Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Jig-Saw Puzzles

Just why jig-saw puzzles should be so popular at present is hard to say. They have been in existence for years in the Anglo-Saxon world, and have been used by the Chinese for thousands of years. But they were considered chiefly a pastime for children and invalids until the last few months. Apparently they were revived just at the psychological moment, supplying an actual need. The majority of people nowadays have consderable time on their hands. It seems likely that the conditions which made the jig-saw flourish will continue for some considerable time. So while the craze may not maintain its present intensity for more than a few months, there will be a continuing demand for new puzzles which will reduce unemployment and add to the happiness of thousands.—London Free Press.

Radio and the News

Many people appear to think that the radio has news of its own. It hasn't. All the news that radio broadcasts has been gathered by newspapers, is in newspaper offices or newspapers before the radio broadcasts it. In most cases it is news given to the radio by the newspapers. —Ottawa Journal.

Bit Hard on Pedestrians

If you're verging on a nervous breakdown—go out and buy a car—an old car will do—and you'll be cured!

We ran into a friend downtown the other day who looked so radiantly well we immediately demanded, "Have you just got back from a Mediterranean cruise or something?"

"My dear," she replied, "I haven't been farther than Port Credit, but I've never felt better in my life.

"Two months ago," she continued, "I was just about a nervous wreck—couldn't sleep and all that sort of thing—n fact, I felt just about like one of those ads for patent medicines. So Fred hauled me to a doctor, and the doctor's advice to Fred was to buy me a car and let me learn to drive. He said something about concentration taking one's mind off one's self or something of that sort. So Fred ought me a second-hand car and here I am."

All of which may be excellent advice for the nervous, but it does sound a little hard on pedestrians.—Toronto Telegram.

Coming to Uncle Sam's Rescue

Great Britain is said to be ready to pay ten cents on the dollar in settlement of the war debt to the United States. She has evidently hearkened seriously to the current American folk song: "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?"—Toronto Saturday Night.

The Housewife's Thrill

It must be a dandy thrill for a woman, elbow deep in the family wash tub, to answer the postman's knock and receive a Valentine from her husband and then discover that while she has been out of the kitchen Junior has fallen out of his high chair and the beans have burned.—Hamilton Spectator.

Judge Bingham

Mr. Roosevelt has selected Judge Robert W. Bingham, publisher and editor of the Louisville Couirer-Journal, to be the new Ambassador to Britain. The world used to speak of Uncle Sam's "shirt-sleeves diplomacy." That will scarcely be the sort of diplomacy practised by this cultured Southerner, who is a lawyer, an editor, a publisher ,and a business man, who has a long list of academic titles after his name, has travelled widely, and belongs to some of London's most exclusive clubs.—Ottawa Journal.

Those Who Serve

It was interesting to read the other day that the Great Western Railway of England lost a crack express train in a blizzard—lost it when the train got stuck in snowdrifts on its way to London in one of the worst winter storms England has known for years.

Even more interesting, though, was the news of what the passengers on the train did when it finally got to London. The news dispatches relate that "passengers rushed forward to the locomotive and congratulated the engineer for getting them through. One woman kissed him."

This, to be sure, was no more than fair. But it is the sort of thing that seldom happens to railroad engineers, or to any other of those skilled technicians on whose devotion, endurance and ability the lives of travellers depend. It ought to happen often, but it doesn't.

Probably there is not a reader of this newspaper who has not at some time made a trip by train, by steamer, by bus or by airplane at a time when the elements were actively hostile. But is there one reader who went out of his way, after it was over, to shake the hand of the engineer—or the captain, the driver or the pilot—and to thank him for getting him through safely? —Kitchener Daily Record.

THE EMPIRE

Britain's Stand

The choice for this country at the World Conference is not between High Protection and Free Trade. There is a broad intermediate ground, and on that we stand now and mean to go on standing.—London Daily Telegraph.

The Scientific Use of Coal

In few things is this country more wasteful than in its use of coal. Much industry, research, and ingenuity have been devoted to the quest of economical processes for the scientific utilization of coal. A variety has been discovered, and some of them have been applied on a limited scale. But there have been snags and difficulties innumerable. It is one thing to conduct a successful experiment in a laboratory: another to float a process as an industrial and commercial success. It is for the Government to put the matter to the test, and to act swiftly. One thing must be secured above all. It is that coal treatment shall be regarded not as a separate industry but as part of mining, and its benefits shared with the miners who have borne adversity so long and so patiently.—London Daily Herald.

Gold Prices and Sterling

South Africa's departure from the gold standard seems likely to have far wider consequences than the mere immediate benefits to this country, and may yet be the deciding factor in the battle for the command of world prices that has been going on since September, 1931, between the sterling bloc and the countries remaining on the old gold basis. It means that the Witwatersrand, the producer of the bulk of the world's raw gold, is now demanding a higher price for its product —a price more in keeping with the world commodity values. In other words, our gold producers, when released by the Union's departure from the gold standard from their obligation to sell their product to the South African Reserve Bank at a fixed price, showed the world that they considered that their gold had been selling too cheaply, and they immediately left a group paying about 84s. an ounce and joined a group paying about 122s. an ounce. The Transvaal Chamber of Mines appears to consider a victory for the sterling bloc a foregone conclusion, and to be banking on the old price of 84s. an ounce for gold never returning. — Johannesburg Sunday Times.

Road vs. Rail

Railway transport, in Malaya as well as at home and in other countries of the Empire, has cried "Wolf" rather more loudly than other transport systems. There has, in consequence, grown up a feeling as between railway and road transport that each is out to cut the other's throat in catering for transport requirements. The railways take the view that the road services are unpleasant competitors who, if they cannot be displaced, must at all events be handicapped, while the road transport operator would probably like to select the cream of the traffic without restrictions and responsibility. It is for the Government to hold the balance equitably between the two.—Singapore Fress Press.

THE UNITED STATES

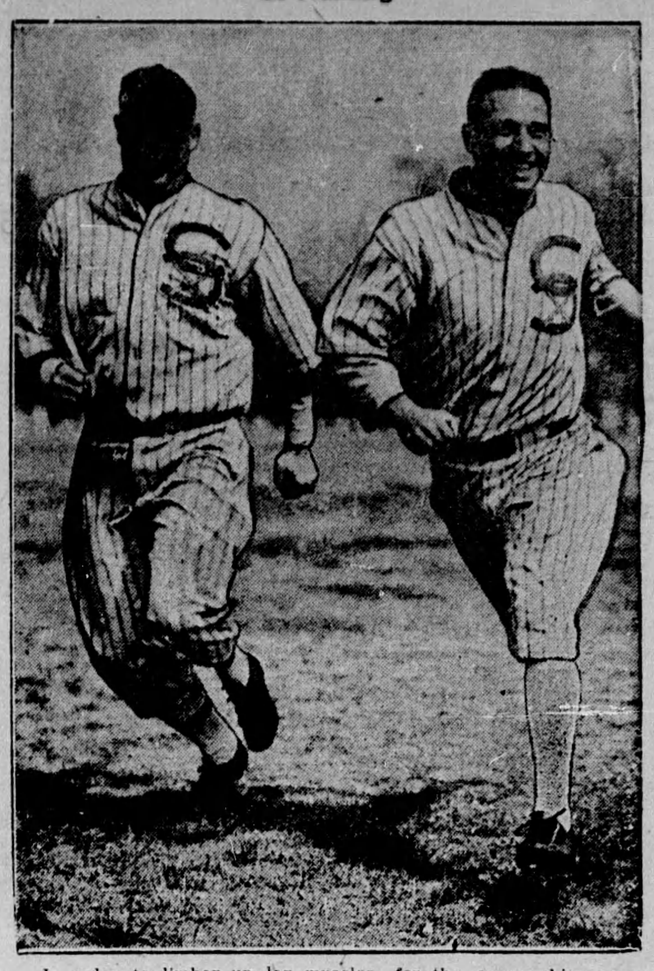
Doing Their Bit

Two persons intentionally paid the State of New York greater sums in income taxes last year than the law required; one, a retired professor, waived his personal exemption from taxes on a part of his income, and the other, an executive in a transportation company, forebore to write off $25,000 of losses sustained in sales of securities. Neither is named, but both are cited as fine examples of public spirit. These men deserve public gratitude. They acted as a gnerous regard for the welfare of their fellows dictated. Their sacrifice is acceptable at a time when sacrifice is difficult and when the State finds it more difficult than in living memory to obtain the revenue that it requires. Their example may be recommended to others who can make similar sacrifice without passing it on to their own dependents. —Brooklyn Eagle.

Mr. Roosevelt's Task

Only one other President in the histoyr of the Republic has taken office at a time when it was evident that the course of his administration was to be beset from the very start with such dangers and such crucial problems as face Franklin Delano Roosevelt. That other President was, of course, Abraham Lincoln. To-day there are fears expressed in conservative circles, as there were in the early sixties, that the new leadership will bring the nation into untried and dangerous paths, but that complaint has few terrors for a people which finds itself bogged down in a morass of difficulties deeper, as it believes, than any in all its past experience. It is as clear to the Americans of to-day as it was to those of Lincoln's time, either that the old ways led to disaster or that their leaders have somewhere missed the road and they demand a guide under whose direction they can cut a new road back to safety and security.—Detroit News.

In Training



In order to limber up leg muscles for the approaching season Kimsey and Barry of the Chicago White Sox hot foot it around the diamond at their Pasadena training quarters.

Stream Flow in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario

Ottawa. — The Dominion Water Power and Hydrometric Bureau of the Dept. of the Interior reports that run-off in western and southern Manitoba continued substantially below normal during January, the flow of the Assiniboine at Headingley being about one-half the January mean whilst the flow of the Red river in the south of the province was only 10 per cent. of the mean and a new minimum was recorded. In northwestern Ontario run-off was about 17 per cent. above the mean for January. Throughout the area under consideration precipitation was above the average but occurred as snow which, owing to continuous frost, did not appear as run-off.

The mean regulated outflow from the Lake of the Woods during January was slightly greater than in December but the level of the lake rose about two inches during the month. The mean regulated outflow from Lac Seul was the same as during December and the level of the lake dropped about eighteen inches during the month. The mean flow of the Winnipeg river in Manitoba in the vicinity of the hydro-electric plants, was slightly higher than in December and provided ample water for power production.

SLEEP

There is no death but sleep. Where is the fear?
This is but sleep and rest. Art thou not tired?
Look up into my stars, my eyes.
There is no death!

* * * *

And the strong sun cried,
"Awake, for I am come again.
Life never dies, and after every night there is a dawn."
—Fielding Hall.

Sealing Skipper 77, Carries On

Sixty Years in Arctic Trade, Capt. A. Kean to Command Sealer

St. John's, N.F.—The name of Captain Abram Kean stands out boldly on a record of the sealing industry covering a period of sixty years. The veteran skipper- former Minister of Fisheries of Newfoundland, is preparing for his forty-third trip into the dangerous northern icefields, despite his seventy-seven years. He will command the veteran sealer Terra Nova.

According to the record, he has brought in 947,719 seals during his long and active career. There is not another skipper in the fleet with figures worthy of comparison, but sealing skippers come from sealing families and some of the family records are interesting.

For instance, eight Captains Kean have brought in 1,914,072 seals in sixty years; eight Captains Barbour, 1,463,847; ten Captains Bartlett, 892,-902; seven Captains Dawe, 878,893; four Captains Jackman, 716,714; four Captains Blandford, 803,050; four Captains Winsor, 947,495; three Captains Knee, 620,589.

Rooster Dies of Grief

A Japanese rooster that died recently in Hayward, Calif., is reported to have grieved himself to death because a malady had caused him to lose his remarkable vocal powers. The rooster, Tokyo by name, had previously been able to maintain a single crowing note over thirty seconds.—Detroit News.

Old inner tubes of automobile tires are being made into waterproof covers for horses and mules in Guatemala.

British Welcome Tomato Juice Habit

Canadian Product Selling Well After Industries Fair—Records Eclipsed

Ottawa. — "Summarizing Canadian participation in the British Industries Fair this year, the Canadian trade commissioners consider all previous records eclipsed from a viewpoint of volume of business transacted and prospective business in sight." This was the gist of a cable received by the Hon. H. H. Stevens, Minister of Trade and Commerce, setting forth in detail the important results accruing to Canadian industry as a result of the part taken by the Dominion in the great exhibition just closed.

The British Industries Fair was held simultaneously at London and Birmingham, and covered a two-week period.

"The Canadian section of the fair at London,' reads the cable, "was generally considered to be one of the fair's most attractive features." The most noteworthy result of this year's fair was the volume of continental European business done by Canadian firms, together with a satisfactory increase in United Kingdom business.

"At the London section Canadian canning firms were entirely cleared out of all English stocks with a heavy influx of orders. Many new accounts have been opened by these firms. Considerable trade interest was aroused by Canadian canned peaches and asparagus in competition with Californian article.

"Canadian tomato juice, which is still comparatively little known in Great Britain, was sold in considerable quantities, while good orders were received for this commodity from France."

Nova Scotia's New Game Preserve

Ottawa.—Tobeakit park, including portions of Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens counties in Nova Scotia, has been set apart by the provincial government as a permanent game sanctuary where all hunting, shooting, and trapping are strictly forbidden. This is one of the haunts of the moose and it is confidently expected that the protection so afforded these lordly denizens of the forest will result in greatly increased numbers, not only within the park, but in the whole interior of the western peninsula of the province. This area is justly famed as one of the finest sportsman's countries in North America. Some of the finest trout fishing in the world is found in this locality, and permits for fishing within the park may be obtained from the Forest Ranger, provided the applicants are accompanied by licensed guides. This park is shown on the provisional edition of the Rossignol map sheet just published by the Topographical Survey, Dept. of the Interior, Ottawa.

Progress of Canada's Farming Indians

Ottawa.—Data compiled for the recently issued annual report of the Dept. of Indian Affairs shows that in the year 1931-32 progress was maintained in husbandry on the different reserves throughout the Prairie Provinces of Canada. During that fiscal year there were 2,425 farming Indians who had under cultivation 114,-235 acres of land. Of this 73,421 acres were under crop; the growing of roots and tubers and the cultivation of gardens accounted for 1,447 acres; summer-fallowing aggregated 36,213 acres, and new land broken totalled 3,154 acres.

The Dominion Coast-to-Coast

Halifax, N.S.—When the Provincial Dairymen's Association was organized in 1913, there were 13 creameries in the Province of Nova Scotia, six cheese factories and one making both butter and cheese. The total output of creamery butter was 709,012 pounds. Cream was supplied by 1,587 farmers, and the total value of the business was $214, 588. In 1932 there were 30 creameries in operation, producing 5,968,600 pounds of butter, with more than 13,000 farmers supplying the cream. The total value of this business was approximately $2,750,000.

Fredericton, N.B.—The Province of New Brunswick may shortly enter competitions as a grower of prize wheat. At the recent annual meeting of the New Brunswick Farmers' and Dairymen's Association in Fredericton, Mr. E. M. Taylor, Dept. of Agriculture, stated he had wheat grown in the province that weighed 65¼ pounds to the bushel. The best sample at the Chicago International weighed only two pounds more, he explained, while that which took second prize was only a fraction better than his wheat.

Montreal, Que.—According to an announcement by the Montreal Tourist and Convention Bureau, leading business men of Montreal are considering the establishment of permanent exhibition grounds in or near the city, on the lines of the Toronto Exhibition, to form a "shop window of Eastern Canada." Art, industry, manufacture, agriculture and natural resources are expected to come into the development program, which is primarily for the purpose of continuing the growth of the tourist business and the bringing of more and larger conventions to Montreal.

Toronto, Ont. — New industrial plants opened or announced in Canada during 1932 totalled 206, according to The Financial Post Business Year Book, which also reports 19 important plant extensions and 29 new industrial connections made during the year by existing corporations in Canada. Analyzed by country of origin, of the 206 new plants 106 came from the United States, five from Great Britain and five from other countries, the remainder being of Canadian origin.

Brandon, Man.—Fifty years of community service were celebrated at the recent annual meeting of the Brandon Board of Trade, when a representative gathering listened to addresses on past progress and future prospects. It was pointed out that during the past two years the Brandon Board of Trade had widened its scope by taking in four organizations—the Brandon Tourist and Convention Association, the Brandon Branch of the Industrial Development Board of Manitoba, the Western Manitoba Boards of Trade and Communities and the Retail Merchants' Association of the area.

Edmonton, Alta.—The distinction of operating the largest of the 25 flying clubs in Canada goes to Edmonton, Alberta. At the recent annual meeting it was shown that in 1932 a total of 24 private pilots' licenses and five commercial licences were won by members, which was one-twelfth of all the licences issued in the Dominion to similar clubs during the year. A total of 800 flying hours was made during the year by pupils at the Edmonton club.

Usefulness of Wasp Explained by Speaker

Montreal.—Citizens should shed their prejudices against the wasp on account of his sting and think of the good he does, according to Philip J. Croft, who addressed the Electrical Club of Montreal here recently.

He depicted a little yellow insect as a great friend of horticulturists, destroying millions of insects in the course of a summer. When the cold weather comes the working wasp dies but the queen survives through the winter and proceeds to have a progeny of approximately 25,000, consisting mainly of workers.

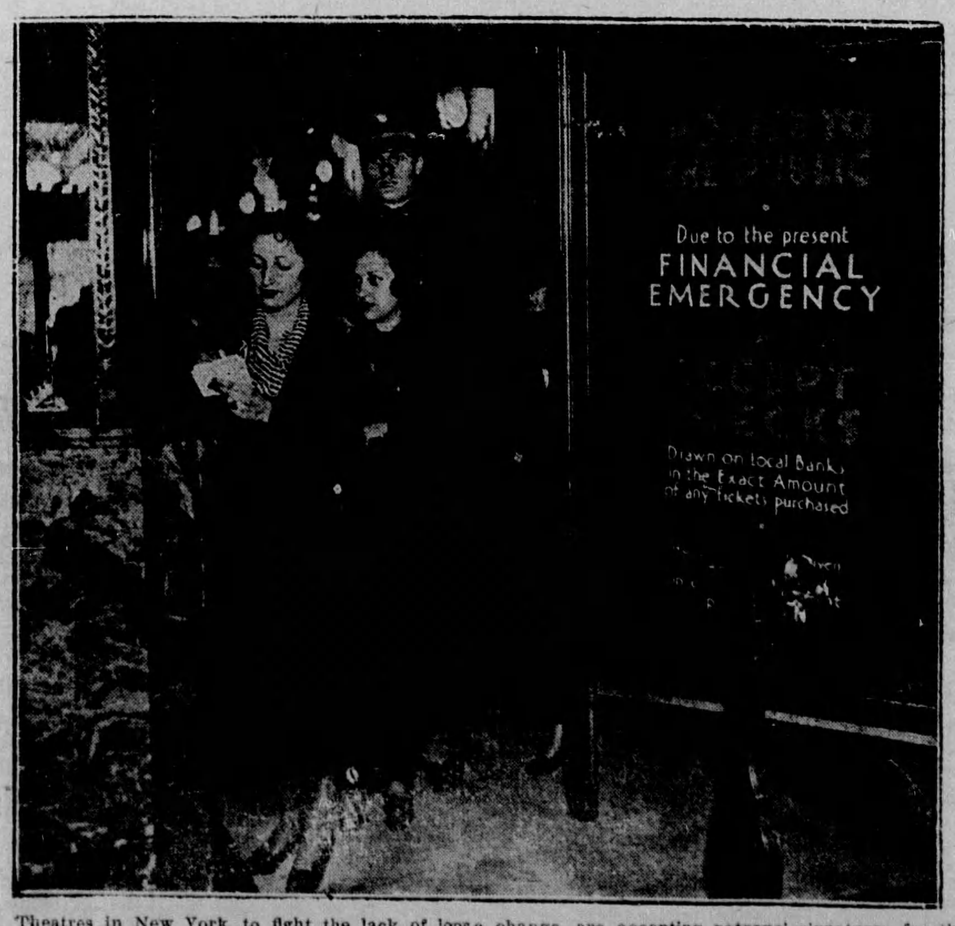
Insects preying on insects are the best aid to the gardener in ridding his land of pests, Mr. Croft continued. Only an absurdly small number are destroyed by means of spraying and while the birds help to keep them down their work is nothing compared to the control exercised by the insects upon each other. The struggle for existence among the millions of different species, Mr. Croft declared, is indeed difficult for the human mind to grasp. The green fly which may produce 600 egg-laying females falls a victim to the lady bug and the latter in turn has her enemies.

"A burglar got into my house about three o'clock this morning—just before I came home from the club."

"Did he get anything?"

"You bet! He's in the hospital. My wife thought it was I."

Anything For Business



Theatres in New York, to fight the lack of loose change, are accepting patrons' signatures for the necessary amount. Here we see some matinee-goers taking advantage of the credit system.