Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Crumbs in the Bed.

The news is printed as a sort of joke that a man in Chicago biffed his wife because she would insist on eating cookies in bed. It served her right and I am glad there has arisen a man with so much courage. There is nothing worse in the whole realm of domestic tragedies than cake crumbs in the bed.

They get everywhere and there is no known force that will grind them so small that they do not tickle. If I were on a jury trying a person for murder I would acquit him if he had been led to that drastic course by cake crumbs.—Vancouver Province.

Middle Age.

Middle age is that period when a man clips items about great men who did their best work after 60.—Kingston Whig Standard.

Fewer Services.

In proportion to population, there were fewer divorces in Canada during the past decade than during the ten years prior to 1931. In ten years the number of divorces in Prince Edward Island decreased from 47 to 28, from 427 to 308 in Nova Scotia, from 2,504 to 2,086 in Ontario, and from 1,361 to 750 in the Province of Quebec. There was an increase of 22 in the same period in New Brunswick, 147 in Manitoba, 97 in Saskatchewan, 312 in Alberta, and 642 in British Columbia. There is some satisfaction for us in the knowledge that, whilst in other countries, particularly in the United States, the bonds of matrimony are becoming more fragile year after year, in the central provinces of Canada, and generally in the Maritimes, they are becoming more indissoluble with the passing of time.—La Patrie, Montreal.

Why It Is "SHE"

Why is the locomotive called she? A road foreman of locomotives employed on a Canadian system believes he has the answer. He says: "There are many reasons. For instance, they wear jackets with yokes, pins, shields and stays. They have aprons and laps, too. Not only do they have shoes, they sport pumps and even hose, while they drag trains behind them. They also attract attention with puffs and mufflers and sometimes they foam and refuse to work. At such times they need to be switched. They need guilding and they require a man to feed them. They all smoke, but most characteristic of all is that they are much steadier when they are hooked up."—Fredericton Gleaner.

Not Afraid of Pirates.

"Teddy" Rosevelt faced the industrial pirates of his day as fearlessly as the present Roosevelt seems to be facing the financial pirates of his day. "Teddy" Roosevelt will be known to the generations as the man who broke the idols; he was the one American statesman to stand up against the bullying of the big business of his day. Franklin D. Roosevelt has already shown himself willing to stand up against the bullying of the big business of his day.—Calgary Albertan.

Hard to Reconcile.

Hitler has tremendous power in Germany, and yet he is pictured as wearing one of those little moustaches. It does not look much larger than a tooth brush.

It is hard to reconcile such a moustache with a mighty man. We have been accustomed in the past to seeing mighty men wearing big moustaches. Hindenburg, for instance, is a big man with a mighty moustache. It helps to make him look mightier.

Perhaps we have under-estimated the small moustache. Hitler has one just like a straight up and down black mark under his nose. We may come to see in it a token of power in time, but it is not going to be easy.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Deep Secret.

Greta Garbo is on her way back to the States amid great secrecy. Nobody will be permitted to learn of her arrival except the newspaper cameramen, reporters and millions of ordinary folk.—Halifax Herald.

Telephone Records.

Berlin business men may be able to ask their secretaries to extract last week's telephone conversation from the files just as readily as they now ask for a copy of a letter or memorandum. Lifting to his ear a telephone device which is only slightly larger than the standard "French phone," the speaker will proceed in the usual manner. But through an extra cord leading to an electric recording apparatus, both parts of the conversation will be transcribed upon a phonograph record.—Edmonton Journal.

THE EMPIRE

Bonne Entente in S. Africa.

Those in close touch with Parliament have known for some years that the old barriers were crumbling. The delegation to Ottawa illustrated in notable fashion how the parties had learned to work together in amity when occasion required. But the country as a whole, not unnaturally, had not realized what was happening until General Hertzog made his spectacular response to General Smuts's moving appeal. Now each can see for himself how few real bones of contention were left.—Cape Argus.

New Zealand Exports.

The effects of the depression upon New Zealand have been to some extent modified by the success of efforts to counterbalance falling prices by increasing production. While other countries have been afflicted by rapid contraction of their export trade, in volume as well as in value, New Zealand has steadily increased the volume of her exports. In 1928 exports were 12 per cent. greater than in 1926; the official estimates for 1931 show an increase of 20 per cent. in five years, and the volume must have been again substantially greater in 1932, for, in spite of a much lower range of prices, the total value was larger than in 1931—Aukland Weekly News.

The U.S.A. and World Peace.

If the United States continues to co-operate with the other nations of the world as she has done in the past year—and still more if some plan can be devised for immediate consultation in the event of a breach of the peace—an aggressor will know in advance on which side the passive or even perhaps the active influence of the United States will be thrown. After the experience of the Great War, no country is likely to underrate this.—Sir Walter Layton in The News-Chronicle.

Japan's Welt Politik.

It is impossible to coerce Japan at this moment. ..... The interests and possessions of the other Powers in the Far East are at her mercy. She can occupy Shanghai and capture Hong Kong before an attempt can be made to redress the balance of power in Far Eastern waters. The Washington treaties make it almost impossible to fight across the ocean. Doubtless, if the Great Powers were to devote all their energies to the task and organize their naval and aerial power with the sole object of overcoming Japanese resistance, in time this could be done. But is it impossible to contemplate Britain and the United States devoting all their energies to such a course with the world in the condition in which it is today? Obviously, at the moment Japan is in a position to carry through her program without molestation from outside.—Prof. C. K. Webster in The Contemporary Review (London).

THE UNITED STATES

Bank Casualties.

A New York banker came into court on a stretcher. It may be necessary to work up something in a twin bed type, with one for the depositor.—Detroit News.

Both Waiting.

Possibly the reason Prosperity has remained so long around the corner is because we, also, have been playing a waiting game.—Christian Science Monitor.

How Could He Forget?

Persons rescued from drowning or other threatening sudden death, sometimes have reported that forgotten events of their past life had recurred to them in rapid succession. Some say they reviewed their whole history from boyhood on in the few seconds that preceded unconsciousness. Others merely experienced flashbacks to incidents long buried in the subconscious mind.

This phenomenon served Kike Koptokel a good turn when he jumped into the Ohio River at Pittsburg with the intention of committing suicide. Mike, like many others before him, began to remember as he went down. On of the things that came to his mind was the fact that he put $68 into a bank five years ago. The recollection altered his resolve to die. He struggled to the surface and swam to shore as fast as he would. Life was again worth living.

This story will not seem as strange to bankers as to other people. Bankers know that hundreds of people deposit sums and forget about them. Every time the affairs of a bank are wound up scores of people receive money from accounts they didn't know they had.—Detroit Free Press.

Chilean Railroads Profit By Heavy Tourist Traffic

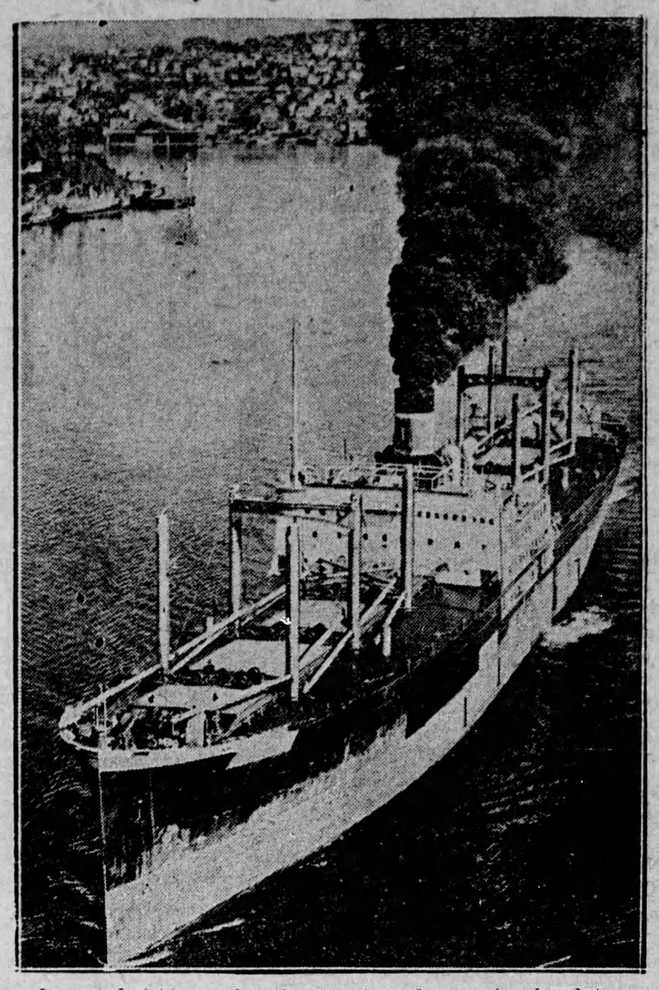
Santiago, Chile.—Railroad officials estimate that Chile's lines netted $180,000 a month more this summer than last, due to the extraordinary heavy tourist traffic.

Nearly 20,000 tourists visited Chile, spending $6,000,000 and, in addition, there was considerable travel by Chileans.

Trains to the southern lakes district were jammed every day of the season, and hotels were so swamped that sometimes four to six people in a party could get only one room.

On the Valparaiso-Santiago line, the number of trains was doubled, and still extra cars had to be added. Thousands of Argentines came in by train and automobile and the shore towns did a big business.

Heavy Freighter Again in Service



Largest freighter under the American flag, again placed in service. After being tied up for several months, the Lewis Luckenbach, 14,000 tons, steamed from Seattle with a full cargo of lumber for the east.

Race Fans and Bookmakers Protest High Fee to Latter

When bookmakers at dog race tracks near London went on strike recently things were all mixed. The race promoters had increased their charges to the "bookies." At Catford track the strikers paid their admission and watched the racing. Some of them made bets on the tote, but they turned a deaf ear to all clients who wished to do business.

The result was that the race followers tried to make bets on the tote, and the machine was unable to cope with the sudden rush. Many would-be backers were unable to make bets, and at times a massed crowd surrounded the macines. Loud protests were made and many spectators angrily demanded the return of their entrance money. They were given tickets to admit them to a future meeting, but even this did not satisfy them, and when racing ended they joined the bookmakers in a noisy protest meeting.

Celts to Meet in Brest

Brest.—This former base of the A.E.F. will become a little Geneva next Summer, when the Celtic League of Nations assembles in Brest for its organization meeting which takes place next July.

Previous meetings have been held in Cardiff, Wales; in Dublin, Ireland, and on the Isle of Man, and these three provinces of the "Celtic fatherland" will send delegates to Brest, also Scotland and Brittany.

The aim of the meeting is to organize a "Celtic International," the purpose being to revive Celtic culture, to resurrect Celtic ceremonies, legends and folklore. The Celts of America, whether they trace their ancestry through Brittany or parts of the British Empire, will be invited to attend. The official language will be Breton, which, it is stated, can be understood by persons who ave acquired Gaelic.

Men Transported to Radium Fields by Plane

Edmonton, Alta.—All available aircraft in this part of the Dominion is in operation transporting prospectors and mining parties to the Great Bear Lake radium fields in the Northwest Territories many hundreds of miles beyond the railway, in preparation for the year's work. Fifteen laden airplanes equipped for landing on the ice and snow have left Edmonton recently and this extraordinary activity is necessary to transport all miners and mining supplies into the mineal field before the spring break-up.

During the winter months the airplanes are equipped wth skiis to alight on the ice of Great Bear Lake and from now until the middle of June when the ice leaves the smaller bays allowing the planes equipped with pontoons to alight on the open water, the ice traffic is suspended. It is expected that 1500 men will be working the rich radium and silver veins before the season is very far advanced.

Three Major Powers On Gold Standard

New York.—United States suspension of the gold standard leaves but three major world powers and four of lesser importance, as gauged by foreign trade, remaining on an unrestriced gold basis.

Canada prohibits export of gold except by Governmental license.

France, Germany and Italy are the larger countries which have stayed on the gold standard, although Germany for a time took action similar to Canada in restricting gold exports. Alongside the three major powers on the gold basis stand Belgium, Poland, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

HAVANA ELECTRIFYING CAPITAL

The Cuban government is electrifying the dome of the Capital at Havana to keep off buzzards.—The Pathfinder.

Safe and Unsafe Places During Thunder Storms

Now that the beginning of the lightning season is near, the question of safe and unsafe places during thunderstorms is in order.

The following hints on the subject were supplied by Dr. Humphreys, of the US. Weather Bureau, for the information of Boy Scouts, but they are just as valuable to other people. Charles Fitzhugh Talman's Science Service feature, Why the Weather? (Washington) quotes the following:

"During a thunder-storm it is dangerous to be close beside a wire fence. In this position one may be killed or, at least, hurt if the fence is struck anywhere along its entire course.

"It is also dangerous to take shelter during a thunder-storm under a tall tree, or, indeed, a tree of any kind if it is out in the open, and all the more so if it is at or near the top of a hill.

"It is advisable to keep away from the top of a hill during a thunderstorm, even if some distance from trees.

"If Scouts on a hike should happen to be inside a cave during a thunderstorm they would be absolutely safe from the lightning. Another perfectly safe place to be is inside a frame structure of steel, or an all-metal building of any kind. One is tolerably safe also at or near the bottom of a deep narrow ravine or canyon. Properly installed lightning rods make a house fairly safe during electrical storms and, as a rule, one is safer in a house even if it has no rods at all, than one is likely to be outdoors. It is best indoors to keep away from stoves, fireplaces, and walls."

Wet and Dry Years in the West

A study of the meteorological records for 48 years at Medicine Hat, which is the central point of the short grass plains, or so-called dry area, indicates that the driest year on record was 1886, and 1927 the wettest. Dry years occurred previous to 1900 and have happened periodically ever since. Information already obtained by the Dominion Range Experimental Station at Manyberris, Alberta, where ivestigations have been planned to study the effect of climatic changes from year to year, shows the absolute necessity of making provision for dry years by controlled grazing and the development of a permanent water supply.

Seed Buyers' Protection

Farmers who buy seed from their neighbors should protect themselves by asking to be shown the grade certificate issued on the seed by the inspector of the Dominion Seed Branch. If the certificate is marked "Rejected" the sale is illegal and the use of the seed full of dangerous possibilities. The Seeds Act of Canada was enacted to check the menace of dirty seed and it applies to everybody without exception who sells seed.

2s Doors from Russia

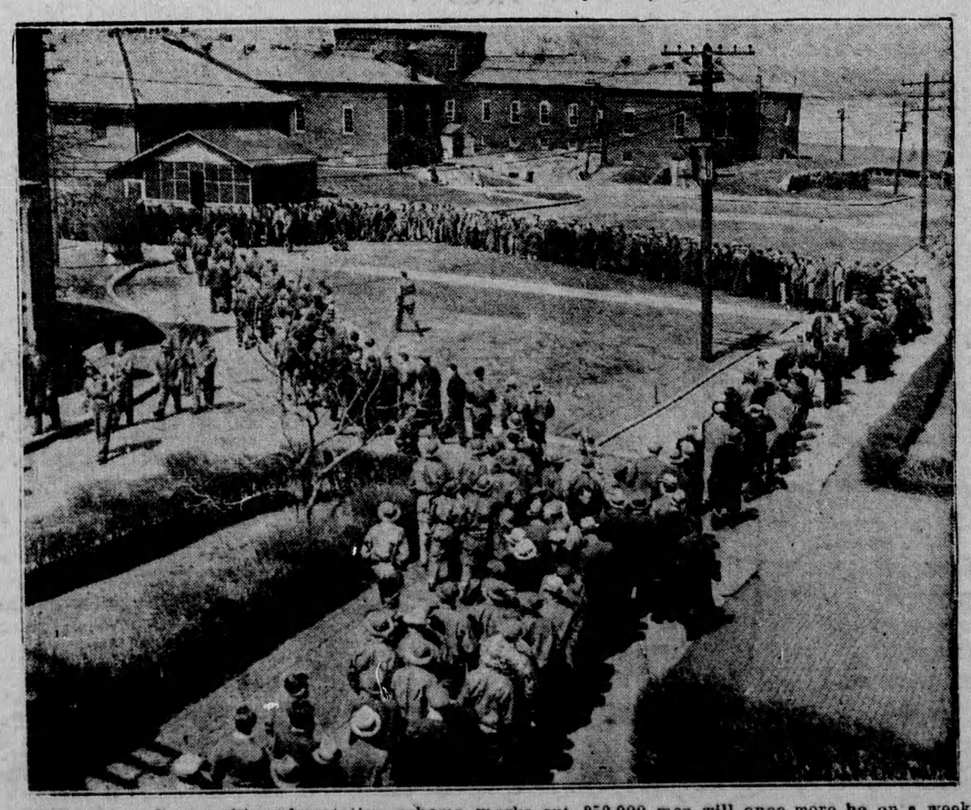
London, Eng. — Ready-made doors were imported from Russia, from August, 1932, to January, 1933, at prices averaging approximately from 2.4s to 3.5s each, stated Mr. Runciman in Parliament recently.

He added that he was not in a position to make any statement as to the possibility of obtaining powers to prevent competition of this kind similar to the powers conferred as a result of the Ottawa agreement.

Scots Firm Aids Needy

Dundee, Scot.—With a view to relieving the poor of this city a coal merchant offered to supply 80 families with 2¼ cwts. of coal free during an abnormally severe spell of cold weather. The Dundee Public Assistance Committee furnished the names of 80 families to whom the donation would be beneficial.

President's Plan May Employ 250,000 Men



If President Roosevelt's reforestation scheme works out, 250,000 men will once more be on a weekly pay-roll. There are 1,800 recruits at Fort Slocum, N.Y., eating regularly.

Italians Training Like Athletes For U.S. Flight

"Chinese Wall" Surrounds 100 Aviators at Orbetello and Routine is Severe

Orbetello, Italy.—A life midway between that of a monk and that of a faddist is followed by 100 aviators in training here for General Italo Balbo's group flights with twenty-four seaplanes to Chicago late in May.

Under "Abbot" General Aldo Pellegrini their activities are carefully supervised for 24 hours a day so that when the moment comes for General Balbo to signal "Contact," every one—man and machine—will be in the finest condition.

The flyers are protected here by what one Italian writer called a "Chinese wall." It is extremely difficult to penetrate the wall to see them. They are kept away from every pre-occupation. Officers say that if any aviator experiences any mental distraction before the flight begins he will be left behind.

The pilots of the Atlantic squadron are all, at least officially, bachelors. One of them, it so happened recently, had a wife who presented herself at the airport and asked to speak with him. Receiving a refusal, she telephoned the chief of staff of the Air Ministry in Rome. The chief of staff replied: "All the pilots of the Atlantic squadron are bachelors." The indignant wife next presented herself to Air Minister Balbo himself with all documents proving the legitimacy of her marriage.

The aviators eat at a training table similar to that of a college football team. Their regime is prevalently vegetarian.

The program of the long-distance flying school here is complex. The pilots, in addition to theoretical instruction in mathematics, physics, aerodynamics and mechanics, have to make themselves masters, through developments of flying, such as taking off and landing with heavy loads and in various conditions of sea and air, night flying, navigation on the radio beam and blind flying.

New Zealand Trade Showing Improvement

A report on the finance, trade and industries of New Zealand during 1932, for which we are indebted to Mr. J. W. Collins, New Zealand trade and tourist commissioner in Canada, shows a favorable banking position and a substantially favorable balance of trade. Economic relationships within the country are still to some extent unbalanced and the readjustments that have taken place have not been sufficient in all cases. But, says the report, "the energies of the people of New Zealand and their productive capacity have not been destroyed by the depression, and their wants have not diminished. Production, indeed, in several directions has shown a steady increase throughout the period of the depression." That is the kind of talk we like to hear! The distant Southern Dominion is sound at heart, and we expect it to ride on the top of the wave when the business of the world revives.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Brazil to Spend 54 Million Modernizing Her Defense

Rio De Janeiro.—An arms modernization program for Brazil, gased upon a five-year schedule for the army and a twelve-year plan for the navy, has been started by the provisional government. The army is to spend $21,000,000 and the navy $33,500,000.

The navy's program got under way when Admiral Protogenes Guimaraes, Minister of Marine, signed a contract with a British firm for construction of a school ship and broke ground for a new ministry building. All told twenty-four small vessels, with a total tonnage of 35,000 are to be built.

Brazil, once the orld's fourth naval power, now ranks below Argentina and Chile in South America. Its present fleet averages twenty years age a vessel.

The principal cost of the army plan will be for new artillery and in motorizing the service.

High Speed Planes Tested For Berlin-London Run

Berlin.—The Luft-Hansa, German air transport operators, have placed in preliminary test service a small Heinkel high-speed commecial plane with a top speed of 225 miles an hour.

Cruising at 200 miles an hour the plane would make Berlin-London schedules of 3½ hours possible. It carries two pilots and five passengers. Carrying freight, the plane is to be tested on South European air lines.

A Press-Button Toy

London, Eng. — Human commands are obeyed by a new British toy electric dumping truck only five inches high.

It will haul 10 lbs. of sand, back it up, dump t, straighten out, and return for another load.

All this is done by pressing a button on a transformer which is attached to the truck by a 20-foot cord.

Steering, acceleration, reversing and tilting operate according to the speed at which the button is pressed.