Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Prices Over 25 Years

In the "25 Years Ago Column" of the Brantford Expositor, the following produce prices were recorded for that time:

Butter 28c to 30c a pound, eggs 28c to 30c a dozen, chickens 60c to $1 a pair, ducks $1.20 to $1.50 a pair, beef, 5c to 7c a pound, pork 9c and 10c a pound, lamb 10c and 12c a pound, potatoes 70c a bag, turnips 30c a bushel, onions 65c a bag, apples 15c to 20c a basket.

On Saturday last The Standard had the following prices for the produce market: Butter 25 cents, eggs 35 to 45 cents, chickens 18 cents per pound, live 50 cents each, ducks (alive) 60 cents each, pork 8 to 10 cents a pound, potatoes $1 a bag, and other vegetables generally higher. It will be seen that if the 1908 scale of living and taxes still applied the farmer would not be so badly off.—St. Catharines Standard.

Advisable

There is enough nicotine in a cigar, we read, to kill two cows. That should teach cows not to smoke cigars. —Havana Journal.

Progress Toward Recovery

The improvement in the fundamental things, now well recognized by everyone, will register its effect more emphatically a few months hence than it does now. The money still has to come in for much of our present increased production, and as it comes and gets into circulation, we shall feel the rising benefits. We shall be very much more conscious of it in the coming spring than we are now. By that time we shall have reaped full benefit of the improvement that is now apparent, and that, in turn, will be stimulating the people to still higher hopes. It is a time for tempered optimism, of course, for it must be recognized that a world that has been so sick must convalesce more or less slowly and our progress depends largely upon the progress made in the world at large.—Maritime Merchant.

Agriculture Comes First

Mining is a wasting industry and agriculture is a building-up process. The miner extracts the mineral wealth from the earth's interior and goes on leaving a despoiled area behind him, save for the possibility of conversion into agricultural lands or forests. Proper agricultural methods improve lands and maintain and increase fertility with the passage of time. A country dependent exclusively on mining faces an inevitable extinction. One dependent on agriculture can be at least assured of continued existence and abundance of food. In every great nation's economy agriculture's place comes ahead of that of mining. Food production is mankind's primary occupation. When food supplies fail all else is valueless.—Calgary Herald.

Canadian Banks

There is no need to elaborate on the standing of the banks in Canada. True, they are criticized, as are all banks in all countries. But they have opened their doors every morning of every banking day through the greatest depression in the world's history, and that fact talks down almost every criticism that could be levelled against them. The bankers of Canada have accepted as their first duty the safeguarding of their depositors' money, and they have kept their banks solvent.—Financial News.

Northern Land Settlement

The settlement of the claybelt will hardly be made by townspeople from Old Ontario or elsewhere. They haven't the background, the experience, the gift of doing with little. The man who does not find contentment in clearing land, in seeing his little fields gradually grow, and who finds it hardship to live in a primitive way for a while won't do for the north. The work is hard, the winters are long and patience and optimism are needed.—Sault Star.

Across the Border

If you would like to know about one of the dodges over the border which enables crooks to escape punishment for their misdeeds, consider the plight of Mrs. Clara Alt, of Chicago. Mrs. Alt's home was burglarized in 1928. Twenty times since then Mrs. Alt has gone to court prepared to testify against the men who have been charged with the crime; and each time the case has been continued, so that Mrs. Alt has had the fun of going to the court house 20 times for nothing. The other day a new hearing was scheduled. Mrs. Alt was on a woman's committee to welcome Mrs. Roosevelt to the World's Fair, so she didn't go to court. She was sent for and fined $10 for staying away.—Guelph Mercury.

Canadian Characteristic

Percival Roberts, director of the U.S. Steel and the Pennsylvania Railway Company, has for 33 years spent a summer vacation in Canada and on reaching Montreal en route for home he said when interviewed: "Why I almost feel like a Canadian." Asked as to the first symptom he replied with emphasis, "Good common sense." Johnny Canuck certainly takes a great deal after the head of the family in this respect.—Brantford Expositor.

Eating Laws

Did you know that for many centuries there were laws which said how much a person might eat? Edward the Third of England made one in the year 1336, by which his subjects were forbidden to "go in for" more than two courses at any one meal—except on certain special occasions. Strangely enough, though it was not long before people began to disobey—and kept on doing so—that law remained until 1856, when it was "repealed." A king of France made a law of the same kind, in the year 1340. It stated that nobody in the land was to have more than soup, meat and pudding at one meal, and even the royal banquets were kept down to that limit.—Ottawa Journal.

Destruction of Wealth

Why should we limit the destruction of wealth for the common good to pigs and wheat and cotton and coffee? If it is a good thing to keep people busy cutting down the goods that they possess so that they can get rich on what is left, we might turn our attention to houses and shops and theatres and ships. If we burn up enough houses and sink enough ships, the time will soon come when some one will have a job building new ones. Then every one will be quite happy, since it is only the work that is needed, not the pigs and wheat and shops and houses and ships.—Fort William Times-Journal.

Two Million Dollar Crop

The lowly sugar beet has been a "saver" for the agriculturists of this and other counties during many years when cash crops have been scarce; and when it is considered that the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company will pay out in the neighborhood of two million dollars to the growers raising beets for the Chatham and Wallaceburg factories this year, it is easily seen what this industry means to the people in general in this community.—Chatham News.

Aberdeen Spends

Aberdeen, noted for its reluctance to part with its pennies, has embarked this year on the biggest building schemes in Scotland. The city council passed plans for two hospitals costing nearly $2,000,000 and 1,180 new houses to replace slum properties, costing over $3,500,000.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

New Use For Potatoes

Word comes from Dublin that "an industrial alcohol, to be used as fuel for motor cars as well as in dyes, heating and lighting, has been developed from potatoes and will be made a government monopoly." The estimated production cost is sixpence a gallon. The potato is a lowly vegetable, but there certainly is nothing lowly about a development which holds out such immense possibilities. It is just one more evidence of the remarkable advances being made in scientific research in these amazing times.—Halifax Herald.

THE EMPIRE

The Lesson of 1914

It is probably true that no one in Great Britain either wants war or thinks that war is a good thing. The old view, openly expressed by very distinguished people before 1914, that war is not only necessary but desirable and a tonic for the nation, did not long survive the touch of reality. It was one of the earliest British casualties of the Great War, and its resurrection in this country is unlikely.—Economist (London).

The Spirit of Canada

Dominion status, which is primarily the product of Canadian conditions, is the essential basis upon which the Canadian people combine a genuine loyalty to the British Crown with a passionate belief in their own national destiny. Canada, we must remember, has been settled a long time, according to the standards of the New World. Few of her people, even among those of British stock, can acknowledge the Mother Country as the land of their birth. Canada is, therefore, British in spirit not so much because her citizens have even an ancestral love of Great Britain, as because Great Britain has endowed her with enduring institutions.—H. V. Hodson, in The Spectator (London).

Canned Foods

Unfortunately, the containers do not disappear when their contents are consumed. They have become a public nuisance. The consumption of tins, pots, packets and bottles, even in country districts, has become so great that it is almost impossible to get away from discarded containers. The local authority usually collects them to form a dump for the better housing of vermin. It is astonishing to find that even in a small district containing a few thousand people an enormous dump is quickly formed. Uncollected specimens are left to rust away as they litter the countryside by the thousand.—Sir Leo Chiazza Money, in The English Review (London).

The Solidarity of the Empire

There is evidently a strong belief that the Empire can do a very great deal for itself. The Empire is happiest and most powerful when it can look to London in financial affairs, and when in such affairs the Dominions are in a privileged position. The declaration that was made in London may, in fact, be the beginning of a return to the pleasant and easy order of things in days before the war. At any rate something definite appears to have been done to bring about consolidation of the Empire. All parts are being told that it is a good thing to stand together, and the world hears once again of the financial supremacy of London.—Brisbane Courier.

The Value of India's Livestock

The betterment of India's livestock and their products is an important factor in the economic uplift of the rural masses. A good deal of attention has already been devoted to this problem by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, and particularly by Colonel A. Olver, the Animal Husbandry Expert. The field is one in which little systematic develapment has hitherto occurred, yet it is of enormous importance to the country. Colonel Olver recently estimated that in British India alone there are roughly three hundred million domesticated animals and that the cash value of India's animal products, of which cattle labour and dairy produce are the two most important, cannot be less than R. 1,500 crores (about $562,500,000) annually. These are staggering figures and cannot, we believe, be approached by any other country in the world or which statistics are available.—Bombay Times of India.

Preparing For Big Fight

Biff! Bing! Bang! Len Harvey, British mauler, begins training at Whetstone for his fight with Jack Peterson.

Seventeen Cattle Dead From Dehorning Operation

Paris, Ont.—Seventeen cattle bled to death of the farm of Wylie Godfrey, near here, following dehorning operations, it was learned.

The explanation of the wholesale lass is said to be that the cattle had been feeding on sweet clover ensilage which thinned their blood to the point where dehorning was dangerous.

A fellow-farmer and cattle dealer is said to have dehorned the cattle on request of the owner. He was not informed that the stock had been on a sweet clover ensilage diet, this farmer states, and did not learn that anything was amiss until the night of the day he had performed the dehornings.

All efforts to stop the bleeding were unsuccessful.

Church Vans Travel Into Far North

Distribute Relief to Settlers in Sparsely Populated Districts

For six months of the year the Sunday school vans of the Church of England travel into far northern dioceses distributing literature and cheering hearts of scattered settlers, Miss Irish Sayle told a Winnipeg audience.

One of the 16 vans took Miss Eva Hassell and Miss Sayles up into the Peace River country, starting out from Edmonton on May 25. The rough going was described by Miss Sayles, who said women and children of all nationalities and creeds were visited, and usually the reception was cordial. Often the meal was a frugal one, that settlers offered to the missioners, but they insisted upon sharing it to the last crust.

The travelling church and Sunday School was inaugurated in 1920 at Miss Hassell's own expense, and was so successful that the Western Canada Sunday School Caravan Fund was started. Donations from England are the mainstay in support of the work, the speaker said. If only for the sake of Athabaska diocese, six times the size of England, and with only 15 clergy, the work is worthy, in the opinion of the woman who has travelled thousands of miles in her van.

"The problem of living this winter without cash and with nothing to turn into cash, is the one that faces Peace River people," she declared. "Families to the number of 400 are being clothed by friends in Canada and England."

Tobermory Ship-to-shore Radio Service Limited

Ottawa.—The ship-to-shore radio stations at Tobermory, Ont., and Clarke City, Que., will be continued on a limited service. This announcement was made last week by Hon. Alfred Duranleau, Minister of Marine.

Fourteen hundred blooms on a single plant of cascade chrysanthemums established a record at a London flower show.

Good Old Santa Claus

He's Represented in Dozens of Canadian Cities Bringing Christmas Spirit of Peace and Goodwill to Rich And Poor Alike

Santa Claus, a composite figure of lean and fat, short and long, but always rosy-cheeked and chuckling, is abroad again in the land.

In dozens of Canadian cities and towns, this scene is repeated:

Excited children push and pull at restrained parents. Father wears Bond Street clothes, an imported Ulster, or he wears grimy jeans and a self-effacing sheepish grin.

Mother wears a fur coat, or shivers in someone's discarded finery not intended for either season or the weather.

A band swings down the street, martial music fills the air, the Drum Major's shako sweeps the sky above the throng. It's been a hard, troublous year for rich and poor, and father is determined not to be too much impressed.

A ripple runs through the crowd. The King approaches — in red and white whiskers.

"Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha-a!" he booms without restraint. His red velvet all but sparkles in the early winter sunshine. His cheeks are rosy from the cool air.

"Well, well and well, hullo there, Sonny,' he shouts with an encompassing wave of a short fat arm.

A startled, wondrous smile grows into being. Santa has spoken—to Son. Father looks at Sonny's face. The banal notes and heavy discords of want and riches are alike forgotten. Father is all smiles, good cheer, full of Peace-on-earch—and suddenly formed Christmas resolutions.

Santa, the modern incarnation of the Mediaeval Christes Masse, commemorating the Birth of Christ, continues on his way. But the look on Sonny's face remains imprinted on the thoughts and actions of others.

And the Christmas spirit, as typified by the composite figures of 100 Santas on 100 street corners, in the aisles of Mercantile establishments in the North, South, East and West, marches on toward December 25.

From Halifax to Vancouver, professional and amateur charmers of youth are beginning a reign that shall be almost unchallenged.

Organized relief agencies and religious bodies are adding their contribution toward a nation-wide stage setting of Holly and Mistletoe for the good Saint Nicholas.

Upwards of 1,000 Salvation Army Kettles will stand on as many street corners throughout the Dominion during the next two weeks, some of them attendd by Santa Claus himself in one of his numberless manifestations. The Salvation Army goes yearly into the seeking coins tossed by city folk, aglow with the spirit generated by Sonny's smile. Most of the money of this and similar agencies is used to take Christmas joy to those who otherwise would be neglected.

Some of the other red-garbed Santas are volunteers, but the majority are professionals, working for pay and proud of their calling. Salaries vary from a few dollars a week in small towns to larger sums paid the skilled performer in large department stores.

Celebrated Christmas On Way to North Pole

Captain Scott and his men on their way to the Pole once celebrated Christmast Day by having a wash in a cupful of water each, and by washing their shirts. On another occasion after being on short rations they kept Christmas Day by consuming such luxuries as raisins and chocolates for breakfast, and for supper they indulged in four courses. First of all, there was a full whack of pemmican with slices of horse meat flavored with onion and curry powder and thickened with biscuit, then arrowroot cocoa and biscuit hoosh sweentened, then plum pudding, then cocoa with raisins and finally a dessert of caramels and ginger. "After all this," says Scott, "it was difficult to move. Wilson and I couldn't finish our share of the plum pudding. We felt thoroughly warm and slept splendidly. But the advance was slow the following day, probably to the tightening of the night before.

Protect Cnildren When Celebrating Christmas

Christmas time being a season of joy, every precaution should be taken to prevent any untoward circumstances which might enter into its celebration.

Too often the careless placing of lighted candles has resulted in painful burns, and even death to those participating in the Yuletide festivities. "Santa Claus" has been the victim in innumerable cases.

Tiny electric lights now are most used in lighting the Christmas tree, and that reduces the fire danger materially. If candles are to be used in the decoration—and they undoubtedly lend an effect not to be obtained by the electric lights—they should be placed on the mantel and in other secure locations where contact with their pretty blazes is not likely to be made.

In Christmas sports involving the slightest danger, children should be directed in their play by an older person who is competent to effect a rescue if necessary.—Charles Frederick Wadsworth.

Eramosa township is offering a $5 bounty on sheep-killing dogs.

Accidents Down On Highways

Death Toll, 287, Decreased 16.8 P.C.—More Pedestrians Victims

Motor vehicle ccidents in Ontario so far this year have continued to show a decrease from the 1932 total, according to the Department of Highways. The only main item which continues to show an increase over the 1932 totals is the number of pedestrians involved in accidents.

During the first nine months of this year, 6,186 accidents were reported, a decrease of 5.1 per cent from the total of the same period last year. These resulted in 287 deaths (16.8 per cent. decrease), injury to 5,761 persons (4.3 per cent. decrease) and $592,934 property damage (19.2 per cent. decrease).

During the same period gasoline consumption decreased 1.77 per cent. and motor vehicle registration decreased by 1.95 per cent

Two Movie Notabilities Marry For First Time

Hollywood.—Alice White, diminutive film actress, and Sidney Bartlett, young scenario writer, were married recently at the 400-year-old town hall in Magdalena Bay, Mev., they informed friends here. It was the first marriage for each.

The wedding climaxed a romance that at one time involved the couple in a grand jury inquiry and a court trial, when their names were linked with a beating administered to John Warburton, screen player.

The Warburton case attracted wide attention when Martin Block and Russell Brown, charged with robbing and beating the actor, allegedly told police that Barttett hired them. They said Bartlett was incensed because Miss White, his fiancee, had been beaten by Warburton.

Prince Buys "Peke" Woman Feels Proud

One of the proudest women in London, Eng., is Mrs. F. A. Marriott, wife of an ex-policeman and breeder of Pekingese dogs.

Gipsi Tamara, a Peke she bred at her kennels in Edward street Regent's Park, has been bought by the Prince of Wales and is to be the mate of the puppy he purchased recently at Stavely Lodge, Melton Mowbray.

The Prince paid £12 for the puppy, but Gipsi belongs to a distinctly more aristocratic family, for the price was castly higher.

How much is a professional secret, but it was considerably more than £50.

British Goods

Over 50,000 small sales of Canadian food products are said to have been made recently to the housewives of Nottingham, England, during a "Canada Shop" fortnight in that city observes the Brockville Recorder. By way of reciprocity, Canadians might well lend patronage to any similar movement undertaken in this country.

Heavy Traffic Shaking Some Colleges of Oxford

Oxford, England.—Some of the ancient University town's most venerable buildings are in danger of collapse through the shock of modern heavy traffic, it was stated in a report prepared by Warden Fisher of New College and Sir Michael Sadler, Master of University College.

$4,000,000 Blaze Sweeps 4,000 Acres

Fine homes and cabins in the path of fire which swept Tujunga canyon, California, were destroyed, while hundreds of families fled with a few personal belongings. Four thousand acres was destroyed at an estimated loss of $4,000,000.