Sparks from the Press

CANADA

Sleeping Drivers

It may be accepted as a fact that many accidents have been caused because the driver dozed at the wheel. Transport drivers, exhausted by long hours of work, have been known to fall asleep on duty Quite a number of people admit they have difficulty keeping awake when driving a motor car. Fresh air, the drone of the engine, and the sensation of motion are agents of producing that kind of opiate. Those who are so affected, however, should realize the risk of drowsiness on the highway, immediately park the vehicle and treat themselves to a few minutes' sleep. At the most, a quarter of an hour's relaxation of that kind is sufficient to restore normality. It is a practice that ought to be resorted to by all who find themselves subject to drowsiness occasioned by motoring. It is a device that is particularly applicable to the case of truck drivers who must make long trips at night—Welland Tribune.

Another Record

Hurrah for Ontario. We burn up more barns and threshing machines during the harvest season than any other province in Canada or state in the Union. This grand old banner province always heads the list.—Farmers' Advocate.

News Comment

Russia has been using 1,200 men in a parachute jump attack. If P. T. Barnum were alive he'd probably be on his way today to Moscow to book the outfit as a circus feature.

Australia is to spend $44,000,000 for defence purposes during the coming year which is fairly conclusive evidence that the government of the Commonwealth has no Agnes MacPhail complex.

What do they mean about "the good old days?" Well, the answer may be an item in the 35-year-ago column of the Brantford Expositor: "The relief officer reported an outlay of $24.72 during August."—Peterborough Examiner.

Reform Experiment

An interesting penal reform experiment is being carried out at Wakefield, Eng., an institution to which no hardened criminals are sent. For some time the authorities have been trying out schemes as to how best men may be restored to a way of decent living after having been in criminal difficulties. The two Borstal Institutions have already established the fact that the right sort of understanding and comradeship will set a boy or a man on his feet when all else fails. Under the new scheme forty men drive to the woods Monday morning, work in the open air, sleep in huts, returning only for the week-ends. They are accompanied by an unarmed guard of two men. Russia and Switzerland have led the way in this type of experiment.—New Outlook, Toronto.

Cities Spread Out

The rural districts adjacent to cities are confronted with the problem of rapid increase in population which manifests itself particularly in a demand for more school accommodation. Several townships so situated are finding the financing of necessary schools somewhat embarrassing but there is not an easy way out of such a dilemma.

Apparently many residents of cities are moving out to rural districts. They find that taxes are lower, that land is cheaper and that generally living is less expensive. They can grow vegetable crops either for their own use or for market and the reinforcement of their earnings in this way is worth considering.

Of course the pioneers in such a movement are the principal benefactors. The first to make the move enjoy the advantages of the low taxes. As population increases, the problems which they had sought to evade reappear. The township begins to assume the characteristics of the city. There are more children to be educated, which means over-crowding in the schools and the demand for larger schools. The question of sanitation is intruded and there is demand for modern water and sewage services. Installation of these embodies higher taxes and soon such costs begin to approximate those of the city. It is the inevitable process that converts country areas into densely populated cities and there the cost of living rises so that it becomes burdensome. Evidently only the farmer is at all immune to the factor of steadily-increasing living costs.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Benefactors

Because two Harvard scientists have devoted the last five years to patient, unremitting research, the world now finds itself a step nearer escape from the scourge of influenza. The scientists, W. F. Wells and H. W. Brown, have discovered that influenza virus, transmitted by the air we breathe, can be killed by contact with ultra-violet rays. Their achievement opens a vast new field in preventive medicine, whereby the air in hospitals, theatres, schools and auditoriums may be freed from dangerous germs. Here is definitely one more contribution to the welfare of civilization. But while it represents much in itself, it is only one of the many ways by which science is making this a better world in which to live.—Prince Albert Herald.

Films For Children

Offhand, it seems surprising that producers do not market a greater percentage of films really suitable for children and young people, who constitute so large a proportion of picture theatre patrons. But as very little discrimination is exercised, apparently, and children are allowed to attend virtually anything that comes along, it is not so surprising, after all. A news item from Toronto states that the censor board "may require" the use of the "Universal" distinction in theatre advertising. If it is not doing so now, it is ignoring a regulation which has been in existence for a number of years.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review

Identify the Pines

The leaves, or needles, of all pine trees grow in clusters and may be readily identified by their length and number. The Jack pine has two leaves to a cluster (occasionally three, about one a quarter inches long; the White pine five leaves, about four inches long; the Red pine two leaves, five or six inches long; the Pitch pine three leaves, about three and a half inches long; and the Scotch pine two to a cluster, about two inches long. The cones take two years to mature. —Canadian Forest and Outdoors.

THE EMPIRE

The "Why" of Better Times

In any analysis of the brigheter conditions with which Australia finds herself blessed it is only fair to give to every relevant circumstance and influence its due weight. The natural buoyancy of the people has played no small part in recovery. The dogged courage of primary producers who held on in face of discouraging odds is worthy of the best traditions of the pioneer settlers. The acceptance by workers of a lower standard of wages, in spite of the ill-advised and ill-timed efforts of ignorant leaders, has helped materially. The sympathetic good will with which the more fortunate members of the community have shouldered unprecedented burdens of taxation to keep many thousands of unemployed from destitution has been a fine expression of the Australian spirit of comradeship and charity. The invaluable help given by Great Britain in providing under the Ottawa Agreement a greatly expanded market for Australian primary products has been a tremendous stimulus. But when all these non-political factors in recovery have been taken into account it remains to be said that Mr. Lyon's tale of prosperity could never have been told today if there had not been good government in the Commonwealth. That there has been such government is attributable in no small measure to the steadfastness of Mr. Lyons himself. — Melbourne Argus.

West Yorks Off To Palestine

The 2nd Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment, first of reinforcemenst to leave for Palestine on the War Office order which interrupted Aldershot manoeuvres, are seen here marching to entrain for Southampton, from where they sailed for the Holy Land.

To Arms! To Arms!

We entered the race for security tardily, we are running itlike a nation of laggards, and this despite the patent and too obvious fact, that we are more vulnerable to attack than our neighbours and have more to lose. If British civilization is not to perish, as the civilizations of older Empires perished, it must be protected. Nations envious of our achievement and possessions, nations upholding contesting systems of life, cannot arm heavily without menace to us, though no immediate quarrel may be in sight. So arm we must, and that without stint and without delay. — London Sunday Dispatch.

Droughts of 1934 and 1936 'Help Yourselves' Sign Is Displayed By Growers

Price Is Still Good in England, Though, for Best Quality; Careful Packing Shows Profit.

LONDON, Eng.—Fruit is so plentiful in important areas of England that it is being given away or left to rot on the trees.

In one Hampshire district fruit is carried to the roadside, where large notices appear: "Help yourselves, but please leave the baskets."

This state of affairs confirms what was predicted in July, following a visit by Andrew Fulton to the orchards before leaving for Canada.

Kent growers in particular are loud in their complaints, though allowance has to be made for propaganda to wrest more help from a too-complaisant government. If a drayload of unsorted fruit is sent to Covent Garden and there declared unsaleable, or saleable at prices that will not pay the salesman's commission, it makes a fine hard luck story.

STILL PAY FOR QUALITY

Enquiries made recently, however, show that in spite of the unquestionable surplus, fine quality fruit, well packed and presented, still commands remunerative prices.

"The last time there was a glut," one authority told me, "there were several leading growers who obtained double the market price all through the season, simply because of the high reputation of their fruit and the regularity of the supply."

Gluts are, in fact, doing their "good deed," like the rest of life's happenings. They are waking up all but the most lethargic or least intelligent growers to the supremacy of quality and continuity of supply.

NATIONAL MARK IMPORTANT

The National Mark is gaining confidence and simplifying sales in markets where individual brands have not yet won sufficient recognition.

Distributors — thousands of them —are now registered as dealers of National Mark goods. And some of the larger apple growers have installed gas storage plants, while the smaller growers are combining to run co-operatively-owned outfits.

With the official figures at hand covering the nation's crop condition as of September 1, it is now possible to compare the ravages of the drought of this year with that which struck the country in 1934, writes the New York Herald-Tribune. The conclusion would seem to be abundantly clear that ,although this year's terrific heat did widespread damage, it came too late to leave the devastation behind it of its predecessor of two years ago.

There was no saving the corn situation, whcih shows the shortest crop in the last fifty-five years, but the government figures at least reveal no further deterioration in August. On the contrary, the newest estimate is nearly 20,000,000 bushels above that of a month earlier and 40,000,000 bushels above recent private trade estimates. Corn production for the year, it is now estimated by the Department of Agriculture, will total 1,458,000,000 bushels, which compares with 1,476,000,000 two years ago. The wheat crop at 630,000,000 bushels is shortards, and this is particularly true in view of the fact that a good deal will have to go as feed substitute for corn in the coming months Nevertheless, it is more than 100,000,000 buhsels larger than the 526,000,000 drought crop of 1934.

What is true of wheat is equally true of oats, barley and tame hay, the principal other feed crops. Oats, which are excellent dairy and sheep rations, total 777,000,000 bushels compared with but 542,000,000 in 1934; barley, which, if slightly more expensive than corn at present, is one of the best feeds for the sheep, horses and hogs, shows a probable output of 145,000,000 bushels, as against 117,000,000 bushels two years ago. Finally, the productino of tame hay is placed at 63,000,000 tons, as contrasted with 52,000,000 tons in 1934, assuring another source of feed supply for horses, cattle and sheep.

But it is not entirely because of this more favorable situation on the supply side that this year's drought is in no wise as serious as that of 1934. The same situation is true of the demand side of the picture. Where there were 74,300,000 head of cattle to be fed out of the extremely short feed crop of 1934, there were but 68,200,000 at the beginning of this year, and where there were 58,600,0000 hogs two years ago there were but 42,500,000 this year.

There will undoubtedly be some liquidation of both cattle and hogs this year, and it will undoubtedly tax the ingenuity of the farmers to feed them and keep up their breeding animals. But there is no reason at all to look for a repetition of the unprecedented dumping of livestock that occurred in 1935.

Says Religion Main Crime Deterrent

Chaplain at Prison Says Convicts Learn Skill

CHICAGO.— Prison chaplains do not claim that crime ever can be stamped out, but they concur in the belief that it can be greatly diminished if more stress is laid on education of youth and re-education of criminals, Father Eligius Weir, chaplain of the Illinois State Penitentiary, declared.

"I am of the opinion that the enormous number of crimes that have never been solved could be traced to criminal skill learned in prison," he told the congress of the American Prison Association.

Father Weir said he did not advocate abolishing present prison methods, but urged that they be supplemented "with a true education which is better called a moral training." He was reciting to the congress a study of criminological facts and observations by prison chaplains.

He urged the assembly to promote religion at all times and in all place. "

"Until this is done," he said, "all our arrests, court procedures, imprisonments, executions, probations and paroles are only scratching the surface as far as the solution of the crime problem is concerned.

"By religion we strike at the very root of the evil, namely the perverse will of men, and by religion that will is directed and gradually trained in good habits that make for good moral character Religion alone can really reform the malefactor and make good people better."

ORGANIZATION INADEQUATE

He said that organizations such as the Y.M.C.A., the C.Y.O., the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and CCC camps are founded in vain; that larger and better prisons are built and police and detective systems are reinforced to no avail, "unless we instill respect for law and authority and for social justice, which religion alone can do."

SPORT IDOLS

BY KEN. EDWARDS

"RAMBLIN'S"

Toronto Leafs and Montreal Maroons are expected to start their Winter training about Oct. 15. Speaking of hockey brings to our attention the fact that Tom Clancy, the original "King", father of Frank "King" Clancy and one of the greatest of all Canadian grid stars has retired from the Intermediate Rugby Union's Board of Governors.

Well, I guess we've all heard plenty about Lawson Little and Fred Perry, etc. so by way of a change we'll discuss things that are not on every news page.

It's a fact — curling, not golf is the national game of Scotland.

In 1908 dog-team racing was started as a sport in Alaska. The course was 420 miles and the prize $10,000 in gold. The greatest lead-dog the north ever knew was a mongrel.

Red Grange of footali fame carried the ball 4,000 times for a distance of 32,820 yards.

Believe it or not, there are 3 ways of spelling "golf" — goff, goffe, gauffe, gouff, gowff, gouf, goufe, golfe. The first golf balls were made of leather stuffed with feathers.

Original Ideas Are Found in Rhymes

Rhymesters Prove Themselves To Be Witty People.

WINNIPEG—"Not a lady but"—is the line the Free Press gave out in a contest for original endings. These are specimens of what Winnipeg can do when it its thinking cap on: The first letter opened got the prize. "That was no lady, that was—a butcher's daughter, so I got the cold shoulder."

Other specimens were:

A fisherwoman and she has me hooked.

A nudist, but the police couldn't pin anything on her.

A weaver, and she tried to pull the wool over my eyes.

An artist, but she drew my attention.

A manicurist, and oh how she trimmed me!

A laundress, and she got me into hot water.

A doctor, and show she used to cut up!

A mathematician, and she sure had me figured out.

A contortionist, and she had me tied in knots.

A dentist, and did she get on my nerves!

A poultrywoman, and she kept egging me on.

An electrician, but she made light of things.

A salesgirl, and she gave me the slip.

A co-ed, and I was one of her poor subjects.

A nurse, and she sure rubs things in.

A newspaperwoman, but she says I'm not her type.

FU MANCHU By Sax Rohmer