Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA.

Label for Careless Driver.

How would it do to compel a driver fined for careless driving to attach a red tag to the door of his car for 30 days, with a stiff fine, or cancellation of permit for its removal?—Sault Star.

Double Reform.

It has been found by actual experience that moving a slum population into a reconstruction area does not change the slum dweller's habits. In Holland experiments have been made, which Britain will probably follow. There, certain areas were destroyed and the slum dwellers were kept segregated and not simply allowed to go elsewhere to form other slums. Instead they were put through a period of training so that when they were placed in the reconstruction areas they were prepared for the changed environment.—Halifax Chronicle.

The Steam Whistle.

Another railway centenary is attained this year—the whistle on the engine. When the steam engine first ran on tracks in England the engineer sounded a warning by means of a horn. But the sound did not penetrate very far, and the railway people went to the man who invented the steam engine, George Stephenson—and asked him to produce something more effective. So about six years after the invention of the engine, Stephenson invented the whistle that would blow by steam from the boiler. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Hasty Marriages.

The Presbyterian Church in United States has made a new church law whereby couples intending to get married must notify their minister at least three days before the ceremony. It is a good sensible rule that will prevent any hasty marriages. The main trouble with marriage today is that it is too easy.—Lindsay Post.

The King's Shirts.

The Prince of Wales warmly appeals to the people of the Empire to buy British. His royal father is even a stronger advocate of home produce. The King will grow his own shirts on his home farm. A field of flax planted two years ago at Sandringham by King George is now capable of yielding the thread. The fibre that is the fruit of this plant is now being shipped to the north of Ireland to be spun into linen cloth which, after being cut, basted, sewn and provided with buttonholes and buttons, will be sent back to the monarch for use as the royal shirt, produced within the Empire in its entirety. It's a fashion worth following. —Brandon Sun.

Odd Accidents.

The Galt Reporter tells of a peculiar accident. A motor car focussed by its windshield the rays of the sun on the tire of another motor parked near, and set it on fire. The Montreal Star reports the death of a man who grew roses and loved them but was pricked by a thorn. He took the usual precautions, being aware of danger in such cases, but the poison affected him, and he died complaining of violent pains in his heart. What the unexpected can do is always a subject for argument. Also, for vigilance.—Hamilton Herald.

Newsprint Upturn.

Newsprint makers are hoping that if general business improvement continues it will be reflected in larger sales for them and the growth of output in the last couple of months appears to point that way.

An upturn in production was noted in April and in May there is understood to have been a further increase, with prospects that June's production will show still a further advance.

The industry, is, of course, overexpanded and it will be a long while yet before the demand approaches the mill capacity, but as the business pick-up in Canada and the United States is reflected in more advertiing the demand for newsprint paper will increase, with a corresponding benefit to the industry and to those districts dependent on its success.—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Want No Revolution.

Sherwood Anderson, novelist, has put in most of this year wandering around America, talking to city people, country people, men in breadlines, hitch-hikers and everybody else he could get hold of, trying to find out if there is any sign of a revolution in the United States. He reports now, in the American Spectator, that there is not. Out of his various observations Mr. Anderson has evolved a rather profound truth about the American people. They are not thinking politically in the way that the peoples of Europe are thinking politically because they are still imbued with the "log cabin to White House" idea. They still like to think of the United States as the land of unlimited opportunity, and herefore they are unwilling to countenance restriction of that opportunity.—Calgary Albertan.

THE EMPIRE.

No Escape From News.

It is one of the penalties of civilization that it becomes increasingly difficult to escape from news. There was a time when during an ocean voyage one could escape from the wheel of things, forget that people were doing lots and lots of things which were of no real interest, in fact take a complete holiday from the newspapers. Now alas! the passenger in a liner finds a newspaper on his breakfast table and the world is always with him. We had always imagined that one of the compensations of prison life was its detachment from outside events. It seems that we were mistaken. At present the prisoners are called together and the news is read to them by the governor or the chaplain. Now a further experiment is to be tried. Each week prisoners are, in certain prisons, to be supplied with a typewritten summary of world news which they can read in their cells.—London Saturday Night.

Rhodes Scholars.

If the Oxford Rhodes Scholars bring to this and other countries a certain atmosphere, a certain tone, a certain outlook upon life, a certain mature reflectiveness and strength of character, they will go far to satisfy the Rhodes ideal, and they will give a lead, whether they know it or not. Is it not a little significant that one of them, who had had an excellent record both at school and college before going over, said after a year at Oxford that he had learned for the first time in his life to think for himself? Nothing is more needed today in every sphere of life. It is probably desirable that former Rhodes Scholars should come more out into the open and bring their cultural advantages more evidently to bear on the thought and life of the community. —Cape Argus, South Africa.

Have Animals Souls?

In regard to the discussion under this head, one writer says of the birds, "Their little hearts are full of emotion and passion. Their soul-stirring notes express intense feeling," while Shakespeare summed up the matter shortly, when he said, "The lark at heaven's gate sings."

The ingenuity of birds in nest-building makes it impossible to deny them a measure of reason, and many have given their lives for their young when they could have escaped. Birds often befriend little orphaned nestlings. It is amazing to read of the agony of grief of an animal that has lost its mate. It is said of the nightingale that if its mate is captured it cannot live, but dies of grief. A tame jackdaw greatly enjoyed being dragged along the floor sitting in a cap.—Scottish Newspaper.

Road and Railway.

It is to our mind of the first importance that the establishment of control and co-ordination should precede the formulation of a general road policy; how is it possible to lay down a scientific road program until the transportation requirements have been determined? Owing to circumstances which could not be foreseen, our road system is unbalanced. The great trunk roads were first built. When the railways followed, they inevitably largely imitated the alignment of the roads. In the result nearly one-half of the total mileage of railways in British India has a metalled road parallel and within ten miles of it. At the same time, large producing centres and ten of thousands of considerable villages have no road connections in the true sense at all. The aim of any road policy, therefore, must be to concentrate on roads which will meet existing deficiencies, permitting the linking up with railways by means of through bills of lading and other measures.—Times of India.

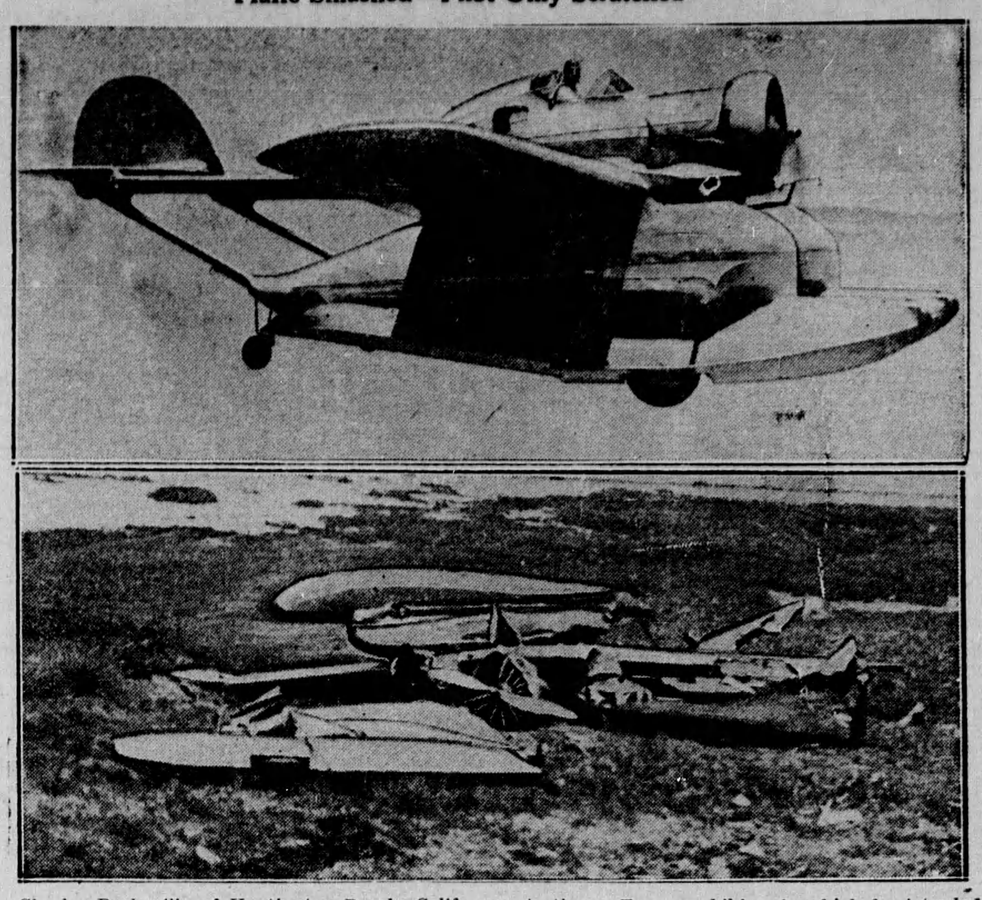
THE UNITED STATES.

Long Life of Colleges.

One reason for not taking too gloomy a view of what hard times will do to our colleges is that institutions of higher learning are very hard to kill. Colleges and universities are among our oldest surviving social institutions. A university will often outlive a nation or a dynasty or an economic system. Oxford University is older than English Parliamentary Government. The University of Paris is older than the modern French nation and half a dozen times as old as the French Revolution. The University of Heidelberg is nearly ten times as old as the united Germany created by Bismarck. The University of Salamanca is 300 times as old as the Spanish Republic. At home we have nearly a dozen colleges older than the United States that was born in 1789: Harvard, William and Mary, Yale, Princeton, Washington and Lee, Columbia, Rutgers, Salem, Transylvania.—New York Times.

A London man woke up to find a poisonous South American tarantula on his bare arm. He killed it before it stung him. The spider had arrived in some imported fruit.

Plane Smashed—Pilot Only Scratched



Charles Rocheville of Huntington Beach, Calif., was testing a Tern amphibian in which he intended to photograph the upper Mackenzie river district. Suddenly the aeroplane went into a long slide, crashed to earth. Charles crawled out of the wreckage, only slightly injured.

Western Farmers Battle For Crops

Fields of Growing Grain Vanish as 'Hoppers Attack—Birds, Poison Defence

Winnipeg, June 24.—Barely escaping being burnt in last week's baking heat before welcome rains arrived, ranging from light showers in other districts to heavy downpours in others, Western Canada's growing crops were menaced by another foe.

Farmers, encouraged temporarily by refreshing moisture, watched their fields being almost visibly destroyed as a plague of grasshoppers, said to be the worst in years, swept over two of the prairie provinces, wreaking havoc among the six-inch shoots.

An intensive fight against the hoppers was being waged in Southern Saskatchewan, with the supply of munitions completely exhausted, while Manitoba, aided by birds, was meeting success in its battle. Alberta as yet has not been greatly affected.

A hurry call for additional supplies of poison bait was sent out from Regina, where H. S. Vigor, crops commissioner, stated all available supplies are exhausted. More than 3,000 tons of bran, 515 tons of oats and 48 carloads of sawdust, with other ingredients, have been sent out from there to meet the situation.

Manitoba farmers were much more hopeful as they continued their battle. The situation in this province was said to be considerably improved, though still serious in southwestern districts. Deloraine, in the western part of the province, reported a large number of seagulls were proving the most effective check against the ravages of the hoppers.

Prospects of further general precipitation, however, promised to lessen the menace. Calgary received a heavy downpour, while Swan River, in Northwest Manitoba, was benefited by a miniature cloudburst. Nearly two inches of rain fell at Kamsack, Eask.

Famous Racing Motorist Sir Henry Birkin, Dies

London. — Despite a desperate battle by doctors, Captain Sir Henry Birkin, a famous racing motorist, died in a London nursing home from the effects of blood poisoning resulting from burns received at the Tripoli Grand Prix in May.

Sir Henry had been critically ill for three weeks, and three blood transfusions were tried.

He had been one of Great Britain's leading riveds since 1927. He was 36 years old.

Sir Henry Birkin was born July 26, 1896. He succeeded his father to the baronetcy in 1931. It was created in 1905. He served in the war from 1914 to 1918.

Fewer Operations Are Seen in the Future

Chicago—Prediction that the surgeon of the future would "operate" with mathematical equations instead of knives was made by Dr. George Crile, of the Cleveland clinic bearing his name, in an address before the American Association for the advancement of Science.

Looking forward, we can glimpse a century of fewer operations," he said. "Biochemistry and biophysics will supplant the scalpel, and present day medical theories will give way to mathematical equations."

Another Champion Honored

(The Toronto Globe.)

Toronto has become the resting-place for another championship. This time it is a foot runner that has brought fame to Canada. Dave Komonen, a citizen or Toronto, journeyed to Washington, entered the race from Mount Vernon to the Capital, and the best runners on the continent fell back one after another before his determined contention.

Dave Komonen started for Washington in much the same fashion as George Young when he set out for the famous Catalina swim. There was no public enthusiasm when they departed; no bands played; no cheering crowds saw them off and washed them well. Both travelled light. George Young returned as victor in a gruelling swim through strange waters that lasted far into the night. Dave Komonen brings home the laurel wreath of triumph achieved in the grimmest athletic endurance test to which body and mind can be subjected.

The City Council has honored Dave Komonen, and that is well. In this home of champions one more always is welcome. Dave is a small man. It was not powerful physique that carried him to victory. Just dogged determination and, of course, fleetness of foot. In such a grind mind must assume command over the body; and evidently Dave Komonen's brain and his feet were functioning in perfect co-ordination. Such a contest takes a lot out of a man, but admirers of this plucky runner will hope that he has enough stamina left to carry him to further victories. His fellow-citizens are proud of him and his marvellous achievement.

Lindbergh Estate to be Used For Children's Work

Hopewell, N.J.—The Lindbergh estate in the lonely Southland Mountains, with its gabled white farm house from which Charles Augustus Lindbergh, Jr., was stolen by kidnappers, is to become a centre for children's welfare work.

Whether Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh are donating the property, an act which would suggest the projected centre, is to be a memorial to their murdered son, or whether a purchase price is to be paid could not be learned.

Such details as were made known, however, indicate the Lindberghs have an interest in the plan, to the extent, at least, of becoming trustees in the corporation which will direct the affairs of the property, henceforth to be known as "High Field."

In papers of incorporation, filed in Jersey City with Gustav Bach, clerk of Hudson county, it was stated the purpose of the corporation is "to provide for the welfare of children, including their education, training, hospitalization, or other allied purposes, without discrimination in regard to race or creed."

Besides Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh and Colonel Breckinridge, Abraham Flexner, the educationist, and Owen R. Lovejoy are named trustees.

Will Observe Fortune By Punching Noses

Pittsburg. — Awaiting an inheritance of about $500,000 after being jobless three years, George C. Jones says he's going to "punch everybody I don't like on the nose" after he gets the money.

Jones has been notified that his grandfather died in Wales, leaving him $375,000, a royalty of $10,000 yearly on coal lands and "other securities." He has been receiving aid from the welfare fund for nearly a year.

Railways Parley Planned at Ottawa

Intervention Made in Proposed Additional Reduction—Date Not Stated

Ottawa, June 26.—Hon. W. A. Gordon, Minister of Labor, has arranged for a conference this week between representatives of railway labor and the Canadian railway managements on proposed wage reductions. This was stated briefly Friday night following a conference between the Minister and the chiefs of the running trades. In arranging for the conference Mr. Gordon was able to meet the request of union chiefs. No indication was given as to the exact date of the conference.

MEN OPPOSE REDUCTION.

Montreal.—Some 100,000 members, comprising the combined railroad unions, will ask the Dominion Government to intervene in the present wage disputes, it was learned Friday.

With the final notices served on the maintenance of way men, whose membership includes all types of section workers to the number of about 35,000, every type of rail worker is included under the new proposed cut of 10 per cent. The new 10 per cent. salary reduction is the second within a year and a half, and will bring the total reduction to 20 per cent. when it goes into effect the middle of July.

With running trades union chiefs reported in conference with the Minister of Labor at Ottawa, union leaders in Montreal said that they would not allow the cut to be effected, but will seek Government intervention along the same lines as those in force in the United States.

3 Trailers Hauled By One Plane

Airmen's Dream of Aerial Train Takes Step Toward Realization

Los Angeles.—Three motorless airplanes were hauled about the sky here by a fourth plane, acting as "locomotive."

This is understood here to be first instance in aerial history in the United States in which as many as three trailers have been towed simultaneously by one motored craft.

The demonstration was regarded as a step toward realization of the dreams of airmen—that of operating aerial express trains with only the leading ship powered and the rest towed so they can be cut loose from the train at any landing field along a transport route.

Chemists Standardize Canadian Rdium Supply

Ottawa.—Chemists at the National Research Laboratories have standardized Canadian produced radium. In a few days it will be sold to doctors, clinics and hospitals throughout the country, bringing renewed health to cancer victims.

The radium came from the extraction plant at Port Hope, Ont., stopping place on its long trip from the rugged shores of Great Bear Lake in the Far North to lead-walled hospital vaults. The radium needles were compared here to a standard of known intensity and their individual strength catalogued. The Canadian standard of 24.24 milligrams has been approved by the International Radium Institute at Vienna.

Will Grasshoppers Become Plagues In the Dominion

Canadian Climatic Conditions Differ from Far East—Hoppers Need Two Generations to Develop Migratory Wings

Manitoba has figured in the news of the day recently when vast hordes of grasshoppers invaded the countryside and lakes. Consequently the important question of the possibility of Canadian grasshoppers imitating these of the Old World and evolving into the migratory species, is raised.

The late Norman Criddle, writing in the "Canadian Entomologist" reviews this point very thoroughly and it is his contention that "Although many Canadian grasshoppers have been observed in the swarming phase growing longer wings and developing slender, race-horse bodies capable of long flight, it would appear that the migratory species of the Old World requires at least two generations to develop under certain climatic conditions, which apparently are absent in Canada and that in Canada the transposition from the solitary to the migratory phase seems to stop at the transition stage."

At the same time, Mr. Criddle records "Thus, in 1932 the two-striped grasshopper, for the first time in our experience (30 years), assumed all the aspects of the migratory locust and flew long distances and in such numbers that the larger lakes were polluted with drowned insects. Indeed the shores of Lake Winnipeg presented a mass of decaying grasshoppers several inches deep.

Nevertheless, Mr. Criddle stated that "it is difficult to compare the grasshopper outbreaks in Manitoba with those in the Old World as it is obvious that the conditions are entirely different, and that the Dominion will not have to combat conditions of the Far East, where the present-day locust hordes desolate the countryside

Canadian Navy to Patrol Pelagic Sealing Grounds

Ottawa.—Canada's navy has returned to its dual base. The destroyers Skenna and Vancouver have harbored at Esquimalt, B.C., and the Saguenay and Champlain at Halifax.

H.M.C.S. Vancouver is being groomed for the Pelagic seal patrol up the coast of Vancouver Island, through Hecate Straits, by Queen Charlotte Islands, and so to sub-Arctic seas.

The Pelagic seal patrol is Canada's fulfilment of her treaty obligation with the United States for the protection of the famous fur seals of the Pribiloff Islands.

In June and July the seals go north to the breeding grounds of the islands, but to prevent the depredations of illicit sealers, American and Canadian naval vessels protect them on the journey.

The Pribiloff Isles used to be the scene of wanton slaughter of the animals, but two benevolent governments have stepped in. The islands are United States territory and as the killing of the seals has been made a government monopoly, and strictly regulated. For her part in protecting the seals in Canadian waters and off the Canadian coast, Canada gets 15 per cent. of the pelts.

The other destroyers of the Canadian navy will spend the summer on manoeuvres and training in Canadian waters.

British Party to Measure Polar Ice Depth

London.—An Arctic expedition organized by Oxford and Cambridge Universities, is scheduled to depart shortly to determine the depths of polar ice, it was announced here.

Changes in the world's climate greatly depend on the polar ice, the scientists said.

The expedition will precede only by a few days the departure of the Lincoln Ellsworth expedition to the Antarctic.

Oliver Hardy, Film Star, Files Suit for Divorce

Los Angeles. — Suit for divorce from Mrs. Myrtle Lee Hardy was filed in superior court today by Oliver Hardy, member of the film team of Laurel and Hardy, who charged his wife with mental cruelty.

In asking the divorce Hardy charged that many times Mrs. Hardy would leave home for a long period of time and when he found her "she was in an exhausted and bedraggled condition due to intoxicating liquors."

French Producers Ask Ban on Foreign Films

Paris. — A ban on all foreign motion pictures for one year, beginning July 5, was demanded in a resolution drafted by French film producers, it was learned here.

The demand is to be presented to the ministry of commerce immediately. The French roducers oppose foreign competition which they fear may force them out of business.

Mrs. Caroline Merriott, London's oldest woman, aged 107, is down with bronchitis. She was born at Tooting and worked in a laundry until she was 85. Up to last year she cooked her own meals.