Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Started the Rush

Cigarettes were for sale for years before the manufacturers started spending millions in newspaper advertising. Now they're being sold.—Kingston Whig Standard.

Modern Bridge

"Shall we have a friendly game of cards?"

"No, let's play bridge."

This scrap of conversation which we ran across the other day is evidence of an unfortunate situation. Time was when folks sat down to a card table for a little bit of relaxation, but nowadays it is serious business. It is not a matter of playing the cards that you get and trusting to your good sense to coming out with the long end of the score. No. In these times you have to think about informative bids, to remember whether you're vulnerable or not, to give serious consideration to the approach force system and a host of other things. It's no longer relaxation, it's a strenuous mental exercise.—Sault Star.

Another on the Scot

There is a story going the rounds concerning a Scot who desired to send a telegram telling about an automobile accident. The manner in which he selected his words was:

"Bruises killed, erased afford, erector; analysis hurt too; infectious dead." Scotty.

He was charged for ten words. We are not told whether the person who received the wire could read it, but the explanation and the full wording follows:

"Bruce is killed, he raced a Ford; he wrecked her, and Alice is hurt too, in fact she's dead."—Scotty.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Farm Settlement

Ottawa reports that the back to the land movement is meeting with satisfactory results. Up to the end of 1932, 426 families had been successfully placed in Quebec, 380 in Saskatchewan, 226 in Ontario, 185 in Manitoba, 145 in Nova Scotia and 51 in Alberta. The sum of $600 is provided as a set up in each case and care is taken to see that those helped have some knowledge of agriculture. — Brantford Expositor.

First in War: First in Peace

For obvious reasons we in Canada hear and read a good deal about United States airplanes, American flyers, their exploits and achievements. Actually no country in the world has approached the intensive study of planes and their possibilities given by the United Kingdom; no country has gone farther—or as far—in developing the factors of speed safety, and general utilization of aircraft; and in no land are there air pilots superior to those of the United Kingdom in experience, capability, and ingenuity.—Ottawa Journal.

Difficult Times For Railways

Railways, apparently, are in the same fix the world over. French lines report deficits of $600,000,000 during the past ten years.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Buy Canadian

Wherever it is possible to do so, Canadians should give their preference first of all to national products, especially when these products are of as good quality and as cheap as the foreign article. Some people, when they have to choose between two articles offering the same advantages, pick the foreign article simply because it comes from abroad. A preference of this kind is unjustifiable and, if widely practised, causes great injury to Canadian industry and commerce, which are thus deprived of the patronage to which they are rightly entitled.—La Presse, Montreal.

Restore Confidence

If it is known and believed that the United States is prepared at last to concert measures for the restoration of credit and confidence, it will have an immense effect in the world. The depression s now more than ever a state of mind. Lift the oppression of fear and uncertainty from the minds of the people of the western nations, and half the battle would be won.—Vancouver Province.

Setting a New Record

Sir Malcolm Campbell's victory over time and space established not only the supremacy of his car as the fastest thing that man has yet designed to get him over the ground and his own skill as its driver, but it apparently must have come pretty close to setting up a new record in human daring and endurance.

The question that will naturally be asked now is, where do we go next? It is reasonably clear that the speed of the internal combustion engine of the type at present used is now fairly close to its limit. It seems largely a question of greater horse-power and certain betterments in tire design, with the object of eliminating as much tire-slip as possible, before the present record is in its turn upset, but even the 300-mile-an-hour mark, for the present regarded as the grand objective, will not satisfy forever. The interesting thing will be to see whether the experts are content to continue refining the present type of engine indefinitely or whether they now turn to something as radically different as Parsons did when he abandoned the familiar marine reciprocating steam engine for the turbine and revolutionized marine engineering thereby.—Montreal Daily Star.

THE EMPIRE

Sterling and Gold

It became inevitable when the Empire countries made a definite attempt towards economic cooperation that sooner or later their various currencies should be linked with sterling. We believe that this is the process through which the Canadian dollar is now moving. We are witnessing the establishment of sterling as the stronge t monetary force in the world. The day is coming when gold will play no greater part as a medium of trade than sterling will allow it.—London ally Express.

Bank Balances and Business

The extent and liquidity of bank deposits, as displayed in the balance sheets, give clear evidence of ample power to finance a trade revival; but it rests with forces beyond the control of the banks to produce the conditions which will lead to a trade revival, and, incidentally, once more provide ample and profitable employment for banking resources.—London Morning Post.

Trinidad and Britain

There was a time when it was part of Venezuela, another when it was inhabited by Caribs, another when it belonged to Spain, another when it virtually belonged to France, and another, much later in history, when it was rapidly becoming Americanized. Now, happily, it is becoming more British every day.—Trinidad Guardian.

Restriction and Prosperity

Ultimately we think it will be found necessary, in the interests of the world, to regularize the production of all commodities. It is all very fine for economic theorists to say that abundance is for the good of the greatest number. They forget that the price of every article to the consumer must include transport and all sorts of services, so that even if it were produced for nothing it does not follow that some people would not still perish for the want of it. — Colombo Times of Ceylon.

The Manchurian Muddle

The Western nations appear to be weary of the whole business. They do not understand the problem of Manchuria or the traditional Far Eastern methods of diplomacy and war. A sudden suspicion has been awakened that both Powers are angling for what they can get from Europe and America, but that when the answer is an unequivocal "We can do nothing more," China and Japan will settle down to patch up an agreement, much more satisfactory to themselves than anything which the West can suggest. The contempt poured on the efforts of the Lytton Commission has puzzled Europe, and given rise to the idea that the Far East must get itself out of its own muddle in its own way; and that as long as intervention, of any kind, is possible every skirmish will be raised to the status of a battle and every political manoeuvre to a world crisis.—Honk Kong Press.

Revision of Tariffs

An appeal for some bold stroke of international action has been made by Sir John Aird, one of the leading bankers of Canada. He suggests an early reduction of 10 per cent. in every customs tariff. A general cut in tariffs is, however, not the most effective approach to the problem. High tariffs have hampered international trade; the paralyzing obstacles have been such emergency measures as prohibitive quota restrictions and embargoes. Neither of these is amenable to such proportional reductions as Sir John Ard suggests. The only method of dealing with them is to abolish them as rapidly as possible. — Auckland Weekly News.

THE UNITED STATES

Trains in the Air

Only ten lines long was the item that recorded the successful towing of Willy Farner and 110 pounds of mail through the air over the Alps from Zurich to Milan. Yet it may mark another stage in the evolution of aerial transportation.

Farner, a famous pilot of motorless gliders, was cast off by the towing airplane and coasted to the air field at Milan in ten minutes.

Visions are conjured up of trains hauled through the atmosphere by power "locomotives.' Philadelphia looms into view, and the last car is cut loose to glide with its passengers and mail to the airport below while the rest of the train roars on. At Wilmington and Baltimore other cars descend.

Thus it is conceivable that an air-train may start from New York with ten cars and arrive at Key West with but one—namely, the "locomotive," which has covered the whole distance without a stop.—New York Times.

The giant airship Macon, sister ship of the Akron, is nearly ready for the christening ceremony which will be held on March 11. Naval officials plan to give the huge ship its first test flight about a week later.

New York Farmer Has Mass Egg-Production Scheme

Buffalo.—L. A. Hazard, a farmer living near North Evans, claims to have found the secret of intensive egg production. He says that he frequently gets two eggs a day from a hen and that he has reduced the cost of operating his plant to about 8 cents a dozen eggs. His method is to confine each hen by itself in a small cage, about 16 inches deep by 12 inches wide. The hen is provided with ample food and water, but is never released

All the energy which the fowl generates is devoted to egg-laying. The hen is kept from exposure to any of the numerous contagious diseases of fowls and from the fatal quarrels common to hen yards. As no exercise is permitted, the fowl never toughens its muscles, and even as an old hen still provides tender meat for the pot when it no longer is profitable as a layer of eggs.

"Back-to-the-Soil" Movement Fills Georgia Farmhouses

Valdosta, Ga.—The migration of city people to the soil has been in such numbers that not a habitable farmhouse in the Valdosta area is vacant. Every building fit for dwelling shelters a family. Many have no means of financing a crop or even feeding themselves until harvest, but they express confidence of eking out a better living than in the cities.

In numerous instances migrators moved into vacant houses without even troubling to find out who owned them. Once domiciled, they set about to drive a bargain with the landlord.

Britain Raises Duties

London.—Alterations in the customs tariff made by a recent Treasury order include import duties of four shillings and sixpence a square yard on hand-made carpets, rugs and mats; and ninepence a square yard or 20 per cent. ad valorem, whichever is the greater, on machine-made rugs and mats.

A duty of ten shillings and sixpence a hundredweight will be levied on dried apples, pears, peaches and nectarines, and a 10 per cent. ad valorem duty will be laid against dates. A 33 1-3 per cent. ad valorem duty on iron and steel wire; a £3 a ton or 20 per cent. ad valorem, whichever is the greater, on iron, steel, wire and nails; £8 a ton on galvanized hexagonal wire netting and 33 1-3 per cent. ad valorem on other kinds is also included. The new schedule will operate Feb. 28. The Treasury order exempts from customs duty chargeable under the Import Duties Act bismuth metal.

French Coal Production Drops

Paris.—Coal production in France in 1932 dropped from 51,060,792 metric tons the previous year to 47,257,575 metric tons, according to statistics just issued. The number of workers employed by the coal industry dropped correspondingly from 275,356 in Decemb , 1931, to 254,533 in December, 1932. The production of metallurgical cake was likewise reduced from 4,525,181 tons to 3,325,881 tons. On the other hand, the production of briquettes was 5,442,632 tons in 1932 compared to 5,003,147 tons the year before.

In the Garden

-Gordon Lindsay Smith-

Article No. 2

In the Old Country a vegetable calendar, like the one hung on the wall, includes every month in the year. In other words, the man across the Atlantic expects a continuous supply from his vegetable patch. How different is the case here, where the average man is content if he can have new potatoes ready by early July, and corn and tomatoes by the middle of August. There is nothing much expected before the end of June, nor after mid-September; that is, if we except some potatoes and, possibly a pumpkin or two put away for winter use.

But while we are not favoured with a very long growing season, it is true, we have compensation in hotter sunshine and longer hours of daylight, which permit us to grow many things that Britain, for instance, must import, and if we take full advantage of the long lists of vegetables we can grow, our calendar might be extended almost the year round. In the winter, besides enjoying our own cabbage, potatoes, turnips and similar hardy things from the cellar, we may have fresh rhubarb and mushrooms growing in the same place.

If we possess a hot bed or bit of a greenhouse we may have lettuce, cress and radish ready for the table in March. Asparagus, rhubarb, perennial onions and parsnips come along the first thing in the spring and these are followed by lettuce, radish, spinach and similar things which are ready for use from three to six weeks after planting. Fifty days after sowing, the earliest peas are ready and by using an early, medium and late peo, or successional plantings, we may continue using them for weeks. The first thinning of beets make excellent greens and are taken out six weeks after sowing. Baby carrots are delicious and are ready about the same time. By making several sowings and using early, as well as late, types, we spread the supply of fresh vegetables over the entire growing season. Late white corn will remain in perfect condition for several weeks after frost if we cut stalks and all and store, and tomatoes will continue to ripen until Christmas if vines are pulled and hung up in the cellar. By handling the well-known vegetables in this fashion, and by gradually extending our list of new things until we have tried everything offered in the seed catalogue, we can develop our vegetable garden to its full possibilities.

General Lay-outs

Though we exercise our ingenuity or architectural skill and our pocket books to the utmost, a house without growing things aout it is but half complete. Something is needed to soften the harsh lines and to tie the whole affair down to Mother Earth. To do this the gardener uses a variety of material, grass, flower beds, vines, shrubbery and trees. The general theory is the same in all cases, but the effects are individual. If the property is our own we will use permanent things in the way of creepers and shrubbery, but if we simply are a tenant and expect to move in the near future, we may depend upon annuals entirely and make a fairly good job of it, because under this heading we have vines which will grow from ten to fifteen feet in a single season and tall plants, such as Cosmos, Mexican Sunflower and Castor Beans, that will serve excellently in place of perennial shrubs. Even in the case of a property owner, it is a good thing to work in plenty of annuals during the first few years, while the other plants are getting established.

Avoid formality because only the most expert can handle straight lines with any chance of success, and often he makes a mess of it. Irregularly shaped main borders, with clumps of one variety and color, and the small stuff generally in front, is the simplest and most effective way of handling the flowers. Against the house one can use any of the clinging vines, while semi-clinging things like the Rambling Rose, Dutchman's Pipe and narrow California Cedars close to the wall are effective.

Doctor Gets Two Dozen Eggs For Assisting at Baby's Birth

Toledo, Ohio.—More than one baby in this city has gone off the gold standard, and the business of giving birth to children bids fair to go back on a barter basis. This development in the economics of Toledo's birth rate last week was brought forcibly to the attention of one physician who received two dozen eggs in payment for his services in assisting at the birth of a child.

The physician's experience in that instance is typical of many others recorded by professional men here. Proverbially the last to be paid for their services, many physicians and dentists are treating more patients now than they did three years ago. But they find when they send out their statements that the cash customers are even slower to meet bills today than in prosperous time.

Says 2-Cents Tablet Will Make Gallon of Perfect Motor Fuel

Paris.—Invention of a tablet which dissolved in water will produce a perfect fuel for internal-combustion motors, replacing gasoline, is claimed by a Russian inventor, Professor Jdarloff, formerly of the Imperial College of Sciences, Petrograd.

Professor Jdardloff states that this doughnut-shaped tablet, composed entirely of vegetable matter, costs less than 2 cents and is sufficient to turn one gallon of water into a practical carburant. He claims the new fuel possesses the same qualities as high-test gasoline.

Professor Jdarloff lives in two rooms adjoining his laboratory in a suburb of Paris, where a motor was seen running with his fuel. He states he is not seeking financial aid, as his product is being investigated by the French Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of War.

France Leads World In Air Strength Britain is Fifth

Washington.—The United States is ranked second to France in military air strength, in figures supplied the House Appropriations Committee by the navy.

The planes listed by the navy as of July 1, 1932, were:

France, 3244; United States, 3014; Japan, 2822; Italy, 2688, and Great Britain, 1900.

Because most of the air strength of Great Britain, France and Italy is pooled under a separate air force, comparisons between army plane numbers and navy plane numbers were not available for the five powers.

London Professor Divides Marriages into Four Classes

London.—Professor E. S. Waterhouse of London University, speaking at Christ Church, divided married people into four quarters, with the following reactions:

"One quarter is ideally happy; a second quarter is more happy than unhappy; a third quarter is more unhappy than happy; and the fourth quarter is absolutely miserable."

Men he divided into three types: those who wanted to be cave men; those who wanted to be chum men, and those who wanted to be cradle or children men.

Britain May Convert Coal Mines Into Oil

Manchester, Eng. — Converting whole seams of coal into oil beneath the earth was visualized as a future means of obtaining fuel in Great Britain by Mr. W. H. Moorfield, in his presidential address to the Manchester Coal Exchange here.

"Hot hydrogen pumped down into a pit under high pressure would convert the coal into oil, which could then be brought to the surface, he claimed.

Smart Man

Ambidextrous Japan writes "O.K." with one hand while adminstering a "K.O." with the other. — Louisville Times.

Doing Nicely After Assassin's Attack

Mrs. Helen Cermak Kinlay, daughter of Chicago'ss mayor who flew to her father's bedside after the Miama shooting, calls on Miss Margaret Kruis, who also stopped a bullet.