Voice of the Press

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CANADA

ABILITY TO JOKE

One of the survivors of the Dundas train wreck, lying in a critical condition in hospital, said: "Well, at least we've taken those Dionnes off the front page." The capacity of human beings to laugh at the very moment of death, and in the direst extremity, is one of the most admirable qualities of the race.—Hamilton Herald.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT.

Mr. John A. Cunningham, former patrolman on the Wakerton-Kincardine highway, thought last week that the fates were against him when on going to his barn he found a plump Leghorn that had got soaked in the water-trough lying to all appearances frozen stiff on the barn floor, with the temperature without hovering around the zero mark.

Believing that life had long since departed, but bent nevertheless on thawing the bird out, Mr. Cunningham threw it behind the cook stove in the kitchen, where a wood fire was cracking in the grate.

Believe it or not, as Ripley would say, but that bird came to, and to demonstrate that it was no ingrate, laid an egg, and then cackled vigorously for the boss to come and behold "Business As Usual." Nothing that he had lamped on the farm gave him more satisfaction than biddy's performance on that occasion.—Walkerton Herald-Times.

WELL DRESSED.

A current French idea of keeping the wolf away from the door appears to be to confront him with the complacency of good clothes, impressed with the spectacle of a householder in a snappy new suit, the wolf is expected to let fall his tail and slink away in embarrassment at his obviously ill-timed intrusion. This attitude is, of course, based on the copybook motto that nothing succeeds like evidence of success.—Guelph Mercury.

LONG SERVICE

A Sudbury man possesses a lowly collar button which he claims is 80 years old. So proud of it is he that it only takes part in the regular duty of a collar button on Sundays. His father had used the same accessory for 55 years.

The story goes that the button was found by a sailor in a Scottish seamen's inn back around 1855. Maybe that explains its remarkable longevity of service.—Border Cities Star.

TORONTO'S FINE SHOWING

Ottawa's experience with diphtheria is common to that of all cities where a determined effort is being made to immunize the youthful population against this disease that once was a deadly plague, probably would be still if preventive measures had not been developed.

Toronto in 1895 reported 147 deaths from diphtheria. Allowing for the increase in population, in the same proportion the death list in 1934 would have reached 498. But by last year the toxoid immunization plan had been in use for a period long enough to make its benefits fully apparent, there were only 22 cases of diphtheria in the whole city, and no deaths.

The mathematical precision of the drop as more and more children were immunized matches Ottawa's descending scale almost exactly. Toronto had 64 deaths from this disease in 1929, 54 in 1930, 36 in 1931, 15 in 1932 and 5 in 1933. That city's record is another factor for those few who yet may doubt that toxoid confers immunity.—Ottawa Journal.

WHEN THE RAIN FALLS.

The late Sir Herbert Tree, the English actor and wit, once summed up some facts of life in a classic jingle which went, as nearly as I can remember it, as follows:

The rain, it falleth down
Upon the just and unjust fella,
But chiefly on the just, because
The unjust hath the just's umbrella.

MUST NOT BE REPEATED

Consciously or unconsciously there is a universal conviction that the difficult times of the last four years have been altogether too difficult to be endured again, within the lifetime of the present generation, at least. The people do not intend, if they can help it, to put up with a repetition of that period of declining incomes, declining living standards, declining bank accounts and all-round hardships.—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

CASH AT AUCTION SALES

The terms that used to appear on auction sale bills giving so many months' credit on approved joint notes, and a percentage off for cash, are apparently a thing of the past, hereabouts. A more abbreviated form is now in common use and the most of the sales are usually "Terms cash." Numbers of the posters also bear the admonition that nothing is to be taken from the premises "until satisfactorily settled

It would appear that the farmer has gone on the cash and carry basis also. Can it be that the credit system is about to go from all phases of activity. A few years ago everyone was urged to buy on easy terms. It would seem that the terms were so easy that everyone bought. The paying days are here. They have struck every walk of life, and the sales are apparently just another evidence of the cash basis being established.—Acton Free Press.

PROBLEM OF COW'S TAIL.

Word comes that in Los Angeles there is a national inventors' congress and that among 500 other devices shown there is one for holding a cow's tail during milking. It recalls the man who invented a gadget for striking matches. You put in the match, turned a handle and rushed across the room to catch it before it went out. What is the matter with tying the tuft of hair at the end of the tail round the cow's leg?

I wasn't always so wise. Among my other varied activities I once learned to milk cows. And I cursed the cow heartily because she insisted on sloshing me in the eye with her tail. The lady who taught me to milk looked on and said: "Why don't you tie a rock to it?" Anything so simple had never struck me. So I did it. I remained unconscious for 15 minutes.

I have always lamented that most women have no sense of humor, but when they have it's a wow.—Vancouver Province.

POLICE DOGS.

Police dogs cannot be imported into Australia. They are a nuisance and menace in most countries. In that Commonwealth they endanger the sheep industry, which is a basic business of their agriculture. Australians cannot afford to have any more dangerous dogs running around huge sheep ranches. As it is now the dingo, or native dog, held by pastoralists to be the most cunning animal in existence is of considerable trouble owing to its raids on sheep and the extreme difficulty there is in shooting or even poisonit.—Brandon Sun.

RUGGED INDIVIDUALISM.

"I believe in rugged individualism and the ruggeder and the more individualistc it is, the more I believe in it," says President George B. Cutten, of Colgate University, who thinks that there is too much tendency to suppress the individual for the good of the man. As a matter of fact, he thinks that is quite the wrong way to go about it and that more good will be accomplished for the mass if the individual is encouraged.—Sault Star.

THE EMPIRE

SHORTER SKIRTS.

Having lived to see the day when a woman in a short skirt looks positively dowdy, we must prepare our eyes for another shock. Next spring the fashion experts say, skirts will be shorter. Women will still dress in the height of discretion, but the height of discretion will be raised a few inches. By this time next year the flowing garments that now look so smart may be worn only by aunties. When this see-saw process has been repeated a few times more the whole human race will be shockproof. And what will the modiste do then, poor thing?—Manchester Sunday Chronicle.

AIR MAIL TO CANADA.

Since we have now reached a point at which the air mail to Canada must be considered an immediate question, the seadrome has become a practical problem, albeit an extremely ticklish one. The Americans claim that artificial islands of suitable design for the use of aircraft can be constructed and employed with success. We have still to see one, but if the claim be granted, who is to make them and who is to operate them? Are they to be internationally planned and controlled or to be simply a host of little Heligolands of the nations whose flags they fly? Obviously the seadrome question and the problem of the freedom of the seas cannot be separated.—Glasgow Herald.

THE ART OF AGRICULTURE.

It must not be forgotten that agriculture is also an art. In its highest forms it is based on an instinct for the soil, long years of experience and observation, above all training to grapple practically with day to day problems as they arise. In a word, farming cannot be conducted by word of command, like the manoeuvers of a body of troops. These are things which should be remembered when the wholesale planning of production from the soil is contemplated. Therefore, to whatever degree of control this country must resign itself, an assurance that it will neither be overloaded with complicated machinery, nor made too rigid for safety, is of first importance to both the farmer and the community as a whole.—Auckland Times.

NEXT TO GODLINESS

Some say the present clamor for bathing facilities arose through a plumbing accident, which deprived one of the most immaculate of our Councillors of his morning showers. Unable to take his accustomed bath, he first grew indignant and then sorrowful, as the realization came over him of what it meant to be one of the great unwashed. Dr. E. Prada, the town clerk, pointed out at the Health Authority meeting that there is no compulsion on house owners to instal shower baths on their premises. Should such laxity continue? Should not the Local Authority be given power to enforce the construction of baths in all dwellings?—Trinidad Guardian, Port of Spain.

Canadians In King's Honor List

Seventeen Canadians appeared in the King's Honor List this year. Here we see left to right—E. W. Beatty, K.C., Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; Sir Albert Gooderham, Toronto, created Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George; William J. Stewart, ex-Mayor of Toronto, Companion of the Order of the British Empire.

UNIVERSAL LAW FOR MOTORISTS

Nations Should Co-operate in Formation of Uniform Safety Code, Speaker Says.

Toronto.—It is time for the nations of the world to co-operate in formation of a world-wide automobile safety code, in the opinion of Robert C. Graham, executive vice-president of the Graham-Page Company and chairman of the export committee of the Automobile Manufacturers' Association of the United States. He has recently completed a tour comprising 15 countries and 35 states.

England, he finds, "has made the finest comeback of any country," but declares that the day is past when any nation can prosper regardless of world conditions.

SPIRIT OF RECIPROCITY

"I think the big thing to-day," he said, "is to remember that the wealth of the world at large. We should deal with other countries in a spirit of reciprocity, arranging our terms by narrow nationalistic policies. We found, in the United States, that our Smoot-Hawley bill had boosted tariffs up too high—and we are gradually repairing that mistake."

In regard to motoring needs, he pointed out that automobiles had already been developed more than the supervision of drivers and maintenance of highways.

"We cannot say our highways are finished," he declared, "so long as one grade crossing remains, and so long as our curves are not so constructed that drivers can take advantage of the speed and power which modern automobiles possess.

UNIFORM SAFETY LAWS

"There should be uniform safety laws throughout the world, with the fine ideas of each country welded into a universal, simple and sensible program that would demand that only those capable of safe driving be allowed to drive, rigid inspection of tires and brakes."

He stated that by June a highway would be complete between Mexico City annd Halifax, that cars built for Canada, the United States and Australia, where long distances were to be traversed, would always require heavier cars and more powerful engines than those designed for smaller European countries, and that newspapers were the greatest present medium for moulding the public mind, expressing a wish that they would use their opportunity to foster world fellowship.

Canadian Railway Earnings Higher

Revenues For Ten Months $247,356,942 Compare With $220,883,742

Ottawa.—Canadian railways earned $29,150,832 in October as against $27,239,163 in 1933. This was an increase of $1,911,668, or seven per cent. Operating expenses were heavier by $1,770,840, or nine per cent., and net operating revenues increased from $7,556,548 to $7,697,376.

Less than half of the increase in operating expenses was for operating payroll which increased by $552,464, or from $12,146,572 in 1933 to $12,699,036. The number of employes rose from 114,630 to 120,877, but was 3,930 less than in September, 1934.

For the ten months, January to October, gross revenues amounted to $247,356,942 in 1934 and $220,883,742 in 1933 and the operating income was $27,460,277 in 1934 and $16,737,778 in 1933.

Canadian Boy Scouts

Eighty thousand children were supplied with Christmas toys through a chain of 150 toy shops operated across Canada from coast to coast by Canadian Boy Scouts. Since their inception eleven years ago Canadian Boy Scout toy shops have collected, repaired, repainted and distributed nearly two million toys to over half-a-million Canadian children.

In many centres scarcity of old toys this past year caused the Scouts to try their hand at making new ones, and wholesale quantities of new wagons, truck, tractors, racers, doll bedroom sets and other toys to delight the childish heart were added to Santa's pack.

Thousands of family parcels of toys were sent to settlers rehabilitated in Ontario and Quebec by Government and municipal back-to-the-land schemes, and to new homesteaders in Northern Saskatchewan.

Heavy bulk shipments of toys were made by eastern Scout toy shops to assist their brother Scouts in the West to carry on the good work. In addition, Scouts in the East distributed thousands of playthings among the children of their own districts who might otherwise have been overlooked. — Canadad Week by Week.

Field Crops Show Gain

SHOW AN ESTIMATED ADVANCE OF $112,901,600 FOR YEAR JUST CLOSED

Ottawa.—Canada's field crops for 1934 show an estimated gain of $112,901,600 in value. This improvement is attributed mainly to better prices for farm products and some improvements in yields, and may be regarded as a significant and hopeful step in the recovery of Canadian agriculture. According to a crop report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the value of the 1934 field crops is estimated at $536,498,600, compared with the 1933 valuation of $423,597,000, and reaches the highest level since 1930.

The greatest value increases are shown by the grain and fodder crops, but these are offset to some extent by a sharp decline in potatoes and a lesser decline in sugar beets. Hay and clover accounted for a gain of 37 million dollars in value, oats were better by 31 million dollars and barley showed a gain in value of 10½ million dollars. The estimated value of the potato crop is placed 9 million dollars lower than in 1933 despite the higher production in 1934.

HAY PRICES HELP

All of the provinces reported increases in the value of field crops with the exception of Prince Edward Island, where a very slight reduction was shown. Both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick show increases due mainly to the improvement in hay prices. In Quebec a fairly general betterment in yield and prices caused an increase of 30 million dollars, or 45 per cent. in the value of field crops. In Ontario, higher prices for grains and fodder offset the lower production, and the estimated value of field crops is up 17½ million dollars, or 14 per cent. Manitoba's yields were also down, but with generally higher prices, the value of field crops is placed at 16¼ million dollars, or nearly 50 per cent. higher than in 1933. A similar condition prevailed in Saskatchewan which shows an improvement of 16 million dollars or roughly 20 per cent. Alberta field crop values are estimated to be higher by about 37 per cent., or 28¼ million dollars. British Columbia shows a slight betterment over 1933 valuations.

An Illusion Lost

There is a certain actress in the movies, whose name I certainly do not propose to divulge, who strikes me as about the most lovely of created things. I have worshipped her from a long distance for a long time. I was content that she should remain a shadow on a screen while I sat in a theatre looking at her—a respectable and a convenient relationship. It seemed to me she grew lovelier with the passing of the years.

Then the other morning the Colonist, with a callous disregard for me and all the other lady's admirers, had to go and publish a news picture of her on the deck of a liner with a lot of other people. It was a cruel thing to do. For, alas, my lovely lady, without her screen make-up, without those long, lustrous but false eyelashes, without her seductive gowns and alluring poses, turned out to be a middle-aged person of considerable girth and numerous wrinkles. You can see a hundred girls on the streets of Victoria much better looking any day of the week.

My last illusion has been shattered. It was cruel of the Colonist and it was a great mistake for the lady to let herself get caught by the photographers without her war paint. If the newspapers continue to do this sort of thing, where is it going to end? Soon there will be nothing left to worship at all. — Victoria Times.

"The masses are always more eager for security than they are enamored of liberty."—Glen Frank.

"Don't get the notion to travel a lot. There ain't much to see." — Will Rogers.

DAVID COPPERFIELD

Weekly Serial

Based on the Novel by CHARLES DICKENS

David is sent to school at Canterbury. He lives with the Wickfields, and little Agnes is his constant companion, while Steerforth is his best friend at school. He also meets Uriah Heep, Wickfield's clerk, whom he suspects is a scoundrel. Busy and happy now, the pleasant years slip by quickly.

David, now a young man, is in London bent on a career as an author. He has left behind him the Wickfields and his old friends, the Micawbers. By a strange coincidence Micawber has been given a position as assistant to Uriah Heep. In London with his friend Steerforth, David meets Dora Spenlow and falls in love with her.

One day, walking on the beach with Steerforth near Dora's home, David chances on the Peggotty boat-house. They pay them a visit and David again meets his dearly beloved nurse, Peggotty. But a few weeks later he is horrified to find that Em'ly, betrothed to Ham, has run away with Steerforth.

Soon, David's first story is published and he visits his Aunt and Agnes to tell them of his approaching marriage. Aunt Betsey disapproves but Agnes hides her broken heart. Then she tells him that Uriah Heep is now a partner in her father's firm and that he has some mysterious hold over Wickfield. What can it be? Watch for next week's exciting installment.