Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Steady Gains

Babson's reports on conditions in Canada this month says business improvement is being steadily maintained over this Dominion. The current bulletin says that while general business in the United States is showing a tendecy to flatten off into a temporary sidewise movement, there is no interruption in the upward sweep of major industries throughout the Dominion.—Brandon Sun.

Population Growth

There are 73,000,000 more people in the world to-day than there were four years ago, according to Sir Charles Close, president of the International Population Union, who apparently keeps close tab on births and deaths.

Getting Business

Under the new trade treaties Canada's exports to France have increased by 73 per cent. in the past year, and those to South Africa are up 65 per cent. That's talking business.—Border Cities Star.

Sun Tan Plan

The girl who used to blacken her leg to hide a hide a hole in her stocking now tans both legs and wears no stockings at all.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Little, But Oh My!

A bee's sting is one-thirty-second of an inch long. The other two feet is imagination.—Sault Star.

Publicity For Moosejaw

According to the record of the Dominion Press Cliping Bureau, the Moosejaw Evening Times was quoted 190 times by other Canadian newspapers for the three months ended March 31. This is good publicity for Moosejaw and a compliment to our editorial page. The Ottawa Journal heads the list with 2,318 quotations, and the Toronto Globe is second with 2,033. Out of 101 dailies, Moosejaw Times ranks 57th.—Moosejaw Times.

Big Business and President Roosevelt

Big business supported the dictators in Italy and Germany and continues to support them. There was a time when neither Mussolini nor Hitler could have gone forward without this backing. Perhaps both are independent of it to-day. Nevertheless, it remains their stout ally. In the United States big business has not been o cordial to Roosevelt. He has had to employ pressure, and even yet it remains to be seen whether the great industries will heartily co-operate with him. But it is plain enough that if the great financial and industrial interests are secretly in favour of some sort of dictatorship, Roosevelt is not their idea of a dictator.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Careless With Money

A Calgary river bather complains to the police that $283 were lifted from his clothes while he was disporting himself in the water. It may sound cruel, but what right has a man so careless to complain?—Calgary Herald.

Destruction of Forests

The shortsightedness of many of our pioneers has turned very considerable areas of Canada into veritable deserts. Due to the thoughtless cutting of wood, lands that were once farmed successfully are now little more than "blow-sand country. But what our pioneers did under the urge of necessity, we continue to do to-day without that urge. We are denuding our woodlands everywhere for present profit without thought for the future.—Winnipeg Tribune

Think Things Through

Thinking things through to the bitter end is a difficult task for most men and women, but how much saner and logical the result when it is done. It is a habit that should be cultivated by all and especially by those who are or would be leaders.—Edmonton Journal.

Helter-Skelter

The New York Sun has a paragraph: The Dutch, destroying bulbs, and the Southern farmers plowing cotton under, might use barter to advantage. Dutch bulbs might be as much of a novelty in the south as cotton plants would be in the Netherlands.

Nothing could indicate the helter-skelter condition of the world more than the fact that they destroyed large quantities of wheat in Kansas, they have burnt thousands of tons of coffee n Brazil and for scores of primary products like sugar, rubber, etc., the market price has been below the actual cost of production. Right at home here last year, hundreds of tons of good grapes were left on the vines.

The reference is, of course, to last year and a comparison with this year affords big hope and encouragement all round.—St. Catharines Standard.

Drainage and Drought

Governments may be permitted to grant a bonus for each acre of land reclaimed from swampy areas, and to pay a farmer for draining his own land. But the time may come when these water reservoirs will be wished for because they are moisture preserves.—Sherbrooke Record.

No Time to Laugh

A woman teacher at Vancouver recently offered to resign her post if it were granted to a male teacher without a job, in which case she would marry her successor. The School Board "laughed her proposal out of court." One of the great causes of the present wave of unemployment, according to many authorities, is the fact that millions of women have refused to display the spirit that this Vancouver teacher is so eager to do. Not only is she willing to make room for a workless man, but she is willing to do it knowing that it means the sacrifice of financial independence on her part. Her belief that she will be more than compensated for that sacrifice is beside the point.—Edmonton Journal.

THE EMPIRE

The Frst Jazz Band

It is recalled that the Royal Artillery band, which accompanies the Woolwich searchlight tattoo, was the only regimental band recognized and provided for in the Estimates of 1832. In that year it consisted of 38 performers, including two negroes who played the big drum, the cymbals, and the "Jingling Johnnies." This apparently was the first official recognition of a jazz band. Supernatural foresight cannot be expected, even from the military.—London Evening News.

Better Times

There has been noticeable this year a brighter spirit in industry. Unemployment has fallen beyond the seasonal fall, employment has risen. Output is rising. Business losses have been replaced by profits, as recent statistics show. The relief from anxiety so afforded has as yet touched a narrow circle. Until it is translated into higher wages throughout the community, the area of depression and hardship will not shrink.—London Daily Herald.

A Weak Decision

It is officially announced from the Dominion Office that the Empire Marketing Board is to be abolished. There are no sufficient reasons to justify this decision as it stands, and the matter is sure to be raised as soon as Parliament reassembles. The refusal of the Dominions to cooperate in a joint Imperial body, regrettable as it must be, is not a reason why the Government of this country should discontinue the work of the Board on behalf of the home producer and the Colonies, or its work in helping the population of these islands to realize what the British Empire is. It is a commonplace that the Colonies have suffered neglect in the past, and that earlier Governments have been slow to give the lead in organizing their development. In its seven years of life the E. M. B. has done much to remove that reproach, and no voices have been clearer or more sustained in protest against the proposal to disband the Board than those of Colonial producers, whether they grow bananas in the West Indies or sisal in East Africa or tea in Ceylon.—London Times.

Prams Are Passing

Not so long ago, certainly in the prolific reign of Victoria, when fathers were apt to miscount the number of their children, push-carts and "prams" must have formed the largest class of vehicular traffic. Nowadays, when three children constitute a "large family," there are undoubtedly more motor cars than perambulators. If the baby-carriage is doomed to disappear, then babies also will be merely objects of antiquarian interest. And that is a painful thought.—London Daily Mail.

Safety on the Roads

The mortality on the roads is too high, is increasing, and must be diminished. It will not be diminished by broadcast appeals to the motoring public to be reasonable and careful. The overwhelming mass of motorists is reasonable and careful. But there is a minority that is neither, and this minority is indifferent to appeals, and can only be restrained by the fear of drastic penalties for recklessness.—A. G. Gardinar in The London Star.

Slipshod Literature

Literature more than anything else betrays the specious and slipshod. These things are not altogether the fault of the contemporary writer. They are the fault of the time he lives in. To write as Macauley wrote, or Dickens, or Thomas Hardy, who was the last of them, a man requires a background that is spacious and secure. But such a background no longer exists. The uncertainty and restlessness of modern life are reflected in modern letters. A man without confidence in the future can feel no confidence in his future or in himself, and such confidence is essential to really good work.—Truth (London).

THE UNITED STATES

Should Know Better

The world, according to science, is 2,000,000 years old. The man in the street thinks that at this age it ought to know better than to act as it does. —New York Sun.

Cycles Seven Hours To See Fair

Sanford (Sunny) McSweeney, 15-year-old Star delivery boy of Orillia, who covered the distance from his home to the residence of his aunt, Mrs. Charles Baker, in Alderwood, in seven hours, so he could see Canada's greatest fair. "I always wanted to see the 'Ex.,'" he said.

Physicians Must Change To Meet New Conditions

Guleph.—Urging members of the medical profession "to join other groups in making appraisal of existing economic conditions, Dr. F. C. Neal of Peterborough, president of the Ontario Medical Association told 100 physicians of this district that it was useless for them to try and adjust their affairs to the present system.

The relation of medicine to economics, and the need for some definite step being taken to assure the medical man recompense for the services which he has been giving free, were emphasized by Dr. Neal, who was speaking on the grounds of the Homewood Sanatorium to members of District No. 2 of the Ontario Medical Association which included physicians from Brant, Waterloo, Wellington, Oxford Perth, Huron and Norfolk counties.

Britain's Trade Problem

Writes the Leeds Yorkshire Post: The United States are not dependent for essential food supplies upon ability to buy abroad. They are independent, too, to a much greater extent than ourselves in the matter of raw materials, cotton being a prominent example. It follows that whether we like it or not we must perforce pay greater attention at all times to ability to sell abroad, because only so car we buy what we need. Therefore, we cannot even temporarily afford to neglect the probable effect of deliberate and far-reaching currency devaluation by inflation upon our necessary imports of overseas foodstuffs and raw materials.

British Firms to Supply Argentine Locust Barriers

Buenos Aires.—British firms will be awarded contracts for 13,000,000 of 20,000,000 metres of sheet iron locust barriers which the Argentine Government will order for October delivery, it was said in semi-official quarters in the Ministry of Agriculture.

United States firms will supply the balance. The contracts will aggregate about $5,250,000 in Canadian funds

Corn Ripe in August Three Weeks Ahead

London, Ont.—For the first time in the memory of farmers, corn was cut on an extensive scale in August. Between London and Ingersoll, nearly half of the farmers commenced cutting their corn crops.

The corn was ripe, and like all other farm crops was two to three weeks ahead of the season. Early apples are being harvested in advance of the normal time. Pumpkins and squash have been available for weeks. As far as farm growth is concerned, the calendar should be nearing the end of September.

Canadian Crabs

Crabs occur on Canada's Atlantic coast, as well as in the Dominion's Pacific waters, but much the larger catch is made by British Columbia fishermen. In 1931 they landed more than 537,000 pounds with a marketed value of something over $27,900. Some of the catch is canned, but the greater part is marketed in the fresh form

Highland Fling Champion

Miss Amy Johnston is shown awarding the Col. Walter Scott Challenge trophy to Miss Ann MacGregor Evan, 17-year-old Ottawa girl who won the cup for highland fling and sword dances at the Central Canada Exhibition Association meet at Ottawa, recently.

Canada's Famous Mounted Police Have Seen Service For Sixty Years

This is the diamond jubilee year of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, formerly the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. The famous force was established in 1873, following the acquisition of the Western prairie land in 1870 by the Dominion of Canada. The Indian tribes on the prairies were at that time powerful and prosperous, but were being demoralized by liquor sellers and by wars of such a nature as to discourage settlement by the whites.

The police, only 300 strong at the outset, marched in 1874 right across the prairies from the Red River in Manitoba to the Rocky Mountains, the entire march being more than 2,000 miles and through country of which part was unknown. The tribes were so impressed that a series of treaties were concluded and the government was enabled to assume effective control of the Indians.

In addition to discharging police duties and undertaking much executive work in the early days, such as guarding against prairie fires, safeguarding lonely settlers, and other responsible tasks, the force had its share of military duties.

The present force of 2,500 officers and men now distributed throughout Canada performs a wide variety of duties. Its members are scattered along the international boundary to aid in enforcing the customs and preventing the entrance of undesirable aliens. Constables are stationed on or in the vicinity of Indian reserves to maintain good order and to aid in the enforcement of laws. Some of them occupy lonely posts in the Northwest territories and the Yukon as well as along the Arctic and Hudson Bay coasts.

Holds a Clothes Record

Royal, Neb.—Clothes just seem to last Walter L. Seaman a long time. He is 65 and has been township assessor since 1899.

Seaman wears a hat, one of the Charlie Chaplin type that he bought forty years ago. His coat and vest are forty-five years old. "The shoes aren't quite that old," he says. "Let's see, I bought them only thirty-one years ago. They cost me $2.50, with a pair of socks thrown in. The first fifteen years I just wore them for Sunday best and then I wore them oftener. I never had to have them mended until they were twenty-five years old. You don't get leather like that now."

Some idea of the durability of the shoes may be gathered from the fact that he covers the entire township on foot to do his assessing. A shirt lasts him six or seven years, but he says he has to buy a new pair of overalls about once a year.

First Woman Director In Talking Pictures

Hollywood, Cal.—Nina Noise is the first woman director to be named by a Hollywood movie studio since the celluloid found voice several years ago.

Gracious, confident and with a background of 17 years as an actress and stage director, the San Franciscan will begin work immediately as assistant to Michael Leisen.

Miss Noise was the first director of New York's province-town players' group. She was both actress and director wth the late Jessie Bonstelle's stock company in Detroit.

Dorothy Arzner, who won her rank in silent picture days, is the only other woman director in motion pictures here.

More Books Borrowed In Manchester, Eng.

Manchester, Eng.—Manchester is reading more than ever, according to statistics revealed in the annual report of the Manchester Corporation Libraries Committees, which shows that during the year 1932-1933 the total issue of books from all departments reached the record figure of 4,774,043 volumes, excluding maps, prints and pictures, representing an increase of 174,874 over the previous year.

Books issued for home reading from the 28 lending libraries numbered 3,766,669 volumes, a daily average of 12,856, or about 24 books every minute of the library year.

Minister Marries Daughter By Long Distance

Woodsville, N.H.—A minister in Lajolla, Calif., spoke the words which made his daughter, Vevah Wyer Mears, and James M. Leonard, man and wife as they stood in a room in the house here in which Leonard was born.

Miss Mears, Leonard and the 10 persons who witnessed the ceremony all wore head sets to listen to the Rev. Charles L. Mears pastor of the Union Congregational Church at Lajolla, perform the ceremony over a special long distance telephone set-up.

Five Bulgarian Reds Condemned to Death

Sofia, Bulgaria.—Five persons have been condemned to death and nine others sentenced to long prison terms after attempted Communist agitation in the army.

Bread Made From Cocoa

Port of Spain, Trinidad.—Due to low price received for cocoa, sale of which they are attempting to increase, bakers here are now making cocoa bread. The new bread has a cake-like flavor but may be eaten in quantities

First Doctor: How are that patient's nerves?

Second Doctor: Fine; he can read all the headlines in the daily paper now without a tremor.

Ignoring Stop Sign Cause of Accidents

Stop signs at approaches to highways are erected for the benefit and protection of motorists, and yet there are many who will pay no heed to these warning signs. Stop, to one class of motorist does not mean ever to slow up and some of them will speed onto a highway and across it trusting to fool's luck to carry them through safely. If it were only dangerous to themselves it would not be so bad but they are endangering the lives of drivers who do exercise precaution. It has become a saying that one does not only have to watch his own driving but the driving of others as well in order to be safe. Those who do not stop at the stop signs are menacing the motorists who believe they can drive past the intersections in safety. Careful drivers should be protected and the stop system rigidly enforced.

Another menace to motor traffic is the one-eyed driver. He drives along the highway a perpetual conundrum to the drivers he meets. He presents a riddle that must be solved in order to avoid accidents, for when a driver sees a one-eyed car approaching he must try and figure out which side the lighted headlight is on and if he makes a wrong guess accidents result. There are sometimes drivers who are not aware that one light has flunked out but the majority know of the defect and drive serenely on preferring to let the other fellow do the worrying instead of having the defect adjusted.

A rigid enforcement of the traffic laws regarding these menaces would do much to decrease the number of accidents on highways and give careful drivers more confidence and a stronger sense of safety when driving.

British Agriculture Loses 2 Million Acres in Decade

London.—British agriculture continues to shrink. The loss in total arable area, according to the first part of the 1932 statistics just issued by the Ministry of Agriculture has been about 2,000,000 acres in ten years. The total grain area alone, which in 1922 was 6,000,000 acres, has decreased each year until it was 4,000,000 acres last year. The area planted in vegetables similarly declined from 1,200,000 acres in 1922 to 81,000 acres in 1932.

Notable exceptions to the general fall, which the report says "can be fairly attributed to the effect of legislation," are the increase in wheat acreage, attributed to the anticipation of the wheat act, and the horticultural products act affording encouragement to home producers.

Customs Returns Rise

Toronto.—An increase in total customs and excise returns for the month of August was revealed with the release of figures from the Toronto Branch of the Dominion Customs and Excise Bureau. Total collections for August amounted to $3,489,169.97, which bettered the July collection by $135,864.30. Reports show that July, 1933, was the first month since June of 1932 that a gain was made.

In months previous to July total collections were down considerably, but the recent gains show that undoubtedly business is on the increase. In comparison with the figures of a year ago, the collections of Tugust of this year show an increase of $56,539.72

Boy Swims 77 Miles To Prove Their Theory

Paducah, Ky.—Clad in bathing suits, equipped with inner tubes and carrying sandwiches in fruit jars Louis Lundy, 20, and W. B. Bruce 17, both of Paris, Tenn. scrambled ashore here after swimming from Danville, Tenn., 77½ miles up the Tennessee river.

They said they had left the water only twice enroute—once when drift-wood punctured their inner tubes requiring patching and again to buy candy. They were in the water 48 hours.

The only reason for their marathon swim was that friends had told them it couldn't be done.