Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Towns Growing Up

This year several Ontario towns and cities will be 100 years old. They are having a centennial celebration in Fergus this summer. Next year Toronto celebrates 100 years as a city. So half a century is a comparatively short period in Eastern Canadian history, but a long one in Western history. It was only 50 years ago that the first pioneers arrived to settle on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, where the thriving city of Saskatoon now stands. In August the establishment of the townsite 50 years ago will be celebrated.—London Free Press.

The Rains

The drouth cycle which for four years has been a heart-breaking element in the lives of people in a large area of Saskatchewan appears to have run its course.

The country is now wet, thoroughly soaked, mired to the ears in many places. There is enough moisture in the ground in most localities to last the season; anything approaching normal weather conditions during the summer will mean a crop. Fodder and vegetables should also be abundant. Wells will have water in them; sloughs have brimming banks.

We do not know, of course, what prices may be obtained for the things that may be produced. For the time being let us be satisfied that the good earth is not to withhold her yield.—Regina Leader-Post.

England Likes Our Tobacco

Very gratifying reports are being received from Canadian trade commissioners in Great Britain regarding the steadily increasing popularity of Canadian tobacco—almost entirely from this part of the country. According to D. S. Cole, of Bristol, Empire tobacco cleared from English bonded warehouses had grown from 1,500,000 pounds in 1919 to just on 47,000,000 pounds last year. Of this latter quantity 10,699,493 pounds were from Canada. The largest quantity was from Nyasaland, over 15,000,000 pounds, Canada coming next, with Southern Rhodesia and British India close behind.

There is a heavy decrease in imports from the United States, the decrease being 48,000,000 pounds compared with the 1930 figures—more than the whole Empire contribution.

According to Mr. Cole the great increase in Canadian tobacco was due to lowering of the price and improvement of the product. Important British firms state that the quality of Canadian flue-cured tobacco was good in 1931 and better still in 1932. It has created much favorable comment, and provided that quality is maintained British importers are convinced that the demand for Canadian tobacco will increase.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Did You Ever?

A survey reveals that twice as many men as women wear spectacles. Which isn't at all surprising. For instance, have you ever seen a group of women on a street corner on a windy day watching a man cross the street?—Hamilton Spectator.

Man's Intricate Brain

The difficulties faced by psychologists and brain specialists in their effort to understand just what the human mind is and how it works are graphically expressed by Prof. C. Judson Herrick, noted psychiatrist. If you took all the apparatus of telegraph, telephone and radio in North America, says Professor Herrick, and compressed it into a two-quart jar, you would still have an affair less bewilderingly intricate than the human brain. Is it any wonder that our specialists still have a great deal to learn about the way the mind operates?—Vancouver Sun.

Beating Diphtheria

Ten years ago the diphtheria death rate in Manitoba was 21.5 per 100,000, which meant that 150 children lost their lives in this province every year from this preventable disease. In 1923 immunization was started in Winnipeg, with the result that by 1929 the death rate for the whole province had been brought down to 10.3. In that year immunization was extended to a part of rural Manitoba, resulting in a further reduction of death rate to 5.2. In rural Manitoba since 1930 there have been 63 deaths in unimmunized territory and only 18 deaths in the much larger population of the immunized territory. There have been no deaths among immunized persons.—Winnipeg Tribune.

Bridge

Most of the millions who play bridge play it for enjoyment and not as a mathematical exercise. They break all the rules, they under-bid when they don't over-bid, they forget what's trump, violate the conventions, but they have a lot of fun out of the game and if that isn't the prime purpose of a game then we are greatly mistaken.—Ottawa Journal.

Historical Museums

A town or county can have no more attractive lure for visitors and tourists than its historical features. In this respect Simcoe and Norfolk County are rich. Numerous points of prime historical interest along the lakefront have been marked in the past ten years. Now Simcoe is coming into the limelight by virtue of the completion of a museum of art and antiques relating to the early history of this district.—Simcoe Reformer.

Let's Rent a Painting!

A group of painters, in Providence, Rhode Island, is trying a very novel scheme which has as its object the creation of an art-conciousness among Rhode Islanders. This scheme is really a circulating library of original paintings from the brushes of living artists of that city. There is to be a central depot where pictures can be gathered. Connoisseurs and persons who simply know what pleases them in design will be invited to inspect them, select a picture, and take it home. The rental fee will be 42 cents a month, and the picture chosen may be kept for any period up to a year, or it may be exchanged monthly.—Winnipeg Free Press.

THE EMPIRE

LL. G.'S War Memories

An advance notice of the serial publication of extracts from Mr. Lloyd George's book of "War Memoirs" promises us hard hitting on controversial topics, a candor that spares no reputations, highly provocative criticisms, and revelations of Great Britain's unpreparedness for war. On that last point it will be interesting to see how the author deals with the eminent Welsh statesman who told us, about March, 1914, that there never had been a time so favorable as the present for the safe reduction of armaments. Perhaps this utterance was really closer to August, 1914. It certainly was not further away. The Memoirs are said to deal very with ruthlessly with Kitchener's shortcomings. I wonder how they will deal with the charges in General John Charteris' "At G.H.Q." that Mr. Lloyd George was responsible for the starving of our military strength in France before the Germans so nearly broke through in March, 1918; and also for protracted intrigues aiming at the removal of Haig as Commander-in-Chief. In whatever way Mr. Lloyd George may deal with these and other matters his "War Memoirs" promises to be a book of the year.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

The Economics of Leisure

A great deal is said about over-production, but the more vital need for increased consumption is not so widely recognized. Until quite recently the majority of people were engaged in factories and offices for most of their waking hours and had little energy or opportunity for anything but work. The producer in his free hours now becomes a consumer and helps to restore the balance. It has been estimated that 50 years hence the work of the world will be done in about four hours daily. A good many firms have already adopted the five-day working week. The proper use of leisure is a problem that will become increasingly important. — The Nineteenth Century.

Canada and Opportunity

The emigration of large numbers is now made easy by all things of the machine age. The settler is taken to his new home by railway train and motor car. Land settlement or industrial development in a new country today, when compared to what it was formerly, may be made a sort of sporting event. Ten millions of British can be well settled in Canada with much less effort than the original half-dozen British settlements were made in our American colonies during the Seventeenth Century. If the goodly land of Canada is not soon occupied by British immigrants it may be taken up by Continental Europeans. If Canada is to remain permanently British in blood and sentiment the time to act is the golden present. The world is now at the lowest point of an ever-recurring agricultural cycle. Within five years or less agricultural conditions must change somewhat for the better.

THE UNITED STATES

Living in the Past

No stranger crew sails the seven Seas to-day than that of the U.S.S. Constitution. Eighty men went aboard the restored frigate in June, 1931, to undertake an existence strange to them. Everything aboard "Old Ironsides" is the same to-day as in 1812, including the routine of the crew. The work is all done by hand; even the decks are scrubbed with water pumped from the sea. The only heat is in the galley. Yet the crew, after nearly two years, is reported almost intact. Quite a record, in view of the pleasant duty to be had on the up-to-date man-o' war.—Boston Post.

A Health Hint

One reason assigned to Mr. Roosevelt's good physical condition is that he is able to shake off his problems when he goes to bed. This is a hint for all of us. We should be falling asleep then, instead of trying to solve them by the often impracticable process of mere thought.—Providence Journal.

Citizens Form Fire Brigade

When a $125,000 fire broke out in the J. B. Smith lumber yard at Callander the other day, a C.N.R. locomotive was called in to help pump water, fire-fighting equipment was rushed from North Bay, citizens loaned buckets, pails and garden hose.

Selling in England

Comments the Ottawa Journal.—"Speaking in St. Thomas Hon. Charles McCrea, Ontario Minister of Mines, quoted figures prepared by Hon. T. L. Kennedy, the provincial Minister of Agriculture, which prove the extraordinary development of agricultural exports to the British market. In the period from January 31, 1932, to January 31, 1933, percentage increases of farm products exported to the United Kingdom were as follows, as compared to the twelve months immediately preceding:

	Percent
Canned fruits	93
Oats	60
Bran	644
Flaxseed	1,168
Tobacco	104
Bacon	186
Beef	190
Pork	283
Poultry	1,688
Canned Milk	140
Canned Meats	2,443

This remarkable showing is all the more significant when it is remembered that the new treaty was in effect for only about half the latter year. Furthermore it is apparent that there is a cumulative effect on the development of an export business and that it will be years before the full benefit is reaped. Enough has been accomplished already, however, to justify the convictions of those who brought the treaty into existence and commended it to the people of this country."

Getting Rid of Moths

A government bulletin says the way to frighten off moths is to use a pound of paradichlorobenzine, and if this won't do the trick we would suggest takeahammerandknockhisblockoff.

A Swedish firm is planning to convert 1,000,000 tons of wood pulp into synthetic sugar every year. The sugar is to be used for cattle feeding and distillation into commercial alcohol.

More International Education Urged

Angell Tells All Peoples Association It Will Curb Nationalism

Copenhagen.—International education was urged to overcome excess nationalism by Sir Norman Angell, British economist, at a recent meeting of the All Peoples Association here. Sir Norman blamed excess of nationalism for the economic and financial collapse of the world.

The kind of education given at present does not help us to perceive the essential conditions that make for peace or the nature of the world in which we live, continued Sir Norman. For the last 10 years the economists have been urging the governments of the world to scale down or wipe out reparations and debts, and to have lower tariffs. Education must teach that the vast sums involved in debts or reparations can only be paid in goods or services. This must be taught in a way that millions can grasp.

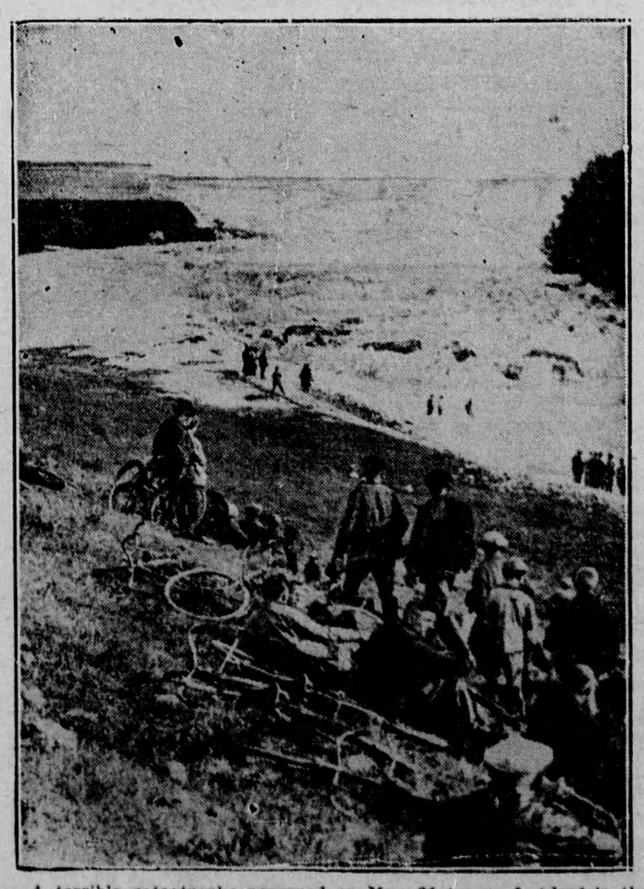
The use of international textbooks for the teaching of history, literature and other subjects were urged by Sir Norman to develop an appreciation for the achievements of other countries. These books should be compiled by economists, whose interest and policies were based on building up rather than on exaggerations; on brotherhood, rather than nationalism.

Baby Who Stole Film Wins Seven-year Contract

Hollywood, Calif.—Paramount Studios have announced the signing to a seven-year contract of Leroy Weinbruner, the one-year-old baby who shared honors with Maurice Chevalier in a recent movie.

From the weather this spring, it is predicted that army worms will be flourishing in grain fields this summer.

Mountain Slides Into German River



A terrible catastrophe occurred on May 31st near Latdorf in the Merseburg district of Germany when the chalk mountains slipped into into the Saale river. The water mounted half a meter in a few minutes.

100,000 City People Back on the Land

Satisfactory Results Reported In Most Cases—Quebec to Extend Grants of Money

(Comments the Toronto Mail and Empire.)

The wholesome back-to-the-land movement in which Hon. Wesley Gordon, Minister of Labor and Immigration, has taken a strong lead ever since he came into office, is gaining a constructive impetus. In co-operation with the two railway systems and the provincial government, nearly 100,000 individuals have been taken from the cities and placed on farms. The bread-winners in most cases thus provided for lived formerly on the soil and were attracted to urban centres during former boom periods. A familiarity with rural life fits them to succeed as farmers or farm workers.

Most of the provinces have co-operated with the Federal Government and with the railways in ths movement, and satisfactory results have been obtained in many parts of the Dominion, though there has been a percentage of failures, due perhaps to poor selection on the part of some municipalities. It is understood that the Ontario Government will continue to place suitable settlers on the land along the existing highways, and where colonization roads are used they will be put in shape under the unemployment relief plan. It is understood that Mr. Gordon, during his present trip to the North Country, is giving some time to the study of the problem.

In the Province of Quebec Premier Taschereau has announced that his Government plans to intensify the back-to-the-land movement by extending grants of money for a period of three years to farmers who are willing to place their sons on abandoned farms. The Department of Colonization, Game and Fisheries is co-operating with the Department of Agriculture in this work. In the view of Mr. Taschereau, a long-continued exodus of young men and women from rural areas to urban districts has weakened the basis of Quebec's prosperity and development to a disquieting extent. It is the Government's intention to do all in its power to correct this unprofitable situation.

This is all to the good. At such a time, newspapers everywhere should refrain from publishing sensational stories regarding the failure of occasional migrants to the land. These people constitute a small minority, and the unnecessary airing of their grievances tends to discourage an invaluable movement which, if properly developed, can make a real contribution to the renewed development of prosperous conditions throughout Ontario and the Dominion.

1,300,000 Return to Jobs In U.S. Within 3 Months

Washington.—Reports of a general upturn in business cheered administration leaders as they fought to carry out President Roosevelt's billion dollar economy program.

Budget director Lewis Douglas brought word to the White House that 1,300,000 persons have returned to their jobs since March 4. Harvey Couch, member of the Board of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, told the President that the steady increase in cotton prices already was proving an economic stimulant to southern agriculturists.

From the Federal Reserve Board came new indications of economic recovery. Member banks in 90 leading cities reported that in the week ending May 31, total loans increased $133,000,000 to reach a total of $8,485,000,000.

Loans on securities rose $65,000,000 to $3,713,000,000. Total loans and investments increased $97,000,000 to $16,426,000,000.

Couched, in his explanation, declared that the rise in cotton prices from $30 to $50 a bale, not only have a tremendous impetus to southern buying power, but also strengthened the position of the banks in the cotton-growing states. He estimated that the $50,000,0 9 loan to China by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, would result in the purchase of at least 1,000,000 bales of botton, some of it from the surplus stocks.

Ancient Bird Books Displayed at McGill

Montreal.—Books about birds printed more than four and a half centuries ago are included in an extensive exhibit at McGill University library, which is open to the public throughout the summer months.

The exhibit includes many rare books from the collection in the Blacker Library of Ornithology; the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology, augmented by rare volumes from the Osler Library; an extensive selection from the 4000 original bird paintings in possession of the library; stuffed birds, and birds' eggs from the Redpath Museum, and other material relating to the history of bird illustration.

The American alligator got its name by mistake: Spanish explorers mistook it for a great lizard and called it el largato, the lizard.

'Joltless" Street Car Passes First Test

Result of $500,000 Research is Demonstrated in Brooklyn

New York.—Citizens of a certain section of Brooklyn beheld a strange sight last week—a street car that sped along making less noise than an electric egg-beater.

Rolling on rubberized tires, and with rubber "sandwiches" worked into springs, the car was demonstrated after two years of research in which $500,000 was expended in an effort to produce a more comfortable and more efficient means of transportation for the nation's strap-hangers.

The car was given its first formal test before a group of newspaper and magazine writers, all of whom were permitted to ride in it. They were impressed not only by the complete quietness of the car in operation, but by the developments of speed control which eliminates sudden and jolting stops and starts.

A man may stand in the aisle and read his newspaper without fear of being thrown violently against other standees, and without the clatter and bang ordinarily associated with street car transportation. It is as though, in fact, he were riding in a deep cushioned limousine.

C. F. Hirshfield, noted engineer, who had charge of the experiments in their various phases, sought to determine just what things about street cars irritate and discommode the passenger. The noise, the jarring, the ventilation and speed were the main factors. One problem which confronted him was the fact that many passengers become irritated when they see automobiles swing in ahead of the street car.

Thus the present car was evolved. Noise has been eliminated to such an extent that the most distinguishable sound is that of the trolley wheel running overhead.

The new type controls provide a "pick-up" rate almost double that of the ordinary street car.

Spanish Flyers Set New Mark

Cover 4,500 Miles From Seville to Havana in Forty Hours

Havana, Cuba.—On June 11 two veteran Spanish army flyers covering 4,500 miles in a non-stop flight from Seville to Cuba, set a new North Atlantic record.

Capt. Mariano Barberan and Joaquin Collar left the Spanish city on Saturday morning and arrived at Camaguey, in Central Cuba, Sunday afternoon, averaging about 115 miles an hour during the 39 hours and 50 minutes they were in the air.

Their reception at the Camaguey Airport was a cordial one, while Havana gave them an ovation greater than the first.

Their plane, named the Cuatro Vientos, or Four Winds, landed gracefully after making the crossing with almost mathematical precision.

"We had one fine trip," the Spaniards exclaimed as their big plane slid down out of the grey clouds. The weather was good, they said.

The aviators saw only two passenger ships during their flight. "I don't expect they saw us, however, because we were flying very high," they said.

A manufacturer here said he would pay the Spaniards $5,000 for the first Spain-to-Cuba flight, although his long-standing prize offer elapsed last January.

Cuban officials estimated the distance at 4,533 miles, most of it over water.

German Research Group to Check Oil Deposits

Berlin.—Germany is making an effort to check all its natural resources. As a first step, the "German Society for Oil Research" has been founded, including representatives of the government, industry, experts of the National Socialist and Nationalist Parties, and several independent experts.

Professor C. Eduard Leo Ubbelohde, of Karlsruhe has been appointed president, while Gottfried Feder, well-known economic expert of the Nazi party, has been named liaison officer.

According to the statutes drawn up by the society, its first task will be to create a basis for methodical geological and geophysical research all over Germany, with a view to ascertaining the exact site of oil deposits as well as their approximate potential yield.

An extensive study also is to be made as to question of exploitation, refining, transport, storing and the use of oil and oil products.

Greater New York Sets Census at 12,616,300

New York.—The metropolitan population of New York now is 12,616,300, an increase of nearly 600,000 since the 1930 census, the Merchants Association reported June 1st.

New York City's estimated population was placed at 7,218,000, against 6,930,446 in 1930.

New York's metropolitan or retail trading area comprises territory within a radius of 60 miles from downtown New York.