VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA
THE EMPIRE
THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

Toronto's School Stir

It is surprising sometimes what Toronto folks can do in the way of political and religious intolerance. A row has just developed over the dismissal of a public school teacher because she is alleged to have a Roman Catholic boy friend, to have been a bridesmaid at a Roman Catholic wedding, and to have even attended a Roman Catholic service. She is a member of a United Church.

What the narrow-minds forget is that the public schools are not Protestant schools. There are many Roman Catholics who are teachers in public schools. No religion is taught in them, therefore, the question of the private religious life of teachers does not arise. It is intolerable to think that a teacher in public schools is called upon to limit her circle of friends to those who are Protestants. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Sowing The Wind

Germany, so the cables say, will have 1,182,000 men living in military barracks by October 1. Yes; and Germany has 1750,000 men in their graves as a result of the Great War alone—most of them sleeping in foreign soil. To say nothing of millions more maimed and broken for life. The return for all this appalling sacrifice was ruin and disaster. — Halifax Herald.

Among The Meanest

It is a good thing to see that a magistrate has given a bicycle thief with a record a jail term, although not as long a one perhaps as some people might have wished. Four months is not too severe a punishment for a young man who has already been before the Court for the same despicable offence.

In the great majority of cases the theft of a bicycle is a very serious thing for its owner, to whom it is indispensable in earning his living. Thousands of machines are in use by messenger and delivery boys and young men who, with their necessarily small earnings, find it almost or entirely, beyond their powers to replace them when they are stolen and are thus out of employment altogether.—Montreal Star.

Life

"A mystic bird once asked. 'What is life?' " writes Dr. H. S. Khosla in the Children's News of Delhi, India. A "musician bird at once responded 'Life is a string of music'. A mole showed his head out of the ground to say, "Life is a struggle in the dark.' The wild rose whose petals had just blossomed said, 'Life is the name of growth.' A fly buzzed, 'Life is the smallest summer day.' An ant, 'Nothing beyond hard labor.' Then the rain came with the message, 'Life is teardrops.' An eagle spreading his wings like an airplane cried, 'It is another name for freedom and strength.' The breeze murmured, 'Life is a dream.' The morning sun then appeared and sang, 'Life is the name of a beginning."—Brandon Sun.

Talking Themselves Into It

So far, the prevention of war has semed to consist mainly in a continuous assertion that it wa bound to come.—Vancouver Province.

Drought Cycle

Upholding the theory that there is a definite precipitation cycle, the Smithsonian Institute declares the drought area in the United States (and it would, of course, apply to the drought area in the Canadian prairie provinces as well) is "near the bottom of what appears to be a 46-year precipitation cycle in some way associated with cyclic variations in the radiations output of the sun." On this basis it believes another major dry period may not strike the prairies until 1980. It is, of course, guess-work in some degree. The evidence of the existence of such a cycle is by no means complete. And even if it were, it should not affect in the slightest degree the activities of the authorities and the farmers in measures to combat drought. Drought is more than a question of rainfall — Winnipeg Tribune.

Nature Note

Among many people a belief exists that handling a toad is liable to cause warts to appear on the hands. This is entirely erroneous, and probably caused by some sympathetic superstition that the warts or excrescences, which cover the toad's back were transplanted in the human skin by the moisture which exudes when the toad is touched. This liquid has no such power. Neither is it poisonous to humans. But from two large warts or glands on either side of the toad's neck a secretion is discharged which is decidedly distasteful to animals. It is the toad's means of defence. Should a dog catch a toad, it will almost instantly drop it and commence to froth at the mouth in evident distress. This, however, is only temporary, and beyond a nauseating taste, the dog will be no worse—and a good deal wiser—for the adventure. —Calgary Herald.

Soft Shoulders

Warnings against "soft shoulders" are given to motorists on the highways. Young men should be particularly on their guard, however, of driving cars while leaning their heads against another type of soft shoulder. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Half-Pound Peaches

Peaches half a pound each, the Vimy variety, were shown in this office on Saturday. They were the product of one of the Vineland Co-operative growers at Jordan Station, and in this product is explained the remarkable success, year after year, of this organization in marketing, at good prices, the various lines it has to offer.—St. Catharines Standard.

Women in Banking

Very few, if any, Canadian women, hold positions of responsibility with the banks. It is a field in which thus far the mere male has been able to stave off the feminine onslaught into the business world.

But in the United States, the number of lady bankers is sufficiently great to warrant an association of their own—the Association of Bank Women. This group will convene about the middle of next month, just before the convention of the American Bankers Association.

Offices held by members of the fair sex included in the association's roster run the entire gamut of the banking profession from president down. Included are presidents, vice-presidents, assistant secretaries and treasurers, cashiers, trust officers, statisticians, directors, branch managers, and managers of departments such as exchange, collection, publicity, savings. — Financial Post.

In Second Place

Canada was second in unmanufactured unstripped tobacco with 6,729,834 pounds, in the first six months of 1936, United States being first with 72,553,186 and Southern Rhodesia third with 1,006,114. Second place is only about a twelfth of first place, but it is important when one remembers that Canada is comparatively young in the growing of tobacco. — Niagara Falls Review.

Apple Growers Advertise

The apple growers of the state of Washington will tax themselves a cent a box to be used for a great advertising campaign to popularize the use of boxed apples. Probably they will be successful and, as the Review often has pointed out, Ontario fruit growers also could move their crops quickly and profitably by means of a properly organized newspaper advertising campaign. When one remembers what was done for the orange, it is not difficult to see what could be done for the finer fruits of our own province. — Niagara Falls Review.

THE EMPIRE

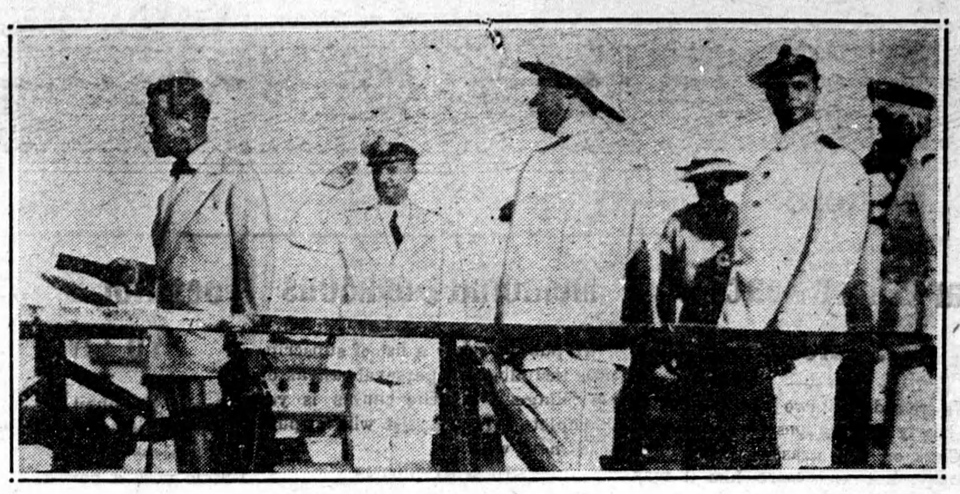
The War On Tropical Disease

India is often forgetful of the wonderful work that is being done for the health and happiness of her millions by the research workers whose war on tropical disease goes on tirelessly and relentlessly with seldom a mention in the world's news. Once a year there comes as a reminder of all that is being done the Report of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and the Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases, one of the most romantic and stimulating publications which issue annually from the Government Press. — Calcutta Statesman.

Where There Are Jobs

Parents in search of a career for their sons—and the sons themselves—cannot do better than devote serious attention to the statement of the Minister of Mines, in opening the new Government Miners' Training School at East Geduld Mines, that in South Africa today there in no surer profession than mining. Mr. Duncan was referring, of course, to trained and skilled miners, and particularly to mining engineers. In his prospects of ultimate advancement to the top of the tree the untrained man is probably at an even greater disadvantage in mining than in most other walks of life. As a learned profession, on the other hand, mining offers scope and opportunities in this country today unequalled—and likely to be unequalled for many years to come—by any other calling. — Johannesburg Times.

KING EDWARD VIII IN ATHENS ON HAZARDOUS MEDITERRANEAN TOUR



Edward VIII, King of England (left), leads party ashore at Athens, Greece, as yacht Nahlin dropped anchor there. King was later rescued from drowning when skiff overturned at Aedypso.

Youngsters On City Streets Should Be Seen and Not Hurt

(By Hon. T. B. McQuesten, Minister of Highways for Ontario)

The first two months of the school year are almost invariably the most dangerous for the children. A study of motor vehicle accidents in Toronto, which may be taken as representative of the experience in othr urban centres, showed that over a five-year period the average number of injuries to children between 5 and 14 years of age, during Septmbr and October, was almost 50 per cent. above the average for the remaining months of the year.

The reason for this would seem to be fairly obvious. The children are returning to school — full of energy and youthful enthusiasm — and, in spite of all parental injunction, in their excitement they may be expected to do things they should not do.

Thy will forget to stop and look both ways. They will dart into the traffic lane without warning, and will be found playing on busy streets. In the next few weeks many children with their books tucked under their arms will be getting their first experience in crossing busy corners; others will perhaps be slow in regaining their "traffic legs" after a holiday away from the streets.

Too much responsibility cannot be placed in these youngsters. Children are care-free rather than careless and drivers should be particularly alert when they are about. A child on or near the roadway should be a human caution sign SLOW DOWN.

It should also be emphasized here that about the most dangerous place for youngsters is right in the vicinity of their own homes, and parents therefore must assume a large burden of responsibility for their safety.

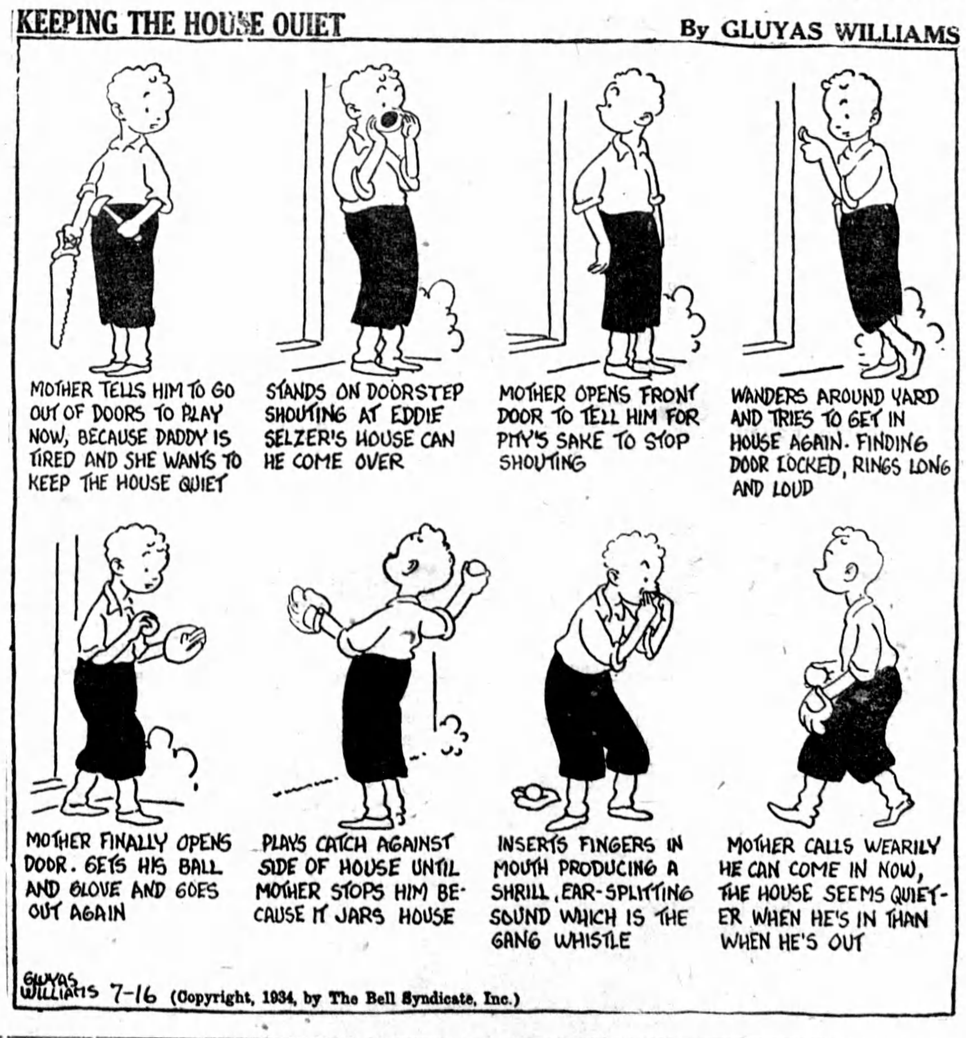
This responsibility does not end with a merely cautionary "Be careful." The children should be instructed in the proper manner of crossing streets—to look to the left and then to the right before stepping from the curb. They should be taught the dangers of crossing between blocks, crossing diagonally, or between parked vehicles. Particular emphasis should be given to the dangers of playing on the roadway. The parents can also assist the child by choosing the safest route to and from school.

The Department of Highways for many years has carried on a regular campaign to promote safer conditions for children. This work is undoubtedly having a beneficial effect and will be carried on again this year.

It is absolutly essential, however, that such efforts receive greater support from parents and motorists of any noticeable lessening in the present waste of young lives is to be expected.

KEEPING THE HOUSE QUIET

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



Verdicts By Publicity

Writes the Editor and Publisher — Seldom has the American public been treated to a more flagrant exposition of the new jurisprudence than that displayed in the Astor-Thorpe litigation for the custody of their child. Rancorous parents get into the hands of lawyers who specialize in winning cases by public-sentiment, or the threat of headlines, and the poor youngster who is the storm centre is forgotten in the welter of smut that pours forth under judicial approval. Reputations of other people are smeared by the quotations from a diary that is not in evidence, and the use of which is in effect to make a litigant testify against herself — both in 100 per-cent violation of the canons that bench and bar cherish.

Movie folks are news. Sex adventures are news. The combination is meat for the tabloids and caviar for many other papers. The courtroom becomes a nationwide stage upon which the law re-enacts a burlesque reproduction of the litigant's alleged departure from virtue.

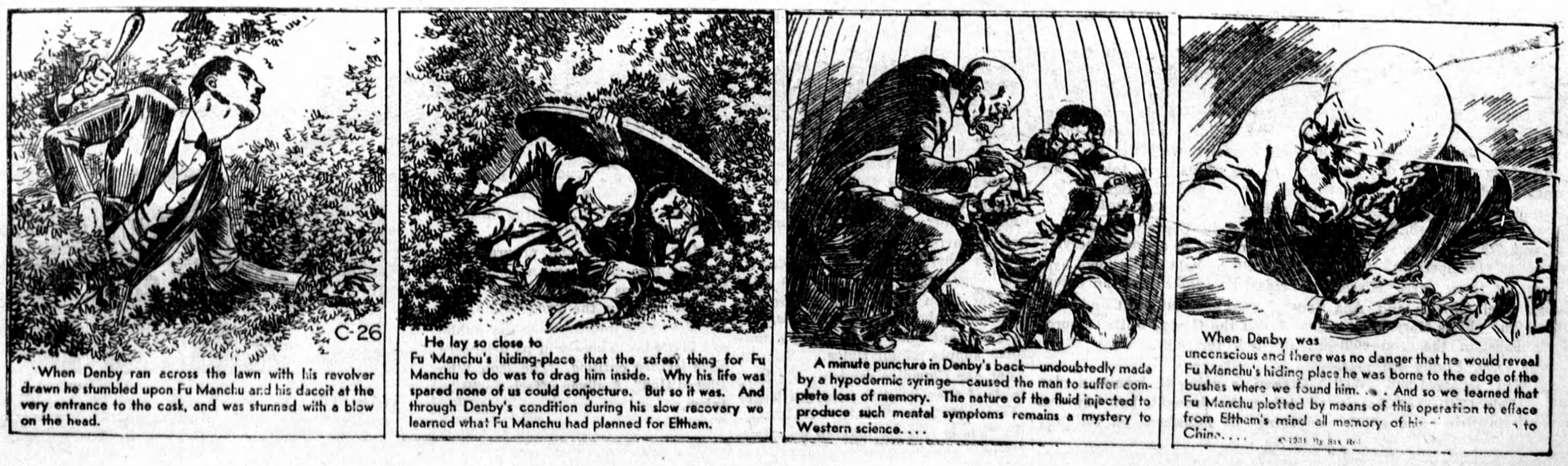
The show was stopped because the gentlemen with fortunes invested in the films don't want the public reminded again that Hollywood follows its own moral code. The court, after two weeks of a filth parade, awoke to the fact, that after all, the case concerned the future of a child and that regular procedure existed for such litigation.

It was a long overdue recognition but it proved again that the courts have full control over their own dignity and propriety. They also have powers over that section of the bar which disgraces the legal process by bludgeoning opponents with the threat of national disgrace through newspapers. The bench holds all the strings and can wield them in the interests of justice without oppression of any decent lawyer or any infringement on the free press.

Rebels' Responsibility

Spain's agony continues, and each new message adds to the furious story of battle and bloodshed. And as the truth filters through, it becomes ever more impossible to find words that will sufficiently describe the blackness of the crime that the military rebels have committed. They planned it is clear, carefully, and with all due preparations, not a local revolt, nor a series of local revolts, but a nation-wide insurrection. They knew exactly what they were doing. They knew what it would cost.. They deliberately chose to bring this agony upon their country and its people, their fellow-citizens.— (London, England, Daily Herald.)

FU MANCHU By Sax Rohmer



When Denby ran across the lawn with his revolver drawn he stumbled upon Fu Manchu and his dacoit at the very entrance to the cask, and was stunned with a blow on the head.

He lay so close to Fu Manchu's hiding-place that the safest thing for Fu Manchu to do was to drag him inside. Why his life was spared none of us could conjecture. But so it was. And through Denby's condition during his slow recovery we learned what Fu Manchu had planned for Eltham.

A minute puncture in Denby's back—undoubtedly made by a hypodermic syringe—caused the man to suffer complete loss of memory. The nature of the fluid injected to produce such mental symptoms remains a mystery to Western science. . . .

When Denby was unconscious and there was no danger that he would reveal Fu Manchu's hiding place he was borne to the edge of the bushes where we found him. . . . And so we learned that Fu Manchu plotted by means of this operation to efface from Eltham's mind all memory of his [illegible] to China. . . .