Sparks from the Press

CANADA

Need Great Men

There never was a time in the world's history, probably, when there was a graver need fo, great men, than there is today Important events are transpiring today which will shape the destinies of every nation on earth New thought in the matter of government, economic control, religion and most other departments of human activity, are appearing on the horizon demanding the judgment of the best minds that the world can produce The masses look to their leaders for competent guidance, and this is the task of great men.

Which recalls the words of Matthew Arnold, who in defining the great men of culture stated they are "those who have a passion for diffusing, for making prevail, for carrying from one end of society to the other, the best knowledge, the best ideas of their time; who have labored to divest knowledge of all that was harsh, uncouth, difficult, abstract, professional, exclusive, o humanize it, to make it efficient outside the clique of the cultivated and learned, yet still remaining the best knowledge and thought of the time."—Chatham News.

Cost of Carelessness

In the first eleven months of this year, statistics show, the use of motor vehicles in this province increased 7.6 per cent., the number of traffic accidents in reased 10 per cent., the number of persons injured in accidents increased 27 5 per cent. and the property damage was up 33.3 per cent. Eighty-four persons were killed in these eleven months, against eighty-two in the same period in 1935, and the record of death has been at least maintained in December. Accident, injury damage are up far out of proportion to the increase in motor traffic.—Vancouver Province.

Mrs. Simpson

No matter what turn events may take, Mrs. Wallis Simpson remains a public figure for life Down the years she is bound to crop up in the news and is almost certain to find a place in history Future historians may appraise this place, future novelists and playwrights may clothe her as a romantic figure ranking with the glamorous women of the ages for whom men laid down their worldly possession if not their souls. Most of us in Canada know little about Mrs Simpson except what we have found out from reading. Reports from across the Atlantic suggest an intense hatred for her on the part of certain people there who feel that she has been a siren who has lured a king from his duty and carried a throne close to the rocks But one hears little of that in Western Canada. After all, what woman might not have her head turned by attention that appears to run to adoration from one who was the most popular king and one of the most popular and sought-after men in the world?—Regina Leader-Post.

The Good They Do

Cost of maintaining legations abroad is negligible compared to the benefits which can be achieved. They are well worth the expenditures, if only to promote more friendly relations; but there are also the concrete benefits in the way of increased trade to be considered For some time there has been talk of a trade agreement between Canada and Belgium, and setting up a legation at Ottawa should help to pave the way.—Windsor Star.

Our Indians

The Federal efforts to better the position of the Indians have had good results in the ominion as well as in the United States But it is felt that much more could be accomplished for them and an enlarged program was announced at Ottawa the other day. The department will devote particular attention to improving their skill as trappers and to helping them to take better care of furs before these are marketed

There are many other ways in which they can be given assistance that will enable them to reach a higher economic plane. The working out of the plan will be followed with keen interest, as the national responsibility for the welfare of the Indian population is widely recognized.—Edmonton Journal.

"What Is Needed"

. . . The truth is that the authorities, sometimes with the connivance of the courts, are themselves to blame in large part for the added dangers to highway travel in Ontario. They are today reaping the harvest of light sentences and reduced charges and unless they change their ways, there is little possibility of the situation being improved.

What is needed more than anything else in dealing with the minority that persists in conducting itself without regard to the safety of others on the road is not further education, because that has been tried and found wanting but fearless enforcement of the laws that are already embodied in the highway code and an end of all the evasions that have been practised by the Crown authorities and the courts. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Jingle In The Pocket

The year end brought with it more angible evidences of progress in Nova Scotia than for many dreary years. There have been the additional car order at Trenton and the prospect of more to follow; the order for steel rails at Sydney and the prospect more yet to come and all time record shipment of coal up the St. Lawrence and the anticipated continuing demand; the even and a half percent. wa increase in steel and subsidiary plants; the doubled Christmas bonus in the pay envelope at Westville; and now another may be added to these with the extra week's wages found in pay envelope of the employees of the Oxford Foundry and Machine Company

Laurier once said, folk did not need to be told when prosperity existed, they knew it by the jingle in their pockets. It would be far from the truth to say that everybody is prosperous, but this at least is true, that many have felt more of a jingle in their pockets than they have known for a long while.—Halifax Chronicle.

Ignorant Females

——I have been warned by three different feminine friends that if I take any more cracks at them about not knowing what drafts on a stove are there for, the said friendships will come to a sudden end. In a humble and apologetic tone of voice I could remark (couldn't I now?) if the cap fits, wear it!

How about trying to catch them young by teaching it in the schools They could have toy stoves and the little darlings could learn, at an early age, to shut the drafts. No more foolish than lots of the rubbish taught to the sons and daughters of the hard working and hard-up) parents at the present time.—Kamloops Sentinel.

Candid Admission

"These is nothing connected with the Press that has ever got me into such great trouble as the accuracy of the reports of what I have said." confides Lord Derby. And such admirable honest and candor is worthy of a place in the records.—St. Catharines Standard.

THE EMPIRE

When War Comes

As long as Hitler and Mussolini continue to get their way without war, Europe is in no immediate danger of conflict. But this is merely another way of saying that when war comes it will be at the time and under the conditions most favorable to the Fascist cause. Peace on these terms can offer no security.—The Nation, London.

"Mickle Maks Muckle"

The moderate investments of our thrifty classes have piled up Britain's principal assets. Well over £1,000,000,000 is invested in the Post Office Savings Banks, and National Savings Certificates, and there are many hundreds of millions more in life assurance policies and in the keeping of building societies Analysis has shown that the average holdings of stocks and shares in the railway companies, the big banks, and many of our great industries do not exceed a few hundred pounds. Like the army of workmen which reared the pyramids, the hosts of the "small men" have reared the great edifice of British wealth.—London Daily Mail.

No Mannequins For Her

W. L. Clark writes in Windsor Star, — When Queen Mary buys a dress she goes usually to one of two well-known firms in London. Taking the garment, she holds it against herself, looks in the mirror and she quickly decides yes or no.

They used to try and have mannequins and models parade for the Queen Mother, but she does not go for that. And, she rarely pays more than $100 for a dress.

Admiral's Daughter Weds

Lady Prudence Jellicoe, daughter of the late Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Jellicoe, is shown as she was leaving Trinity Church, in London, Eng., with her husband, Francis Loudon, after they were wedded, recently.

Income is $452,000,000 Higher Than Last Year

All Classes of Nation's Business Did Better — Manufacturing Takes Precedence of Agriculture

OTTAWA— Canada's national income from all sources for 1936 was estimated recently by the Canadian Press at $4,545,000,000, which was $452,000,000 greater than in 1935 and $1,351,700,000 greater than the low year of 1933.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has records of the values created covering a considerable portion of the year for five-eights of all persons in Canada gainfully employed. With these figures as a basis and assuming the remaining three-eights of those actually working are equally productive of national wealth the national income for the 12 months was estimated.

Manufacturers produced the greatest wealth with agriculture second mining third, tourist traffic fourth, and forestry fourth. Everyone of the big industries showed increases.

Percentage increase for industries in 1936 over 1935 were as follows:—Agriculture 10.6, forestry 19.0, fisheries 3.0, trapping 9.0, mining, 20.4, electric power 9.4, construction, 3.5, repairs 8.6, manufactures, 6.

The tourist traffic is among the industries unreported by the Bureau of Statistics. Estimates from other sources, however, place the value of this industry at $250,000,000 in 1936, compared with $202,000,000 in 1935 and $117,000,000 in 1933.

At $4,545,000,000 the 1936 grand total is 11 per cent above $4,093,926,000 in 1935. The figure for 1933 was $3,193,000,000.

After eliminating the value of materials consumed in the production process and making allowance for some duplication in reports under different headings, the estimate of commodity production in Canada for 1936 was about $2,841,000,000, an increase of 42.5 per cent above $1,996,000,000 in 1933 and 11 per cent higher than $2,559,000,000 in 1935.

Weather Handicapped Crops

Partly owing to crop reduction due to adverse weather conditions in recent years, manufacturers now definitely take precedence over agriculture in net value of production. Since 1933, however, agriculture has shown an annual increase in value.

Based on 29 factors, the index of manufacturing production in the first nine months of 1936 had risen to 107.8 compared with 97.6 in the same period of 1935. The price index, on the base of 1926 equals 100, was 75.5 in November against 72.9 in November, 1935.

Employment in manufacturing was up to 103.1 for the 10 months compared with 96.7 last year.

Among factors showing heavy increases were raw cotton imports, up 31.5 per cent at 129,445,000 pounds in 11 months, and steel ingot production up 20.8 per cent at 1,010,598 long tons in the same comparison. Pig iron production showed a 15.3 per cent advance at 610,000 long tons.

Acreage of wheat planted in 1936 was up 4.9 per cent at 25,289,000 acres, but yield fell 20 per cent and the production of 233,500,000 bushels was 15.8 per cent below 277,339,000 bushels in 1935.

Higher Farm Prices

Wheat prices mounted, however, with the result that the value of production was placed at $200,085,000, which is 17.5 per cent higher than $170,333,000 last year.

All field crops had a value of $594,000,000, a gain of 16.7 per cent over $509,000,000.

During the 11 months creamery butter production increased 3.4 per cent at 238,266,000 pounds, and factory cheese output was up 15.5 per cent at 114,375,000 pounds.

Contributing to the spectacular improvement in mining, every branch of the industry except copper showed production increases in comparison. Gold was up 15.2 per cent at 2, 746,531 fine ounces, silver 9.6 per cent at 13,110,327 fine ounces, and nickel 6.2 per cent at 123,569,125 pounds. Highest percentage increases were gypsum, 44.4 per cent at 568,138 tons, and asbestos, 44.1 per cent at 204,235 tons.

An increase of 6.3 per cent in the wholesale price index of the wood and paper group to 69.4 had substantial effect on the value of forestry products. Newsprint production was up 15.2 per cent at 2,890,000 tons for the first 11 months of 1936. Exports of planks and boards for the same period were 1,565,756,000 board feet, an improvement of 47.8 per cent. Employment in logging was 3.7 per cent better, bringing the index to 127 at the end of November.

Would Revive Marriage Trade

Stamford J. P. Offers to Perform Ceremony On Instalment Basis

STAMFORD, Connecticut, — Franklin Mittau, podiatrist and one of the 21 justices of the peace elected in November, is making a valiant effort to revive the dying "marriage business" in Stamford.

He is offering to perform marriage ceremonies on the instalment basis —so much down and so much when you feel the urge to pay the rest.

Mr. Mittau, who says that he campaigned for the Republican party in the recent election, did not have to chance defeat, for nomination was equivalent to election for justices of the peace.

He said that he had not yet performed a marriage ceremony but that he was hopeful.

"I won't charge any fixed fee, but will leave it to the parties who desire to be married," he said.

"Suppose they forget about the instalments?" he was asked.

"I haven't looked up the law, but I suppose there'd be a way to make them pay," he replied. "However, I'm willing to leave it to their own conscience. It would hurt them more than it would me to cheat. Besides, all I'd be giving would be my services."

Mr. Mittau has sent cards to newspapers and organizations letting it be known that he is willing to tie nuptial knots on the above basis. He neglected to explain that the blood test law and the five-day wait are necessary before a license could be issued, but said:

"I'd make that plain to any prospect when he called me."

Before the operation of the new Connecticut marriage law, which prescribes a blood test and prohibits the marriage of people whose tests disclose a social disease. Justices of the Peace here picked up considerable money performing marriages.

For instance, Joseph Davidson, a lawyer, who was perhaps the champion marrying justice of Stamford, counted it a poor year when he did not receive from $600 to $800 in marriage fees. This year, under the operation of the new law, his fees dropped to $15.

New York State town justices are getting all the business that formerly went to Greenwich and Stamford.

The Kind Word

Observes the New York Sun — A great many girls and boys have been encouraged in politeness by a little reward from a relative or an intimate friend of the family.

"You've been very nice to me Mary," says Aunt Almira as she departs after a visit, "and here's something to put in your bank." "Now, Mira," says mother, "you must not spoil the child; she only does as she should." "Well," says Almira, "this ain't agoin' to spoil her, and she is a nice girl."

"Tommy," says Uncle Bill, "you took good care of me; don't spend all this in one place." "Shucks, uncle, I liked to do it," says Tommy. "Bill," says father, "I won't have you givin' money to Tommy; it'll teach him bad habits; it'll make a beggar out of him." "Now Pete, you keep still," says Bill, "or I'll tell Tommy some things about you."

And Pete keeps still, the children are not spoiled, and if they think that perhaps good manners are not penalized they will help to make a pleasanter world.

Doesn't Say It

Christopher Billopp writing in the Baltimore Sun observes:

Smith meets Jones and says "Hello, Jones, how are you?"

To which Jones might, with perfect justice reply:

"I am beginning to feel my age. I have several teeth that are giving me trouble, and there are unmistakable evidences that I am on the verge of a cold. There is a shooting pain that runs up my right leg and ends in the small of the back.

"My right elbow is sore. It feels as if a tendon had been strained. My eyes are tired from having used them so much and I suspect that I do need to have my glasses changed. A callous place on my left foot is giving me trouble.

"I was nervous last night and unable to immediately drop off to sleep and this morning I awoke ahead of the alarm clock. My digestion is not what it was, and at the noon hour I did not eat my pie a la mode with the customary relish. I think I am getting a little deaf in one ear.

"I find that I am rather short winded and I am a little disturbed about my heart. On the other hand, I am conscious of other symptoms that lead me to suspect that there is something radically wrong with my liver, appendix, gall-bladder and other internal organs Sometimes I've buzzings in my head that lead me to suspect the beginning of some mental disorder If I were the kind of man who easily grows alarmed about himself I would go at once to a doctor and have him look me over. In fact I'm just terrible."

But, instead, he replies, "I'm feeling fine, Smith. And I hope you are the same."

Contracts Gain In December

Awards Total $6,118,800, Increase of 40.2 Percent.

OTTAWA.—Contracts awarded in the Dominion for the month of December, as compiled by MacLean Building Reports, Limited, amounted to $6,118,800, an increase of 40.2 percent. over the December, 1935, figure of $4364,900, and this despite the severe weather that spread across Canada the latter part of November.

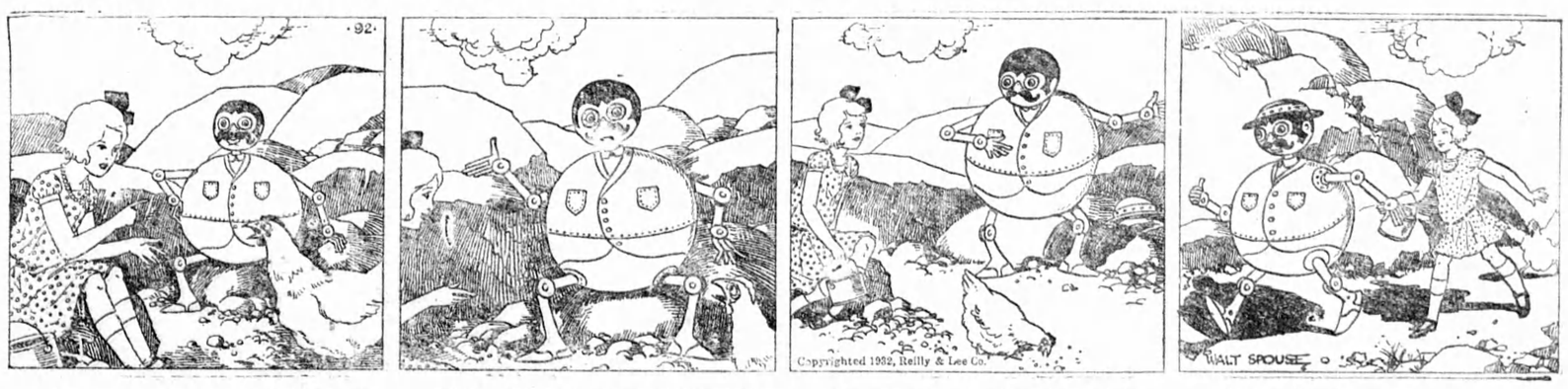
Ontario, with $2,338,000 and Quebec with $2,132,200 headed the list. Other provinces in order were. Alberta $612,300, Nova Scotia $421,600, British Columbia, $331,000; Manitoba, $140,500; Saskatchewan, $123,200; New Brunswick, $21,000. There were no contracts awarded in Prince Edward Island.

Contemplated work reported for the first time amounted to $14,405,900, bringing the year's total to date to $259,537,600, as compared with $232,960,100 for 1935, an increase of 11.4 percent.

Toronto and suburbs with 152 jobs costing $793,600 was ahead of Montreal Island, where 89 contracts were let amounting to $576,200.

Largest Baby

e largest baby ever born weighed twenty-five pounds. It was born in the United States in 1916. This fact is presented by the Journal of the American Medical Association in reviewing the literature on the connectio.. between the birth of large babies and the existence of diabetes in their mothers. It finds that there are repeated observations in medical literature of the birth of large, mostly fat, babies to mothers suffering from diabetes and not receiving treatments for it. Babies weighing more than nine pounds are met once in every thirty births, while those more than thirteen pounds are met only once in 200,000 births. The death rate among giant babies is reported to be 14.9 per cent., while the average death rate for all births is 3.2 per cent.—New York Herald Tribune.



"Do you expect me to believe all that rubbish about the Land of Oz?" inquired Billina, who seemed a little cross. "What rubbish?" asked Dorothy "Why your impossible stories about animals that can talk and a tin woodman who is alive, and a scarecrow who can think" "They are all there," said the child. "I do not believe it," cried the hen. "In the Land of Oz," remarked Tiktok, turning toward them, "any-thing is possible. For it is a won-der-ful fair-y coun-try."

"There Billina! What did I say?" cried Dorothy. And then she turned to the machine man and asked, eagerly: "Do you know the Land of Oz, Tiktok?" No, but I have heard a-bout it," said the copper man. "For it is on-ly sep-a-rated from this Land of Ev by a broad des-ert." Dorothy clapped her hands together delightedly. "It makes me quite happy to be so near to my old friends. The Scarecrow I told you about, Billina, is now King of the Emerald City of Oz."

"Pardon me. He is not the king now," said Tiktok.. "He was when I left there," declared Dorothy. "I know," said Tiktok, "but there was a rev-ol-ution in the Land of Oz, and the Scare-crow was de-posed by a sol-dier wo-man nam-ed Jin-jur. And then Jin-jur was de-posed by a little girl nam-ed Oz-ma, who was the right-ful heir to the throne. Oz-ma of Oz is now the rul-er of the Land of Oz..' "That is news to me," remarked Dorothy thoughtfully.

After this the copper man spoke no more for several minutes. He turned around again to resume his thinking. Then after severa minuts had passed, Tiktok approached Dorothy and Billina, and made a stiff bow. "If you will be kind e-nough to fol-low me," he said, "I will lead you a-way from here to the town of Ev-na where you will be more com-fort-able, and al-so I will protect you from the Wheel-ers." "Alright," said Dorothy, "I'm ready,' and grasping Tiktok's hand, she followed him.