Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Soon Learns

Psychologist says most small women have strong wills. A chap who marries a wisp of a girl soon learns to beware of the will of the wisp.—Ottawa Journal.

Hundred Per Cent. Chauffeurs

In presenting ninety-two chauffeurs with bronze medallions in recognition the fact that they drove for twelve months without a single accident, the Province of Quebec Safety League is doing something that may well prove a valuable incentive to others. The driver who can go through a whole year without any kind of accident certainly proves that he is careful, that he observes the traffic laws, and that he is considerate of pedestrians. It is just as well to remind ourselves that if the chauffeur has a duty towards the pedestrian, the latter has an equal responsibility towards the chauffeur. It is only by both maintaining a strict observance of the traffic laws and keeping in mind constantly their mutual responsibilities that we shall ever reduce our unpleasantly high traffic accident record. — Montreal Daily Star.

Few Films For Children

J. C. Boylen, the chairman of the Board of Censors of Motion Pictures for Ontario, touches upon an important point in his annual report when he expresses regret that so few film subjects are suitable for young people.

"While 'adult themes' have their place on the screen," he remarks, "the motion picture is the vehicle of entertainment for the masses. The screen's great preoccupation, just now, with subjects unsuitable for family entertainment threatens not only to decrease the patronage of the young people but of their parents also. In this connection the Board would repeat what has been so often pointed out by others, that parents and guardians have as much a duty supervising their children's selection of screen entertaining as they have in regard to plays and books."—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Lots of Time

The St. Lawrence waterway is a profoundly important matter, but it is not one about which there need be any life-or-death rush, on behalf of either the United States or Canadian public. It deserves full debate and extended consideration, and if it has to be postponed to the next session in order to get these, little harm will be done. The one thing that is not wanted is a hasty decision preceded by insufficient discussion. —Woodstock Sentinel Review.

Canadian Channels

It is very gratifying to hear voices from the West speaking in support of the movement of grain and other traffic through Maritime ports. That very outspoken man, Mayor Webb, of Winnipeg, has expressed his views with his customary vigor, and he is all for Canadian trade through Canadian channels to the fullest extent that is possible without definite injury to business. Halifax and Saint John have been showing that they can handle grain without the slightest injury to any Canadian interest, and that is the most convincing kind of testimony. The rest of Canada can confer a great boon on the Maritimes by recognizing their ports and building up their transportation services. It does not involve sacrifice, and whatever makes the better times here ensures a larger market for what other provinces have to sell.—Maritime Merchant.

Speed Not First

In the flood of motor car advertising accompanying introduction of the new models for 1933, particularly noteworthy is the lack of emphasis on speed. In this respect this year's advertising contrasts strongly with other years. The change is particularly impressive when one looks over the advertising pages of the last few years. Throughout them one finds speed and power as the generally dominant note. —Brockville Recorder.

Better Newspapers

There are fewer papers in Ontario, fewer in New York, fewer in London. Such names as Times-Journal, Beacon-Herald, Sentinel-Review hereabouts, tell their own tale. In New York there is the Herald Tribune, the World-Telegram. London some time before the war had ten morning papers and seven evening. Now there are six morning and three evening.

These merges and shut-downs have involved inevitable hardship for a while on employees, but they have resulted in better newspapers—more competently staffed, better equipped mechanically, able to provide a wider and more up-to-the-minute service of news.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

THE EMPIRE

Lord Willingdon's Hope

Lord Willingdon is the first Viceroy who has both the courage and the opportunity to speak the hope that within his term of office he may become the constitutional Governor-General of a self-governing India. Now that Lord Willingdon has not only identified himself personally with India's nationalist ideals, but has personally contributed to the reality of their early fulfilment, the Legislatures have responded splendidly alike to that faith and to the urgent needs of a great hour in the country's history. They have assumed responsibility for precisely the types of legislation that would have been condemned a year or two ago as inspired by British imperialism alone or by hostility to Indian nationalism, but are now recognized as assets or necessities "demonstrably in the interest of India."—Calcutta Statesman.

The Prudent Man

It remains true that the citizen of most value to this country is the man who uses his money wisely to secure the best life for himself and his dependants, trusting as much as possible on prudence and forethought and as little as possible to chance, and that any who incite him to an opposite course are enemies to the country's welfare.—The Spectator (London).

Switzerland

The principles that have guided this little country with its few millions of inhabitants may well be studied by the rest of the world, and principally by the Great Powers. In spite of many attractions inviting large-scale production, Switzerland has remained essentially what she always was; a country catering to the needs of the world as they are, not as she might choose to see them; making a living as best she can; refraining from wild speculations; adhering to old and sacred principles of conservatism. Savings are still going up in Switzerland. Swiss cheese, with all its world-wide popularity, is still produced in some 3,000 dairies, most of them rather small. Graft and corruption are unknown quantities in Switzerland. It may seem a bit old-fashoined, a bit behind the times. Yet events have borne out her wisdom. This little nation, by a remarkable display of political character through centuries, has laid a foundation upon which many of our hopes rest. Yet we know Switzerland mainly from Alpine railroads and the lure of St. Moritz. There is a lesson in all this, and our discovery of it may mean much for our own future.—George Gerhard in The North American Review.

Training For Leisure

What are we educating boys and girls for, if not for life? Can we then be right to concentrate exclusively upon the efficiency of those we educate to do their work while we allow their tastes and interests, by which they will be guided in hours of leisure, to develop haphazard? If so, then it will not be long before the evil effect is seen elsewhere than in their pastimes. For just as leisure often reveals a man as he really is, so the use or abuse of it strengthens or weakens, raises or debases him. Those pursuits which, whether at school or after, we are apt to consider unrelated to the business of life are little by little shaping or hindering the power not only to carry through life's business, but to fill the whole of life with meaning and with beauty.—Hugh Lyon in The Spectator (London).

UNITED STATES

War Debts

Mr. Roosevelt went to the heart of the problem in his speech of February 2, 1932, when he called for an early accord regarding future payments. Uncertainty is one of the factors delaying the return of normal economic conditions. While the debt question hangs fire, for example, England cannot get a new par for sterling and return to the gold standard. Like many other related matters, this is of much importance to American trade, and so to the Budget of the United States Government. — Colonel House in Foreign Affairs (New York).

Good Canadian Practice

Ottawa newspapers believe in playing down crime. Last week, for the first time in 64 years, a murderer was executed there, and the Journal and Citizen published 200 word stories. They had not mentioned the case from the time the man was convicted until he was hanged.—Editor and Publisher, New York.

Early Newspaper

Ostia.—Prof. Calga, during his excavations here at the mouth of the Tiber, has brought to light one of the world's earliest newspapers. It is a fragment of the Fasti Annales, which, in Roman Times, constituted a sort of official gazette, written on marble tablets and placed in the forum.

The fragment just found relates to public works performed in Rome by the Emperor Trajan and refers to the great feasts and games he gave between the years 108 and 112 A.D.

The hope of immortality makes heroes of cowards.—Thomas Guthrie.

"Has not misfortune always been a better trainer than fortune?"—Vicki Baum.

On The War Debt Question

Before sailing for England January 31, Sir Ronald Lindsay caught a southbound aeroplane for Warm Springs, Georgia, where he interviewed Mr. Roosevelt about the forthcoming big war debt conference.

300 Occupations in U.S. Claimed as Professions

Toronto.—There are in round figures some 20,000 professions or occupations, according to a review made by a bureau in Washington, Herbert L. Troyer, secretary of the Canadian Educational Guidance Movement, stated in an address here. Pointing out that the problem of vocational choice was a complex one, now that the plumber of yesterday was the sanitary engineer of today, and that there were 300 occupations in the United States claiming professional level, Mr. Troyer said that the boy of today was faced with an enormous problem and considered that there ought to be a central bureau in Canada to which problems could be referred.

Chicago's Population Increased 49,00 in 1932

Chicago.—Chicago's population increased 49,000 in 1932, bringing the total number of residents in the nation's second largest city to 3,524,000, it was disclosed by J. E. Vesley, research director of the Association of Commerce.

The increase was under the average annual growth of 67,500 of the last decade, Mr. Vesley pointed out, but added that it was comparatively greater than that of other metropolitan centers. Mr. Vesley estimated Chicago's unemployed at 656,000 approximately 38 per cent of the city's total workers.

France to Curb Export Of Arms and Munitions

Paris.—The French government has decided to establish a committee to study means of regulating the manufacture and sale of war materials, following President Hoover's initiative in recommending stricter control of the arms traffic.

The committee will draft a plan for international control of commerce in arms, powder and munitions, to be presented to the World Disarmament Conference. It will also study means of controlling the activities of French armament industries, which have supplied arms and munitions to nations at war in the Far East and South America.

The committee will be supervised by the General War Council, and several generals will be included in its membership.

Rubber Plates Check Dish Washing Hazard

Akron, Ohio.—Pale plastic crepe rubber, said to be odorless and tasteless, is being used to make plates and tumblers here. The new "unbreakables" are being made in brilliant and artistic colors, and they are expected to displace the old blue porcelain, the decorated china and the glass and paper utensils for general use.

Research laboratories of one of the great Akron rubber factories developed the new material for food containers. The rubber can be colored with any desired pigment.

Wisconsin Whizz

Will skate at Oconomowoc meet. Rose Marie Brady, Detroit adroit of the flashing blades, holder of the state 440-yard indoor record, will be up front during the Wisconsin championship tournament.

Recent British Achievements Told By Sir William Clark

(Toronto Mail and Empire)

A few weeks ago, while in England on a holiday, Sir William Clark, High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in this country, gave a British audience a faithful account of Canadian conditions. Recently returned to his Ottawa post, he presented a highly interesting report on the existing situation in the Motherland. He quoted an eminent American financier as saying shortly after the war that if facts and figures proved anything, England was too badly crippled by the four-year conflict ever to recover; but that, owing to the character of her people, history would repeat itself and she would again achieve her former wealth and prestige. She is still hampered by heavy unemployment, by closed world markets, and by the universal depression, but Sir William enumerated a sufficient number of inspiring facts to warrant us in believing that the United States financier was right.

The fact is that during the years prior to the world depression the British people made at least some of the necessary adjustments which were later faced by other nations. This partly explains why the shock of the 1929 slump has fallen on her with a less severe impact than upon some of her industrial rivals. The number of unemployed in Britian has not grown as it has in other countries. Indeed, the absolute volume of unemployment in Germany and the United States is undoubtedly much greater than in the British Isles, and it bears a much higher proportion to the total industrial population than in Great Britain. The United Kingdom has also been helped by the adoption of a protective tariff and by the Ottawa trade agreements, although the benefit of these agreements has not yet, for want of time, begun to be fully felt.

During 1932 Great Britain largely maintained the volume of her export trade at a time when the foreign trade of the United States, Germany and France was collapsing. The exports of the United Kingdom fell by less than seven per cent. as compared with 1931, while those of the United States declined 33 per cent.; those of Germany 41 per cent., and those of France 37 per cent. What is more, the indices of industrial production show that the situation is relatively worse in France, Germany and the United States than in the United Kingdom. That is to say, the index has fallen much more rapidly and much more severely in all three countries than in the British Isles. British exports of cotton last year increased by 50 per cent. in the case of yarns and 28 per cent. in the case of piece goods. The British production of artificial silk grew from 37,000,000 pounds in the first nine months of 1931 to 54,000,000 pounds in the same period in 1932, although in other countries such as the United States, Italy, Germany and Holland a heavy reduction was reported.

Thanks especially to Canadian purchases, Britain's exports of anthracite increased last year by 15 per cent. In spite of the bad times the number of motor cars exported from the United Kingdom was 60 per cent. greater in 1932 than in 1931. Other trades which are showing similar progress are hosiery, heavy chemicals and tin plates. The tariff has brought a number of industrial undertakings to the Old Country. These are progressing rapidly and increasing the number of their employees. The steel industry is still hampered, but a new enterprise for the production of domestic Bessemer steel in Northamptonshire is being financed by the Bankers' Industrial Development Company under the auspices of the Bank of England. The Lancashire Steel industry is being rationalized and even the railways are looking up. The Southern Railway is electrifying some of its main lines.

Sir William attributes these moderate constructive developments in the Mother Country to the fact that the British people never permit themselves to be optimists. Their habit is to face the facts with the determination of struggling through to better times. The achievements thus recorded in the face of adverse world conditions are, in large measure, traceable to the sterling qualities of a race which has never yet permitted itself to be wholly beaten, and which over and over again in the pages of history has emerged triumphant over seemingly insuperable obstacles.

Plan to Recover Treasures From Sunken French Vessels

Paris.—Under the direction of the Minister of National Education an attempt is being organized to recover from the bed of the River Rhone a large quantity of art objects and antiquities from the City of Arles lost in two shipwrecks in past ages.

One ship which sank in 1564 contained eight porphyry columns from the choir of the Church of Notre Dame la Major, numerous tombs and marble bas-reliefs which had been ordered transported to Paris by Catherine de Medici. The other ship contained Roman statuary and relics collected in Arles by Napoleon and ordered brought to enrich the museums of Paris.

Fewer Marriages and Births, More Divorces, Reported

Paris.—Decreases in marriages and births and an increase in the number of divorces shown in statistics for France in 1931 are attributed by French writers to the effects of the economic depression.

Marriages declined by 5 per cent, only 326,358 being recorded as compared with 342,698 in 1930. Divorces on the other hand increased from 20,409 in 1930 to 21,212 in 1931.

Deaths increased from 649,125 to 680,710, but births still maintained a margin of 49,539 for the year 1931. The number of births that year was 18,000 less than the previous year, the figures showing 748,911 in 1930 and 730,249 in 1931.

Caution Vital in Removing Cap from Boiling Radiator

One of the first signs of a frozen radiator is escaping steam. Ice has clogged the circulating system and when the cooling fluid is stationary it rapidly comes to a boil. When this happens, get the radiator cap off as quickly as possible to relieve the pressure, but in doing so cover the cap with a large cloth or several thicknesses of newspaper to avoid being sprayed by the boiling water. Under no circumstances remove the radiator cap without taking the utmost precautions. If no protection is available wait until the water stops boiling.

Toronto Registers 18 New Industries

Toronto—During 1932, the establishment of 18 new industries in this city has been announced by the Toronto Industrial Commission, and products of 16 new outside firms are being manufactured by local industries.

Of the 18 firms, two are British firms and the remainder are United States companies. About $643,000 has been invested in plants and equipment. Direct employment has been given to about 390 persons, and the firms occupy about 200,000 square feet of floor space.

To make pleasures pleasant, shorten them.—Buxton.

France Seeking to End Peril of Level Crossings

Special attention has been paid of late by officials at the Ministry of Public Works to ways and means of reducing the number of dangerous level crossings in France. The responsible Minister, M. Daladier, has issued an interesting communique on the subject, writes the Paris correspondent of The London Daily Telegraph.

He states that the number of motor vehicles in France has increased from 100,000 in 1914 to 1,700,000 in 1932. It has therefore become a matter of urgency to remove such obstructions as level crossings from the national highways. In spite of all the efforts made, only thirty were removed during the period 1918-'31.

Yet there are more than 40,000 of these obstacles in France. Some 20,000 are on main lines, 16,200 on local lines and 3,800 on purely goods lines.

A list of 200 on which work might be started immediately has been drawn up, but it is calculated that the undertaking would cost the state nearly $16,000,000. There is small hope, it is confessed, of finding that sum.

King of Italy Refuse Increase in Allowance

Not only has the King of Italy refused to accept an increase in his annual allowance, necessitated by his losses in the stock market—he even proposes to make drastic cuts in his expenses.

Personal possessions hitherto considered indispensable to the monarch are to be done away with.

While he is not discharging any of the royal employees, he has ordered salary reductions for all earning more than 500 lire (about $28) a month.

The royal stables have been reduced to a mere dozen horses, for use only when the royal carriage must be drawn on some diplomatic occasion. The remainder of what was once a magnificent stable has been given away.

The king has also ordered his aides to reduce their expenditure. In future the royal railway carriage will be dispensed with, and King Victor will travel by motor car.

When Signor Mussolini was informed of the King's financial plight he offered to increase the present royal salary of about $45,000 a year but the King declined, and declared that he preferred to trim his personal expenses as an example of economy to his subjects.

Ireland Reports Decline In Imports and Exports

Dublin, Irish Free State.—Trade statistics for 1932, made public by the Irish Free State government, showed a drop in imports and exports.

Total imports by the Free State dropped from £50,457,000 in 1931 to £42,572,000 in 1932, while exports fell from £36,276,000 to £25,798,000. (The pound currently is worth $3.39).