Sparks from the Press

CANADA

Modern Convenience

Dr. Arthur Pillsbury, naturalist, scientist and inventor, states that housewives soon may be growing their own vegetables in the kitchen sink by the use of chemicals. With coal in the bath tub and vegetables growing in the sink, the folks in the house will have to resort to the old tin basin for laving hands and face and to the tub on the kitchen floor for the Saturday night soapy plunges.—Montreal Gazette.

School Buildings

There are those who say and believe that no municipality can afford to be niggardly in regard to such an important matter as education of the young. But they can be, nevertheless, sensible about it and not involve themselves in expenses which are other than reasonable and justifiable or above the ability of the ratepayers to meet over a period of years. More than one municipality has found itself financially embarrassed during the past few years because of unwise capital expenditures which it previously made in respect of education with town veining with town as to which should equip itself most lavishly in this regard.

There is danger that in this country we have made rather a fetish of school buildings without as much attention being paid to the teaching given in them.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Woods Going, Too

Optimists say that Canada is now out of the woods. But if the destructions of her forests continues, the woods will soon be out of Canada.—Toronto Star.

Scenic Highways

Everybody knows that the provincial highways are all too drab at many points and everyone will agree that the placing of pretty flowers here and there would do much to improve them. It seems to us that the government itself should give some attention to this phase of the highway situation, doing a good deal more than it has in the past toward making Ontario's main routes the scenic attractions they should be. It should be needless to point out the enormous revenue that we secure from these routes and the desirability of making them look better than at present.—Windsor Star.

Country's Backbone

Blessed is the nation that can boast of a sturdy "farm aristocracy," families that have farmed for two or three generations and would no more think of going off the land and migrating to the cities than they would of becoming sailors. Such families have character. They sink their roots into the soil, and one generation is proud to succeed another. It would be interesting to know how many families on Canadian farms could trace their ownership back to pioneer days. Such people are the the backbone of the country and make the first type of citizens.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

One View of Speed

Surely, it requires no argument to prove that risk increases proportionately to speed. With all the modern mechanical improvements and technical safeguards, it is, after all, the human factor which counts most in ensuring safety. A car bounding along at 70 or 80 miles an hour is not under proper control and it is a peril to itself and to other vehicles. Experts agree that to drive above 50 miles an hour is to invite disaster.

While something might be said for stepping up the speed limit to some extent, in view of recent developments in the automobile industry, to abolish it altogether would be to surrender to the demands of the reckless, the selfish, and inconsiderate.—Hamilton Spectator.

Days of Youth

"We are only young once," you often hear some person remark as an excuse for "hitting the pace." True, we can be young but once, and the pleasures of youth must be crowded into that space of time. But how long are we young? Some men are old at 40, while others are still young at 60. It depends upon the pace they hit and the manner in which they hit it. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

Candid

"There 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 honesty and candor is worthy of a place in the records.—St. Catharines Standard.

Too Much Talking

Some day we are going to wake up and tumble to the fact that there is too much talking. Every time you turn on your radio somebody is starting (that's as far as he gets) to give you an earful of words. Politicians spend their lives talking. Wives (not your or mine of course) are always at it. Preachers do their share. Editors do their with a typewriters or fountain pens. What a lot of ink there must be! One of these days when we wake up and cease the incessant clatter for a moment, somebody is bound to take advantage of the lull — and do a little thinking.—St. Mary's Journal-Argus.

Fat Profits from War

During 1914-1918 one British munitions company is reputed to have made net profits of some £34,000,000. The firm supplied four battleships, three armored cruisers, fifty three submarines, sixty-two light ships, three auxiliary cruisers, 2,328 heavy naval guns, field guns, etc., 100,000 Maxim guns, 5,500 aeroplanes, and a large number of rifles, small guns and other materials of war. The war business certainly runs up big profits for those who depend on human sacrifices for their orders. - Windsor Star.

Air Mail Service Pays

Air mail service in Canada has proved cheaper than other kinds. Air mail costs in the last fiscal year were $375,971, and the revenue amounted to $533,048. If the entire service could operate on that basis we would have 2-cent postage in a hurry. — Peterborough Examiner.

THE EMPIRE

Careers for Youth

There has in the past been no official machinery by which boys have been able to join the British Army or Air Force. Unofficially some 50 young men have gone over to find successfully military careers. Although it is the Navy that invites youth "to see the world," the sister same invitation, and South Africans service could readily extend much the who have returned after service in the British Army come home with tales of strange places. But judging from the inquiries we have received, the offer of commissions in the Royal Air Force to university graduates unde. the age of 25 is likely to find most response in the Union. Even with clouds on the European horizon, these careers hold much to attract youth. And to judge of the value to the Union of this training abroad it may be remarked that Air Force pilots were the pioneers of civil aviation in this country. —The Cape Argus.

No Excuse for Slaughter

Crossings and speed limits are of no avail if the drivers, riders, and walkers will not be constantly vigilant. There is no excuse for road slaughter. It must be stopped. By taking thought and taking care it can be stopped. — London Sunday Dispatch.

Flu Is Hindering The Making of Films

HOLLYWOOD —Influenza is putting the brakes on Hollywood's high-geared movie production machinery.

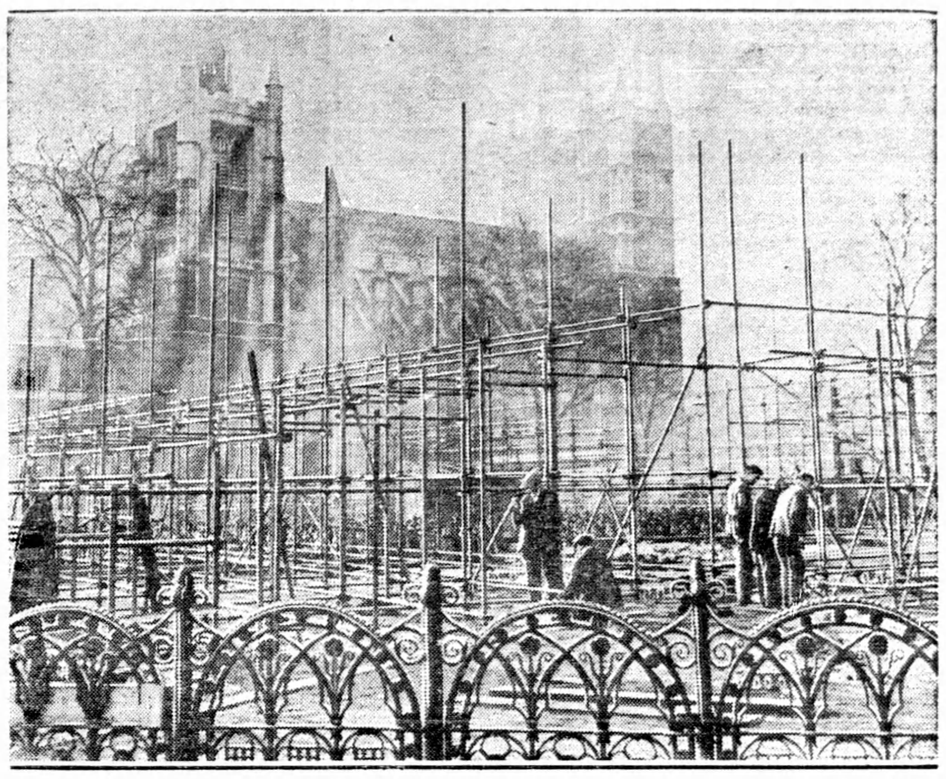
Two pictures have actually stopped work because of illness in the cast or the production crews.

Nearly a dozen others have been hobbled to quarter-speed while directors "shoot around" scenes from which stars are missing, or assistant directors make unimportant background because the director is missing.

Dr. J. A. Strathearn, studio physician, posted notices on all stages and bulletin boards at Paramount Studios, advising the personnel that "this epidemic is becoming increasingly serious," and recommending preventive measures.

Production of Nova Scotia creamery butter, reported by twenty-six creameries and one creamery estimated, was 296,569 pounds in November as compared with 289,564 pounds in the same month last year, an increase of 2.45 per cent., the provincial department of agriculture reports.

Stands Rise in Shadow of Abbey



Above, the grey walls of Westminster Abbey provide a background for the steel framework of Coronation stands under construction in the Parliament Square Green.

Levees Hold — Floods Checked
Victory Caps Frantic Fight
1,000,000 Are Homeless

Lower Mississippi Valley Likely to be Saved; Disease and Famine Battled; Scene Grimmest at Louisville.

One hundred thousand men fought raging waters for over 1,500 miles down the Mississippi as floods gnaw their way southward. Today, Friday the cities of Evansville, Indiana, and Cairo, Illinois, expect the disease-laden waters to reach their crest but neither city expect serious further damage.

The authenticated known death toll in the eleven flooded states now stands at 273. Hundreds of others are feared dead as families start a frantic search for missing friends and relatives. Over 1,000,000 are homeless. Damage is estimated at $400,000,000.

Summary by States

The situation by States Thursday night follows:

PENNSYLVANIA — Waters at Pittsburgh recede more than eleven feet in thirty-six hours. Rivers below flood stage. Three dead; 1,800 homeless.

WEST VIRGINIA—Fear collapse of buildings at Wheeling as waters recede steadily. Families warned to remain at relief centres until homes are dried and cleaned. Ten dead; 64,661 homeless.

OHIO — Cincinnati, Portsmouth and Ironton face danger of epidemic. Cincianati damage estimated at $25,000,000 as city starts clean-up. Governor Martin L. Davey advocates construction of "thousands" of dams to prevent future floods. Eighteen dead; 143,437 homeless.

KENTUCKY — Receding waters give up bodies of 162 known dead at Louisville. Illness widespread. Red Cross evacuating families at Paducah. Cold weather througnout State expected to add to suffering. One hundred and sixty-two known dead; 347,589 homeless.

INDIANA — Waters receding as far as Evansville where crest of 53.5 expected within twenty-four hours. Looting reported at Lawrenceburg. Three houses reported still standing at Leavenworth. Twelve dead; 67,775 homeless. The Red Cross was to spend $1,000,000 to rehabilitate homes in Evansville.

ILLINOIS -- Cario believed safe behind giant V-shaped seawall. One thousand men work to strengthen "Big Four" levee, believed last weak link in city's protection. Dozen cities and town above Cairo inundated; some abandoned to raging waters. Eleven dead; 24,399 homeless.

MISSOURI—Every available man at Charleston, Mo., was called to work on the levees. At New Madrid, Mo., 2,500 WPA workers were rushed to protect a levee there. Fourteen dead; 44,792 homeless.

ARKANSAS — Seven hundred homeless families trooping into Helena daily for shelter. Mellwood, Ark., believed a danger point. Regular Army officers arrive to take command of flood section. Twenty-nine dead; 74,951 homeless.

TENNESSEE—Hickman and Tiptonville evacuated as flood crests move down Mississippi at fifteen miles per hour. Nine dead; 35,824 homeless. Engineers at Memphis estimate 50,000 men at work on levees in Mississippi Valley.

MISSISSIPPI — Army officers at Vicksburg asked to have boats waiting should evacuation of Arkansas City, Ark., prove necessary. Four dead; 4,050 homeless.

LOUISIANA — Lowland families from Natchez, Miss., to New Orleans reported fearful of disastrous floods. Mississippi and Black Rivers rising steadily. Schools closing, and Eastern Louisiana lumber industry nearly idle. Two hundred and seventy homeless.

Voice Fear For Safety Of Economic Structure

"While Canada's trade position has advanced materially, there are certain causes of grave anxiety internally which if not soon corrected, may have a disastrous effect upon our economic structure," the council of the Toronto Board of Trade said recently in a report to be submitted to the general meeting.

"The tendency in some quarters to destroy the sanctity of contracts and obligations, and to deny the right of appeal to courts, will inevitably damage the credit and reputation of this country," the report said.

C—4

News in Brief

Fears News Leak

TORONTO—At the Liberal Party caucus held this week, Attorney-General Roebuck refused to talk on the reported pending purchase of more Quebec power from the Ottawa Valley Company, for fear, the news would "leak" to the newspapers.

"Traitors"?

A lot of caucus argument was centred on the possibility that "traitors" were providing the press with caucus information that could not be obtained except through "leaks." Major James Clark (Windsor-Sandwich) was strong in his denunciation of such alleged tactics, and had the caucus adopt a resolution providing that all speeches therein be regarded as "secret." Tom Murray, veteran legislator and famed humorist from North Renfrew, sugested that the best way to get around the situation was to trip up the press by having the best liar among the Liberals invent inaccurate stories to feed out systematically to the reporters.

Good Speech

At Ottawa this week when A. A. Heaps, (C.C.F., Winnipeg North) presented his motion asking the Government to reques. President Roosevelt to call a world peace conference, he read at length from what he thought was an address delivered by Mr. Roosevelt at Rio de Janeiro.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King interrupted him: "Is my honorable friend quoting the President of the United States. I think that is what I said."

"That may be the case," replied Mr. Heaps, "but I think it is a pretty good statement to make and I am fully in accord with what the Prime Minister said and I hope I have done him no injustice by crediting his remarks to the President of the United States.

Veto Peace Conference

The World Peace Conference to be held at Washington suggested by A. A. Heaps, was sternly opposed by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Declared Prime Minister Mackenzie King: "I am not sure that a world conference would achieve any good. And it might make things a great deal worse."

"Our generation is gone a little mad on the question of conferences, it seems to me. A conference is a very convenien way of appearing to be doing something, while in reality very little is being achieved. The more I see of conferences, the less patience I am coming to have with them."

Observed the Conservative Leader, R. B. Bennett: "I have not forgotten that a great World Economic Conference was called in 1933. I know one man, two men, three men, who were urged by the President of the United States to expedite in every possible way the work of that conference. Yet the conference had hardly met and organized before the President of the United States torpedoed it for reasons which have never yet been made public."

Provincial Parley Favored

Right Hon. R. B. Bennett's proposal for a conference on constitutional questions generally found favor among Provincial Government heads.

Premier W. J. Patterson of Saskatchewan said he believed it might be better handled by a commission than by the proposed conference.

Acting Premier Harry Nixon of Ontario had no comment to make on Mr. Bennett's suggestions.

Hon. A. P. Paterson, Minister of Federal and Municipal Relations of New Brunswick: "We shall never get this right until we all get around a table and talk it over quietly and dispassionately."

Premier Angus L. Macdonald of Nova Scotia: "It is generally agreed certain amendment are necessary. The only point of difficulty is deciding on a method of amendment that will be satisfactory to both the Dominion Parliament and Provincial Legislatures."

Premier T. D. Pattullo of British Columbia: "Such action had been advocated by British Columbia for years."

Premier William Aberhart of Alberta: "Alberta is ready to discuss any necessary changes in Canada's Constitution."

Premier John Bracken of Manitoba: "We have been agitating for modernization of the Canadian Governmental set-up for ten years."

Lethbridge Boast

LETHBRIDGE Alberta challenges the Galt, Ontario record of not one fatal motor acciden within its boundaries during 1936 with a two-year record. Not one automobile fatality occurred there in 1936 or 1935.

Sport Idols

Art in All Trades

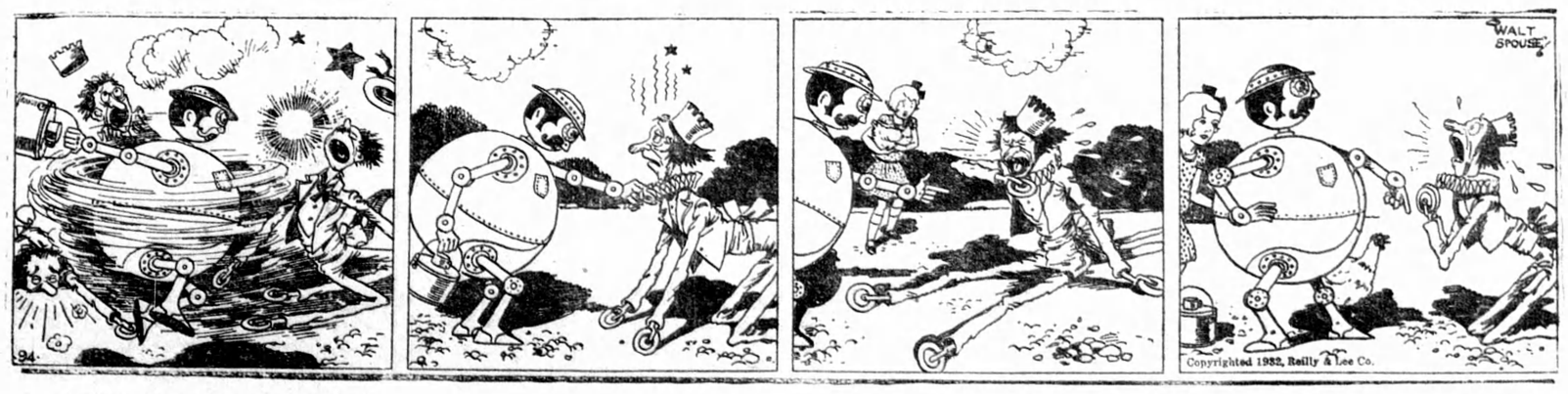
In the turbulent days of the pioneer west, one of the popular ways of execution was death by the rope. This was meted out in a wholesale manner and not always with the sanction of the law. Because in the early day, the law was far too inadequate to cope with all crooks in so large a territory. At one time the law had an area of not less than 73,000 square miles in its jurisdiction under one United States court.

Hanging was used extensively and men became very proficient in the use of the rope, for this, at the time was a trade.

It was discovered that the method used in fastening the rope was of great importance to the victim. The difference being whether he died a slow death of strangulation or instantly a broken neck. If the rope were tied as any other rope might be tied then usually the victim was strangled to death, very slowly as can be seen. On the other hand if the rope were tied loosely and the knot were placed under the left ear then when the trap was sprung the neck was broken instantly.

At the time of these unsettled regions one United States court had under its jurisdiction an area covering 70,000 square miles of land.

A swarm of bees that has left a hive continues to be the owner's property as long as he can keep it in sight, according to the laws of Blackstone.



Rattlety, bang! bang! went the dinner pail in every direction, and it made so much clatter bumping against the heads of the Wheelers that they were much more frightened than hurt and fled in a great panic. All, that is, except their leader. This Wheeler had stumbled against another and fallen flat on his back, and before he could get his wheels under him to rise again, Tiktok had fastened his copper fingers into the neck of his gorgeous jacket.

"Tell your peo-ple to go a-way," commanded the machine. The leader of the Wheelers hesitated to give this order, so Tiktok shook him as a terrier does a rat, until the Wheeler's teeth rattled together with a noise like hail stones on a window pane. Then, as soon as the creature could get its breath, it shouted to the others to roll away, which they immediately did. "Now," said Tiktok, "you come with us and tell me what I want to know."

"You'll be sorry for treating me this way," whined the Wheeler. "I'm a terribly fierce person." "As for that," answered Tiktok, "I am on-ly a ma-chine, and can-not worry. But you are not fierce." "Why so?" asked the Wheeler. "Be-cause you are not, for you have no fists and can not scratch or ev-en pull hair. Nor have you an-y feet to kick with. All you can do is yell and shout, and that does not hurt any-one." The Wheeler burst into a flood of tears, to Dorothy's great surprise.

"Now I and my people are ruined forever," he sobbed; "for you have discovered our secret. Being so helpless, our only hope is to make people afraid of us by pretending we are fierce and terrible and writing in the sand warnings to Beware the Wheelers. Until now we have frightened everyone, but since you have discovered our weakness our enemies will fall upon us and make us miserable and unhappy. Don't tell our secret and I will do whatever you ask."