Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

Research Rewarded.

Searching the Scriptures has its merits. We read of a Saskatchewan man who opened the family Bible the other evening and found a five-dollar bill that had been there for 20 years. —Regina Leader-Post.

Drunken Driving

Lord Knutsford makes a public protest against what he considers to be the inadequate punishment of people convicted of driving a motor car while under the influence of drink. He adds: "Imagine the justifiable outcry if a railway engine driver who was even suspected of drinking habits, much less convicted of being under the influence of drink when on the footplate, was ever again allowed to drive an engine."—Northern Farmer.

Long Life.

James Treece of Indiana, who has just celebrated his 100th birthday, attributes his long life to smoking, he having taken to the weed when he was nine years of age. Another centenarian recently said that keeping away from the weed was the cause of his longevity and thus the contradictions continue. The plain fact of the matter seems to be that some people attain exceptional longevity without much regard as to what they may or may not do.—Brantford Expositor.

Dime Novels.

Honor comes if one waits long enough. The "Deadwood Dick" dime novels of a long past day have been discovered to be authentic records of Americana, and for that reason have been given a place of honor in the Congressional library at Washington, D.C., as "rare books."—Fredericton Gleaner.

Better Times.

The Massey-Harris Company, implement manufacturers, revealed recently that it expected enough work at its Brantford plant to maintain the present schedule of operation, with some augmentation of staff, until about mid-summer.

Simultaneously the Dominion Radiator and Boiler Company issued the statement that its "outlook for the Brantford plant is for a pretty steady run throughout the year 1934."

Executives of several other Brantford industries professed to see indications that they would employ more help during this year than for the last two years.—North Hastings Review.

The Berries.

Manitoba's new-found moss-berry was a real discovery, say the jam makers. Then Nova Scotia comes along with "Same thing as our fox-berry." The Manitoba name is more poetic—Manitoba Tribune.

Haunt of Artists.

One of the proud places in the Maritimes is "Bear River," an historic old village with many ancient landmarks. Last week the demon which destroys some of our fondest traditions, razed to the ground a colonial period Anglican church building which had long since passed its century mark—an irreparable loss to a community made famous chiefly by the artist's brush. Quaint and modern bits from Bear River and shown in many a private collection of paintings throughout Canada.—Sherbrooke Record.

Danger of Speed.

Whether or not one is in favor of the abolition of speed limits, it will have to be admitted that the Minister of Highways put his words together in such a way that they made sense. If one is hit by an automobile travelling 20 miles an hour, his chances of surviving to thresh out the matter in court undoubtedly would be better than those of a fellow who was bowled over by a car doing 35 or 40 miles an hour And after all, it is much more to be concerned about that people are being killed by motor cars than that a percentage of drivers are chafing about the inconvenience of speed restrictions.—Hamilton Spectator.

Don't Worry.

An eminent United States medical man, Dr. Clendenning, has written an interesting book on the subject of the human body. The doctor claims that it is futile to become over-anxious as to physical ailments or length of life. He has reached the conclusion that there is not much that can be done by the individual to lengthen life and that the age span is virtually set at birth. This authority does not pretend to say that drunkards, dope addicts or those who deliberately injure their health through neglect or debauchery, will live as long as those who follow a sensible program in regard to care of their physical system, but he emphasizes a sensible freedom from worry as to this, that and the other concerning bodily health.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Man and Beast.

George Boas, famous anthropologist, has startled society with the statement that the beast is far superior to man. Beasts are peaceful and men are warlike. Beasts, he says, are more friendly, faithful and magnanimous than men, nor is any beast so unjust, thankless, treacherous, perfidious and deceitful as the human animal. Reason, says Mr. Boas, makes men slaves to their own apprehension. If it is better to be a beast than a man, in order to escape the burden of reason, then it would be better never to be born at all and thus escape even the little burdens that assail the beasts. This sort of intellectual nihilism, if it were any more than conversational chewing gum, would be nauseaus.—Vancouver Sun.

Outlaw the Revolver.

When all Canada agrees to classify the revolver with morphine, heroin, cocaine and similar things, as a national problem to be treated as such, there will be a far better chance of bringing about its virtual disappearance, except in such circumstances as it has a useful purpose to serve. Meantime, all we can do is back up the police and the courts in their unnecessarily difficult task.—Montreal Star.

Sign of Better Times.

For the fifth successive month sales of new automobiles at retail in Canada in November show a gain over the corresponding month in 1932. The number increased 12.4 per cent., while the value increased 16.6 per cent. The number of trucks and buses sold showed a gain of 4.8 per cent., while their value increased 39.3 per cent. The combined result for all automobile, truck and bus sales was a gain of 10.4 per cent. in number, and 21.8 per cent. in values—Brandon Sun.

THE EMPIRE.

British Shipping.

British shipping is something more than "the vital Imperial interest," it was held to be in the striking and eloquent speech of the Hon. Alexander Shaw recently. As in the late war, so in the future, it may be the one strong safeguard of our people against starvation. Yet British shipping is everywhere declining under the pressure of a competition heavily subsidized by other powers, and even by our own Dominions. Before the war 43 per cent. of the world's tonnage sailed under the British flag, today only 29 per cent. does so. Most of the ships that are still running are doing so with losses that are eating up the reserves of the owners.—London Telegraph.

The Too Common Cold.

A wave of colds is sweeping over the country, and few are escaping its ravages. One reason for their persistence is probably to be found in this: that the cold is in itself rather disagreeable than deadily, and people will not take the trouble to extirpate it.—London Daily Herald.

A Telephone Conversation.

Sir Edmund Vestley has a talk on the telephone with Mr. William Angliss. Sir Edmund is in South Africa and Mr. Angliss is in Australia, and at the end of twelve minutes a £1,500,000 meat business merger has been accomplished. It will mean that millions of telephone calls in this country from housewives to their butchers will deal with Australian meat orders instead of Argentine. Three thousand Variety shops will be selling more Empire meat. The Australians are better buyers here than the Argentines. So it pays to order from Australia.—London Daily Express.

H.M.S. Nelson Aground.

H.M.S. Nelson's adventures would have been unbelievable if they had not happened. That the flagship of the Home Fleet should run aground at the very entrance to Portsmouth Harbor while leaving for the spring cruise is an event probably without parallel in the history of the British Navy. The result of the official inquiry will be awaited with intense interest, for the entrance to Portsmouth Harbor must be as familiar to the responsible officers of the Nelson as the road down Whitehall is to the Little Admiral himself on his pillar in Trafalgar Square. —London Daily Telegraph.

An Elected Governor.

A Governor or Governor-General chosen by a party (either directly or through nomination to the King, or for popular election) could not possibly have the same feeling of satisfaction or the same dignity of character or the same influence as the Governor or Governor-General directly chosen and appointed by His Majesty. Neither could he have the consciousness that merit and proper qualification had procured the appointment for him. He would not be able to hide from himself the humiliating knowledge that he had been paid for services not to the people but to a party. Lord Huntingfield relieves Sir William Irvine, who has been a dignified and capable Lieutenant-Governor, and one who, incidentally, has publicly advocated the appointment of the Governor directly by the King.—The Australasian.

Scope of Education.

One feature common to many speeches and letters to the press dealing with the subject of middle-class careers is an insistence that education shall henceforth have as its object the ability to earn a living. Usually the term "vocational training" is used, a term that is in danger of becoming a catchword. We agree that in the sense given above it is a crying need in education among the middle classes of this country, though it is not necessarily synonymous with manual training for which workshops complete, with benches, lathes and cobbler's last, are a sine qua non. The tasks of the clerk and the stenographer are as necessary and as "vocational" as those of the motor mechanic and the shoemaker. Nor should it be forgotten that an education that specializes too early is apt to deprive the country adopting it of that general range of knowledge necessary if voters are not to be swept off their feet by surges of emotion and appeals to prejudice. An educational syllabus that is entirely utilitarian defeats its own object.—Calcutta Statesman.

Flying in New Zealand.

That aviation has come to stay in New Zealand is an accepted fact, but it has not yet reached the point of fulfilling a function as a public utility. Various attempts to organize services between isolated places have been made, but after a times these pioneers have found it impossible to carry on owing to insufficient support. In a country of such geographical formation as New Zealand there is justification for the development of a reliable aerial service the length of the North and South Island, chiefly on account of the fact that other means of transportation cannot hope to rival the high average speed of an aeroplane. With the news of Flight-Lieutenant Ulm's non-stop flight between Auckland and Invercargill, and the published time-table of the first air transport company organized on a national basis, comes the prospect that next year will see the definite inauguration of a long-distance service in New Zealand.—The Auckland Weekly News.

More Gold

Police, plainclothesmen and private guards crowded the pier in New York, at which the S. S. Bremen docked. The reason for the gathering of the protectors was the unloading from the Bremen of 224 boxes. Each of the boxes contained two yellow bars of gold and represented about $58,000.

An Auspicious Opening

The first week of this year, ending January 4, opened auspiciously. Nine hundred and seventy-four cattle were shipped to Great Britain; 40,732 hogs were graded in Canada; 10,566 cattle, 3,005 calves, 14,116 hogs and 2,052 sheep were sold at the public stock yards; and 60,550 barrels and 42,324 boxes of apples were exported to the British market. The seasonal exports of apples to January 4 are 1,629,639 barrels and 1,600,003 boxes, representing increases on last season of 133 and 11 per cent. respectively.

Clean-Up Society In Britain Attacks Villagers' Dumps

London.—Tidying up of English villages, particularly in the matter of proper disposal of refuse, is the object of a campaign being carried out by the Scapa Society, a group whose main objective is to protect the "England Beautiful."

A questionnaire, issued with the approval of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, was sent out to the institutes in more than 1000 parishes of 29 counties in England and Wales.

Judging by the answers England is still somewhat primitive in regard to the manner in which it disposes of its refuse. No fewer than 37 per cent. of the villages confessed that no system of refuse collection is employed and that individuals who do not want the trouble of burning or burying it, simply throw it into the nearest convenient, or inconveniet, place where it lies, decaying and unsightly.

In a book entitled "Rural Refuse and Its Disposal," published by the society, exposed dumps are proved to be a menace to the wealth and health of the rural community. The implied moral of the society's book is that of mutual consideration. Regular collections may not be possible in scattered districts, and in such districts the individual householder must recognize his responsibility for the general good. If the untidy and selfish person would mend his ways, it is pointed out, he could bring untold good to his neighbors.

Protection Asked For "Zipper" Makers

Ottawa.—Increased protection for the manufacturers of slide fasteners, commonly known as "zippers," is sought in two applications for tariff revision which have been sent to the Tariff Board by Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Minister of Finance. The applications are from the Colonial Fastener Company of Montreal, and the Lightning Fastener Company of St. Catharines, Ont. The applicants claim that the classification under which these articles are entered was created before "zippers" came into general use.

Germany Returns Captured Scottish Drums

The Scottish general, Ian Hamilton, has solemnly received the drums of his old regiment, Second Gordon Highlanders, in the Reichswehr ministry in Berlin on January 31, which the Germans had captured in the war.

Garbo Will Not Wed Her Director

Relations Purely Platonic— .. Not Likely to Marry .. Anyone

Hollywood, Feb. 18.—From one of the few intimates of the enigmatic Greta Garbo film folk have learned the Swedish actress will not marry Roulben Mamoulian and that he probably will not direct another picture starring her.

After several flurries of coming and going out in the world from her cloistered sequestration the silent Garbo seems likely to retire more deeply into her wonted seclusion.

Mamoulian is to direct the Soviet sensation, Anna Sten, regarded as a Garbo rival on the screen, in her next picture.

Pathways of the cinema queen and her director are spreading away only a few short weeks after their motor trip into Arizona that gave rise to several reports of their marriage or impending marriage. But from a Garbo friend it is learned that Greta and Mamoulian remain friends, purely platonic, because they have similar interests in picture making, art and music.

Garbo's closest friends do not believe she will ever marry.

Living Costs Rise 0.3 Per Cent. For Month of January

New York.—After declining for two successive months, the cost of living of wage-earners turned upward again in January, increasing 0.3 per cent over December, according to the regular monthly survey of the National Industrial Conference Board. Living costs were 5.2 per cent higher than in January, 1933, but 22.4 per cent lower than in January, 1929.

The purchasing value of the wage-earner's dollar, compared with the base 1923 equals 100, was 129.0 cents in January, 1934, as compared with 129.4 in December and 139.9 cents last April.

Food prices rose 0.4 per cent in January over December, to a level 10.9 per cent above January, 1933, but 31.9 per cent below January, 1929.

Rents declined slightly, 0.2 per cent, which made them 5.6 per cent lower than in January of last year and 31.8 per cent lower than in January of five years ago.

Heavy Rains Damage Australian Wheat Crops

Harvesting is carried on in New South Wales, Australia, from the end of November until January, and these months are generally very dry. Due to heavy rains, however, this year's wheat crop has suffered serious damage, and there is no doubt that the yields will be appreciably decreased, and the quality of the grain reduced. On account of the low price of wheat and the higher prices of wool, it is expected that much of the land now under wheat will be returned to pasture.

Estimated World Wheat Import

The London Wheat Conference estimated world import requirements for 1933-34 at 560 million bushels. From August 1, 1933, to January 15, 1934, world shipments amounted to 238 million bushels, or an average of 9.9 million bushels per week. This leaves a balance of 322 million bushels to be shipped during the remaining 28 weeks of the crop year, or a weekly average of 11.5 million bushels.

Montreal Advised To Banish Slums

$50,000,000 Building Project Discussed by Improvement League

Montreal.—Benefits to be gained from the plan to construct 20,000 modern dwelling in Montreal in place of unsanitary slums now in existence, with funds at present being used for direct relief, were described by Mr. A. Dupuis, addressing a meeting of the City Improvement League. The project, which would cost $50,000,000, would eliminate hovels, provide salubrious residences at low cost without adding to the oversupply of dwellings, assist the small landlord now in distress, and stabilize real estate values.

The plan would also help to embellish the city, widen the narrow streets and provide playgrounds at almost no expense. It would provide at reasonable salaries work for 10,000 men in the building trades for the period of three years.

Mr. Dupuis said that the project entailed the passing of the necessary legislation on the part of the three governments, a loan of $50,000,000 with a guarantee of the three governments, federal, provincial, and municipal, redeemable by annuities at the rate of 7 per cent, of which 4 per cent would be applied to interest and 3 per cent to sinking fund.

Landlords would be compensated according to a set scale. The houses torn down would be rebuilt by advancing the sums necessary to the owners, and architect's plans and specifications would be carefully considered to assure that construction should be carried on according to established sanitary standards. The governments would hold a mortgage until the complete payment of the loan.

Advertising in Papers Steadily Increasing

Montreal.—Declaring that the daily newspapers are the backbone of any advertising campaign, Mr. G. F. Bannerman, sales manager in charge of advertising for a well-known make of automobiles told 150 dealers and company representatives here that the company's newspaper advertising appropriation for 1934 had been greatly increased.

Austrian Independence Matter of Course Say German Officials

Berlin, Feb. 18.—The maintenance of Austrian independence, which Great Britain, Italy and France in a joint manifesto said must be maintained, was represented in official circles today as being "a matter of course."

"Who is threatening Austria's independence?" demanded one spokesman.

Relief Workers Fed Buffalo Meat

Prince Albert, Sask.—Used in the Prince Albert National Park relief camps, where it is served six meals per week, 26,000 pounds of buffalo meat is in refrigeration here. The meat, obtained when the animals were slaughtered at Wainwright, Alta., has become popular with relief workers.

Winnipeg Has Highest Population Gains

Winnipeg, Man.—Winnipeg's population, exclusive of the suburbs, in 1933 was the highest in its history. The figures compiled by the city's assessment commissioner were 221,242. There has been a steady increase in the city's inhabitants since 1926.

Loans to Brokers Down $43,000,000

Washington.—Loans to brokers and dealers held by weekly reporting New York City member banks amounted to $853,000,000 during the week ended Feb. 14, the Federal Reserve Board reports representing a decrease of $43,000,000 for the week.

Loans for the week ended Feb. 15, 1933, were $427,000,000.

The Spring Seed Requirements

Farmers who desire to assure their seed supply at minimum cost are already taking stock of their spring requirements. Those who have seed of their own will be taking steps to have it properly cleaned and graded before the spring rush. Others, less fortunate, will be well advised this year particularly, to secure what they require as soon as possible, making sure that they are getting varieties which are most highly recommended for conditions such as theirs.

Waterloo School Rate Up

Waterloo. — The Waterloo public school rate was set at 12¾ mills by the board recently. This is an increase of 1¼ mills over the 11.50 rate that has held for seven years.

Brantford Fire Loss

Brantford.—Total fire loss for the year of $17,115 was reported to the city council by Fire Chief D. J. Lewis. This is slightly above last year's figure.