Sparks from the Press

CANADA

Safety on the Roads

More strict regulations governing the issuance of drivers' permits, stiffer penalties for violations of traffic laws and stern treatment of those convicted of driving while under the influence of alcoholic beverages would do more to reduce motor accidents than any speed-limit law could do.— The St. Thomas Times-Journal.

She Began Early

A feminine stenographer, employed by a United States railway, has just been retired after 47 years of continuous service and that must be regarded as a pretty long spell. — Brantford Expositor.

A Good Sign

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police can be depended on to know what they are talking about when discussing bad men, what they do and with what weapons. It is therefore all the more encouraging that they have words of praise for the recent legislation requiring the registration of firearms of the revolver type with the police authorities. Certain crimes have been either solved or their solution has been materially helped by the fact that the revolver or pistol used could be traced through records.—Montreal Star.

Wheat Picture Improves

The world's wheat picture grows steadily better for Canada. At the end of 1932 the world's surplus was 625 million bushels; at the end of 1934 it was 375 million bushels; at the end of 1937 (according to estimates) it will be but 125 million bushels. This is what is behind the recent sensational rise in wheat prices, which mean so much for Canada.—Ottawa Journal.

"Proud" In Scotland

A rather significant aspect of the accession of King George VI and the Queen Consort Elizabeth is the sentimental effect that it will have in Scotland. The fact that the Queen is a descendant of an ancient Scottish family should bind the northern part of the United Kingdom to the Monarchy. A good deal of humor has clustered around the remark of an old Scottish woman when she heard that the Princess Louise, the daughter of Queen Victoria, had married the Marquis of Lorne, a scion of the illustrious House of Argyll. "The Queen will be a proud woman this day," she said, "with her daughter marrying an Argyll."—Brantford Expositor.

Learn of the North

The year 1936 has been a noteworthy one for Northern Ontario in that an exceptionally large number of Cabinet members and other government luminaries have seen fit to pay this section of the province a visit.

There was a time when it was a rarity indeed for a Minister of the government to venture into the North country, but all that is now passed. During the year just concluding, scarcely a month passed when some important government official did not visit the North. The latest visitor in this respect was Hon Norman Rogers, Dominion Minister of Labor.—The North Bay Nugget.

A Good Bet

Lloyd's will accept war risks in Canada. In other words, Lloyd's will bet that Canada does not become involved in war. What Canadian would bet the other way?—Toronto Globe and Mail.

"A Terrific Gal"

A terrific gale has been causing damage in England, and no compositor has yet had the temerity to set it up "a terrific gal."— Toronto Star.

More Farms in West

Here is some interesting and rather astonishing news from the West. Despite the drought, the depression and a cessation of immigration during the past five years, there has been an increase of nearly 12,400 farms in the Prairie Provinces, bringing the total up to 300,462 in 1936 compared with 288,079 in 1931.—London Free Press.

The Nightshirt's Appeal

The Charlottetown Guardian points out one peculiarity of the nightshirt which should appeal to every Scottish heart. It is a one-piece item at the laundry, while pyjamas "is" two. Or should we say "are"?

Historic researches conducted by the International Night Shirt Club have disclosed evidence that some of the greatest men in history from Nero to Napoleon, and from Gladstone to Lincoln, wore nightshirts.—St. Mary's Journal-Argus.

Thornton Memorials

The late Sir Henry Thornton could have wished no finer monument than the respect and honor in which his memory is now held by thousands of employees of the Canadian National Railway. That has just been attested by the placing of a memorial plaque in the rotunda of the Union Station in Winnipeg and the placing of similar plaques in fourteen other cities across the Dominion.

The men will never forget the sincere and friendly interest which the late president took in their welfare. He also sought their co-operation. Hence the institution of the joint boards in certain departments of the system, where the men had a voice, along with the management, in settling differences and dealing with problems of various kinds.

The way in which Sir Henry took the men into his confidence, and the considerate and friendly spirit in which he always met them, is now recalled with deep appreciation, and a genuine desire was felt to erect memorials at all the main points on the Canadian National.

Sir Henry Thornton was not only a great railway executive, he was a big man. He showed it in strong human qualities and real concern for the well-being of the large Canadian National family who were making possible the vast improvements of the railway and the high status which it ultimately reached.—Winnipeg Free Press.

For Two-Cent Postage

It would be a commendable idea if the reign of King George VI brought back "penny postage." Canadians would welcome the two cent letter rate warmly. If a two-cent commemorative George VI stamp came with the rate it would give a happy touch to postal reform. — Brandon Sun.

Joyful News

Hint that Ontario may abolish all speed limits will be joyful news, particularly to the chap who's always in a hurry though he can never remember where he wanted to go in the first place.—Windsor Star.

THE EMPIRE

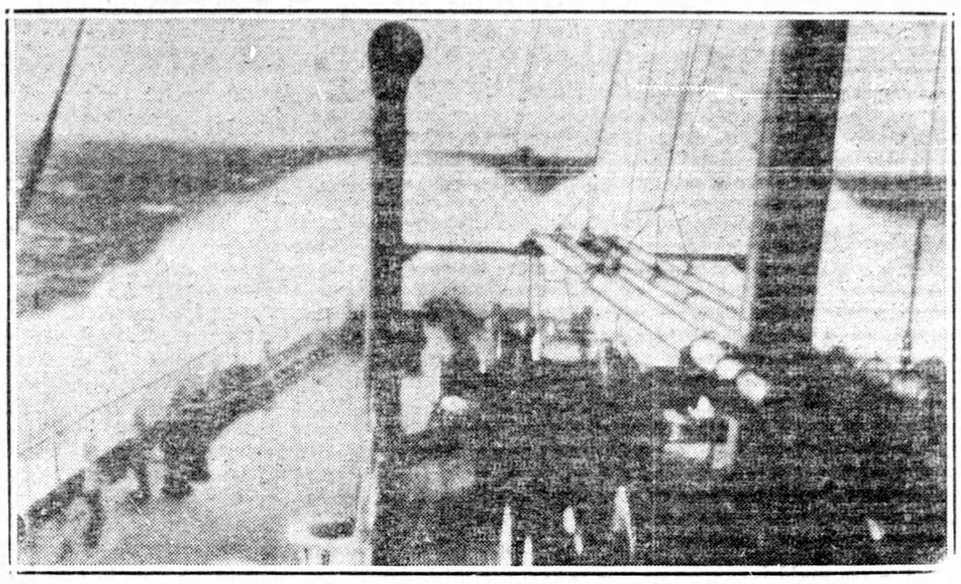
Empire Migration

It is more than 20 years since the steady and uninterrupted flow of migration from Great Britain to the Dominions and Colonies ceased to be a regular feature of the Empire's corporate life. It is true that various specialized eforts have been made in the meantime — in South Africa, for example, by the 1820 varying degrees of success, to establish British emigrants in the Commonwealth overseas. But unless what we have termed "the steady uninterrupted flow of migration" from Great Britain can be resumed and maintained on the old pre-War level, nothing is more certain than that some of the outstanding qualities of the British race will be lost forever, both in Britain itself and in the Dominions, Colonies and dependencies.—Johannesburg, S.A., Times.

Life on $6 a Week

Somebody said that it was impossible for a girl to live in London on 30s. a week. Somebody replied that thousands of typists and shopgirls were doing it. A woman's magazine trying to discover how the feat was done, has found a girl who pays 12s. 6d. for her bedroom which she lets during the day for 7s. 6d. She spends her evenings at the public library, acquiring knowledge that may enable her to earn more money. Evidently it is just possible, but only for a girl who can be happy without lipstick, new frocks, cinemas, and dances. Could you? Could your daughter?—Manchester Sunday Chronicle.

Mountainous Winter Seas Beat Furiously Across Bow of Liner



A great wall of water rolls over the bow of the liner Aquitania as it bucks the angry seas during east-west crossing. One of the worst Atlantic gales in decades delayed the liner and all other shipping.

Car Fatalities

Life insurance companies take a practical interest in the toll of fatalities due to automobile accidents, notes the Woodstock Sentinel-Review. The steady increase in the death rate in the United States from that cause, up to 1932, was regarded by them as "alarming". It was more rapid than the increase in car registrations. With decrease in registrations of motor vehicles, the death rate declined in 1932 and 1933, but in 1934 "tragically outstripped the increase in traffic."

"Last year seems to have been the turning point," said Dr. Eugene F. Russell, of the (U.S.) Mutual Life, addressing the Association of Life Insurance Presidents a few days ago. "In spite of the decided increase in car registrations, there was a decrease in the mortality rate from 24.3 to 23.4. This year again, in spite of a further traffic increase, the rate has been reduced to 22.2."

The speaker attributed the improvement to increased safety of automobile construction and equipment, the gradual elimination of grade crossings and better handling of traffic through new methods of constructing highways and intersections, as well as safety campaigns conducted in most parts of the country.

All these factors being present, to a greater or less extent, in Canada, one would expect a similar downward trend to the ratio of fatal accidents, but such is not the case. Official statistics show the automobile death rate per 100,000 population has risen from 9 in 1933 and 10.3 in 1934 to 11.2 in 1935. The peak year was 1929, with 13 deaths per 100,000 population.

But while the trend is thus unfavorable, the proportion of motor car fatalities to population is still only half that in the United States. The explanation seems to be found in the factors of trafic density and highway conditions Canada has a relatively high car registration, in proportion to total population, but only a few areas of high population density. The ratio of automobile deaths per 10,000 motor vehicles in this country is 9.1. In the United States, with more congested areas, the ratio is 12.3. But both are countries of great areas, with relatively low population density as a whole. It is in certain European countries, with fewer cars proportionately, but greater density of population, that one finds much higher fatality rates. The U.S. Census bureau is authority for the following death rates per 10,000 motor vehicles: England and Wales 31.7, Belgium 47.6, Germany 50.2, Switzerland 52.6, and Italy 54.5. Compared with Canada's record, the ratio is more than five times greater in Germany and six times greater in Italy.

SPORT HOT SHOTS

By KEN EDWARDS

Last week we talked about tuna, this week it's swordfish. The new and popular sport is angling for swordfish. This is carried on extensively off the coast of New Zealand and Catalina Island, California.

The first swordfish taken on rod and line off the Atlantic coast weighed 193 pounds; that was in 1927. The mouth of a swordfish is much softer than that of a tuna, therefore it may shake the bait more readily.

If we say that the tuna fish is a terror to fight then the swordfish is a rip snortin' demon when he has been hooked.

Sometimes, when he is harpooned, the free end of the rope is tied to a keg and thrown into the water allowing the big brute to tow it around until exhausted. It may be an hour or more before he is able to be gaffed by the dory-men.

Sometimes the powerfully driven sword has been known to pierce a two-inch plank. The greatest Nova Scotia swordfish catch in its history was 2,220,000 pounds in the year 1935. In 1928 the world's record swordfish was caught on rod and line in New Zealand. It weighed 673 pounds.

The Market Means Nothing in Her Life

Telephone Operator in Winnipeg Grain Exchange Doesn't Care If Wheat Goes Up or Down

WINNIPEG—She's seen wheat at $1.75 a bushel and she's seen it at 38 cents, but it "means nothing to me," says Edith Pratt, who handles hundreds of telephone calls daily on the trading floor of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

Ask Edith "what's the market today?"—meaning the current price of futures—and she will cheerfully admit: "I don't even know what it is half the time."

For more than eight years Miss Pratt has held what she terms "the best job in Winnipeg," receiving telephone calls for floor traders and sending messenger boys on a hunt for the requested party on the crowded floor.

She has never "played the market," never taken even an occasional flier in "bids" and "offers," and which — sometimes — returns their holders neat profits.

Big names mean little to the hello girl. Brokers have risen to prominence and faded away into the legion who lost out in the big pit. But Edith admits she knows few of them by sight.

She knows them all by their voices though, and in her years on the floor has learned to know the voices of all the brokers' wives, too. Many social calls are sprinkled among orders to buy and sell.

In Miss Pratt's tenure wheat prices dropped to all-time low levels — 38 cents a bushel in 1932. She remembers the day in 1929 when the market "broke wide open," the prelude to seven years of depression.

Does she listen in? "I don't have time."

World Output Of Gold High

Big Increase by Russia Is Largely Responsible For New Peak

WASHINGTON — United States treasury experts recently calculated the world's 1936 crop of gold at a new peak and pondered its effect on international money markets.

Production estimates for the world including Russia, suggested the total output of gold this year might approximate 40,000,000 ounces, as compared with a previous peak of 30,000,000 in 1935.

Estimates for the first 10 months of 1936 showed Russia alone mined 4,500,000 ounces more than during the corresponding period last year, and that world production outside Russia had been stepped up 2,500,000 ounces.

Normally, experts said such a large amount of new gold would tend to lower the value of money. The tight grip governments now have on their monetary structures, however, makes it difficult to predict how the outpouring will be reflected in money markets.

An Example To Every Woman

Madame Schumann-Heink Had Qualities of Nature Which Were Supreme

Since her passing, a great deal has been written about the life and achievements of Ernestine Schumann-Heink. A great deal more could be written of this remarkable woman, whose qualities were supreme, says Marion Martin in the Montreal Star.

Hers was an abundant life, yet how easily this might not have been the case! It wasn't luck and it wasn't chance that won her fame and a considerable fortune. It was courage. Without courage her life story would not have read as it does. Had she been easily disheartened, her rich contralto voice would not have stirred the emotions of thousands.

I wish women, especially girls starting out in life, had more of that splendid quality for which Madame Schumann-Heink was so distinguished. We women are often too easily discouraged and I am venturing to tell the story again of the great Schumann-Heink's early struggles. Apply her disheartening experiences to yourself. Ask yourself whether you have the courage, as she had, to rise above great handicaps.

How, for instance, would you react to a situation such as this—the one in which the great diva found herself early in youth?

When still a schoolgirl she succeeded in arranging an audition before the director of the Vienna Court Opera. If you imagine that her audition was a triumph, you are unfamiliar with the story and the reactions of the director.

"Give up the idea of singing," he told her. "You have neither the face nor the figure. Far better for you to buy yourself a sewing machine and go to work. You will never be a singer."

So much for the opinion of a man in the position to make or break a career. So much for the undaunted spirit of the young woman and for her great courage and her keen intelligence. I imagine the little Ernestine Roessler felt pretty badly over this verdict. It meant a great deal to her, but, judging from what came after, she then and there decided to prove to the director and to the world that he was wrong.

She forthwith set out to develop her talents and her personality to compensate for her lack of beauty. She succeeded as all the world knows. Not only was she a great singer. She was known as a great mother as well.

Whenever anyone confronts you with the old, old arguments tending to prove that marriage, motherhood and a career are impossible as a combination, remember Schumann-Heink. The little girl who had "neither face nor figure" managed to make a tremendous amount of money yearly, to marry three times and to rear an enormous family. She travelled the globe, yet she goes down is contempary history as an ideal homemaker and mother, not only to her own brood but to thousands of soldiers of the World War.

Her extraordinary career was the more extraordinary because her sons were divided among themselves. One fought for Germany and was killed. Another fought for the United States, the country of his mother's adoption.

Fate signalled out this courageous woman not only for one but for several outstanding roles. Her years of triumph in opera and on the concert stage were followed by defeat and disappointment in Hollywood.

The undaunted courage of the little girl of long ago again was put to the test. At seventy, or over, Madame Schumann-Heink met serious setbacks in her Hollywood debut, but everyone knows how little she allowed them to interrupt her career. Her remarkable achievements of early life were repeated in her screen triumphs.

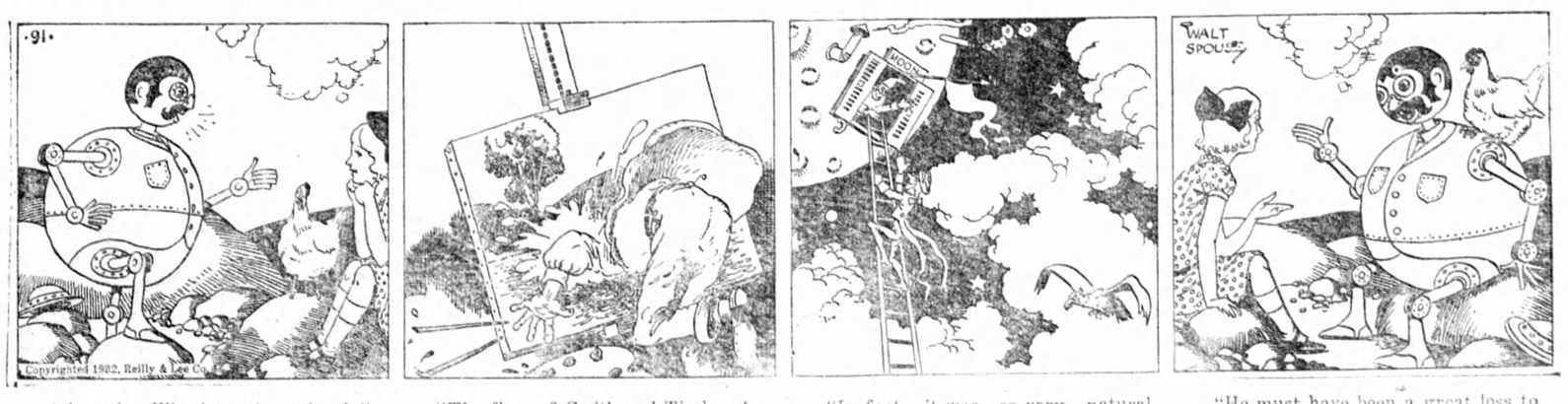
Unquestionably, the quality that kept her sustained through the years and made her a great artist and a great woman was one we all might envy. That quality was courage.

Hormones Used For Birth Control

NEW YORK.—Birth control by doses of hormones appears a possibility of the near future, according to Dr. Raphael Kurzrok of Presbyterian Hospital—Columbia medical centre.

The results of recent experiments on animals and observations of human patients by himself and other research workers were disclosed by Dr. Kurzrok at the annual meeting of the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau here.

Recent work with hormones, powerful substances produced in small quantities in various parts of the body, promises to yield methods by which women may be made temporarily sterile for a month at a time or more, Dr. Kurzrok said, and has been produced experimentally in rabbits and her animals.



"Are the Wheelers the only folk living in the land of Ev?" asked Dorothy after the clockwork man had been thinking for some time. "No, they only inhabit a small porition of it just back of those woods," replied the machine. "When I was first made they tried to run over me and butt me with their heads, but they soon found that I was built of too sol-id mater-i-al for them to injure." "You seem very durable," said Dorothy. "Who made you?"

"The firm of Smith and Tin-ker, in the town of Ev-na," answered Tiktok. "Did they make many of you," asked the child. "No, I am the only automat-ic me-chan-ic-al man they ever completed," he replied. "They were ver-y won-der-ful in-ventors, were my makers, but they are both gone now. Mister Smith," the machine man continued, "was an artist, as well as an inventor, and he paint-ed a picture of a riv-er that was wonderfully natur-al."

"In fact, it was so very natural that as he was reaching a-cross it to paint some flow-ers on the op-po-site bank, he fell into the water and was drown-ed. Mister Tinker," continued Tiktok, "made a ladder that could rest against the moon, while he pick-ed lit-tle stars to set in the king's crown. But when he got to the moon, Mister Tin-ker lik-ed it so much that he decided to live there, so he pull-ed up the lad-der aft-er him and nev-er came back."

"He must have been a great loss to his country," said Dorothy. "He was" acknowledged Tiktok. "Al-so he was a great loss to me. For if I should get out of order I do not know an-y one ab-le to re-pair me. You have no i-dea how full of ma-chinery I am. And now I must find a way to es-cape from this rock." "The best thinker I knew," remarked Dorothy, "was a Scarecrow." "Nonsense," snapped Billina, angrily. "There's no such thing as a live Scarecrow!"