Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Politeness

Politeness is like the air in a tire: it costs nothing, but makes things run much more smoothly.—Ottawa Journal.

An Anchor on the Heart

In the 85th race of their series, on the Thames River, Cambridge made a new record by taking its tenth straight victory over Oxford, its ancient rival, which had not recorded a win since 1923.

This classic battle of the Blues—the oldest of all British intervarsity clashes—has been described as an anchor in the heart of the British people, and the wide appeal which this 20-minute event makes has always been considered remarkable.

The historic race draws hundreds of thousands of onlookers to the scene of the contest every year, demonstrating not only the Briton's interest in clean, manly sport, but his inherent love for boats and the water.—Sudbury Star.

Britain Points the Way

Britain has improved her position to a gratifying degree since the fall of 1931 when higher taxes and drastic reductions in expenditures had to be adopted by the National government to set John Bull's house in order to maintain credit abroad. Now there is a much rosier picture. According to statements made by Neville Chamberlain, chancellor of the exchequer, John Bull's credit is so fully restored that the government is almost embarrassed by the amount of foreign money brought to London by people who feel it to be a safer place than whence it came. Another bright spot is that Great Britain, after having slipped back to the position of third exporting country, has regained the first position.—Kitchener Daily Record.

Dreams of 1928-29

An economist says that we were all living in a dream during 1928-29. Ah, yes, the good old daze.—Toronto Saturday Night.

Air-Mindedness

One of the amazing things about air travel—still really only in its infancy—is not that there are the occasional crashes with fatal results, but that they have not been very much more frequent. Aerial travel on this continent, particularly in the United States, is taken just as much for granted as it is in Europe, which for several years has maintained an extensive network of lines. Airmen and aircraft manufacturers have indeed established a fine reputation. Bad accidents are few and far between.—Victoria Times.

The Drama in Canada

If the Dominion Drama Festival organized under the auspices of His Excellency the Earl of Bessborough rouses interest as keen and as widespread in the other provinces as it has in British Columbia, there will be no doubt of its success. Toward the end of April the winning teams from all the provinces will meet at Ottawa. From the three western provinces will go a Shaw play and a Barrie play. The British Columbia team will present the Eden scene from Bernard Shaw's "Back to Methuselah," while Barrie's "Twelve Pound Look" will be presented by teams from Medicine Hat and Saskatoon, the winners, respectively, in Alberta and Saskatchewan.—Vancouver Province.

Spanish Women Given Vote

Next month the women of Spain will vote in the municipal elections throughout the Peninsula for the first time in history. This is a decided victory for the feminist movement, and is not unlikely to have its repercussions elsewhere on the Continent.—Montreal Star.

Good Sense

Elliott Roosevelt has shown himself to be a young man of good sense and considerable delicacy of feeling—to say nothing of proper self-respect—by cutting loose from Washington and New York and heading for the far west to establish himself on a cattle ranch. The President's son had been an advertising man in New York. But he found it almost impossible to solicit business which did not have some connection with Washington. He was offered a host of new jobs, but in almost every case his would-be employer quietly assumed that he would serve as a close-to-the-throne lobbyist at the American Capital. So he decided to go west, to the ranges, where the fact that his father is President will make no difference to anyone. — Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

Recipe For Rest

One commendable way of taking a rest is to refrain from attending to other people's business. — Atchison Globe.

THE EMPIRE

Imports of Snake Skins

Snakeskin shoes, so popular to-day, have created a record in the import of this material. Last year South America provided 4,000,000 skins, Africa 2,000,000 and India 1,250,000.—London Advertiser.

The Permanent Pilgrims

There was a time when the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Foreign Secretary went abroad that the earth echoed with the reverberations of their tread. To-day they move between London and Geneva like season ticket-holders on the Underground.—London Daily Express.

India's Nationhood

If India is to enjoy the benefits of full and equal membership in the Commonwealth of Nations, the outside world must have visible proof of political stability and competence in the infant Indian naton which is to be born, not only out of an unprecedented adventure in constitution-making, but from the loosening of its present intimate association with the greatest Power in the world. The proof can be helped by the display of a real sense of values intelligible to other countries. It is not helped by the unequal interest taken by non-official members of the Central Legislature in their own as distinct from the alien Government's proposals, and still less by other conspicuous displays of the moment.—Calcutta Statesman.

The Silver Lining

("Have you ever thought that although every type of luxury and labor-saving device is available in our homes, our houses lack the comfort of those of Victorian days?"—Sir Mark Webster Jenkinson.) There is something to be said for a draughty palace against a warm hutch, something to be said for the comradeship of large families, something to be said for very square meals—sirloins and ginger puddings—for grand pianos, for four-posters, for thick carpets, and for plenty of head-room and elbow-room. And there is much to be said for the spirit which went with them, the feeling of security and comfortable future. Our age is one of flats and small houses, of most of the comfortable discomforts described by Sir Mark Jenkinson, and we live in a most Georgian discomfort of mind. But when the last thunder has rumbled, the last shower finished, and we come into a cool, clear world again, we will build houses for ourselves of a comfort and convenience of which Sir Mark's Victorians never dreamt. — Leeds Yorkshire Post.

Home Making

"Healthy domesticity," said Sir George Newman, addressing the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds, "is one of the essentials of a healthy nation." This is a truism, but to utter it calls for courage. The word is unpopular. It smacks too much of an age and conditions from which the modern woman is glad to have escaped. A reputation for "domesticity" is not an object of ambition in high schools, secondary schools, or elementary schools. It rouses a spirit of antagonism in the emancipated and sets them bridling. Sir George Newman, therefore, was greatly daring when he pleaded for "making homes instead of shutting them down and living in restaurants."—London Daily Telegraph.

THE UNITED STATES

The Standard of Life

Supposing that Mr. Average Citizen drives an average car, his costs are just over 6½ cents a mile. And because he owns his own car and to get the most out of his investment must use it considerably, he succeeds in travelling upwards of 7,000 miles every year. Railway travel for the generation just preceding the "motor age" cost three cents a mile, and was a luxury for the average individual to be indulged only at long intervals. How striking is the contrast that even in these confused, perplexed, so-called depression times, millions of our people travel an average of 7,000 miles annually at a cost of more than six cents a mile.—Detroit News.

A New Deal For the Workers

No matter how fair employers wish to be, there are always some who will take advantage of times such as these to lower unnecessarily the standards of labor, thereby subjecting them to unfair competition. Many women particularly are not unionized, and even unions have temporarily lowered their standards in order to keep their people at work. If you face starvation, it is better to accept almost anything than to feel that you and your children are going to be evicted from the last and the cheapest rooms which you may have been able to find, and that there will be no food. Cut after cut has been accepted by workers in their wages, they have shared their work by accepting fewer days a week in order that others might be kept on a few days also, until many of them have fallen far below what I would consider the normal and proper standard for healthful living. If the future of our country is to be safe and the next generation is to grow up into healthy and good citizens, it is absolutely necessary to protect the health of our workers now and at all times.—Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt in Scribner's Magazine (New York).

Humanity is infinite; it is only man's power of interpreting man that is finite.

Two Heavyweights on the Air

When Kate Smith turned up at the studio in New York for the first time since her operation for blood poisoning, Jack Dempsey assisted at the wheel chair.

Britain Offers Lead In Air Disarmament

Air Estimates Show Reduction of £340,000 — To Limit Size of Military Aircraft

London.—The Marquess of Londonderry, Secretary for Air, in a memorandum accompanying the Air Estimates, emphasises the whole-hearted desire of the Government to promote Disarmament, and to bring about a reduction in the world's air forces on an equitable basis.

An actual reduction of nearly £340,000 is shown in the Air Estimates.

Lord Londonderry states that the practical and immediate proposals put forward for a general reduction in the size of the leading air forces to the British level, and thereafter, for an all-round further reduction by one-third, and for a limitation in the size of military aircraft would, if accepted, produce substantial economies in expenditures on air armaments, and, more important still, would avert the danger of their competitive development.

"The modest Home Defence program," the Secretary for Air adds, "is held in suspense for another year, a decision which is a further earnest of the wholehearted desire of his Majesty's Government to promote Disarmament and to bring about a reduction in the world's air forces on an equitable basis.

"In the meantime the Royal Air Force remains at a figure of strength substantially less than that of other great nations, despite the rapidly growing importance of air power to the British Empire, with its far-flung responsibilities."

It appears that Lord Londonderry is hoping that a call for parity in air armaments will be made in the intervals between the production of new proposals for the abolition of military aircraft and the international control of civil aviation.

At the present moment there is a very real risk that the weak position of the British air force relative to the air forces of other countries shall be forgotten in the anxiety to produce a method of further disarmament. It comes fifth in order of size.

Mechanical Shovel Scoops 11 Tons at One Dip

London. — A giant mechanical shovel that will remove eleven tons of earth at one dip is being constructed for use on the iron-ore beds which are now under development in orthamptonshire.

In order to penetrate the fifty feet of earth, clay and limestone which covers the iron ore it was found necessary to produce something of immense size and power, and the mechanism, which is to be operated by electricity, will weigh about 500 tons, the revolving superstructure accounting for 400 tons.

British Offer Rail Cruses

London.—The Great Western Railway has arranged to run an extended program of railway "cruises" during the summer. These land cruises are a combination of first class railway travel and a de luxe motorcoach, with meals and accommodation at first class hotels, at cheap rates. The railway operates over one of the most attractive sections of England.

British Ban on Russia Will Aid Canadian Lumber Recovery

Ottawa.—The Dominion Government is highly pleased over the prospect of the stimulus to the depressed Canadian lumber trade which is promised in the impending imposition of Great Brtain's embargo on trade with Soviet Russia. It will be recalled that at the Imperial Conference last summer Canada led the way in demand that an effective preference should be given to Canadian lumber as well as against the admission of the Soviet product. What was finally adopted was not a ban on British imports from Russia, although certain rights to impose it were taken. Immediately afterwards, enormous British orders were placed in Russia.

The significance of the present news consists in private advices that the legislation granting power to put an embargo on Soviet imports is to be passed and receive the Royal Assent almost immediately so that it will become effective on April 17, when Britain's six months' notice expires of the denunciation of the trade treaty between the two countries. The Dominion Government consequently has every reason to hope that Canadian lumber will immediately replace the huge quantities bought from the Soviet.

380 Public Schools Closed in Georgia

Atlanta, Ga.—With no funds to carry on, 380 public schools throughout the State have been locked up, Mr. M. D. Collins, state school superintendent, has announced. He added that there are probably 100 more schools that have closed before the end of their terms, on which no official report has yet been received.

"It appears that common school education is doomed," Mr. Collins asserted, "not only in Georgia, but everywhere, unless adequate revenue to maintain the schools is provided. As I see it, common school education is primarily the State's function, but the fact is that the schools now are supported largely by revenue raised in the local subdivisions."

Added to the deficiency fo revenue for schools is the uncertainty as to what the income will be, Mr. Collins asserted, and said that the State was $3,122,317 behind in unpaid school appropriations, some of which has been past due since 1928. Georgia spent a little more than $7,000,000 on its department of education in 1932, and $780,000 of this was appropriated during former years.

Wheat Price in France Hits Its Lowest Level

Paris.—Wheat prices in France touched the lowest level in years on April 6, being quoted at 92 francs a quintal, or slightly under $1 a bushel. The price represented a drop of 20 cents in the last month.

In an effort temporarily to appease irate farmers, the Government presented a demand to the Chamber of Deputies for a special fund of 20,000,000 francs (about $800,000) to be distributed as bonuses and to encourage the use of inferior wheat as cattle-feed.

Denmark Title Confirmed to Eastern Greenland

The Hague.—The permanent Court of International Justice last week confirmed Denmark's title to Eastern Greenland, over which the Copenhagen Government has been in controversy with Norway.

The decision disallowed Norway's claim to "Eric the Red" land, a strip about 350 miles long on the Greenland coast between 71.33 north and 76.40. A Norwegian expedition landed on this territory in 1931, and the Norwegians contended Denmark never had confirmed ownership by colonization.

Set Police Efficiency Mark

Sydney.—Detectives in New South Wales claim a world's record for efficiency. Last year 15,854 crimes were reported and of these 11,35, or 69 per cent., were solved. Also 89 per cent. of stolen property was recovered.

Traffic Safety In United States Shows Gain

Massachusetts Is Victor in National Contest Showing Progress

Chicago.—The safety movement has at last caught up with traffic hazards caused by the advent of the automobile, thanks to the 1932 national traffic safety contest, results of which have just been announced by the National Safety Council here. These results show that during 1932 there occurred the first reduction in traffic fatalities since the coming of the automobile, as well as a substantial drop in non-fatal mishaps.

They also show that the neighboring city of Evanston, Ill., and Pittsburgh, Penna., made the greatest progress in all phases of traffic safety during 1932 and hence were entitled to share the honor of first place in the contest while Massachusetts took first place among the states. Minnesota and New Jersey tied for second place.

Seven different points were taken into consideration in deciding the winners. Actual declines in mishaps, safety education, traffic engineering, law enforcement, all counted.

For the country as a whole, it is reported that traffic fatalities were reduced from 33,740 in 1931 to approximately 29,500 in 1932, while non-fatal mishaps dropped from 1,000,000 in 1930 to approximately 50,000 in 1932.

Last year's contest was the first of its kind ever held, and the safety council believes that undoubtedly this contest had an important part in the noticeable improvement in traffic safety. early 450 municipalities were entered in the contest, which is being repeated this year.

British Officers Brave Desert Heat

Use Motor Cars on 6,000-Mile Journey — Special Compass Used

Cairo, Egypt.—Three-quarters of a century after Henry M. Stanley, pioneer explorer, worked his way through darkest Africa in a year, a cavalcade of British Army officers, in automobiles, explored 6,000 miles of unknown desert land in Northern Africa, making the trip in two months.

The exploring party, known as the Bagnold Expedition, headed by Major R. A. Bagnold, and Dr. K. S. Sanford of Oxford University, was sent on an archeological trip to find traces of ancient man.

Four cars were used in the start from here. Equipped wth special tires and apparatus, the cars encountered the hardest types of driving. The route led through the Oweinat and Ennedi hills, Queinal, Tekro, Nahroum, Selima, Wadi Halfa, Dakhal, Bahia and the Fayoum Oases.

Climatic conditions were unfavorable for the automobiles, as great extremes in temperature were encountered throughout the trip.

In the Sudan it was as hot as a blast furnace, and in the Sahara bitterly cold winds were encountered. In addition to those territorial climate changes, there were the marked differences in temperature in day and night.

Special Compass.

It was often necessary to pull the cars by ropes through the soft sand. Going through the sand was by no means easy, and the engines of the cars were taxed to their utmost in the long, hard grind across the desert land.

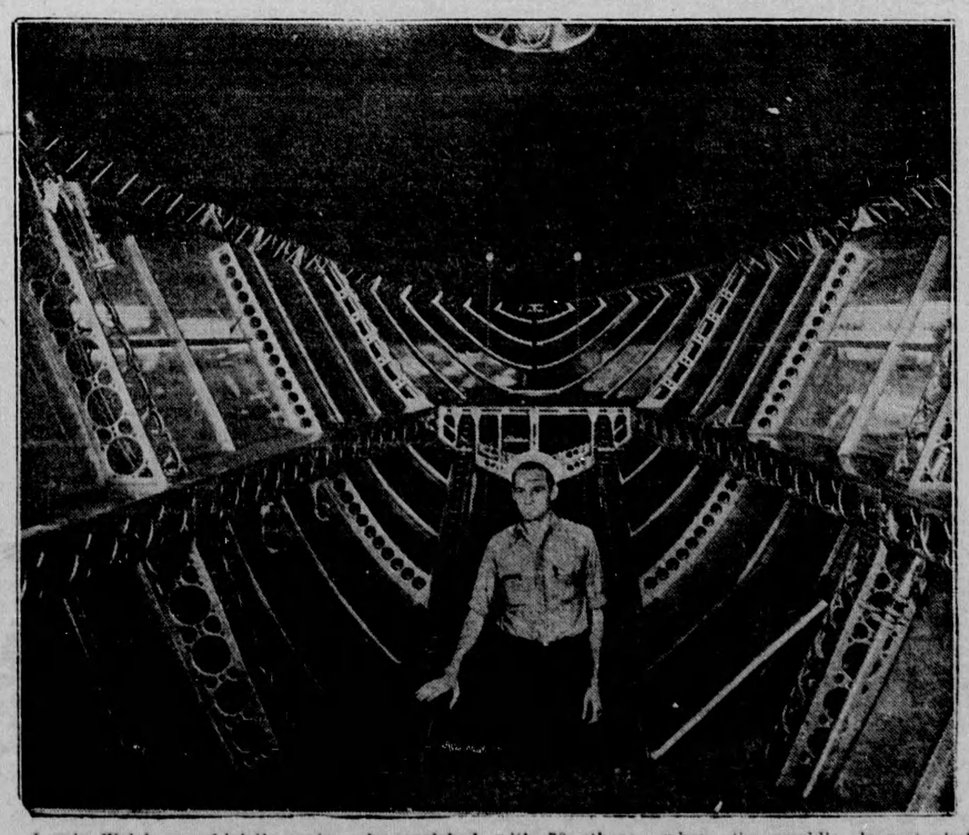
Major Bagnold invented a special compass for the trip. The device was something similar to a small sun dial, and was attached to the instrument board of each car. It proved very helpful in ascertaining positions.

The motor cars used were of American manufacture.

RUBBER BATHTUBS MADE IN ENGLAND.

The cheapness of rubber has had surprisingly little effect on British manufacturers and inventors as a stimulant for new uses of the material in the opinion of The Manchester Guardian, although there is news of an effort to increase its use in ordinary things—the manufacture of rubber bathtubs and washbasins.

Interior of Ill-Fated Akron



Lewis Walck, machinist's mate, who perished with 70 others, when the world's largest airship crashed into the sea off the New Jersey shore. The search for the 71 missing officers and men has been greatly impeded by vicious thunderstorms and heavy seas. Of the Akron, long as three average city blocks, only a few twisted bits of duraluminum and pieces of fabric have been found. The above photo shows the gangway leading into the control room.