Sparks from the Press

CANADA

Income of Farmers

—An item in the New York Times tells of the income tax received from small French farmers. "The French peasant, as a rule, keeps no books," comments the article. That makes the news all the more interesting, for the government has to rely mainly on the word of the taxpayer. "One French farmer confessed last year to a profit of $17,000 on the year's farming." Others acknowledge making as high as $10,000 a year.

The majority, however, report profits ranging all the way from $100 to $1,000 a year, anything above the latter figure being exceptional. Experience of farmers in this province would appear to be much like their cousins' in France, anything above a $1,000 a year being exceptional—at least according to income tax returns.—Edmonton Journal.

Sign It Clearly

Next to an anonymous letter in our morning mail, we are most annoyed by communications bearing signatures which no one could read . . .

It is customary for the average stenographer in a business office to type the name of the Big Boss below his scrawl, which is very helpful to the puzzled reader. Sometimes one may guess at the name by checking over the officers designated on the letterhead. Too often the reader is left wholly in the dark.

It is certainly a breach of courtesy on the part of any letter writer to so scrawl his own name that it is illegible to the recipient of the communication. If those who write letters are incapable of writing their names clearly, they should at least be considerate enough to have it typewritten or printed in block letters.—Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

A Woman of Eighty

She is a woman of eighty. In her younger days she played the piano well enough to give lessons to others. Today she is still giving lessons, not because she is required to by need of money to sustain her; far from it, for the reason is she is helping others who have not the means to pay for tuition. Two little girls, daughters of a neighbor, were eager to know how to play the piano, but the depression had left their parents with little better than sufficient to pay for the necessities of life, and piano lessons were out of range. So the neighbor of eighty years comes into the picture. She brings the little girls to her home and give them lessons regularly, with the result that the gift to play the piano is not to be lost to these children of the depression years. —Lethbridge Herald

Still To Come

There is food for thought in the perfectly accurate contention of a writer in the Philadelphia Messenger that the world has yet to see either a Christian country or a Christian city. A Christian city, he says, would be a city without slums, without jails, without poverty, without unemployment, without injustice, without drunkenness, without vice, without jealousy, without hatred, without bitterness. A Christian country, the same writer holds, would be a country without guns, without luxury for the few and hunger for the many, without bribery, without graft, without oppression.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Carries a Moral

A story in the New York Times seems to carry a moral of some kind for thoughtless drivers.

As the traffic light turned on a busy corner, a frail old woman started to cross the street with a crowd. A big car brusquely nosed its way around the corner. While others scattered out of the way, the old woman stood still, seemed incapable of movement.

Just as the car seemed about to hit her, a silk-hatted man, with a cane, limped quickly to her side and swung her out of harm's way. At the same moment there was a sharp report, and the tire of the car went flat.

Talking to a nearby policeman, a few minutes later, a reporter learned that a similar incident had been happening nearly every morning, and that the silk-hatted man figured in each of them.

Following up the story, the reporter learned that the man was a former diplomat, whose foot had been crushed by an automobile; and that it was not a cane he carried, but a sword stick.

The forgotten pedestrian, who has to keep out of the way of imperious drivers, should be glad to know he has an avenger.—Guelph Mercury.

"Silly" Is Banned

But it seems rather a pity, nevertheless that Mr. Speaker should have ruled "silly" out of order. The amenities and the dignities for ever, of course—but really, the House of Commons ought to be of sterner stuff than to jibe at a little plain speaking in debate. Better, surely, that men's arguments should be called silly than that they themselves should be exhibited by Mr. Speaker as sissies in the sight of the nation.

Mr. Blackmore says he will not use the word again. "All right, Mr. Speaker," he said, "I have several others just as good." But he is boasting of course. There is no better word for silliness than "silly." That is the trouble about censoring the apt word.—Vancouver Province.

Men Canny Losers

A survey of department stores, buses, trams and street cars has demonstrated that women lose more articles than men. As a matter of fact the male of the species also mislays many things, but he knows enough to do that in the home, and then have every one else in the household hunt for them.—Brantford Expositor.

Music For The People

Music is no longer a luxury or the almost inaccessible field of a few gifted enthusiasts. It has suddenly become part of the stuff of daily life—and a very important part. As Lord Horder said recently: "I envy musicians because they 'doctor' thousands of people at one time when, as a physician, I can only attend to one patient at a time."—Winnipeg Tribune.

A Judge Defends

The moving picture industry has received so many thrusts from magistrates, judges and social workers that it is refreshing to find no less a personage than Lord Hewart, Chief Justice of England, coming to its defense. He was addressing a dinner of moving picture people and remarked that while there was a fear that films of passion and crime influenced the young people to become killers, black mailers, thieves and to lead frivolous lives, he went back to the days of his youth and recalled that while he, and doubtless millions of other boys and young men, enjoyed stories about pirates, robbers and criminals of all kinds, they had nearly all grown up normal and decent living people. Many of these stories, he said, had become classics of literature, including, for example, Oliver Twist, wherein appears the greatest burglar of all, Bill Sikes, yet the piety and virtue of the readers had been undimmed.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Badly Needed

The search for the non-glaring headlight and the 100 per cent. efficient glare-eliminating windshield must go on. The reward for the discovery will be fewer traffic accidents, thousands of lives saved annually and faster and more comfortable night driving.—Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

A Good Season

Unless the devastating floods of the mid-section of the United States have an adverse effect on tourist travel, it is confidently expected that North Bay district and other sections of Northern Ontario will enjoy even a greater business in the coming Summer season. Visitors to the Dionne babes will number 750,000, according to an estimate by persons in the know, which means a 30 per cent. gain over the number counted at the hospital last year.—North Bay Nugget.

THE EMPIRE

Big Ben

The most familiar voice in the world today is that of no mortal orator, whether king, peer, or commoner, but of a robot dictator. The deep-chested tones of Big Ben, thanks to the B.B.C., reverberate daily through the length and breadth of the globe.

Londoners accept those brazen accents as a matter of course, though many of them have paid their pence to gaze through the telescope by Boadicea's chariot on Westminster bridge, and watched Big Ben's giant paws visibly counting off eternity on his colossal dial. But, as the B.B.C.'s oversea correspondence testifies, to kinsmen in distant corners of the Empire the star performer on the ether is Big Ben.

Kipling's banjo may claim to be "Town and all that ever went with evening dress," but Big Ben, for dusky foreloopers of the Empire, is London's roar personified. His voice is that of the Empire's muezzin, daily summoning the scattered kinsmen to thoughts and memories of the Old Country.—London cor. Ottawa Journal.

Crown Prince Shows Goering Isle of Capri

General Hermann Goering, sans one of his fancy uniforms, and Crown Prince Humberto of Italy stroll on the sands of the Isle of Capri during the Nazi leader's recent visit to Italy.

Motor Deaths in Canada 1,200 Year; 1,600 Maimed

Dominion Automobile Safety Conference Corsiders the Measures To Reduce Automobile's Tragic Toll.

OTTAWA.—Self-preservation led to the formation of the Dominion Automobile Safety Council, T. Taggard Smyth, director of the council, and Montreal banker, told the National Safety Conference here.

The conference, first of its kind held in Canada, was called to promote the interests of safety on streets and highways.

During the past 10 years, said Mr. Smyth, more than 1,200 persons have been killed annually and 1,600 maimed. "Self-preservation explains the why of the council's birth, as we are each and every one of us personally and intimately interested in the work that the council has set out to do, namely, to make our public highways safe for ourselves and particularly for our women and children."

Public Enemies

Others who spoke included Senator Emile Vinck, vice-president of the Belgian Senate, Clifford W. Ham, Chicago, executive director of the American Municipal Association, and W. M. Philpott, Toronto magazine editor.

Mr. Philpott characterized the man behind the wheel as "public enemy number one in terms of highway carnage." Every year, he said, the people of Canada pay out for automobile accidents the equivalent of our annual investment in new motor cars.

"The steering wheel sends history skidding into reverse," he remarked. "Veneer of century-old civilization sloughs off in the twinkling of an eye. Charming Dr. Jerkyll becomes barbarous Mr. Hyde. Delightful drawing-room hostesses become deadly amazons intent on 'beating the red light' at all hazards. Meek little men who normally submit to life's minor roles become towering Napoleons of destruction with the power of 80 horses underfoot."

Curb Speed

Mr. Smyth summed up the aims of the council as follows:

Curbing the speed mania at all costs and the enforcement of the laws governing the slowing down on hills and at curves.

Reform of the system of granting drivers' licenses.

Obligatory periodical inspection of automobiles.

Obligatory carrying of lights by all vehicles using the highways after dark.

Further safeguarding of level crossings.

Simplification and co-ordination of traffic laws and road and drivers' signs.

Educational campaign through pulpit, platform, the radio, the press and the screen, urging respect for the laws of the road and observance of its courtesies.

Promotion of a system of recognition for careful drivers that would be Dominion wide.

Compiling of statistics and other data; issuing safety literature and furnishing public libraries therewith.

Promotion of a Dominion safety week, and acting as a connecting link between all safety bodies in Canada, having for their object the protection of human life and property on the highways.

Probation Study May Help Crime

CLEVELAND. — For 30 years Mrs. Antoinette Callaghan has shared the problems of Clevelanders in trouble. Believing she has served longer as a probation officer than any other woman in the United States, she declares increased probation work would help bring a solution to the problem of prison congestion.

Mrs. Callaghan forsees a court system under which every person convicted of a crime will receive the study of a probation officer before sentence is passed.

"By proper probation work in police court we can prevent the breaking up of a home. By keeping the home together we reduce delinquency and keep the children out of juvenile court," she said.

The nests of bald or golden eagles weigh from 10 to 12 pounds.

"Wax" used to seal letters is made of shellac and contains no wax.

The Government of Mexico is building sugar mills throughout the country.

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44-Day "Sit-Down" Ends Bargaining Begins Tues.

Newsprint Takes Forest Wealth At Great Rate

Charles Vining Asserts Industry Not Obtaining Adequate Return

TORONTO—The newsprint industry is using up Canada's wealth of forests "at a prodigious rate" and getting little for it beyond wages for the industry's workers, Charles Vining, president of the Newsprint Association of Canada, told the Canadian Club here recently.

"We are consuming our forests at a prodigious rate," said Mr. Vining. "A single Sunday issue of the New York Times means some 225 acres of our forest. The tabloid New York News, with its huge circulation, is using 60 square miles a year. The Canadian mills, during the last five years of selling newsprint at a loss, have consumed at least 4,000 square miles of forest, equivalent to a strip 12 miles wide stretching from Montreal to Toronto.

Lack Minimum Return

"If we sold our gold as we have been selling our forests, one can almost say that we would mine the gold, pay the miners and then give the gold away," said Mr. Vining as he quoted figures to show that newsprint companies were not securing a "minimum economic return."

The newsprint industry in 1936 "had an all-time high in tonnage production, but an all-time low in price," Mr. Vining said. "Last month's returns of shipments show a gain over last January of 25 per cent., and it seems safe to predict that 1937 means a new high record in tonnage production, although this rate of gain is higher than will be maintained for the full year.

"In dollars the 1937 performance is absurdly sad. Overseas prices are substantially improved, but in the North American continent, which consumes 80 per cent. of production, the 1937 contract price is up only $1.50, nearly $6 a ton lower than the 1926 price. It is no advance at all because of rising production costs."

Mr. Vining said the newsprint industry "is our largest single industrial investment with the exception of investment in Hydro-Electric power, and accounts for at least two-fifths of Canada's total power development. There are single mills which use more electrical energy each year than is used to light the cities of Toronto and Montreal combined."

Benefit to Canada

The industry brought to Canada between 1930 and 1935 "in spite of its disrupted condition, $563,000,000 from foreign sources, compared with $475,000,000 of gold production and $130,000,000 of nickel exports. Newsprint income is spent in Canada, for nearly all materials of newsprint production are of Canadian origin," he said.

Ottawa Increases Publicity Program

OTTAWA. — Advertising and publicity will play a larger part in the government's program during the next fiscal year, according to estimates tabled in the House of Commons recently.

For advertising and publicity in the United Kingdom and Europe the vote is increased from $250,000 to $350,000 while the trade and commerce vote for publicity in Canada and abroad is $65,000, an increase of $10,900. The vote of last year for the Canadian Travel Bureau was left unchanged at $250,000.

Silk underwear is now compulsory for both sexes in Germany; this aims at releasing the imported cotton for other purposes.

1,300 Strikers Quit General Motors Plants After Pact Signed — Sympathizers Shout Themselves Hoarse.

FLINT, MICH.—Three General Motors plants held by approximately 1,300 sit-downers, were returned to company police as workers quit them on the urging of United Automobile Workers of America officials.

Last barrier to the resumption of negotiations to end the General Motors strike was broken down when strikers, in quick succession, marched out of Fisher Body Corporation Plants 1 and 2 and Chevrolet No. 4.

Several thousand sympathizers who marched two miles from the main Fisher plant to the two located in the zone guarded by State militia, found the National Guardsmen had been recalled from patrol duty a few moments before.

Homer Martin, International President of U.A.W.A., drove from Detroit with members of his "Board of Strategy" to lead the evacuations.

Whistles blew, horns were sounded, strikers and sympathizers shouted themselves hoarse.

Begin Bargaining Tuesday

DETROIT.—General Motors Corporation and the United Automobile Workers have signed a three-page peace treaty under which they will begin bargaining Tuesday on wages hours and working conditions.

Just before the formal ending of the across the country, General Motors billion-dollar corporation's plant acros sthe country, General Motors granted a voluntary wage increase. All workers will receive a raise of five cents an hour, effective Feb. 15.

On the issues raised by the strike there was a compromise. For six months John L. Lewis's union—the United Automobile Workers — will have sole bargaining rights in twenty plants where strikes occurred. In return, it will remove all sit-down strikers, and allow General Motors to resume the production of automobiles as soon as possible.

Shutdown Believed Avoided

OSHAWA.—News of the signing of the agreement between General Motors and the strike organization in the United States was received with delight at Oshawa and, according to Harry J. Carmichael, Vice-President and General Manager of General Motors of Canada, probably means that the Canadian plant will avoid a shutdown. He believes that the flow of material can be resumed before present supplies here are exhaustd.

Duke Planning To Buy Estate

Move to Hungary—Edward Seeks Place With Hunting, Golf Facilities

VIENNA.—The Duke of Windsor has indicated a desire to purchase an estate in Hungary into which he can move during May, a Vienna real estate agent said last week.

(Authoritative reports recently said the former British monarch was considering marrying Mrs. Wallis Simpson in Hungary because the Hungarian attitude toward divorce and remarriage is more liberal than in Austria. Mrs. Simpson has been divorced twice.

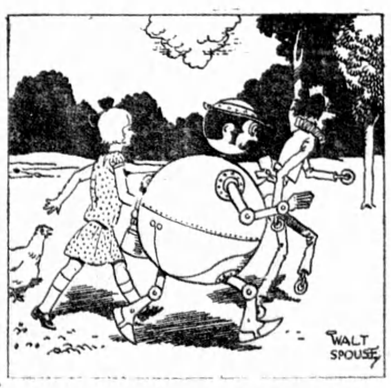
(Previous reports said the marriage date likely would be April 27—the exact day Mrs. Simpson's divorce from Ernest Aldrich Simpson probably will become final.)

The Duke, seeking a permanent home, showed interest in estates near the Austrian border, the agent declared.

He said Edward wanted a place with hunting and golfing facilities.

The Venus flytrap plant will go to sleep under the influence of chloroform, and an overdose will kill the plant.

It took our friends some time to reach the entrance to the palace grounds, and this, Dorothy and Billina spent in admiring the pretty things they saw on every side. Finally, however, they reached the palace gates and started up the path towards the palace itself, Tiktok still keeping tight hold of the captured Wheeler. Together they mounted the steps and came to an abrupt halt before the large front door upon which was tacked an enormous sign.



"Now," said Tiktok to his prisoner, when Dorothy had read the sign aloud, "you must show us the way to the left wing." "Very well," agreed the Wheeler, who seemed anxious to get away. "It is around here at the right." "How can the left wing be at the right?" asked Dorothy, who feared the Wheeler was fooling them. "Because there were three wings," replied their guide, "and two of them were torn down, so the one at the right is the only one left."

That's a trick of the Princess Langwidere to prevent people annoying her," said the Wheeler as he led the party around to the other door. Tiktok pressed the bell and the Wheeler said: "Please, may I go now?" "What's your hurry?" asked Tiktok, ringing the bell for the second time. "Youll find out," was the creature's reply. "If the Princess Langwidere is angry." Then he wrenched himself from Tiktok's grasp and in a flash was whirling rapidly away.

"Gracious," said Dorothy, "what can he have meant by that?" But before any one could reply to this question, the door in front of them was opened and they were greeted by a pretty little maid who bowed respectfully and asked: "What do you wish, good people?" "Are you the Princess Langwidere?" Dorothy asked. "No, Miss, I am her servant," was the reply. "May I see the Princess, please?" "Step in and take a seat in the drawing-room, please.