Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

—Tax rates, it has many times been pointed out, are not always the safest guide to the actual tax burden a community is called upon to bear. A more accurate indication of the true tax rate is the assessment levels.

A bulletin issued last year by the Citizens' Research Institute of Canada gives assessment figures and net debt figures for 17 Canadian cities for the year 1931. Worked out on a per capita basis, these figures are as follows:

	Assess.	Net Debt
Toronto	$1,661	$138.19
Victoria	1,511	229.20
Windsor	1,414	184.07
Ottawa	1,250	104.93
London	1,220	109.43
Montreal	1,201	
Saint John	1,116	40.31
Vancouver	1,094	219.17
Winnipeg	1,085	75.05
Hamilton	1,002	120.94
Halifax	989	154.43
Quebec	900	173.26
Regina	872	155.11
Edmonton	840	276.00
Saskatoon	801	191.92
Calgary	789	152.21
Charlottetown	707	97.04
Average	$1,085	$142.43

—Winnipeg Tribune.

NO NEVER IN THAT CONDITION

One of these days some enterprising pyjama firm is going to turn out suits in which the trousers and coat will be of a different color. Did you ever struggle to try to get your feet through the sleeve? — Oshawa Times.

"DRIVE SLOW"

A letter appearing in the Toronto Globe over the signature of Mr. A. W. Baird, principal of the Renfrew Collegiate, will be read with considerable interest in Kingston, not merely because of its subject matter, but because of the fact that A. W. Baird is one of Queen's most brilliant graduates and at the present time occupies an important position in our educational world.

Mr. Baird takes issue with the Rev. C. Graham Jones of Campbellville who recently wrote to the Globe complaining of such highway signs as "School: Drive Slow." Mr. Baird points out that slow is quite correct an draws attention to the following on Page 542 of Modern English Usage, by H. W. Fowler:

Slow, adverb. In spite of the encroachments of slowly, slow maintains itself as at least an idiomatic possibility under some conditions. Of the conditions the chief is that the adverb and not the verb should contain the real point; compare "We forged slowly ahead," where the slowness is an unessential item, with "Sing as slow as you can", where the slowness is all that matters.

These highway signs have bothered others besides the Rev. Mr. Jones of Campbellville, and some of us may even have the temerity to take issue with Mr. Fowler. However, as Mr. Baird points out, it is evident that those responsible for the signs have good authority for their use. We doubt, however, if they were aware of this fact.—Kingston Whig-Standard.

CHANGE IN RULERSHIP

In the last 24 years, eight monarchs of nations containing about 750 million persons have lost their thrones. The monarchs ruled Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, China, Portugal, Greece, Spain and Turkey. Rulership has passed from monarchy to money power, as it did in France a century ago.—The Citizen, Ottawa.

THE LABRADOR DOCTOR

At 69 Sir Wilfred Grenfell has decided that his active days in the medical missionary field are about over.

Sailing for England with Lady Grenfell, the man whose name is synonymous with Labrador admitted that he was "getting too old to drive a dog team" and must henceforth take things easy.

That does not mean, however, that Sir Wilfred will be content to retire and spend his declining years in contemplating the noble work which brought him knighthood in 1927. Sturdy, ruddy cheeked, a picture of health despite his strenuous life, "the Doctor" will continue to be the driving force behind the International Grenfell Association.

Only those who have been to Labrador and talked with its hardy people can appreciate the high regard in which Sir Wilfred is held. What he has done over a period of more than forty years to ameliorate conditions of life in a land where there are few pleasures and much poverty must be measured in terms of the future.

If, as Sir Wilfred believes, Labrador is developed and eventually becomes one of the important sections of the continent, it will be due in no small measure to one who placed a literal interpretation on the words of twenty centuries ago: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these My Brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

AN EDITOR ABROAD

....A series of sketches written for the Vancouver Sun by Harold L. Weir, chief editorial writer of that newspaper, on his impressions of the United Kingdom and France as acquired in a short tour of those countries, has been published in the form of a 36-page pamphlet.

It is a bright and interesting little publication. The style is light and distinctly "readable," the matter ranges from dinners at sea to the majesty of an England discovered and the quotation of Shakespeare's bit about "this sceptred isle... This precious stone set in the silver sea." Mr. Weir shows a nice appreciation of London's charm, of the grace of the English countryside and the austerity of Scotland, and he is able to pass on to his readers something of his own keen enjoyment.

PUDDLE-JUMPER

During the war the tanks came along to the surprise of everybody waddling across fairly decent sized trenches. But now we have an automobile which leaps the puddles. The Christian Science Monitor tells of a strange looking stream lined automobile which has been built in California which does uncanny things

It is built of steel and is lighter than the usual car and the centre of gravity is placed very low, so that the car is not easily over turned. Its inventor took it out into rough ground and for three hours, before a group of spectators did the apparently impossible. He turned hair-pin curves at sixty miles an hour without the missing of a heart-beat. "At 65 miles an hour he drove his car into a mound of rocks and dirt four feet high, and dived 51 feet before landing on one front wheel. The machine righted itself and proceeded calmly across the mesa, without even blowing a tire."

Soon we will be able to ride upside down with safety. — Halifax Chronicle.

DIVORCE CLINIC

The Oklahoma Ministerial Association is setting up a "divorce clinic." They are of the opinion that ministers can pacify husband and wife when they begin to quarrel and want to part. Perhaps. —From the Pembroke Standard-Observer.

THE EMPIRE

.... THE RIGHT TO WORK ....

The Daily Express believes that every citizen who wants work should get it, and that all citizens should have to work. The Daily Express has no respect for The Willing Idle and nothing but pity for the organized triviality of "Society." Those sponging, lounging loafers eke out a miserable existence. The public are not interested in them in any case.
—London Daily Express.

HOUSING AND TUBERCULOSIS

There are, of course, other angles as well from which the fight against tuberculosis must be directed, such as ensuring a clean milk supply, especially for children, so as to eliminate bovine infection; but if special steps could be taken to improve the housing conditions of families in poor circumstances subject to tuberculosis, the prospects of eradicating the disease would be greatly improved. —Edinburgh Scotsman.

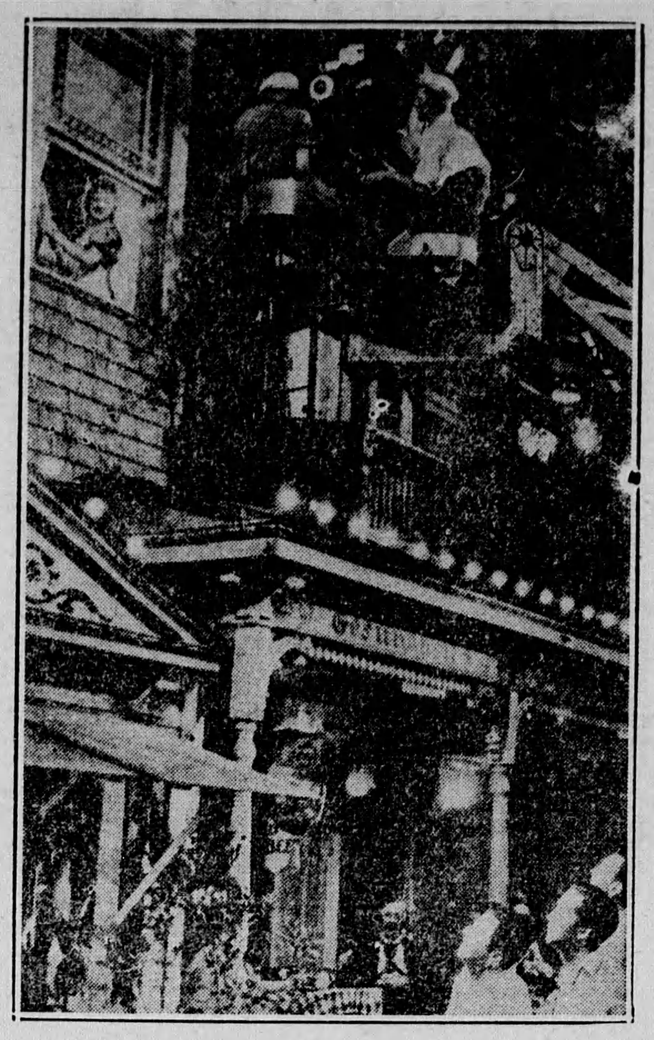
THE COST OF THE LEAGUE

Since its formation 15 years ago, the League of Nations proper has spent about seven and a half million gold pounds, including expenditure not only on the staff, but also on buildings and the many technical and special organizations of the League. The International Labour Office has spent four million pounds in the same period and the Permanent Court of International Justice £874,000. Adding these up, we get a total of under 12,500,000 pounds. The share that each of the 57 nation members is called upon to pay is determined by a somewhat complicated mathematical formula, in which the factors are population, territorial area, industrial wealth, etc. Great Britain's total contributions under this arrangement have amounted to one and a quarter million gold pounds over the 15 years. To put this sum in its proper proportion, it is sufficient, perhaps, to remark that it does not amount to 1 per cent of the expenditure on British armaments for a single year. —The Cape Argus, Capetown.

THE MOVIES IN AUSTRALIA

The real offence of the films is not that their vulgarities and indecencies corrupt those who frequent talkies, but that they outrage the susceptibilities of people who know little or nothing of the talkies but what is forced on them and theirs in the form of [illegible] advertisements and publicity stuff. Owing to these abuses a formidable body of hostile opinion has been mobilised not only in the U.S.A., but in other countries, including Australia; and if the controllers of the business don't mend their manners something disastrous is certainly going to happen to them.—Sydney Bulletin.

How It Is Done



Action! — Lights! — And the camera swings on its boom right up to the bedroom window for that closeup of Irene Dunne you'll admire when you see her latest picture. Down below on the set, Director Mervyn LeRoy (right) supervises the filming of the scene.

£85,675 Poster Bought

LONDON.—A man walking down a London street saw a board outside the Middlesex Hospital announcing that they still needed 85,675 pounds for their 1,200,000 pound extension scheme.

He walked into the hospital, drew out his cheque book and offered to buy the poster for the sum required.

He was Mr. E. W. Mewerstein. He took his seat on the hospital board for the first time.

Prince Arthur of Connaught, welcoming him, thanked Mr. Meyerstein for a first gift of 30,000 pounds and a second gift of 70,000 pounds.

Then Mr. Meyerstein remarked that it was his birthday, and that he wanted to give himself a present, offered his cheque. It brought his gifts to the fund to 185,675 pounds.

The meeting accepted the offer, and the reconstruction fund became closed.

Soviets Seeking 100-Per Cent Vote

MOSCOW,—Soviet Russia to-day initiated the Campaign for elections to the village Soviets with the slogan. "Get out 100 per cent of the eligible voters."

This is the first general election since farm collectivization became widespread and spectacular methods have been adopted to enlist the peasants in social construction.

In the approaching elections there will be 10,000,000 new voters with 90,000,000, in all, eligible to vote.

The local Soviets will elect delegates to the district Soviets, which in turn will elect representatives to the Provincial Soviets and these Soviets will elect provincial congresses which will name 1986 delegates to the All-Union Soviet Congress, the supreme authority of Soviet Russia. This congress will meet Jan. 14 for the first time in three years.

Any 13-Year-Old Can Learn Grammar

Princeton, N.J.—Gertrude Stein, modernist poet and author made her speaking debut before a college audience befuddling 500 Princeton undergraduates and faculty members with extracts from her works.

"I was tremendously concerned in finding out what was myself inside of me," she said among other things. "I think that's general of college students.

"The only way you can live without being bored," she said, "is to feel that every individual has a history that is worth investigating."

Her remarks—"Why make a fuss about grammar when any 13-year-old can learn it"—drew laughter and applause.

She appeared in a rough brown skirt, a brown and yellow sweater, low- heeled shoes and hatless. When at the conclusion of her lecture, she asked if there were any questions, her dazed audience made no reply. She grinned and walked off the platform.

Youth League Backs Australian Culture

Melbourne, Vic.—Dedicated to the protection of Australian natural treasures and resources—notably the Lyre bird and other rare species—as well as the preservation of native culture, the League of Youth has been founded. James McRae, director of education, presided at the meeting when a constitution was adopted

An appeal made by Ambrose Pratt in his book, 'The Lore of the Lyre Bird," for the youth of Australia to band together in the interests of native flora and fauna, was influential in formation of the league. Among the aims of the league are the development of community service and of personal responsibility, the preservation of national monuments, and the encouragement of local groups to carry on these and similar objectives.

The league is open to any youth over the age of 12 years.

Orphans' Friend Stops in Edmonton

Millionaire "orphans' friend" J. D. O'Connell, recently visited Edmonton during his annual 50,000-mile tour of all America. He inspected the orphans' institution which bears his name and, as well, looked into some of his financial interests, including real estate and wheat lands.

Mr. O'Connell would not give anything to Homes for the Aged, he announced. He himself is a septuagenarian. "Well, they've had their opportunities, and their lives, and apparently wasted them. Oh, I have nothing against the old folks—I'm just a lot more interested in orphans: the boys and girls who, if given a chance today, will be the grown people who run this world next year. They've got to have their chance.

"That's my life work—that and fighting the booze traffic. You can't make that too strong; the language, I mean. That's the one thing that I'm more interested in than I am even in providing funds for orphans."

Don't Fight the Censors

Frederick T. Birchall European correspondent of the New York Times speaking last week to the students of the Columbia school of journalism stated that it is impossible to suppress news and therefore any censorship is foolish.

"In my 40 years of experience," he said, "I found out that news will leak out through the roof or through any crevice.

"It is stubborn for any correspondent to fight a censor. Any correspondent expelled from a country is as foolish as the war correspondent who goes into the front line to be shot. He is no good any more to his newspaper."

He stressed the honesty truthfulness and inherent friendliness of American correspondents in Germany and added that no dispatch is ever stopped by the government if the contents are true. He said that not one of his dispatches some of which were highly critical, was ever stopped by the Germans.

THE OPULENT ICE MAN

Oh, envy not the ice man
Who gets so much a pound.
It may be he is drifting
Whence ice does not abound.

Prince Urges English-Speaking Youth to Further War Amity

New York. — The Prince of Wales urged the young generation of English-speaking democrats to work for international understanding, in a message read at a dinner of the English-speaking Union of the United States.

The Prince sent the message as president of the English-speaking Union of the British Empire. Read by the toastmaster at the dinner, John W. Davis, former U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain, the message said:

"The endeavor of the youth of the English-speaking democracies should be directed to promoting not only their mutual interests but also international understandings, as the first step towards the economic recovery on which the maintenance of peace and understanding throughout the world will depend."

Sir Gerald Campbell, British Consul-General in New York, in addressing the dinner suggested that youth is not "getting a square deal" from the generation now in control of world affairs.

"We must confess," he said, "that we have made more than an average bad mess of what was not such a bad world at the time it was confined to our care."

Getting the News By "Pony Express"

St. Thomas Times-Journal

The Times has been recalling events of 100 years ago, when Charles Dickens was a reporter in London. When readers of the Times-Journal realize that news of an important event on the other side of the ocean is published within a few seconds of happening, with an extended report appearing within half an hour or so, it is interesting to learn that the great London daily prided itself on the promptitude of its reports before the days of the telegraph, trains, steam printing, typewriters or the telephone.

Its reporters at home and abroad relied on a sort of "pony express" system, being told to spare no expense either as to the number or quality of the horses.

Referring to an important speech by Lord Durham at Glasgow in 1834, it is recorded the Times sent down to Glasgow two of its best parliamentary reporters; and in order at the same time, to do all that could be done to get the report of Lord Durham's speech brought as speedily as possible to the Times office, relays of postmen and horses —there being no railways at the time — were stationed at convenient distances between Glasgow and London.

The journey from Glasgow to London — 400 miles — was performed at the rate of 15 miles an hour. The result was that the speech of Lord Durham appeared in the Times at full length a day before it otherwise could have done. The expenses amounted to £200; but the unprecedented achievement created a great sensation throughout the country.

During a by-election in Devonshire Dickens was up against the Times' hang the expense service and made several journeys between Exeter and London, a distance of some 170 miles. On one occasion when they were approaching Honiton, about 16 miles on the way, Denison of the Times, who was more familiar than Dickens with the country and the way of innkeepers, told his postboy to run into the Golden Lion yard by the back way, knowing that a pair of horses would be ready harnessed in the yard, with the postboy waiting for a job.

Denison reckoned that thus he would get possession of the horses before his colleague alighted and came in at the front door. So it proved; Denison got the horses and took the lead.

During this same by-election Dickens was more fortunate against his rival on another trip for he chronicles that:

"At the second stage the Times and I changed horses together, they had the start two or three minutes; I bribed the postboys tremendously and we came in literally neck and neck — the most beautiful sight I ever saw."

Charles Dickens was a zealous and able reporter on the Morning Chronicle, and in one of his writings states that probably no other reporter in England spent so much time rushing across country in postchaises. In 1865 he told a newspapermen's banquet that:

"I have often transcribed for the printer, from my shorthand notes, important public speeches in which the strictest accuracy was required and a mistake in which would have even, to a young man severely compromisng, writing on the palm of my hand, by the light of a dark lantern, in a postchaise and four, galloping through a wild country, and through the dead of the night, at the then surprising rate of 15 miles an hour."

Through all the ages the reporter seems to be destined to be the Man Who is Always in a Hurry.

This At Least is Certain

In the darkest hour through which a human soul can pass whatever else is doubtful this at least is certain:

"If there be no God and no future state, yet, even then—

"It is better to be generous than selfish.

"Better to be chaste than licentious.

"Better to be true than false.

"Better to be brave than to be a coward.

"Blessed beyond all earthly blessedness is the man who in the tempestuous darkness of his soul has dared to hold fast to these venerable landmarks."—F. W. Robertson.

Wealthy Not Allowed To Be Movie Extras

Hollywood, Cal.—The moving picture industry is one jump ahead of the New York mannequins who object to society girls who take away their bread and butter by acting as models.

For Hollywood already has set its foot down hard on anyone with independent means becoming a movie 'extra" just for a lark.

"Any time we find society people trying to get movie jobs just for the fun of it, we cut them off our lists," Campbell MacCullough new general manager of Central Casting Bureau said today.

Before the present motion picture NRA code was crystallized a number of girls of social prominence took minor roles in the films as a diversion. Some showed enough promise to win contracts.

Jurywomen Are Too Sentimental Says Manchester Court Chairman

Their Recommendations for Mercy are Strongly Criticized—Former Cabinet Minister Defends Fair Sex in Legal Controversy

Manchester, Eng.—Women jurors came in for some scathing criticism by the chairman, H. St. John Raikes, K.C., at the trial of William Whittle, 60-year-old laborer, charged with stealing coal. He was found guilty and sentenced to six months' hard labor.

When the foreman of the jury intimated the woman members desired to recommend him to mercy, the chairman asked them to give a reason, and when none was forthcoming said: "Year by year, since women have been serving a certain amount of sickly sentimentality has been shown, and unless there is some strong reason they should be chary of making recommendations. It is rather a slight on the court. Those whose duty it is to award punishment have more experience than the juries and are able to size up the question."

11 PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS

On hearing that there were 11 previous convictions against Whittle for stealing coal, the chairman observed: "And then we get this recommendation by people who knew nothing about it. It is a shocking thing in a way."

Protests from various quarters followed the remarks of Mr. Raikes. "Women are no more sentimental than men," declared J. R. Clynes, former Cabinet member. "Lectures on sentimentality to the jury who recommended mercy are unheard of and out of place," he said.

"I have never seen any reason to differentiate between women jurors and men," said Comyns Carr, K.C.

A STEIN SONG

Discussing the sculptor Epstein (whose work he does not like) A. Edward Newton quotes (in "Derby Day and Other Adventurers") this "very clever limerick" that appeared in the "Atlantic Monthly" a year or so ago.

"There's a notable family named
Stein;
There's Gert, and there's Ep and
there's Ein;
Gert's poems are punk
Ep's statutes are junk—
Can't make head nor tail out of Ein."

Speaking of steins; Mr. Newton tells a story about an English temperance lecturer who once said in a public speech.

"I have lived in this town all my life. There are fifty pubs (saloons) in it, and I have never been in one of them."

From the back of the room a heckler inquired.

"Which one have you missed?"

"I have learned by years of experience," adds Mr. Newton, "never to attempt to match wits with a cockney."