Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA.

Benefit of Laughter.

There is, apparently a standing alternative between annoyance and amusement over life's ironical accidents, and he who lives best is he who laughs best for relief from the tears and tension of his own trials. It is a child's privilege to laugh because he is tickled, but the adult must learn to laugh in the face of misfortune, handicap and even pain or he becomes the unhappy slave of his own circumstances. Such laughter, it seems, has a definite therapeutic value. It has long been said that one may laugh and grow fat, but it is more important to the modern man that he learn to laugh his way out of nervous prostration. Miss Mary F. Ferguson, supervisor of social service at John Hopkins University, advocates laughter as an antidote for all sorts of neuroses and even for social disorders.—Fredericton Gleaner.

Show Confidence.

Three men who escaped with their lies from the Akron are now looking for positions on the Macon, a dirigible now ready for its tests. They have more confidence in such craft than the average individual, and it may be because they know more about them. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Safety in the Air.

The enquiry into the Akron disaster revives memories of that which was made in the case of the City of Liverpool, the Imperial Airways liner, which crashed a short time ago, though of course there is no comparison between the two. The point raised is that of comparative safety of travels in the air, either in airplanes or in dirigibles.

Dr. Eckener has steered his Zeppelin thousands of miles across both north and south Atlantic and over Europe, without a single accident to any passenger. The Imperial Airways was established in 1924, and since then there have been only six accidents to their liners in which injury to passengers was involved, and though during that period they have flown over ten million miles and have carried a quarter of a million passengers.

Flying on the regular air routes in Europe, in fact, is regarded as assuring an even greater safety than travel by road. This is proved by the fact that the insurance companies ask higher premiums for the latter than they do for the former. It is such a disaster as that which happened to the City of Liverpool which proves the general rule. The case of the Akron comes within a different category, but the public often fails to differentiate and is apt to lump all aerial disasters together.—Montreal Daily Star.

Power of the Press.

"We are a generation which lives on newspapers just as caterpillars feed on green leaves."—Winston Churchill.

Sensitive World.

The fact of the matter is, the means of communication throughout the world have become so rapid and improved that what happens—and this may seem paradoxical—in China tomorrow is actually reported in your evening paper today.

There is no doubt that things of a very similar import happened a century and a half ago. Had they been known everywhere at the time, no doubt the effect would have been the same on people's nerves and imagination. Today we are living in a mighty sensitive world, and it may be the world's salvation in the long run.

Likewise in things economic is the world sensitive. In the last three years there has been no such thing as a localized depression.—St. Catharines Standard.

Bread and Butter

Farmers in the Balkans, we read, are feeding bread to their cows. The cows, of course, furnish their own butter.—Border Cities Star.

Advertising Did It.

Total sales by R. H. Macy & Company last year amounted to $80,000,000. By reaching this amount the New York store justified its claim to being the world's largest store. Marshall Feld & Company of Chicago, which used to claim the title, dropped to $78,000,000 last year.

In order to roll up the sales total of $80,000,000 Macy's used clever and extensive advertising. And 90 per cent. of the Macy advertising was done in the newspapers, the medium the world's largest store has found the best to attract customers—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

A London musician is said to have invented an instrument that is a combination clarinet and saxophone, which is one step in the direction of converting the saxophone into a musical instrument.—Toronto Mail & Empire.

Safe From 'Quakes.

The reason for our freedom from earth shocks is apparent from an examination of the geological formation underlying this central portion of Canada. A large part of both Ontario and Quebec has its geological foundation in the Laurentian rocks, which scientists and mining men refer to as the pre-Cambrian shield. This underlying stratum of rock is the oldest formation which geologists know, dating back to the dim past when our earth's crust first began to solidify.—London Advertiser.

Lucky Exeter.

Exeter, Ontario, has accumulated a surplus, reduced its debt and cut its tax rate ten mills.

A lucky place is Exeter,
But other towns are vexed at her;
Her feat they cannot emulate,
Reduce the debt and cut the rate,
As folks have done in Exeter.
—Strathroy Age-Dispatch.

A Wealthy Editor.

There was a banquet in Orangeville one night, and many of the citizens were telling of the opportunities the town offered, and how well they had done there. The editor of one of the earliest papers got up to give his testimony, "When I came here," he said, "I was not worth one cent, and now I am worth $75,000." Seeing the incredulous looks on the faces of some of his fellow-citizens, he continued: "An authority has estimated that each child is worth at least $5,000. I have 15 children."—Fergus News Record.

THE EMPIRE.

Survived the Crisis

The United States have come to the climax of their malady, while they are still strong enough to cope with it. They will build up from the base a stronger, more stable industry and commerce than the fantastic structure which has toppled from the height of the skyscrapers to the dust.—London Daily Express.

European Quarrels.

There is no doubt that the predominent feeling in the minds of millions in this country today is that at all costs Britain must refuse to be dragged into the quarrels of Europe. By the Locarno Treaty we are pledged to take sides against the aggressor, if trouble breaks out between France and Germany. But if this were to happen now, the man in the street who does not pretend to understand the niceties of diplomacy, would find it very hard to say who was most to blame, and there would be a strong demand that we should stand aside.—Sir Walter Layton in The London News-Chronicle (Lib.).

The Polluted Air.

The latest report, published today, by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on the investigation of atmospheric pollution hardly justifies any optimistic inference that the evil is abating. One should not, perhaps, be depressed by the report, but one may be astonished that after a century of industrial civilization one of its worst evils shows such little signs of abatement. Since men must live in centres of dense population, it is essential that they should be happy in doing so; yet it seems impossible they should be content when not only houses and streets but the air itself is hardly fit to live in.—Manchester Guardian.

Export of Arms.

It is of paramount importance, if any form of arms regulation is ever to be established by this or a subsequent Disarmament Conference, that every Government shall be able absolutely and unequivocally to maintain supervision and control of the export of arms by their national firms.—London Times.

THE UNITED STATES.

Wealth In Stumps.

Many hundreds of old tree stumps, which have stood desolate in the forests northeast of Melbourne since the millers' felling gangs passed through with their saws and axes years ago, are now proving to have a very high value. The stumps are of mountain ash, a wood which is increasing in demand as a furniture timber in Australia and overseas. Discovery that the mountain ash stumps were suitable for furniture converted what was formerly regarded as forest waste into a valuable asset. In favorable circumstances mountain ash trees grow to 300 feet in height, but their growth is such that for some distance from the ground—from eight to twenty feet—the trunk is irregularly shaped and heavily buttressed. Not long ago an examination of some of the old stumps disclosed that when properly cut the grain of the timber was unusually beautiful.—Christian Science Monitor.

War On Pests.

Many a United States city is plagued by the noise and dirt of starlings in winter, of sparrows the year round. To the relief of pestered inhabitants occasionally come hawks. In Hartford, Conn., last winter three hawks entertained and gratified townspeople by their daily raids on the city's swarm of starlings. Last week two "sparrow" hawks were putting on the same kind of helpful show in Springfield, Ill. — Magazine Time.

Since the war nearly 50,000 persons in the United Kingdom, more than half of them being women, have been granted divorces.

Akron Victim's Impressive Funeral

Past the grave of the unknown soldier at Arlington cemetery, an army gun carriage bears the body of Lieut.-Com. Harold MacLellan, who crashed with the airship.

British Military Aircraft For the Far East

Nine of the fastest and most efficient shipboard military aircraft in the world will be included in the complement of the British aircraft carrier Eagle, when she steams out of Pithead towards the end of next month on her way to the China station. There she will relieve H.M.S. Hermes, the carrier which has been on duty in Chinese waters for many months, and is now due to come home for a long re-fit.

The Eagle is the largest British aircraft carrier, displacing 22,600 tons, and with accommodation for up to 40 airplanes. Her complement during her stay with the China squadron will be 21 airplanes, comprising 15 which will be flown on board from Gosport before she leaves this country, and six to be taken over from the Hermes. The remaining flight in the Hermes is to be transferred to the Fifth Cruiser Squadron. The airplanes will be launched from catapults mounted on the decks of the warship.

A bulletin of the Society of British Aircraft Constructors states that navigation of a naval airplane, involving long flights from a moving base, is the most difficult kind of aerial course-landing, beside which a long ocean flight on a single compass bearing is a simple matter. Apart from the intricate problems met in plotting a pre-determined course with constant reference to the movements of the carrier or other conveying warship, the haze which not infrequently rises quite suddenly over the sea introduces the factor of bad visibility. That a fleet air arm machine is seldom, if ever, lost is sufficient evidence of the skill of the navigators, the trustworthiness of their engines, and the accuracy of the elaborate navigational instruments which every British naval plane must carry.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Research Findings May Eliminate "Heating" of Grain

Winnipeg. — Discoveries which promise to eleminate "heating" of grain in storage and transit were reported by Dr. R. K. Larmour, of the University of Saskatchewan, to the Associate Committee on Grain Research meeting here. Dr. Larmour has discovered that certain micro-organisms on the wheat appear to contribute a large proportion of the wheat's respiratory activity.

In normal times, the loss on a carload of grain that has heated approaches $1,500. Heating can now be prevented. What is not yet known and what Dr. Larmour now wants to investigate, is the effect of the proposed method of prevention on the quality of the grain.

Soviet Converting Coal Into Gas in Mine Veins

Moscow.—An experiment in converting coal directly into gas in the veins in the mine has been started by the Soviets in the Moscow basin. The coal thus used is in layers too thin to be mined profitably.

Electric heaters prepare the coal in these thin veins and with the aid of compressed air and vapor water, gas is produced and piped to to surface to be used for industrial purposes.

The method of converting coal directly into gas was promulgated in 1914 by Sir William Ramsay, but the Soviet scientists believe they are the first to try out the possibilities on a large commercial scale.

Duce Always Right, Says Militia Creed

Rome.—The Fascist militia, which has completed its tenth year of existence, accepts as a fact that Premier Benito Mussolini can do no wrong.

Point eight in the militiaman's decalogue is, "Mussolini is always right." The tenth commandment is that the duce's life must be held dear above all things.

The decalogue begins with a warning that the militiaman must not believe in perpetual peace.

Illinois Protects Highways

Springfield, Ill.—An amendment to the Illinois statutes provides that motor trucks operating on improved highways at a speed greater than ten miles an hour must be equipped with pneumatic tires.

Woman Light Keeper Dies

Paimpol, Brittany. — Mme. Perrine Durand, believed to be the world's only "Professor of Lighthouse Keeping," died recently in the Paon Lighthouse on the Ile de Brehat, several miles from the Breton coast. She was the first Frenchwoman to be named keeper of a lighthouse, serving in this capacity for fifty-one years. She was 89 years old at the time of her death, and remained in active service almost to the end.

Lighthouse keeping has been the principal trade for decades of the Perrine and Durand families. When her husband died, Mme. Durand assumed his duties as kepeer of the Triagoz Lighthouse, and so expert did she become, so conversant with all the aspects of this perilous trade, that she was named "Professor of Lighthouse Keeping" by the French Merchant Marine Ministry. Every year four or five apprentices were assigned to her lighthouse. In this fashion she trained half a hundred lighthouse keepers, two of them her own daughters, Mme. Pierre Taldu, in charge of the Portle-Chaine (Pleubian) lighthouse, and Mlle. Aline Durand, who succeeds her mother at the Paon lighthouse.

French Stage Now Forbidden To Children Under 13 Years

Paris.—Stage appearances by children under 13 years of age, except in specially authorized cases, have been forbidden in an order issued by the French Ministry of National Education.

Up to the present time child actors even in evening performances have not been uncommon on the French stage. The new regulation exacts that any child appearing in theatrical entertainment shall produce proof that he is receiving regular schooling and forbids his appearances except at matinees.

At the National Opera, however, it was said that the young girl dancers who are seen from time to time in the ballets would not be affected, since the opera is a school of dancing and the pupils are licensed to give occasional exhibitions.

Lindberghs May Reside in Wales

London.—The Daily Herald last week printed a report from Cardiff, Wales, saying preparations were under way for Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindburgh to reside near Cathedral City, in Llandaff.

The dispatch pointed out that Mrs. E. M. Morgan, a sister of Mrs. Lindburgh, resides there with her husband. It was understood that Mrs. Morgan suggested that the flier and his wife, the former Anne Morrow, move to South Wales, and that Colonel Lindbergh favors the idea.

World's Fastest Human

Warrant Officer Francisco Agello, Italian ace, who on April 10 flew 426 m.p.h. to better Britain's record by 35 kilometres per hour.

Gt. Britain Enters Electrical Age

Now Third Greatest Electricity Producing Country in World

London.—Great Britain has now become the third greatest electricity producing country in the world—at a cost of $135,000,000.

Despite industrial depression, the output of electric power increased last year by more than 7 per cent. compared with 1931.

There was scarcely any drop in demand in the severely depressed areas, and in the midlands and south consumption increased considerably.

These facts are revealed in the annual report of the Central Electricity Board for 1932. The board has now completed 3,000 miles of 132,000 volt transmission lines and 1,000 miles of secondary lines worked at 66,000 volts. It had to negotiate with 21,000 owners and occupiers of land to secure wayleaves for the erection of transmission lines. Only a small percentage of the work on the national "grid" remains to be done.

London has the first gas-filled high tension underground cable in commercial use in the world. It runs between Hackney and Walthamstow. The cable carries a voltage of 66,000, and is drawn into steel tubes surrounded by compressed nitrogen gas.

No fewer than 150,000 tons of the finest British steel, 12,000 tons of aluminum, 500,000 tons of cement, and 200,000 insulators have been used.

The production of all this material consumed 800,000 tons of British coal, and about 120,000 men have been employed on the work.

"The fact that the 'grid' itself is operating with almost complete reliability over the 2,000 miles already in commission," states the board, "shows that as technical achievement the national power scheme is one of the outstanding efforts of Great Britain in this century."

Motor Car Exports Up Nearly a Quarter

Statistics released by the Automobile ivision, United States Department of Commerce, indicate that the combined exports of passenger cars and trucks during February exceeded those during the corresponding month of last year by 23 per cent. Belgium was again the leading foreign export market for passenger cars. It is noted, however, that a certain percentage of motor vehicles exported to Belgium and re-exported. The Union of South Africa, Japan, Argentina and Australia followed in the sequence indicated. In volume of American-made motor cars imported, Brazil, which had been in fifteenth place in January, advanced to sixth place. Japan retained its leading position as an export market for commercial vehicles, followed by Brazil, Belgium, British India and Spain, all of which, with the exception of British India, increased its demands over January requirements. Brazil advanced from fifth to second place.

New Drug Cure for Carbon-Monoxide

London.—Victims of carbon-monoxide gas poisoning are turned deep blue and then dark red by a new treatment just discovered.

It eliminates the after-effects suffered by those who have been revived from this form of poisoning by artificial respiration, which has been the forme of treatment hitherto.

Consciousness is speedily restored and the patient falls into a gentle sleep which lasts about twenty-four hours.

The patient then feels little the worse for the experience.

Educator Won Spelling Bee With Minister

A minister, a lawyer and two educators engaged in a spelling bee in Lincoln, Neb.

A fifth friend submitted a list of ten words. The educators fell down on six words each, the minister eight and the lawyer eight.

The words they were asked to spell were supersede, rarefy, picknicker, kimono, liquefy, battalion, tranquility, sacrilegious, naphtha and paraffin.

Italian Breaks Seaplane Record

Agello Flies Over Lake Garda at Speed of 426.5 Miles an Hour

Desenzano, Italy.—The speed 'plane "Red Bullet," a powerful little ship painted entirely red, broke the world's seaplane speed record on April 10 with Francesco Agello at the controls. For five laps over Lake Garda Agello made an average of 426.5 miles an hour.

The previous record, set by Lieutenant George H. Stainforth, of England, in 1931, was 408.8.

Agello reached a maximum speed of 432.83 in his fourth lap, and his minimum was 421.66 in the third lap. All officers said a new engine would be installed in an attempt to reach a speed of 700 kilometres, or 437.5 miles.

Agello was a member of the Italian Schneider Cup team n 1929. His successful attempt climaxed a series of such efforts at the high speed airport here in which several craft were lost. Last year Lieut. Neri made an unofficial 422 miles an hour and a few weeks later he was killed.

The "Red Bullet" has twin engines in tandem developing a maximum of 2,800 horsepower. The two propellors turned in opposite directions on a sleeved shaft in front. The machine was intended for the last Schneider Cup race, but was not completed in time. Agello, who is 31, was born in Lodi.

Shaw Confesses He Is Really Victorian

While en route to New York, George Bernard Shaw made a frank confession that he believed he was living beyond his own era.

"I really am a Victorian," said the gray-bearded playwright. "I am writing a new play, but the younger writers are coming to the fore."

Shaw, in a chatty mood, discussed at length the Victorians of his own era.

"The relationship between men and women has changed tremendously," he said, reminiscently. "That is, in some respects.

"The modern woman's clothes and language are sometimes shocking — but they are more decent."

Shaw, with a burst of modesty, put himself about twentieth among the moderns who have done most for the world.

New Zealand May Bar Imports From Russia

Wellington, New Zealand.—If the British Government puts an embargo on Russian imports the New Zealand Government "will doubtless take similar action."

This announcement was made by Prime Minister G. W. Forbes when asked what the Government proposed to do in connection with the threatened cessation of trade between the United Kingdom and the Soviet arising out of the arrests in Moscow of six British electrical engineers on charges of espionage, sabotage and bribery.

The Prime Minister declared the Government was watching the position most closely and was prepared to follow Great Britain's lead. He expressed the opinion it would not be necessary to pass new legislation as the Government was already empowered to restrict imports.

London Bank Adds More Girls to Staff

London.—More young girls are being engaged by Lloyds Bank.

They are not placed on the permanent staff, nor do they get bonus or pension.

An official said to a correspondent yesterday:

"More and more of our branches are becoming mechanized. Apart from the fact that girls are better typists we also find that they are quicker in handling the new calculating and ledger posting machines.

"Men will be carefully trained and selected as heads of departments."

Indians Worship Planes Which Soared Over Everest

Dinajpur, India.—Hillmen of the Himalayas, who believed that the mountain gods would punish English aviators for invading their domain now are kneeling and worshipping before the airplanes in which the Britons flew over Mount Everest and Mount Kanchanjanga. From time immemorial, the Himalayan peaks have been the seat of the gods.

Chile Aids Idle Taxi Drivers

Santiago, Chile.—Eighty bus drivers and conductors, unable to make a living because of high gasoline prices and low fares, will depart soon with their families to settle on government-owned farms at El Culenar, in Longue Department. A farm at San Fernando has been set aside by the Government for unemployed taxi drivers of Santiago and other cities.

Forest Fire Loss $3,077,890 in Quebec

Quebec.—There were 1,426 forest fires in the Province of Quebec last year, an estimated 1,027,159 acres being destroyed at a loss of $3,077,890, according to information given in the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Lands and Forests.