Sparks from the Press

CANADA

Aiding the Hard of Hearing

Seats wired for the hard of hearing are likely to come more generally into use in theatres, churches and other places of assemblage. At least two St. Thomas churches have several seats wired, but the theatres here have no such equipment as yet, although the day when they will have cannot be far distant. Seats equipped with these earphones make shows and church services of value to many who otherwise would stay at home to catch what they can over the radio through their own individual appliances.—St. Thomas Times- Journal.

Defining a Good Liar

A good liar is an asset to a community or a nation—or not as the case may be. And one of his basic attributes must be an ability to at least give the hearer the notion that he may be telling the truth. Take Hitler, for instance. People don't know whether to believe him or not. He might be but you feel 75 per cent. sure that he ain't.—Sault Star.

Buried Treasure

It was a most inspiring address which Hon. Charles McCrea, former Minister of Mines, gave last night.

Mr. McCrea spoke on How Mining Betters Business, a subject which appeals strongly to his enthusiasm and one which few are more competent to discuss than he. But Mr. McCrea's enthusiasm is based on actual knowledge and experience; t is not the airy optimism of the visionary, but the considered judgment of an expert. In fact, he is able to present ample statistical corroboration of the faith that is in him. Canada has advanced far beyond the stage of probability; the "pre-Cambrian shield," especially has spectacularly revealed its wealth and is continually giving further proof of its latent riches.

"This belt," said Mr. McCrea, "is the greatest mineral empire in existence." A big claim, certainly, but one not lightly advanced."—Hamilton Spectator.

Few Newspapers Today

In 1911—so reports the Bowmanville Statesman- Ontario had 52 daily newspapers; today the number is 33. In 1911 Toronto had six daily newspapers; now but three. In the weekly field Ontario had 408 country weekly newspapers; today the number is 169.—Guelph Mercury.

English Capital Wanted

Whatever excuse there may have been in former years for hesitancy on the part of British investors, it no longer exists because of the proved value of Canadian money. It would appear to be desirable for British investors to establish agencies in the Dominion so that they can become perfectly familiar with the opportunities in Canada, and, hence, be able to discriminate between good and bad prospects. British investors are as a rule very cautious and like to see their way clearly before they commit themselves. Capitalists in the United States are near at hand, and they are quick to seize every opportunity that promises rich rewards. — Brantford Expositor.

Helen Hayes

Helen Hayes, movie actress, as she received the '936 National Speech Award for fine diction, said that she had achieved her improved style practicing before a mirror. So that is why members of the fair sex can be so frequently seen gazing at themselves.—Brantford Expositor.

Costly Low-Attendance

As far as the attendance group of one to five is concerned, the total of such schools has been decreasing. In 1933 there were 150 in the province. in 1934 there were 129 and in 1935 only 124. Of the decrease of 26 in two years, the counties were responsible for 21 and the districts five. Taking the group of schools attended by an average of six to ten, of which Oxford at last report had three, the average cost is 46,16 cents per pupil-day, compared with an average of 23,46 cents for all rural schools in the province.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Wanton Destruction

In some people there is a stronger desire towards wilful destruction than in others. Why some people do some of the things they do in the way of unnecessary and mean destruction is difficult to understand.

From the little village of Niagara-On-the-Lake comes a strange story to emphasize this. Numerous complaints have been made of late by residents of this village that damage is being done to wreaths and flowers in St. Mark's Cemetery.

One family came to the cemetery the other day to see the grave of a departed loved one on which grave they had placed two wreaths some time previously. When they came to the grave they found the wreaths "practically destroyed and the remains strewn all over the ground."

It has not been learned who was responsible for this piece of foolish destruction so far, but whoever it is it seems difficult to imagine very many people who would resort to this type of wanton destruction.—Oshawa Times.

Nothing to Fool With

There is a great deal that the doctors do not know about influenza, but they do know pretty well what to do about it. In all varieties of it, it may be laid down as a general principal that you had better coddle yourself a bit about it, before you get it and after; and that, if you get it, you had better on no account try to "tough it out."

This is old-fashioned treatment, but the best doctors seem to agree that it is the best. It means going to bed and staying warm for a day or two; and it means put in the converse, not going out to expose yourself to further chills and infections, and the risk of pneumonia.

It means also not going where you can contribute your own collection of germs to the general infection. Influenza, even of the mild sort, is a bad thing to fool with.—Vancouver Province.

The Soo's Population

The Sault's population has increased 245 over the last year's figure to a record for the city of 23,627. The previous high mark was 23,504 in 1932. Two year's later, the assessor's census showed only 23,064.— Sault Daily Star.

Drop Final Letter

The Italian Vice-Consul says that the word "gangster" cannot be translated into Italian. However, Italians get along very well with the word "bandita," which we have borrowed from them, dropping the final letter. —Toronto Globe and Mail.

THE EMPIRE

Eventful 1936

It began for us with a plunge into mourning when King George V. died, rose through an access of welcome to his successor, and ended with a sudden, bewildering abdication and yet an other King. Scandals, Cabinet indiscrtions, fires and floods have made the year seem like a retrospective Old Moore's Almanac. These troubles have been our own. In addition we have shared the dismalities of a world that seems to live under the cloud of lunacy. The year opened with slaughter in Spain. Nation has called unto nation; but the call has been to war. Never in history have the weapons of war and destruction been plied with such ghastly speed as during the Year of Our Lord 1936.—London Sunday Referee.

Absent-Minded Empire

A great historian once said that the British Empire was won in a moment of absent-mindedness. It is true that there was little calculating foresight or diplomatic skill displayed in acquiring it. The Empire emerged as the result of characteristics inherent in the nature of the people who brought it into being. It was an expression of their life. Its foundations were laid in the character of its people. It has endured and expanded because their spirit has remained strong and virile. In face of tremendous opposition and sever losses it has become the most astonishing achievement of modern times.—Melbourne Argus.

Says Girls in U.S. Have Nicest Legs

HOLLYWOOD — Mistinguette, the French actress with the "$1.000,000. legs," says American girls have the most beautiful limbs she has ever seen. And, in her opinion, their participation in sports is the reason.

"In Europe," she said. "young girls are not allowed so much to go in for athletics. The result is that really well-formed legs are the exception rather than the rule."

Exodus from Madrid

Carrying their scanty possession, women and children, ordered evacuated by the Defense Junta, stream from Madrid to places of safety from the aerial raiders of General Franco's rebel army. Militiamen are shown aiding the terrorized refugees.

Women Doctors Far Outnumber the Men Medicos in Russia

Extraordinary Development of Socialized Medicine in Soviet Union Is Described

NEW YORK. — More women than men are studying medicine in Soviet Russia today according to Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, professor of history of medicine at John Hopkins University who has passed the last two summers studying the extraordinary development of socialized medicine in the Soviet Union.

In an address at the new school for social research, Dr. Sigerist estimated that of the young doctors that will emerge from the Soviet medical schools in the next five years to engage in the ambitious public health program, approximately two out of every three would be women.

He attributed this vocational phenomenon to the fact that the demand for engineers in Russia during the last decade absorbed a large proportion of the young men who otherwise might have turned to the medical profession. Engineers were better paid and accorded more privileges during this period of intensive industrial development, and as a result young women found many apportunities in the medical field. In 1928, according to figures which Dr. Sigerist obtained from Soviet officials, 52 per cent of the medical students were women; in 1931, 58 per cent, and in 1934, 75.1 per cent. In the last two years the salaries and professional standing of doctors have been raised until they are now on a level with engineers, receiving 400 to 900 rubles a month.

Mr. Sigerist was impressed by the ambitious public health program undertaken by the Soviet Government, and by the pioneer spirit and enthusiasm shown in carrying it forward. Medical units, he said, have been established in all the state's enterprises, from the great Stalin automobilef actory at Moscow, employing 30,000 workers, to the small mechanized farm.

One hundred and twenty physicians are employed at the Stalin plant, the largest industrial enterprise in Russia.

Golden Weddings

Comments the Kitchener Record: —These golden wedding celebrations do much to restore one's faith in humanity and in the sacrament of marriage as it was intended to be . . . All honor to those sterling brides and grooms of another day who have been true to each other through all the vicissitudes of life and who have won the high regard not only of their chlidren and grandchildren but of the community in which they have lived. They are indeed the salt of the earth.

"Flannel Foot," Elusive Burglar, Gets in Scotland Yard's Hair

LONDON. — Scotland Yard declared war on "Flannel Foot," a burglar who has eluded the best detectives in England for 25 years.

First, they offered two weeks' extra vacation and a bonus of $50 to the policeman who catches him.

Then they selected a special crew of detectives, put them in radio cars and told them to "wander around" London until they got "Flannel Foot."

"Flannel Foot" has been getting in Scotland Yard's hair since 1911 when his first burglary was reported. He is believed now to be a man of about 60. His name comes from the fact that on each job he wears shoes made of "warped flannel' which makes him silent as a cat.

It was the first time that Scotland Yard ever offered a reward for the arrest of a burglar.

The "Yard" now thinks that its man has trained a lot of other imitation "flannel foots." Only last week two flannel foot jobs were done. In each case the burglar left the tell-tale flannel shoes behind and escaped on a bicycle.

Last August "Flannel Foot" telephoned Scotland Yard and told startled officials that he was going away for a fortnight's holiday and they could relax. During the next two weeks no flannel foot burglaries were committed.

Zippers Are Still Favorite Fasteners

NEW YORK. — Many a spectator sports dress is fastened at the front. Zippers are still pets; they are on cotton, crepe, flannel, linen dresses zipping from collar to hem. Hours can be spent counting rich man, poor man beggar man thief with buttons; they, too fasten frocks at the front from top to bottom or they may run down the shoulder seams under the arms and so to the hem. Again they are used in a zigzag fastening that goes from the neck almost to the base of the armpit and back again to the front of the waistline. It has amused some designers to tie dresses at the front with ribbons that serve the double duty of trimming and fastening.

Royal Baby Clothes Shown In Exhibit

Royal baby clothes from Stuart times to the present day were displayed at an exhibition at the American Women's Club in London recently. Margaret Countess of Birkenhead organized the display in aid of charity.

Queen Mary sent a satin and lace christening robe that belonged to her grandmother, Augusta Duchess of Cambridge.

The Duchess of York, now the Queen, sent several little frocks worn in babyhood by Princess Elizabeth. One of these is a white muslin dress to be worn over a pale pink slip. A pink ribbon runs through the waist and tiny pink bows ornament each shoulder.

There was also a real lace cot coverlet used when Princess Elizabeth was in her cradle.

Margaret Countess of Birkenhead sent as a relic a "wattle" (sort of shawl) edged with gold. This was used for one of the Stuart babies.

Cheap Cosmetics Now Necessary

Congressman Mary T. Norton Advocates Repeal of Tax On Beauty Aids

Washington.— Congressman Mary T. Norton, New Jersey Democrat, recently called for cheaper cosmetics for American women.

"Lipstick, perfum and the like," she said, "were once a luxury. Times have changed. Now they're a necessity."

Advocating repeal of a 10 per cent. tax on imported cosmetics, she said this was a move toward putting toilet preparations in every woman's boudoir no matter how humble the home.

Perfection in Kitchener

In these days when there seems to be such a letting down in the matter of church attendance and devotion to religious duties generally, it is good to read that Miss Minnie Schultz, treasurer of St. Peter's Lutherian Church Sunday school, Kitchener, has not missed a single Sunday's attendance in 37 years — a perfect record of 1,924 Sundays in succession observes the Windsor Star. And the pastor of the same church has not missed a Sunday in 23 years.

There are several other corresponding records in the congregation. In the whole of 935, for instance, no less than 139 members of St. Peter's Sunday School and staff did not miss a single Sunday.

These are examples eminently worth while. Some cynics may say they are chiefly the result of well-formed habits. But they are much more than that. They are the concrete expression of sincere faith and compelling interest. The records of Miss Schultz and her fellow workers in St. Peter's are more valuable, much more important, than the vast majority of records which attract a great deal more of the world's attention and applause.

The Royal Navy As A Career

The Admiralty announce that there vacancies for suitable young men between the ages of 19½ and 28 who wish to join the navy as engine-room, electrical and ordnance artificers observes the London Observer.

The physical standard is not unduly high, and there is a simple educational test and practical trade test before entry. Particulars and conditions of entry and service can be had from the nearest Naval Recruiting Officer whose address is obtainable from any post office.

Artificers, who have the status of petty and chief petty officers, engage to serve for 12 years, with the prospect of re-engaging for another ten to quality for life pensions. Before that time however, they will have had chances of promotion to warrant officer, with the opportunity of attaining commissioned rank if exceptionally good men. The work of artificers is skilled and responsible, and apart from the variety of service afloat and ashore in all parts of the world — roughly 40 percent. of the time abroad and 60 percent. at home—the pay is good.

Men should be drawing a sure 56s a week within a year of entry, rising gradually to some 95s a week after nine years' service, with further increases as time goes on. Over and bove this there are marriage allowances for wives and children, and supplements of pay for various special qualifications and good conduct.

But the actual pay is not everything. Naval men receive free uniforms on joining and annual allowances for its upkeep; free food of excellent quality and good accommodation; duty-free tobacco and cigarettes; and free medical, surgical, and dental treatment if required. The Service is a good employer.

It not only offers the chance of seeing the world, with good leave and prospects of promotion, but looks after its men from start to finish. Moreover, those leaving the Navy with skilled trades behind them have excellent chances of good civilian employment in early middle age. It is not a "blind alley" occupation, and the naval saying, "They don't pipe dinner ashore" is not merely a slogan. It is literally true.

As regards the eventual prospects of those who join the Navy as engine room artificers it may be said, that 16 men in this category were promoted to the rank of sub-lieutenant (E) or lieutenant (E) during 1936. And now serving on the active list there are 62 engineer commanders, 22 engineer lieutenant-commanders, or lieutenant-commanders (E), 35 lieutenants (E), and nine sub-lieutenants (E), all of whom were originally entered as engine room artificers.

Moral Turpitude

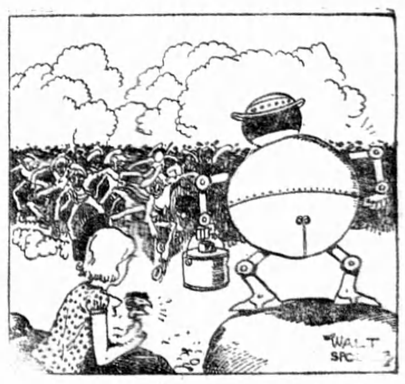
Writes the Brandon Sun:— For sixteen years an Italian cobbler has lived carefully in New York, a better citizen than many of the city's native sons. He bears an excellent record and is to all intents and purposes a worthy man. However, under United States laws, after all these years, he is ordered to be deported to Italy, as an undesirable citizen. A "friend" tipped off those wonderful immigration quidnuncs in Washington of his "record" in Italy. This criminal record shows he was guilty in his native country of the theft of $10 from the man to whom he was apprenticed, when he was only 14 years old. The lad's father made restitution, and he was granted a royal pardon, after serving a month in jail. That is all that is charged against him.

The ease with which international criminals enter and re-enter the United States is notorious. The criminal elements in the United States are asserted to be alien. They seldom seem to be reported, according to the arrests and paroles reported numerously daily. Now the Italian cobbler in New York faces deportation under a law, enacted in 1917, which makes deportation mandatory in the case of aliens who have been convicted of crimes involving "moral turpitude."

They walked slowly down the path between the rocks, Tiktok going first, Dorothy following him and the yellow hen trotting along last of all. At the foot of the path the copper man leaned down and tossed aside with ease some rocks that blocked the way. Then he turned to Dorothy and said: "Let me car-ry your din-ner pail." She placed it in his right hand at once, and the copper fingers closed firmly over the stout handle. Then they marched out on the sands.

As soon as the three Wheelers who were guarding the mound saw them, they began to shout their wild cries and rolled swiftly toward the little group. But when the foremost had approached near enough, Tiktok swung the tin dinner-pail and struck the Wheeler a sharp blow over the head. The Wheeler uttered a loud howl and tumbled over on its side. The next moment it scrambled to its wheels and rolled away as fast as it could go, screeching with fear at the same time.

"I told you they were harm-less," began Tiktok; but before he could say another word, a second Wheeler was upon them. Crack! went the dinner-pail against its head, knocking the creature's hat a dozen feet away; and that was enough for this Wheeler also. The third Wheeler Tiktok managed to catch by the collar and hit it three or four time, before it could get away. Then it too made its escape and joined its fellows as quickly as its wheels would carry it.



The yellow hen gave a cackle of delight and, flying to a perch on Tiktok's shoulder she cried: "Bravely done, my copper friend and wisely thought of, too. Now we are free of these ugly Wheelers." But just then they heard loud cries and turning, saw a large band of Wheelers rolling towards them. Relying on their number they advanced fiercely upon Tiktok. Dorothy grabbed Billina in her arms and then turned to face the enemy who were now upon them.