Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA.

Employment Increasing.

One of the encouraging features of the past year has been the increase in employment in Canada in general and in the Sault in particular. While the number on relief here is the lowest since August, 1932, it is pointed out, for instance, by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics that despite a decline in employment during the opening months of the year, the index of factory employment on December 1 was 13.4 per cent. above that of January 1, 1933, in contrast to declines of 8.4, 2.6 and 2.7 per cent. in the years 1932, 1931 and 1930 respectively.—From the Sault Star.

British Movies.

A few years ago British pictures were of inferior quality and depended on the appeal to patriotism for their sales. Today they depend on their own intrinsic worth, which is considerable. —From the Calgary Albertan.

Double Fracture.

Dr. Margaret Strang Savage denies the report, published in many papers recently, that she set a fracture of her own leg. She says she didn't even have a fractured leg. Well, that fractures a good newspaper story.—From the Goderich Signal.

Will Need to Be.

We have it on the word of a New York scientist that man will be bigger and brainier 500,000 years from now, and at the rate problems are being piled up for posterity he will need to be.—From the Hamilton Spectator.

Angels Fear to Tread.

Some of our contemporaries are becoming reckless in their statements, evidently forgetting that an editor is no more immune from pain than any other man when punched on the nose.

In the Belleville Intelligencer, for instance, we find the bald statement: "'Girls are no longer clinging vines,' says an authority: No they are wild rambiers."

That is a dangerous thing to say. We know from experience because we printed the same thing about four years ago. A young lady working in the office took us to task for it and, after saying many things, concluded with the statement that the reason girls are no longer clinging vines is that they have nothing to cling to.—From the Lindsay Post.

Effervescing.

An infant who has consumed champagne for many months is said to be in perfect health. Bubbling over with it, in fact.—From the Brockville Recorder.

Would Cause Trouble.

We picked up the Sault Ste. Marie Star and saw a two-column heading in very black type which said: "Says Women Can't Have Beautiful Legs Before 28." Jim Curran may get away with that in Algoma, but if we tried it here we know the girl at the switchboard would be calling up to say: "There's a deputation here. Will you see them now?"—From the Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Making Motorists Courteous.

Many citizens, we have no doubt, who have been sprayed by the goo churned up by passing motor cars have felt that there should be recourse to the courts in such cases and, the Hamilton magistrate making it clear that there is, drivers who swish through roadside puddles in the future may find themselves knee-deep in grief and woe. Those who will not be courteous of their own accord must be made so, and a bespattered citizenry will raise loud cheers the first time one of these offenders is haled to court.—From the Hamilton Spectator.

The Starchless Potato.

A few days ago the president of an English potato marketing organization remarked at a meeting that times had been bad for the potato grower because of the craze for slimming by the womenfolks, but he saw a ray of hope for the industry in the belief that the slimming had about run its course and women are going back to curves. Result—they will eat two potatoes where they formerly toyed with one.

There is another hope, however, in an announcement from Montreal. Two professors there have been experimenting with the lowly potato, and, while they are not yet in a position to cry "Eureka," there is solid ground for believing they are on the way to developing a starchless tuber. This is done by giving the seed potato a shot of a new bacillus which is extracted from hay. This baccilus converts the starchy part of the potato into sugar. That again sounds bad, but it is not the cloying type of sugar found in syrup or honey. It is the innocuous kind found in fruit, such as apples or berries.

So ladies and gentlemen, you who like your plates piled up with potatoes, there may be a good time coming. —From the St. Thomas Times-Journal

Canada's Sea Harvest.

Catch from Canada's sea fisheries in the first eleven months of 1933 was less than it had been in the like period of 1932, but its landed value showed an increase of over $601,000. Landed value total, as shown by statistics gathered and compiled by the Dominion Department of Fisheries, but not yet revised, was nearly $11,190,600 as compared with $10,589,235 at November 30th, 1932, although total catch was 6,722,755 hundredweights as against 6,736,650. Betterment in the later months of the 1933 period explains the gain in landed value.—From the Brandon Sun.

Smell and Taste.

When one has a cold nothing seems to taste right. The wife may have done her best with the apple pie, the mashed potatoes may be as fluffy and smooth as you desire, but it's a task to down it. There's a simple reason for it. A cold obstructs what scientists call the olfactory epithelium, located in a little niche in the skull just above and behind the nostrils. It's your smeller. The senses of taste and smell are so closely linked it is almost impossible to say, sometimes, which is which. Sugar and salt are exceptions. We cannot detect them by smelling, as a rule.—From the Sarnia Canadian-Observer.

This Much Is Certain.

That fan dancer, marooned for a week on bleak Whisky Jack Island, in Lake Winnipegosis, hasn't told her experiences yet, but it can be presumed that she didn't do any rehearsing.—From the Brantford Expositor.

THE EMPIRE.

Secrets Well Guarded.

Sir John Simon's tribute to the Foreign Office staff was well deserved. And, indeed, he might have extended it to the whole civil service. "Secret and confidential" documents, supposed to be seen only by a few high officials and responsible ministers, are, in fact and inevitably, seen by typists and stenographers, clerks and printers. Knowledge that could be sold profitably "in the city" is often in the possession of civil service whose pay is certainly not excessive. Yet "leakages" hardly ever occur. The tradition of trustworthiness is an incalculably valuable nation asset.—From the London Daily Herald.

Facing Realities.

May it not even be that there is an eternal struggle for survival in which nations, like the rest of Nature, take part, and out of which they cannot contract without peril of destruction? That at least is a working hypothesis which we think it wise to take into account. Our forefathers accepted it cheerfully and courageously and contrived to survive, and for our part we do not look for any new world which shall superannuate the loyalties and the precautions of the old. The Greek democracies could not persuade Pihilip of Macedon to disarm; their only chance lay in the strength to resist his invasions. All democracies, all governments, all societies, now as then, must be prepared to defend themselves or perish. As we look out upon the world, convulsed in parts with upsurging nationalisms, controlled in other parts by enthroned tyrannies, we reflect that these are apt to be both hostile and rapacious; that we live—as man has always lived—in a dangerous world; that life itself is dangerous; and that nations were probably ordained as the best means of protecting the otherwise naked and helpless individual. Better to take account of these things than to behave as if they did not exist.—From the Morning Post.

Still Jailed for Debt.

Although the pathetic story of the debtor who was detained in prison while his two children died is unusual, instances of similar hardship on a less tragic scale must be frequent. The total number of debtors imprisoned in England annually exceeds 20,000. The creditors have the doubtful satisfaction of legal vengeance, but they do not get their money; hardship is caused to wives and children, and the State is put to considerable expense. There is hope that the Speical Committee's report—which will not be ready for some months yet—will simplify the problem of doing justice to debtor and creditor in equal measure.—Daily Mail.

British Policy and Dominions

While it is true that questions which once might have raised long and delaying discussions are now "more and more matters of mere adjustment," it is also true that the new closeness between Great Britain and the rest of the Commonwealth has led to greater sensitiveness and independence. The links of Empire have become shorter and perhaps more tenuous. A policy of "British agriculture first," if it is not handled with extraordinary caution, may have serious reactions on the economic and, therefore, also on the political future of the Dominions. —From the Manchester Guardian.

Two Ways to Same End.

In Britain we have tried to end the crisis by balancing the Budget. The President is trying to do the same thing by deliberately unbalancing the Budget. If you believe in having a deficit, it is only logical to have a big one. All the same, the size of Mr. Roosevelt's deficit is staggering. It would be foolish to apply the ordinary standards of comparison to policies such as these. America, in her war on depression, is spending on the wartime scale. Let us hope she avoids the financial aftermath of such extravagance.—From the News Chronicle.

Britain's Drought Scare.

It is not as if there was an inherent deficiency of water in this country. Wales could supply the whole nation. A number of cities have a great surplus. The Government must set up a Central Water Authority and take the proper steps to ensure that this authority, through regional organizations, efficiently distributes the available water.—From the Daily Herald.

The Lesser of Two Evils.

Facts are staring Europe in the face. One of them is that in the absence of a disarmament agreement, Germany will re-arm in freedom from any restriction—even though the Socialist party is "irrevocably opposed" to her doing so. The choice before the nation is that between regulated and unregulated armaments. The Government is devoting all its energies and all its prestige to rescuing the world from such a disaster as the second of those alternatives.—From the London Daily Telegraph.

THE UNITED STATES.

Light-Keepers.

They were queer chaps, these lighthouse keepers. One at Buzzard's Bay required an inspector to wear felt slippers over his shoes "to keep the sairs clean." At Isle Royal Lighthouse, on a rock of Lake Superior, a keeper had obtained his post by agreeing to marry, with the result that his wife brought twelve children into the world. Appointments used to go by political favor, until in 1896, Grover Cleveland put the lighthouse people into the civil service. A light-keeper on the Columbia River had only two days off in twenty-three years, and on one of these days he got married. A hard life, but it developed a sturdy race.—From the New York Times.

Snowshoe Champ.

Walter Young, Montreal, winner of the 12-mile international snowshoe race held at Manchester, N.H., during the annual convention of Canadian and United States snowshoe clubs.

Collision Involves Fifty Automobiles

Harwich, England.—During a recent fog, 50 cars participated in a collision on the main Liverpool road.

Which car began the jam was not discovered. All each driver could see was that there was a car ahead of him and one behind. Visibility was not more than five yards.

Half the cars that came upon the jam hit the car in front.

There was pandemonium for half an hour. Every horn screeched in a vain effort to get the car in front to move.

When at last the jam began to break up most of the cars that had escaped collision in arriving hit another car or was hit in departing.

Nearly every car of the fifty was damaged.

How to Get Ideas

Says the Lindsay Post.—"An old definition has it that journalists, presumably the writers for the bigger papers, come down to work in the morning and if they have no ideas they go out and play a round of golf; the reporter, or worker for a small newspaper, comes to work in the morning and if he hasn't an idea he goes out on the street and interviews someone who has."

Asks Friendship for Foreigners in Canada

"The poorest fed resident of this city gets a greater food allowance than the 'poor' in Russia," declared Baroness B. deHueck, who is of the Russian nobility, in an address in Toronto. She urged a greater friendship for the so-called "foreign" Canadians within Canadian borders.

A Happy Landing

When their aeroplane was driven into a bush these fliers, Robert Boyles, Ley Coppage and Vernon Mayfield, escaped death when Coppage stalled the arooplane atop a tree.

Russia Second to France In Military Air Strength

London.—The Soviet air force is the second strongest in the world, Premier J. Ramsay MacDonald admitted in the House of Commons in reply to a statement to that effect by Capt. Harold Balfour. France is first.

It has been estimated here that the Russians possessed approximately 1,400 planes of first-line strength, although the total military strength is unknown.

The United States is estimated to have 1,050 first-line planes and a total military strength of 2,300.

The United States hitherto had been ranked by most military experts as second to France.

Premier MacDonald also admitted Balfour's contention that the Soviet air force is 60 per cent. tronger than the British Royal Air Force and the fact that the Soviet had announced its intention of attaining first range in the near future.

Champions of British air re-armament were heartened by the admissions, believing they indicate liberal air appropriations soon.

The military air strength of the leading powers is estimated as follows:

	First Line	Total Strength.
France	1,650	3,000
Russia	1,400	....
United States	1,050	2,300
Italy	1,050	1,507
Britain	850	1,434
Japan	800 to 1,000	1,939

"Talking Books" to Circulate Across Country for Blind

Toronto.—Captain E. A. Baker, general secretary of the Canadian National Institute for the blind, told the annual meeting of the institute's women's auxiliary that the organization would begin soon to circulate "talking books" across the country.

The "books" he explained are long phonograph records, containing about 3,600 words on each side which may be folded. Each may be played about 100 times before showing wear.

The institute was launched a little less than 16 years ago.

Girl Completes 1200 Mile Walk

Miss Esther James, a New Zealand girl, has just completed a 1,200 mile walk from Melbourne to Brisbane in 77 days. She stopped at a number of places on the way to lecture and admire the scenery.

With her she carried a pedometer which showed that she took four million steps, and as Miss James's shoes weigh one pound, her legs therefore lifted the equivalent of 1,780 tons. Several years ago she walked 1,600 miles through New Zealand in 128 days.

Honey Production Up in Quebce

Quebec.—The statistical division of the Dept. of Agriculture notes a large increase in production of honey during the past year. The total amount of extracted honey produced was 3,753,500 pounds, compared to 2,415 pounds in 1932; comb honey amounted to 289,400 pounds, against 236,000 pounds a year ago; and there were 53,700 pounds obtained for wax, compared with 44,600 in 1932. The average production per hive was 53.2 pounds for extracted honey; 4.1 pounds for comb honey, and .76 pounds for wax, against 25.4, 2.49 and .47 pounds respectively in 1932.

Blames Williams For Silly Spelling

Professor of English Scores the Conqueror and Caxton

Washington.—Dr. Dewitt C. Croissant, head of the English department of George Washington University and an advocate of simplified spelling blames William the Conqueror and another William, Caxton, the first English printer, who imported Dutch printers, for what he terms "our silly spelling."

The Dutchmen put the h in "ghost" and o-u-g-h in "through," he said.

He saw no reason why "beauty" is more beautiful than "duty," and in general, he felt that as a result of complexity and confusion English spelling is approaching the Chinese ideographic system—in many schools, he said, pupils don't study the alphabet and learn words as pictures.

"Brown reminds me of a donkey sometimes."

"Yes, he does make an ass of himself quite often."

DIFFICULT

An escaped inmate of a mental home in America is thought to have joined a jazz band. The authorities are faced with the hopeless task of singling him out in a jazz band.—Passing Show.

Comfort Grows For Air Crews

Less Noise and Plenty of Room in New Flying Boats

London, Eng.—Comfort has received considerable attention in the later built big passenger 'planes. Staff accommodation in the new "Perth" class flying boats, in the Mediterranean service, has earned many admiring comments.

Amidships, for example, is the officers' quarters or wardroom. This is equipped with a hinged pneumatic settee berth on either side which forms seats by day, or can be folded up to give ample floor space. Each berth is fitted with life-lines and could be used as a raft in emergency. Behind the berths are lockers for kit and canteens for food and crockery. A detachable hanging mahogany table with metal tubular supports is slung from the frames overhead when needed; when not in use it can be stored away under the starboard berth.

Watertight Bulkhead

The wardroom is insulated against excessive noise. Hinged electric fans at the side ports provide ventilation when the boat is anchored. There is plenty of room; when berths and table are stowed away the clear space measures seven feet in length and breadth and six feet in height. At the rear of the room is the engineer's station, equipped with oil and water thermometers, oil pressure gauges, a watch, and radiator shutter controls. Dividing the wardroom from the men's quarters is a watertight bulkhead, fitted with a swing door.

Now Believe End Of World is Near

Gallup, N.M.—The end of the world is near, say the Navajo medicine men, because two pairs of twins have been born to Navajo women in two days. Navajo medicine men believe all children must be born before the end of time, explained Dr. R. H. Pousma, superintendent of Rehoboth Navajo Mission Hospital. Twins are rare in tribe, only five pairs, including these two, having been born in the last six years.

Finland Buying British 'Planes

Helsingfors. — Orders for 17 new aeroplanes are shortly to be placed by the Finnish War Office, and newspapers in Helsingfors state that the orders will go to Britain.

The type most suitable for Finland's requirements is stated to be the Bristol Bulldog.

Recently the Finnish War Office ordered 13 aeroplanes from the Fokker Works in Holland. These were of the Fokker C.V.E. type equipped with Bristol Pegasus engines.

Elizabeth Arden Gets Legal Separation

New York.—The Daily News says that Elizabeth Arden, internationally known beauty specialist, has obtained a legal separation from Thomas J. Lewis, for 15 years her husband and for 12 years the wholesale manager of her businses. The decree was granted in Manhattan Supreme Court early this month, the paper says.

"Elizabeth Arden" was originally Florence Nightingale Graham, born in England and educated in Canada

Schools to get Anti-War Book

Toronto.—The Ontario Department of Education announced recently that it would purchase for distribution in Ontario public schools 5,000 copies of Beverley Nichols' "Cry Havoc," a denunciation of war. The author was educated in England.

Premier Henry as Minister of Education, gave instructions to buy the book. Every public school in Ontario will receive a copy.

Must Return Ring If Engagement Off

Chicago.—Young women contemplating matrimony will be interested in knowing that a Chicago court has held that an engagement ring is not a gift, and must be returned if the marriage ceremony is not performed

This ruling was made by Municipal Judge Howard Hayes in a suit brought by Lewis Howell for recovery of a ring given his girl friend who allegedly broke the engagement

No Advertising On Australian Radio

Sydney, Australia.—Australia's "A" class radio stations do not sell time for advertising, but are supported entirely by the licence fees paid by owners of sets. The system is now well established and neither government nor people would tolerate any change. With a population of only six and a half million, there now are 514,287 licences in force, and in November the new licences totalled 12,380.

New Motor Meat Ship

London.—The motor-vessel, Port Chalmers, the first ship specially equipped to carry fresh meat from New Zealand and Australia to the United Kingdom on a commercial scale, left King George V. Docks, Canning Town, E., on her maiden voyage out recently. She is the first of nine ships ordered for the New Zealand food trade which will carry fruit as well as immense quantities of meats and dairy produce.