Sparks from the Press

CANADA

The Mail and Empire Passes

So the Mail and Empire passes on, absorbed into a paper that is to be known as the Globe and Mail, and Toronto henceforth will have but one morning daily.

No doubt a merger was the sensible course, but there always is something tragic about the extinction of a good newspaper with the traditions that gather about it in more than a half-century of publication. The Mail was founded in 1872, took over the Empire in 1895, later the World. Latterly it has been perhaps the closest approach among major Canadian dailies to the old-fashioned party organ. Its support of the Conservative cause was enthusiastic and unfailing. But even through this period it continued to be a fine newspaper, edited with intelligence and in a keen sense of its public responsibilities.—Ottawa Journal

Mrs. Kenny's Spare Time

A startling discovery has been revealed concerning Mrs. Lily Kenny, mother of fourteen children, eleven of whom she hopes will win for her the $500,000 Millar baby derby. Mrs. Kenny has spare time! It is remarkable that a woman can cook and sew and generally do for fourteen active offspring and at the end of the day still have time to devote to statue and model house building hobbies. Yet this is just what is claimed for Madame Kelly. Perhaps she manages her brood the way the old woman who lived in a shoe did hers. And perhaps the object of her hobby is to design houses to accommodate Mr. Millar's bigger and better families. At any rate, it is likely many mothers of only two or three children would thank Mrs. Kenny to let them in on her secret for finding leisure hours. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Keep the Windows Open

While it is commonly known that many motorists are suffocated by gas from motors running in closed garages, it is not generally suspected that gas accumulating in moving cars may be the cause of many hitherto unexplained traffic accidents. With the advent of cooler weather and the consequent inclination to drive with the car windows closed attention may well be directed to this fact.

Recent tests show that most automobiles after being driven for some distance accumulate a sufficient quantity of carbon monoxide to affect seriously the mental alertness and muscular correlation of the driver. When you feel dull or drowsy while driving, stop and get a breath of fresh air. Make sure that carbon monoxide will not be the cause of an accident to the car you're driving.—Oshawa Times.

What a Dam Did

Two of America's sunniest, warmest spots are having their climate changed—by the building of a dam.

Air pilots flying over North-Eastern California and Southern Nevada have found that temperatures in these areas are distinctly cooler since the construction of the now famous Boulder Dam, an immense structure stemming the Colorado River. The dam, a huge concrete horseshoe, has created a lake 100 miles long which is reported to be cooling the air for miles around.

Pilots declare the lake to be a "charging battery" in the cooling process, "the cooler air spreading like an open umbrella over the countryside. They discovered it by noting the lower temperatures at which their engines ran in the area. The temperatures dropped as the lake expanded. —Montreal Star.

Marriages Are Up

We have the word of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which knows whereof it speaks, that Canadian couples are being married in greater numbers this year than they have been for a considerable period of time. For the month of September, indeed, the number of marriages registered in 67 cities and towns throughout the Dominion increased to 4,285 from a total of 3,762 in the same month last year. This was an increase of 14 per cent. and that for the nine months ended with September amounted to 6.4 per cent.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Playing With Death

A number of shootings have taken place in the woods. In the Hants County case, the victim was hit by a bullet the origin of which is unknown and the man who fired the shot may be to this day ignorant of the fact that the bullet he fired found a human target, for it must be remembered that the modern rifle carries far, and even if a shot is fired in one direction, a richochet may divert it to a totally unexpected place. A more recent accident is of an entirely different kind.

In this case the hunter had been pursuing his quarry, lost sight of it for a little, and then saw a moving object in the bushes, and fired. Unhappily it struck near two other hunters who ran immediately for cover. They shouted, but the hunter was so far away their voices did not carry.

The two hid behind trees, but unluckily the hand of one was showing and the next moment he had a bullet through it. After that, the other fired a shot to warn the hunter of what he was doing. He came running over at once and the injured man was immediately taken away for treatment, his hand being so badly shattered that reports have it amputation may be necessary.—Halifax Chronicle.

Women's Rights Leaders

Callendar, Ont., neither a mining nor an industrial centre, as the Montreal Gazette points out, is assuming the proportions of a boom town, all on account of five little girls. Yet the franchise has been denied women in Quebec for the twelfth time. If the sister province isn't careful the Dionne girls are likely to run over some day and lay down the law for women's rights.—Toronto Globe.

New Cars

New passenger automobiles sold in Canada during the first nine months of 1936 show an increase of 8.5 per cent. in value over the same period of 1935. Including trucks and buses, the increase is 9.5 per cent. in number and 12.4 per cent. in value. In these nine months the Canadian public has invested practically $95,000,000 in motor vehicles, compared with $85,000,000 in the comparable part of 1934. By the end of the year this will have been increased to at least $110,000,000. Approximately 110,000 new motor vehicles will have been placed on the roads, including about 90,000 passenger cars.

The addition of 110,000 cars, trucks and buses to the motor vehicles on the roads of Canada, will, of course, be offset to some extent by those withdrawn from use — a number estimated in 1935 at 66,000. If this estimate again holds good, there will be a net increase of approximately 47,000, which should bring the total registrations up to 1,212,642, not including motorcycles. This would mean a greater number of cars in use than in any years except 1930, when the registrations reached a peak of 1,222,730. If the figures are approximately correct, one car in every eleven on the roads at the end of this year will be a car purchased in 1936.—Toronto Daily Star.

Keep Canada Canadian

Not the least valuable bit of advice given by Leo Dolan, of the Canadian Travel Bureau, during his visit here, was that the distinctively Canadian and British atmosphere should be maintained in appeals to tourists.

United States visitors who come here on vacation want to see something different. They want to see the Mounted Police and the Union Jack. They can find enough "George Washington" hot dog stands and "Indiana" restaurants at home and would prefer to find here Indian names reminiscent of Hiawatha or of the local life.

They want to see Indian wigwams, birchbark canoes, lumbermen's shirts and prospector's packs.

They want a good place to sleep and good meals to eat and so on. But they want also an "atmosphere."

So Algoma people who cater to American tourists shouldn't ape American names and customs. — Sault Ste. Marie Star.

THE EMPIRE

The Doomed Whale

Whether the whale will notice much difference (from the new international agreement on whaling) is another matter. It is not likely that the peak of 1930-31, when 30,000 whales were caught and 3,686,976 barrels of oil produced from them, will ever be touched again. Big whales are no longer seen and an abundance of small ones does not compensate for their absence. Svend Foyn's invention of the shell-harpoon in 1868 and the more recent introduction of the factory-ship have done their deadly work, and the present restrictions do little more than (to use an up-to-date simile) apply a poultice to a volcano.—Cape Argus.

Every City's Problem

Johannesburg is certainly prosperous. There is no point in trying to disguise that fact. It is more prosperous than it has even been before. But that is not to say that every Tom, Dick and Harry who is unable to make a living in his own country, or in his own part of this country, can make a living here. Far from it, in fact. There is still a lot of unemployment in Johannesburg. There is more, indeed, than there should be, owing to the fact that jobless men, with little or no qualification to undertake any kind of skilled work, have flocked here in large numbers under the stupid impression that the streets are paved with gold and that jobs hang like ripe fruit on trees waiting to be plucked.—Johannesburg Times.

Farmers Back Labor In U.S.

Workers Are Told — Million Growers Buy Only Union-Made Goods

TAMPA, Fla.—I. M. Ornburn, secretary of the American Federation of Labor union label department, reported recently the co-operation of one million farmers in a movement to buy only union-made goods.

While informal discussion of a Farmer-Labor Party in 1940 was current among delegates, Ornburn told his department's annual meeting "we now estimate over a million farmers have become labor conscious and buy only goods upon which the union label is displayed."

Meantime, interest among the delegates assembling for the federation's general convention centred upon the scrap between John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers and leader of the unions favoring organization of all the workers in each big industry into one big union, and unions favoring organization by craft.

William Green, federation president and spokesman for the craft unionists, was due to arrive today.

Reporting to the building trades department convention recently, the department's executive council urged a "concerted" drive by all craft unions to combat the Lewis movement.

The building trades council further recommended that all local building trades unions promptly affiliate with central bodies and state federations of labor "so as to assure concerted action" against Lewis.

J. W. Williams, building trades department president, in his report predicted such a revival in building during the coming year that every idle building trades worker would get a job.

Provinces Get $175,867,348

OTTAWA.—Total ordinary revenue for all provinces in 1934 was $175,867,348, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported recently.

Taxation was the largest single source of revenue, amounting to $73,553,567, included in which were the following principal items: Motor fuel or gasoline $26,812,274, corporation $17,543,137, succession duties $11,019,033, income $6,992,206, real or personal propertty $5,5306994 amusement tax $2,1003,487.

The licensing of motor vehicles was responsible for $20,840,513, liquor or control boards $12,814,120. Other sources of revenue included marriage licenses, fee for registration, law stamps, incorporations, public health fees for laborities, boards of health and registration of nurses, sales of text books and king's printer's accounts, interest on loans and advances to publicly owned utilities. There are royalties, duties and fees from lumber and mining companies.

Besides the ordinary revenue the provinces have stipulated subsidies dies and allowances under the British North America Act. There is some institutional revenue as well as fines and penalties.

Black Dogs Supply New Fashion Note

NEW YORK.—Just to give you an idea—smart women are even leading black dogs. It is no news that there is a fashion in dogs as in everything, but it is a slightly different angle when it's the color of the dog. So the women in black leads the dog in black.

The word "Edwardian" is more and more in fashion news. We are hearing repeated references to the "Edwardian color scheme of black with bright blue touches."

That fashion is generous in her silhouette offering is not unusual. There are usually two silhouettes, often contradictory. This season is no exception. The one with "Edwardian" back fulness seems to be slightly in the lead, but the flaring one is crowding it hard.

There is also a sophisticated group that likes fullness at the front so, if you want to be on your own in the matter, the only suggestion is that you select the silhouette which does most for your figure.

Keep your waistline slender. If it isn't, make it appear so by widening your shoulders and hemline, not only for evening but for daytime as well.

After examining many representative collections, we beg to report that the season's silhouette makes a point of contrasts. For example, a redingote frock has a very slim foundation revealed beneath a full skirt that is often sheer and frequently embroidered. A gown from Lanvin in black net treated with sequin bands is an example of this type of dress.

There are also several dresses especially in evening expression that have definitely full skirts with the fullness rising from a high line. One from Chanel is charming and recommended as especially suited to dancing—a gown in navy net embroidered in sequins.

Contrasting with this silhouette are dresses that have a definitely long and slenderline, with a peplum describing a slanting, flaring line at the back, making the skirt below seem even slimmer.

The princess line approved in daytime fashioss is also extended to evening gowns, one from Lanvin, for instance, in velvet fashioned on princess lines with delicate bead embroideries at the low decolletage.

Words, Words!

A Vocabulary Test is Devised for Medical Students

If Dr. Joseph Nash had his way, young men and women who aspire to become physicians would be given what he considers a simple, fair and effective aptitude test. Writing to The Journal of the American Medical Association, he points out that Garrison's widely read "History of Medicine" contains about all the words that a practitioner is likely to meet in his reading or professional conversation. If the meaning of these is known, aptitude is indicated. Let the doctor speak for himself so that he may not be misquoted:

> Will not every physician on meeting these familiar terms in his leisure reading feel a glow of self-assurance and gain confidence that, had aptitude tests been applied in his student days, he would have sealed over them with the greatest of ease?

It is impossible, for lack of space, to reproduce Dr. Nash's complete list of words. Among the tough ones are "couvade," "bilbo," "apotropaic," "omophagy," "piacular," "grigris," "periapts," "steatopygous," "progumenic," "marano," "hodegetics," "prebendary," "carricks," "energumen," "reiver," "bezoar," "apozeme" "panada," "corroval," "achorion," "porrigo," "culicidal," "atrepsy," "moxa."

Just what a knowledge of words has to do with aptitude this skeptic fails to see. There are art forgers in Paris and Italy who will produce a fifteenth century Madonna good enough to fool all but the most expert, but who have no knowledge of studio patter. Peasants have composed songs that are still a delight, yet they knew nothing of "cadenzas" or "adagios" or "diapasons." So with thee Negro banjo experts of plantation days.

Probably Dr. Dafoe would be stumped if he were asked to define many of Dr. Nash's words. But when it comes to bringing quintuplets into the world with the odds of their living for lack of proper care a thousand to one against him, we'll select Dr. Dafoe in preference to some young obstetrician who can glibly tell us what "redecraft" or "captocormy" means.

Some years ago the late Thomas A. Edison compiled a list of questions that every bright young man should be able to answer and thus prove he had intelligence enough to hold down a job in a laboratory. Actually Edison was finding out how much candidates for laboratory honours knew. So with Dr. Nash. He has set up a test of verbal knowledge —not of aptitude.

Dr. Nash says in his letter that others think as he does. Thus Dr. Flack holds that vocabulary tests for aptitude "have gone a long way toward solving the problems of selecting applicants to medical schools."

The Tragic North

Writes the Calgary Albertan:—Out of the north come great riches —and great tragedies.

All that Robert Service wrote about the cruelty of the land near the Arctic rim has been shown true again and again.

Superstition has grown, fostered by tales such as those from the "cursed" Nahanni River country, where, it is said, there is much gold, but which has taken more than the usual toll of human lives. Recently the news columns told of the believed death by drowning of two more trappers who ventured into that remote, ill-famed region.

The Nahanni River Country is hated by the Indians; they will not venture into it, even when accompanied by white men. They are also said to fear the "Forbidder Valley" where hot springs have fostered the growth of lush vegetation strangely out of place in the northern setting.

By stories of such places the mysteries of the north are publicized; they indicate that it is not a pleasant place in which to live. Which is just as well. It is no place for the weakling, and only those who will to face the difficulties, dangers and fears of an inhospitable land are welcome.

Yields Down

Latest Crop Estimates at Ottawa Put Wheat Total Below 1935

OTTAWA— Lower yields for all the principal grain crops in Canada are shown in the Dominion Bureau of Statistics second estimate of grain production for 1936, issued recently. The wheat crop for all Canada is placed at 233,500,000 bushels, compared with 277,399,000 bushels last year.

Yields of other grain crops with figures for 1935 in brackets follow: Oats 276,265,000 (394,348,000); barley 72,726,000 (83,975,000); rye, 4,368,000 (9,60,000); peas 1,153,000 (1,616,000); beans 833,400 (1,161,400); buckwheat 8,664,000 (7,948,000); mixed grains 34,381,000 (39,534,900); flaxseed 1,779,300 (1,471,000); corn for husking 5,935,000 (7,765,000).

The average yields per acre, in bushels, with 1935 averages in brackets: Wheat 9.2 (11.5); oats 21.1 (28.0); barley 16.4 (21.6); rye 6.9 (13.4); peas 12.5 (17.1); beans 13.0 (18.0); buckwheat 21.8 (20.9.); mixed grains 29.3 (34.3); flaxseed 3.8 (6.9); corn for husking 36.1 (46.3).

CARROLLTON, Ill. — Francis E. Davis who said he had never tasted fruit, vegetables or meat, claimed recently he had lived all his life on a diet of bread, crackers, cereal, coffee and sugar.

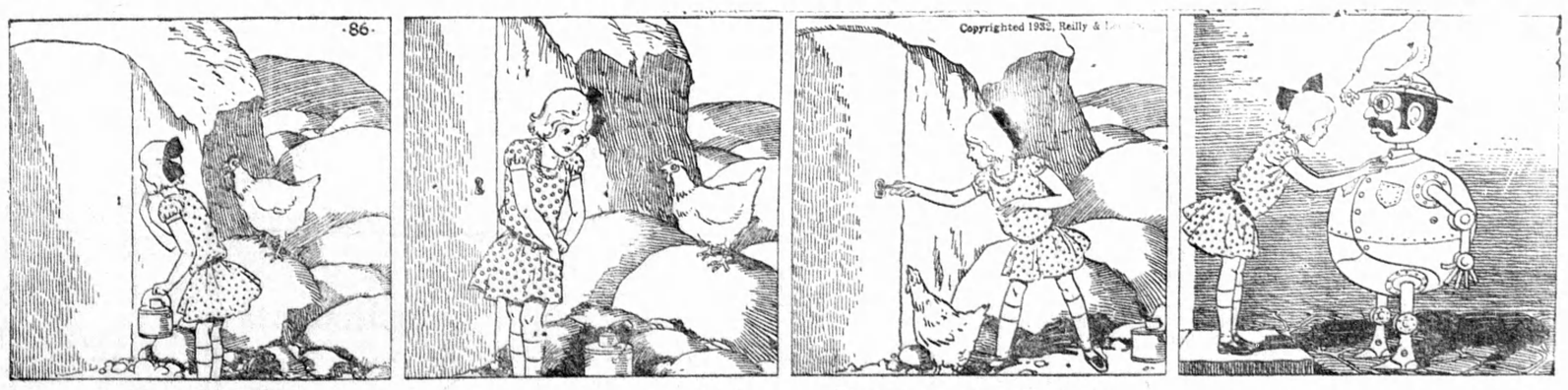
Both his wife and his four-year-old son eat the foods Davis said he abhorred because "the smell makes me sick." The slight 31-year-old manager of a bowling alley gave this as his typical day's menu:

Breakfast, coffee and dry cereal.

Lunch and dinner, crustless bread or crackers dipped in sugar.

Davis, five feet, nine inches tall and weighing 137 pounds, said he had been examined by a physician who reported him in perfect health.

Postmen of England have been ordered not to deliver mail where vicious dogs are left uncontrolled.



"What looks like a door?" asked the child. "Why that crack in the rock just facing you," replied Billina, whose little round eyes were very sharp and seemed to see everything. "It runs up one side and down the other, and across the top and bottom." "What does?" asked Dorothy. "Why, the crack. So I think it must be a door of rock, although I don't see the hinges." "Oh, yes," said Dorothy, now observing the crack for the first time. "And isn't this a keyhole, Billina?"

"Of course. If we only had a key, now, we could unlock it and see what is there," replied the yellow hen. "Maybe it's a treasure chamber full of diamonds and rubies or heaps of shining gold, or—." "That reminds me," said Dorothy, "of the golden key you discovered on the shore when we first left the raft. Do you think it would fit, Billina?" "Try it and see," suggested the hen. So Dorothy searched in the pocket of her dress and found the golden key.

Then she put it into the hole in the rock and turned it. It turned rather hard, but finally a sudden, sharp snap was heard and then with a solemn creak that made the shivers run up and down the child's back, the face of the rock chamber fell outward, like a door on hinges, and revealed a small dark chamber just inside. "Good gracious!" cried Dorothy, shrinking back as far as the narrow path would let her. For there within the narrow chamber of rock was the form of a man!

At least it seemed like a man in the dim light. He was only about as tall as Dorothy herself, and his body was round as a ball and made out of burnished copper. Also his head and limbs were copper and these were jointed to his body with metal caps over the joints like the armor worn by the knights of old. He stood perfectly still, and where the light struck upon his form it glittered as if made of pure gold. "Don't be frightened," called Billina, perching on the man's head. "It isn't alive."