tried this business.

This appealed to her adventurous spirit, although she knew nothing about either business or Billingsgate (the famous old fish market of London). September saw her with an immaculate refrigerator, a spotless counter, and stringe of bloaters screening her windows.

Every morning finds her at 7.30 appropriately dressed in a white overall and a Breton fisherman's beret, opening fish—all sorts and sizes, cleaning, beheading and examining their anatomy.

Lady Reid has one assistant, and her son has become the chief accountant.

To switch from a luxurious home, surrounded by a garden of flowers, to the distinctive smells of a fish shop has not disturbed her. She is too intrigued by the commerce of life.