Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

CANADA LEADS.—
Figures just released by the statistical branch of the League of Nations place Canada at the head of the list in progress toward industrial recovery with the United States second. Canada's ratio is 40, the U.S. 30. When we consider the means adopted in the republic we are justified in concluding that Canada's recovery is more likely to be lasting, because it is not the result of artificial stimulation.—Clinton News-Record.

DO GOOD WORK.—
On Sunday morning a provincial police constable knocked at the door of a Vineland residence and calmly informed the occupant that his stolen car had been recovered. The man was not even aware that his car was missing, and yet five young Toronto men were locked up at Welland for the theft.—St. Catharines Standard.

SAVING THE MUSKOX.—
What Canada did some years ago for the buffalo in saving it from extinction, she is now doing for the muskox. The story of this curious animal whose home is in what are known as the Barren Lands of Northern Canada and in the islands of the Arctic Archipelago, is told by G. H. Blanchet. Canada has set apart a comparatively inaccessible region east of Great Slave Lake, known as the Thelon Game Sanctuary, as a home for the muskox. Here it will be safe from both Indians and Eskimos, and will have a chance to increase as the buffalo did in Wainwright Park.—Fredericton Gleaner.

MAKE NO DISTINCTION.—
Practically all social service clubs will agree with W. G. Smith, of Manitoba, in his hatred for the word "illegitimate" as applied to children born out of wedlock. The children have nothing to do with it and it is unfair that they should rest under such a stigma. In Ontario, as in Manitoba, there is no distinction between children born outside and in wedlock, so far as the father's estate is concerned, all sharing equally in any proceeds.—Niagara Falls Review.

DIRTY LICENSE PLATES.—
Dirty license plates defeat one of the purposes of motor car licensing. Plates damaged so that the numbers are illegible also have the same bad effect. License plates are on cars primarily for the information of the general public and its law enforcement authorities. They are the means of identifying a car and protecting the public.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

BENEFIT OF EDUCATION.—
A Miami University student ate 15 hamburger sandwiches in half an hour. There are still some persons who arbitrarily declare that they can see nothing in a college education.—Ottawa Citizen.

VALUE OF RAIN.—
President Roosevelt is asking for $525,000,000 to give out to the people of the United States as Drought Aid. This will give you some idea of the value of a good rain.—Chatham News

PLAGUES AS ALLIES.—
A gnat plague is killing cattle by the hundreds in Arkansas. Grasshoppers are expected to kill a large part of the wheat crop in the prairie west, on both sides of the international line. The farmer's instinct is to fight such enemies, but now that he is told he must cut down production is he to regard them as natural allies?—London Advertiser.

THEY'RE LEARNING.—
Why does the chicken cross the road just ahead of an auto? Farmers report that fowl are cultivating a traffic sense and stop, look and listen before entering the highway. One man says he saw a pheasant look out from a hedge and deliberately wait for cars approaching from both directions to pass and when the road was clear walk across at its leisure.—Montreal Herald.

PAROLE IS OVERDONE IN NEW YORK.—
It is so hard to get a man convicted for murder in New York one might think that when a man is convicted and put away for a life sentence, or something approximating it. the authorities would not seek to let him out for a great many years—15 or 20 at least. But the hard work of the police is neutralized to a great extent by the operations of a parole board which is exercising its privileges in the most extraordinary fashion.

Nine men convicted of murder in New York since April, 1933, only a little more than one year ago, have been paroled, and of these, six are again waiting trial for another murder apiece. What justification could there have been for admitting to freedom men of such character? Two recently paroled men, not previously murders, have been rearrested for killing a patrolman and wounding three children in the doing of it.

The rottenness that exists in the legal machinery of the New York criminal system seems to have no limit.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

A poll of books most frequently recommended by professors of English literature in the leading American universities, has been taken. The result is rather astonishing. Here it is:

"Pride and Prejudice," by Jane Austen.
"Return of the Native," by Thomas Hardy.
"Henry Esmond," by W. M. Thackeray.
"The Scarlet Letter," by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
"The Ordeal of Richard Feveral," by George Meredith.
"Vanity Fair," by W. M. Thackeray.
"Old Wives' Tales" by Arnold Bennett.
"Adam Bede," by George Eliot.
"David Copperfield," by Charles Dickens.
"The Mill on the Floss," by George Eliot.

—London Free Press.

PAGEANTS FIND PROBLEMS.—
Women are becoming wider and heavier, a director of pageants has discovered in England. It has been found impossible to fit them into the stomachers, stays, bodices and bustles their grandmothers wore.

This may not matter much, but if the widening out process continues it may constitute a new problem, or collection of problems—street car, rumble seat, elevator and easy chair. And curves have just begun to come in.

The same director has found that men can imitate their ancestors and women can't. Women are generally more beautiful than before, but their beauty being standardized, is non-adaptable; men are still the same old homely citizens and their beauty, being non-existent, may be adapted to any character they wish to portray.

The question here is: Do men wish to remain homely for the purpose of appearing in pageants, or will they acquire beauty and let the pageants go? It is a nice question and not to be answered offhand.—Toronto Telegram.

TAKING CHANCES.—
So many of the accidents occurring in these days are unnecessary, if people would only exercise good reasoning and common sense. The other day it was reported that two Toronto young men 17 and 18 years of age, lost their lives when the canoe in which they were seated upset. Particulars of the accident show that they were unfamiliar with the management of a canoe, and neither of them could swim. When they were thrown into the water they clutched madly at each other and disappeared. It is added that a number of other young people were in a row-boat nearby, but they were unable to effect a rescue as none of them could swim. —Chatham News.

ONTARIO LEADS DOMINION IN AUTO FATALITIES.—
The Province of Ontario last year established a record in the Dominion that should not be the envy of other provinces. It led the entire country in the number of automobile fatalities. According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, 954 persons in all were killed by motor cars in 1933, a decrease of 166 from the previous year's figures. This made the death rate from cars per 100,000 population 8.9 as compared with 10.7 in 1932. Ontario had the heaviest death toll in 1933—11.8 per 100,000 population. British Columbia stood second with a rate of 11.0. Nova Scotia's rate was 8.8, Quebec's 8.6 and Alberta's 8.5. In Prince Edward Island two persons were killed by automobiles during 1933. In Alberta the increase in number over the previous years was 15. Further analyzing the statistics we find that Toronto decreased its toll from 88 in 1932 to 65 in 1933; Montreal from 121 to 104; Vancouver from 44 to 28. Ottawa had 25 deaths, the same number as in 1932, while Hamilton reported an increase of 2 and London an increase of 8.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

THE EMPIRE

CANADA THROUGH BRITISH EYES
The story of the present economic conditions in Canada is a heartening addition to the recent evidence of improvement in Australia, in South Africa and in India. The Empire, as a whole, is out of the depths. In Canada every one of the ordinary tests of well-being shows the Dominion making rapid recovery. Foreign trade in the first four months of the present year is nearly 50 per cent. better than in the corresponding period of 1933. The Customs and excise revenues for April were almost $12,000,000 in excess of those of April last year. In the reports of the greater business corporations the profits earned in the past twelve months have been greater by 75 per cent. than in the previous year. The improvement, of which these figures record the early fruits, began in February, 1933, and has been steady in the interval—London Daily Telegraph

Celebrated Flyer and Wife

A recent photograph of Sir Charles and Lady Kingsford-Smith, taken at the Union Air Terminal, Burbank, Calif., where Sir Charles recently made several test flights in the new plane in which he will fly in the race from London to Melbourne, Australia, next October.

FROM LUTHER'S BEECH TREE.
The Prince of Wales has sent 500 beech tree seedlings from Windsor Great Park to Canada. We understand they will be planted by members of the "Men of the Trees" movement, as an encouragement to Canadians to attach even more significance to the importance of their forest resources. It is interesting to note the Royal trees were raised from seeds gathered underneath an offspring of Luther's Beech at Wurtemberg, and brought to Windsor more than 100 years ago. —Empire Review.

WHY COMMUNISM GROWS.—
Every election demonstrates the growing strength of the Communists. One of them polled over 8,000 votes in the mayoral election in Brisbane. At the Hamilton (N.S.W.) by-election another got an even bigger proportion of support. Yet their Australian programme is so extreme and violent and calls for so complete a surrender to iron discipline that, in a country with such easygoing traditions, it is difficult to imagine anybody but a madman or a crank supporting it. Many of those who do support it are unbalanced by unemployment and embittered by the complacency of uncomprehending politicians—politicians who have become the slaves of professors and whose minds have developed into mere book-keeping machines. Have they, for instance, seen the conditions on the N.S.W. coalfields? Are they aware that on both the northern and southern fields there are literally thousands who have cynically resigned themselves to make the best of the dole and the family endowment for the rest of their lives? Have they heard that there are thousands more, youngsters just beyond the school age, who have already come to believe that if Communism cannot do for them what the present system has failed to do it will at least give them sympathy?—Sydney Bulletin.

EARTHQUAKES AND SIN.—
An urbane but trenchant controversy of more than ordinary interest has been taking place between Dr. Rabindranath Tagore and Mr. Gandhi. Soon after the earthquake the Mahatma administered to the sorely tried populace of North East Bihar one of those subsidiary shocks which, we are told, always follow in the wake of the major disturbance, by announcing his conviction that the earthquake was sent by God to punish the Hindus for the sin of untouchability. This "unscientific and materialistic view" caused Dr. Rabindranath painful surprise and urged him to "utter a truism in asserting that physical catastrophes have their inevitable and exclusive origin in certain combinations of physical facts. He went on to say that unles swe believe in the inexorableness of universal laws in the working of which God Himself never interferes— imperilling thereby the integrity of his own creation—we find it impossible to justify His ways on occasions like the one which has sorely stricken us in an overwhelming manner and scale.— Calcutta Statesman.

IN PRAISE OF USELESS KNOWLEDGE.—
We all remember Mr. Stephen Leacock's account of his visit to Oxford, and his delightful portrayal of Oxford as the complete and perfect conservator of useless knowledge; a place where professors never lecture but by request, and then wretchedly. —Mr. Leacock was told told that some had not lectured for thirty years—where tutors seem to do nothing much but smoke, and students seem to do little but live in mouldy mediaeval quarters, eat food cooked in Henry VIII's kitchen, and sleep in an unwholesome mess of age-old ivy. We recall his sly pretense of puzzlement when he compared the ways of Oxford with those of the universities that he was acquainted with on this side of the Atlantic, and finally his reluctant admission that somehow, dead against every conceivable possibility, Oxford "gets there" and his dark suspicion that it will continue to get there for many generations to come. No one in America knows the value of useless knowledge better than Mr. Leacock, and his fascinating sketch of Oxford makes it clear that the business of a university is to do what for centuries Oxford has been doing and to turn out the kind of human produce that for centuries Oxford has been turning out.—Albert Jay Nock in The Atlantic Monthly of Boston.

Escapes Death Four Times

Survives Car Accident — Lightning Bolt — Storm and Rattle Snake.

Atlanta—Death has played four strange tricks on Julian Jones.

The latest adventure was when a bolt of lightning fell in Jones' lap—and then rolled off on to the floor of his car. Jones has been struck by a car—and has landed safely on top of its hood. He has lived through a terrific storm in Bacon County, Ga,. and once he almost touched a diamond back rattlesnake before seeing he was in error.

The lightning that chose to light in Jones' lap tore bark off a nearby tree to a height of 30 feet. From the root of the tree the lighning dug a little trench across the road to a rear wheel of Jones' car, leaped to the back window, smashed the glass and fell in his lap.

"It seemed to hesitate an instant, then hopped down to the barrel of a shotgun lying at my feet," he said. "I never felt any shock from the lightning nor any heat." His only injury was a gashed cheek, but by the glass of the car window.

While walking across a downtown street one day, Jones felt a severe jolt and found himself sitting on top of an automobile hood. He was all right there—but was bruised when the driver stopped suddenly and Jones fell to the street.

The cyclone adventure came in 1898. The house in which Jones watched the storm was nearly swept away—but it withstood the wind, which went on to demolish several houses.

He had the speaking acquaintance with the rattlesnake in Bacon County also. Jones shot a squirrel and had stooped to pick it up when he noticed the ground seemed to be of an unnatural color. He then was standing within eight inches of the squirrel. Jumping back quickly, Jones fired a bullet into the head of the rattlesnake which was coiled between him and the squirrel. The snake had 19 rattles.

....MORE CANADIAN HARDWOOD....
An increase of 100 per cent. in sales of Canadian hardwood to Great Britain for the first three months of this year has been reported. The figures are placed at 1,206,000 cubic feet this year compared with 604,000 cubic feet during the same period in 1933. Canadian hardwood is being used in increasing quantities in Great Britain for flooring, furniture, and the manufacture of automobile bodies.

ROCKING OF BABIES FOR HIRE IS ADDED TO ODD PROFESSIONS

Baby Rockers Local No. 1 of Harlem has not yet received an approved NRA code but Andrew H. Brown, the president, doesn't think it needs one.

"We gits five cents a half-hour fo' rockin," Mr. Brown explains, "less'n dey is twins, when we gits two cents extra. No cut rates."

Members of the local earn their nickels rocking babies, with or without carriages, for shopping mothers It is a great convenience for the mothers who can fight their way unencumbered into the bargain aisles and know that their offspring are in safe custody at the store entrance.

The baby rocking profession is a new addition to the list of odd ways for making ends meet. Some of these unusual businesses are of considerable size. A factory in the metropolitan area produces dolls voices, selling them to doll manufacturers. Bu curio hunters, who might find something unique in the possession of a voice without a doll could easily obtain a disembodied "ma-a-a" at a slight expense.

An uptown establishment is run by a "packaging expert" whose deft draping and be-ribboning of the plainest of packages will lend a Fifth Avenue air to a five-and ten gift. An exalted scissors grinder lending his talent to the arts, will put nothing to his grindstone but sculptor's tools. Several married couples have turned professional brides and bridegrooms, having been married over and over again on dance floors to advertise dance marathon contests.

Public Learns Hoary Secrets Of Old Titles

English College of Arms Opens for Inspection of Some Ancient Family Records

London.—For the first time in its nearly 500 years of existence the College of Arms is to make an exhibition of itself. The staid old institution, so often associated with the burst of heraldry and the pomp of power, is to show inner secrets to all and sundry.

Sections of the college's rolls, parchments and other historical treasures, are to be open for public inspection. There will be on view, for instance, the roll of the Westminster tournament held in February, 1510, which is 60 feet long, with beautiful script and pictures There is also a parchment depicting the descent of the Saxon kings. This pedigree goes back through to Adam and Eve.

Many Relics.

Among the tragic relics contained in the College of Arms are the turquoise ring and the sword taken from the body of James IV of Scotland when he lay dead on the Field of Flodden.

The building of the College of Arms is on the north side of the city. It is a large and sedate looking structure of red brick, built on three sides of a square. It almost gives the impression of a country residence of the Queen Anne period somehow dropped nonchalantly into the middle of the banking and financial centre of London.

An Englishman, proud of his lineage and wishing to put a coat of arms on his letter paper or upon the panel of his automobile, may come to the College of Arms and consult Rouge Dragon, Bluemantle, Portcullis or Rouge Croix, or some other of the august officials of the Hereditary Earl-Marshal of England.

Heraldry.

Probably he will be directed to one of the heralds. Not unnaturally he may imagine a herald to be a personage arrayed something like the Knave of Hearts, and carrying a long trumpet. But the herald at the present day is attired in conventional black coat and waistcoat and stripe trousers.

At the present day the college is far from being concerned merely with the records of centuries back. New creations in the peerage, baronetage, and knightage are made every year, which means the granting of so many coats of arms. When one of the many new centres of population which have sprung up in England in recent years is raised to the rank of a borough, it must furnish itself with an appropriate coat of arms. All this work is conducted by one or other of the quaintly named officials of the red brick building in Queen Victoria street.

Music to Soothe the Tired Juvenile

Turns Him From Mischief and Strife to Purposeful Way of Living

Washington, — The right kind of noise may keep a child out of mischief, but the wrong kind is apt to undermine his health and tire his mind.

Music's power to soothe the juvenile was vouched for before the National Education Association by L A. Woods, superintendent of public instruction in Texas.

"Music turns the individual from mischief and strife to a purposeful co-operative way of living" he said.

The other side of the noise picture was sketched by Ruth M. Van Devanter, of Springfield Illinois.

She said it was time to toss overboard the idea that a noisy environment teaches children to concentrate. Pupils can get used to needless noise the speaker explained, but continue to waste energy combatting it.

Diathermy Use Told Doctors

Danger of Being Buried Alive Eliminated, Speaker Says

Los Angeles, — Medical science has advanced to the point where no one need to have a fear of being buried alive, Dr. Disrael W. Koback, professor of physical therapy at the Rush Medical College, Chicago said her recently.

He addressed a joint meeting of the western section of the American Congress of Physical-Therapy and the Pacific Physical-Therapy Association.

Diathermy holds, he said, a definite test for the determination of death and enables a physician to know when resuscitation is possible. If a living spark exists it can be detected by means of electricity.

One electrode is placed under the patient's back, he said, the other against his thigh or stomach, then after the current has been on for about 30 minutes, a definite rise of temperature will occur, if the patient is alive. If there is still life the diathermy stimulates the circulation and raises the temperature. If there is no life a continuous fall of temperature results.

When all other methods of treatment have failed, Dr. Koback said, diathermy or heat-thermy, has been found effective in cases of angina pectoris and coronary thrombosis.

He referred to the announcement made by Dr. Albert S. Hyman at the last meeting of the American Medical Association, that, by means of diathermy methods, more than 100 hearts which had stopped beating were started going again.

Silence That Hurts,

Room of Absolute Quiet is Used To Test Electric Fans

If you believe that absolute quiet is just what you need to soothe your ruffled nerves step into a room built by the General Electric engineers at Bridgeport, Conn. and be disabused. Snap your fingrs. It is as if a rifle has been fired. Pat one hand with the other, make any slight noise, and the indicator on the noise-recorder swings violently.

The absolutely quiet room was built in order to test electric fans, which have a fay of whirring even if they are perfectly built because the blades simply must hit the air in order to set up a breeze. For the same reason an airplane propeller can be heard on the ground although it may be churning up the atmosphere a mile up. By careful designing of blades a fan can be made which is as good as silent. Noises caused by faulty bearings and other defects are inexcusable in a new fan. In the silent room they are traced to their source and weeded out.

The testing engineers do more than let the fans run in any way that happens to be convenient. The worst possible conditions are reproduced. False walls that vibrate like tight drumheads and dummy ceilings that are almost as resonant as a bell exaggerate the sound. A microphone picks up the hum or rattle, and another instrument, an analyzer indicates the pitch and traces it to its source. Kitchen mixers, razor stroppers and other domestic electrical appliances are tested in the same way.

But while all this has its practical engineering value it is a matter of no small scientific interest to learn that we must have a little noise just to be comfortable. Total silence would reduce the sanest of us to madness.

It was no easy matter to make a room that would be absolutely quiet. The engineers had to suspend it in space, so that it would not be rigidly connected with the rest of the building The ceiling was hung from rafters and not attached to the walls. The floor and the walls were suspended on cushions or springs. Thus a room was created to float free of the building of which it is a part.