Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

FRIENDLY CITY HALL.—

Many people must have wondered what it was all about when they read in the Post the report of a purported trial when Miss Helen Lyons was sentenced to a life of happiness by Magistrate G. A. Jordan in view of her coming marriage.

Such trials have taken place before. There was one a few years ago for instance, before Town Clerk W. R Allely became married, when he was charged in all solemnity and legal terminology with deserting his post without the consent of the others in the building.

This has been the method followed by employee in the town's offices making a presentation to a friend on the Threshold of Matrimony. The friendly spirit that reigns at such court actions is the same spirit that links the various town offices and lends such a pleasant atmosphere at all times.

—Lindsay Post

REMOVING A MENACE.—

The Highways Department was a long time in getting started on the ditch-filling project, but now that the work has been commenced in eliminating these death traps, the provincial authorities evidently intend making a job of it. Hundreds of men are at work in Central and Western Ontario removing this menace. And it is worth every cent it will cost. — From the Guelph Mercury.

PROFESSIONAL SECRECY.—

The Lancet, England's leading medical publication upholds the Minneapolis physician recently fined and imprisoned for not informing the authorities that he had treated John Dillinger, the bandit. The gist of its argument is that as a medical man he had to observe professional secrecy. But what about the prospective vic tims as long as the murdurer is free? —Brantford Expositor.

IMPRESSIVE TOTAL.—

Small investors in the United Kingdom have something like $12,450,000,000 tucked away in Post Office Savings Bank, Trustee Savings Banks and in national savings certificates. In England these small investors are never spoken of collectively as the big interests. — St. Catherines Standard.

PACIFIC OYSTERS.

In British Columbia waters experiments have been carried on with the eastern Canada oyster and the Japanese oyster, as well as with the native variety. Preliminary investigation by the Biological Board indicated that the Eastern Canada oyster suffered excessive mortality on being transplanted to Pacific waters.

The Japanese oyster, it was found provided a method of producing suitable cultch—material for collecting oyster spat—for the native variety and its cultivation would thus overcome one of the main difficulties of increased yield of the home product. The Japanese oyster itself, though differing from the British Columbia and eastern Canada varieties in flavour and appearance is regarded by many as an acceptable and nutritious sea food.

The most extensive acreage of native oyster beds in British Columbia was found in Boundary Bay on the mainland, and Ladysmith Harbor on Vancouver Island but small beds are reported in more than half a dozen other localities. The report of the Biological Board recommended measures to increase the yield of the native variety, together with the introduction of the Japanese variety in localities not suitable for the native variety.—Victoria Times.

MEAN STREAK.—

It's all right to be a good sport, most of the time, but it pays to have just enough meanness about you to keep people treating you well—The Montreal Star.

NUDIST PROBLEM.—

Over in the United States they are planning a golf course for nudists But what will a nudist do if he slices his balls into a pasture and has to go for it through a barbed wire fence? —Ottawa Journal.

BRITISH METHODS BEST.—

President Green, of the American Federation of Labour says that there are still 10,616,000 people out of work across the line. The NRA has unfortunately not accomplished so much as the more sane methods followed in Great Britain and the rest of the Empire. — Brantford Expositor.

FEAR EXPOSURE.—

The German Goernment seems to be made particularly uncomfortable when foreign correspondents insist on sending stories to their home newspapers to the effect that there is secret rearming in the country. —Sarnia Canadian Observer

DEBTS AND DOLLARS.—

If it is imperative to reduce the amount of general debt, it is a thousand pities that we have not the courage to do so frankly and openly, and leave our dollar intact. But as we look around the world we can see practically no one who is doing this. We are all fiddling with our currency. We are like mrchants who have contracted to deliver ten pounds of sugar a year in the future, but find ourselves unable to do so. Instead of admitting this however we adopt the far simpler and more deceptive method of cutting a section off the pound weight. —Montreal Star.

THE EMPIRE

SIR FREDERICK BANTING.—

At first glance at the Birthday Honours List you may say 'Not very exciting, that list." You look again. You read there that Dr. Frederick Banting of Canada has been made a knight He discovered insulin. He conquered the dread disease diabetes. Young unknown, penniless this student at the Western Ontario Medical School was consumed with an idea. How to dissipate that unused sugar in the body which is the cause of diabetes. Day and night, he worked baffled, disappointed, mistaken, till on the verge of despair he stumbled on the secret substance in the vital gland which will break up that surplus sugar. Insulin is the name we call it now. Banting, who found it, is one of the great heroes of man's struggles against Death. — London Daily Express

EMPIRE TIMBER RESOURCES.—

The Prince of Wales did well to emphasize that in all the modern development of the timber trade long term planning is a condition of success. The increase of consumption of Canadian timber has thus far been restricted by the inevitable difficulties of adjustment to a new market by the need of organization of production to the conditions and grades required and of the arrangement of economical shipping. Beneath all this lies the fundamental question of long term forestry schemes. No Dominion whatever its primeval wealth of timber can any longer neglect planning to conserve and multiply that wealth as an investment for generations. The United States has already discovered what the wasteful exploitation fo virgin forests means.—London Daily Telegraph.

'PRETTY DULL'.—

So far as the general night life in Hong Kong is concerned we must admit that it is pretty dull. There is no place that one can go to after midnight though up till that hour there is plenty enough for one to do. There are those who hold that after midnight "all good people should be in bed," but it must be borne in mind that if we are to cater to holiday makers—and those are the people we want to attract in Hong Kong.—we must offer enough entertainment to make them come back again or to recommend Hong Kong as a 'good place in which to spend a holiday," and the only way to do it is to tell the world what a grand place this little outpost of the British Empire is. — Hong Kong Press.

'MERCHANTS OF DEATH."—

We shall convince arms merchants that we do not intend to allow them to sell guns to foreigners to kill the British soldiers and sailors, or to stir up wars in which for their profit thousands of our fellow-countrymen may perish, by one means only; and that is by abolishing absolutely the sale of arms for private profit. As a preliminary demonstration this S. American embargo will serve very well. Let the British Government now say promptly and definitely that whatever other countries may do we will forbid absolutely the export of arms from this country to South America. — London News Chronicle

BREAD.—

The rapidly developing wheat crisis is a supreme illustration of the mad folly of the modern doctrine of restriction. For months past the farmers have been encouraged to keep their wheat acreage down to assist the upward movement of prices. Now with the continuance of the Great Drought, next years's harvest is threatened and the dread of an acute wheat shortage is added to our other economic terrors.—London Daily Herald.

EMPIRE PRODUCTION.—

Unfortunately there exists no body in the Empire whose duty it is to assemble all the facts and to note all the deelopments which must be taken into consideration if a policy is to be evolved embracing the schemes for internal reconstruction, both agricultural and industrial the necessary co-operation with the Dominions and the parallel necessity for expanding foreign trade. The outstanding defect of the Ottawa agreements was that they failed to create any permanent machinery to carry on the work of economic co-operation from Conference to Conference. The sooner this defeat is repaired the sooner it will be possible to construct and to apply a coherent policy for the harmonious developments of the resources and energies of the whole Empire. Informal personal discussions, for which there will be plenty of opportunity this year and next to set up some kind of economic clearing house for the Empire, and thus help to ensure full success of the next Imperial Conference, whatever date may be chosen for it.—London Times.

THE HOURS OF MARRIAGE.—

It is seldom that an Act of Parliament gets on to the Statute book without any notice being taken of it by one of the parties chiefly affected by its provisions. But th Archbishop of Canterbury pointed out to Convocation the curious fact that the Hours of Marriage Act which became law last month and which extends the hours during which a marriage may be performed from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m instead of three p.m. was passed through both the Houses of Parliament without his knowledge.

The omission officially to advise the clergy of the change is the more remiss since in fact canon law will have to be altered—a cumbrous proceeding —to bring the clerical system into line with the Parliamentary decision.

Marriage throughout the centuries was kept to the earlier part of the day for reasons good in their time. For one in a possibly merrier but a certainly more irresponsible England the danger of the parties so celebrating the event in advance as to be in fit state to face the clergyman was no fit state to face the clergyman was that if so important a step were permitted after darkness had fallen the risks of personation might be increased.

Such considerations no longer weigh and the extended facility was overdue.—Manchester Guardian.

Suicide Attempt Fails

Real life finale nearly had for its principal beautiful Edith Mera (above), famous French film star, who was found unconscious in her Paris apartment after an unsuccessful suicide attempt. No motive could be found for her action.

Drummer Boy's Liberty is Brief

London, Eng. — The 15-year-old brass-buttoned drummer boy who who performed the impossible and escaped from the Tower of London is back again. A sergeant and a drum-major who trailed him found him with his mother at her home in Kensington and promptly escorted him back to the grim fortress.

The young red-coat, Jack Robertson, whose father was killed in the war, wanted to follow his footsteps, but he tired of learning to be a drummer. He asked permission to mail a letter, walked out the big gate and started to run.

At the tower they are seeing that he does not escape again, but said they may grant his mother's applicattion for a discharge.

Will Remove Tack From Child's Lung

St. Louis. — Eight-year-old Norma Anne Simmons of Sedan, Kan., will breathe easier after her operation.

For three years the child has been troubled by shortness of breath and a condition similar to asthma. A recent physical examination showed a large tack, which she recalls having swallowed years ago, lodged in her right lung. It will be removed by surgeons.

If Only

If only I could have them back again,
The misspent hours, the vain and wasted days,
The things that might nave been of thought and pen
That bloomed instead in such unseemly ways—
How happy would I be, and how my heart
Would leap to know once more that backward track,
To cleanse of folly each unworthy part—
If only I could somehow nave them back!

If only I could have them back again,
The things I might have done and did not do,
The kindness, the good to fellow-men,
How happy I to live those days anew.
The gate is closed. I cannot now retrace
The path where once my stumbling feet were set.
Backward in shame I turn my streaming face,
The ghosts of other years pursue me yet.

"If only I could have them back again",
Vain cry of many a sad and contrite soul.
Arise! Today's own burden take, and then
Strive upwards to a new and better goal,
Forget the past. Turn back no more your eyes,
Play well the part that still remains to play.
Not on the backward trail lies Paradise—
Today's best strength is to be strong today.

Edison Dream Coming True

Goldenrod Rubber—U.S. Experimental Farms Take Up Project.

FORT MYERS, Fla.—Rubber, harvester like grain from fields of common goldenrod— the last brilliant dream of the late Thomas Alva Edison—has been accepted by Uncle Sam and experts from the United States division of plant exploration and introduction, now are working in close conjunction with the Edison botanical research toward this end.

That the Government has become actively interested in methods of extracting commercial rubber from goldenrod was revealed here by Charles Edison, son of the late inventor, who is tarpon-fishing in Lee County waters with other Edison officials.

Thomas A. Edison's final ambition towards which he struggled for five years prior to his death and in which he actually produced rubber from the plant known botanically as "Solidago Levanworthii" is now progressing in the hands of Uncle Sam's experts at experimental stations in Savannah, Ga.; Columbia, S.C. and Miami, Fla.

Edison experimented in more than 500,000 tests with each plant, tree, shrub and vine known in the country, finally narrowing his pursuit to the goldenrod.

Other rubber plants require four to seven years for actual production. Edison's experiments reduced this to six months, which would make available an emergency supply of rubber, should the tropical sources be closed suddenly.

Discovery that particular plants which the inventor developed from the common goldenrod now test 12 per cent. rubber has spurred the experts. Edison had declared 6 per cent. would assure success.

Edison's miniature goldenrod plantation here still is the production centre of rubber-bearing plants. Five botanical experts under H. G. Ukelberg continue the work, co-operating with Federal experts.

Sport Barred

TOO MANY KITES MENACE TO AIR PILOTS IN CHINA

SHANGHAI—China, the land where kiteflying is supposed to have originated many centuries ago, must fly no more kites, according to a decree of the Ministry of Communications

But in matters of vital personal moment like this, the average Chinese is an individualist more likely to be guided by his own inclination than by even the weightiest of government orders.

The reason for the Ministry's edict is that kites at high altitudes are alleged to impair visibility for aviators. Pending more formal orders from higher authority, as result of representations which the Ministry has made, a request has been sent to the city government of Greater Shanghai asking that Shanghai inhabitants be instructed not to fly their kites.

Thus far, kiteflying continues without check and it is a trifle difficult to imagine the local gendarmerie scouring the broad Yangtse plain for kite-fliers.

The Christian Science Monitor correspondnt has flown over the Yangtse areas in several directions at this season and can testify that kites are a prominent feature of the aerial landscape. Whether they are any real menace, however, is more of a question and none of the American pilots in either commercial or military service with whom the correspondent has talked are disposed to regard kites as a flying hazard.

Kiteflying has increased in popularity throughout China during recent years, particularly in Shanghai proper, though the airplanes chiefly take notice in flying over densely peopled country districts. In such areas, the upper surfaces of the kites on a clear breeze day will seem almost like a pavement from the viewpoint of the pilot coasting along only a few feet above the higher kite levels. It is difficult to understand how the kites could constitute a real menace, however, for they are clearly visible and however numerous they may be, the pilot can always make out enough below to keep his bearings—in addition to which all commercial fliers operate closely by compass because the landscape of the Yangtse is too flat and monotonous to provide good land marks.

Adults and children are equally keen on kiteflying. In Nanking recently kiteflying received the sponsorship of various high officials including Dr. Cho Ming-yi, chief secretary of the Executive Yuan, and prizes were given for altitude

Author Loses Plagiary Suit

Richard Washburn Child Asked Million From Film Firms

New York — With the assertion, "it gave me a pain," Federal Judge John M. Woolsey dismissed a $1,000,000 plagiarism suit brought by Richard Washburn Child, author and diplomat, against James Hagan, playwright, Leo Peters, Leslie J. Spiller, Paramount Productions, Inc., and two film distributing companies.

Child alleged that in producing "One Sunday Afternoon," as a stage and cinema play, the defendants had plagiarized his story "The Avenger."

"I studied the matter carefully," Judge Woolsey said, "and am satisfied that there was no plagiarism. It gave me a pain. The charges are absolutely unwarranted."

Judge Woolsey awarded costs to each defendant, and $500 for counsel fees to Hagan and $250 for similar use to each of the other defendants.

The matter came before Judge Woolsey on a motion to withdraw submitted by Herbert McKennis, Child's attorney, and on motions to dismiss by Harry Weinberger and Arnold Gross, counsel for the defendants.

Loses Life in Theory Test

Indiana Boy Wanted to See How Long He Could Hang Self

Fort Wayne, Ind., — His membership in a strange juvenile suicide club which flirted with death for weeks in testing the powers of the human to resist strangulation by hanging was counted as the sole force which prompted a 16-year-old high school student to hang himself.

Howard Shelley, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Shelley died at the end of a rope in his father's basement while apparently trying to establish how long he could strangle himself without losing consciousness.

That was the objective of a secret club to which Howard belonged. E Nadeau Kalamazoo, Mich, brother-in law said Howard told him the club secrets several weeks ago.

In some detective magazine Howard said one of the boys resisted hanging 18 times. The "suicide fraternity" was formed to find out exactly how long a person could hang without dying.

The boys had read also that by wrapping the throat with a heavy towel, one "probably could resist strangulation indefinitely," Nadeau said Howard told him.

Arctic Calls 'Cap'. Bob'

New York—With a cow and several golffish aboard, Capt. Bob Bartlett sailed recently in the two-masted schooner Morrissey for a three-month's trp along the west coast of Greenland to obtain specimens of birds and animals for the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences.

The cow, a registered Guernsey, is a gift from the president of the academy to Captain Bartlett's mother in Brigus, Newfoundland.

The goldfish "Captain Bob" is going to the pastor of a church in Brigus.

Two other persons, Mr. William K. Dupont Carpenter of Wilmington Del., and Mr. Harry J. Lance, Jr., of Philadelphia, are aboard. Two others will join the ship at St. John's Newfoundland.

Summer Ensembles

Couturiers have turned to the navy for ideas this summer, with the result that there's a distinctly nautical flavor about some of the town and country costums that smart women are wearing. Not only are red, white and blue color combinations popular, but trimmings that go on sailors' middies, officers caps and sleeves and some of the rigging on the boats themselves have furnished inspiration for smart designs.

Everything's To Kay

Attired in multi-colored holiday costumes even to the tall caps, peasants of Tokay, Hungary, enjoy the result of their efforts in celebration of a successful season of wine-making.