« News in Brief »

Relief Down 7½ Per Cent

MONTREAL — Federal relief figures for January show a decrease of 11 per cent in the number of heads of families on relief rolls in Canada this year, compared with the number for the same month in 1936, Labor Minister Norman Rogers revealed in an address here. The number who received relief in January this year was 7½ per cent below the figures for January 1936.

"In the light of these figures and the undoubted recovery in our industries we are entitled to face the coming months with greater confidence than at any time during the depression through which we have been passing," said Mr Rogers.

Decision Irrevocable

LONDON, — When the Princess Royal, and her husband, the Earl of Harewood returned to London, authoritative information preceded them that the former King, the Duke of Windsor has decided irrevocably to wed Mrs. Wallis Simpson as soon as her divorce is made final.

It was reported that the Duke of Windsor agreed to the sale to Queen Mary and the King of the estate at Sandringham which he personally inherited from his father, King George V.

$14,000 Sandals

OTTAWA, — Made-in-Canada sandals worth $14,000, are a coronation gift to Queen Elizabeth, it is announced.

The sandals, made in Montreal of Canadian leather and by Canadian workmen, each would be studded with 500 diamonds and 500 rubies, Sebastiani said. He added eleven other pairs of shoes would be offered her Majesty as a Coronation present.

To Aid Young Farmers

EDMONTON, — Alberta grain competitions in future will be without exhibits from Herman Trelle, world's champion grain grower. The Wembley, Alberta, wheat and oats king told an Edmonton meeting of seed growers he wanted to leave the Alberta field open to other producers, but he would continue to seek honours in shows outside Alberta.

"If you want some seed just let me know what you need and I'll send it to you," Trelle declared, after saying he intended to do everything he possibly could to help young grain growers.

Two Holidays in May

TORONTO, — This city will observe both holidays in May — the Coronation on May 12th will be a public holiday throughout Canada, and Victoria Day, May 24th, is a statutory holiday.

University examinations commence on May 1st, and are usually over before May 24, it was pointed out, and a one-day interruption of the schedule is not considered in a serious light. Coronation Day is likely to become a day of heavy "cramming" for many of the college students.

The banks will be closed in all probability on both days, and the Stock Exchange will follow suit, stated an Exchange official. "I'm not worrying anyway for I've reserved a good seat for the Coronation."

Bounty On Iron Ore

SAULT STE. MARIE, — Sir James Dunn, Algoma Steel Corporation President, told a meeting here he was authorized by Premier Hepburn to announce the Legislature would pass a bill setting a bounty of two cents a unit on siderite iron ore mined at the Helen Mine in the Michipicoten area.

Starving Herds

CALGARY, —Dead horses and cattle dotted the rangelands of Southern Alberta last week as ranchers battled to get feed and water to the starving herds.

More than forty days of subzero temperature with snow piled high over the grazing grounds, followed by a chinook which was not powerful enough to melt through the giant drifts brought about the ranchers' crisis.

Snow-drifted highways prevented the bringing of feed to the ranches a condition that exists in many districts today.

In search o ffood, herds have ranged for miles, subsisting on twigs of willows, buck brushes and other shrubs. On some ranches the cattle have not rested for weeks, maintaining a ceaseless hunt for fodder. With reservoirs frozen to the bottom, a great many of the ranchers and farmers have had to haul water to their stock. Feed is being hauled long distances where highway conditions do permit.

To Stop Reckless Driving

OTTAWA, — T. L. Church of Toronto-Broadview proposed last week to put teeth in the Criminal Code, to stop wholesale slaughter of pedestrians by reckless or intoxicated motorists. He suggested a penalty of one year's imprisonment or a fine of $200 or both for persons convicted of driving wantonly or furiously or for the causing of an accident by cutting in ahead of another motor vehicle.

Mr. Church desires a further change to prevent a person who has caused the death of another while driving an automobile to be prohibited from driving during the next ensuing two years.

He seeks to define the powers of a jury in cases of manslaughter arising out of motor car killings. He proposes an amendment authorizing the jury to decide the question of fact as to whether the accused person is guilty or not guilty on the evidence adduced. He claims there has been much criticism of many cases of gross negligence having been taken from the jury, with the result that perso guilty of gross negligence escaped.

Flu Gaining In North

TORONTO, — Reports from Mattawa say physicians are on 24-hour duty combatting an epidemic that has cut school attendance 25 per cent and forced town officials to close both high and separate schools.

In Haileybury, Dr. W. C. Arnold, Medical Officer of Health, was in the hospital under treatment for bronchial illness, while a flu epidemic closed three schools after the attendance had been cut 40 per cent. At Cobalt and New Liskeard schools remained open, although attendance had been severely cut in the former town.

At Brantford, Dr. W. Davis, of Ohsweken, Medical Superintendent, for the Six Nations Indian Reserve, reported that influenza was on the wane in his territory. A few more of the cases had cropped up, but most of those stricken in the original epidemic were well on the way to recovery.

Dominion Contributions Not Sought By Britain

LONDON, — There was no intention of calling upon the Dominions to make any contribution to a common defense fund, Neville Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared recently.

Chamberlain said the Dominions had spent a great deal of money upon perfecting or improving their own defences and that was their contribution to the common fund. No other form of contribution, that he was aware of, was under discussion at the present time.

Course in Meteorology

TORONTO — Dr. W. S. Kirkland, Principal of the Central Technical School here announced recently that establishment of a course in meteorology with experts from the Meteorological Society, may be made possible next fall.

Vote Canadian Airways Into U.S. Association

CHICAGO, — The Air Transport Association of America have announced Canadian Airways Ltd., have been voted membership and two of its officers appointed to association committees.

G. A. Thompson, general manager of Canadian Airways, was named to the association's operating committee, and T. W. Siers in charge of the line's maintenance base at Winnipeg was appointed to the maintenance committee.

Col. Edgar S. Gorrell, president of the Air Transport Association, said in a statement the Canadian line was "considered a model for its size and for the unique terrain and conditions encountered in its year-round services to points as far north as Aklavik in the Arctic."

Rush Quints Inside As Plane Appears

Sudbury Fliers Think They Were Taken for Kidnappers When They Flew Low to Get Good Look.

SUDBURY, — The Dionne quintuplets were highly interested in an airplane which was flown over Dafoe Hospital by Boyd Smith and Harold Milligan this week-end, the two airmen reported. The nurses of the hospital, however, quickly gathered up Annette, Cecile, Emilie, Marie and Yvonne and hurried them into the nursery at the first sign of the plane.

"They must have thought we were the kidnappers coming to snatch the children by airplane," grinned Milligan, in telling of the incident.

Milligan, who owns a taxi stand, recently purchased a Taylor Cub plane. With Bobby Smith at the controls, he was flying to Sudbury. As they passed Dafoe Hospital, they saw the five babies playing in the yard. Smith flew the plane low so they could get a good view.

"They kept looking up at the plane and toddling around in the yard. Then the nurses got wise to the fact that there was a plane overhead," Smith related. "They rushed out into the yard, tucked a quint under each arm and hurried them into the house."

"Did the children object to such treatment?"

"Well, they seemed very interested in the plane and kept pointing at it. They kept running away from the nurses, who had some time collecting them," replied Smith. "When they finally got on to the fact that the nurses were after them, they kept running all over the yard. Finally, each of the nurses tucked a quint under each arm and brought them kicking into the house. There was one quint left over, and a nurse came out and picked her up, too. Then we flew away."

Sporting Comment
By KEN EDWARDS

In his career, George Livingston Earnshaw pitched and won 78 games and lost 48, in the International League, won 113 and lost 71 in the American, and won 14 and lost 22 in the National, scoring 24 shutouts all told.

Remember that world famous ball tosser, Walter Johnson? He seems to have gone the way of all good athletes, by being broke and trying to keep his head up by dairy farming.

Jesse Owens, the colored flash, and his family seem to be sensible people all through. Although Jesse is today one of the greatest sprinters in the world, and despite his $50,000 plus more on the way, the Owens do not "put on the dog."

Jesse bought his mother and father a 15-room home so they could bring up the rest of the children decently.

Jesse's father, Henry, worked on an Alabama cotton plantation. . . . now he is a car washer in Ohio, even though his son is famous, he sticks to it.

The great Diz. Dean of Cardinal fame, is valued at approximately $400,000. . . . Hence Diz. is holding out for a mere $50,000 this year. He says it casual-like, with a Dizzy smile: "I've got 'em just where I want 'em."

Speaking of baseball greats, Ty Cobb was the greatest ball player who ever lived. He led the American League batters for 12 seasons and in 1915 stole 96 bases.

You have possibly heard of the Aga Khan sometime or other, in fact, he seems to be making the front page now in India. The Aga Khan is the dean of the British turf. He should be, he has sunk $4,000,000 in English livestock!

Highway Traffic Clause Is Attacked by Six Provinces

Highway Traffic Control Clause Is Challenged As Unconstitutional—Air Service Warning. Agree To Limit Control, But Protest Anything Too Drastic.

OTTAWA—The highway traffic clause of the transport bill was condemned before the Senate Railways Committee recently by bus and transport companies of Eastern and Central Canada andd representatives of six provinces.

In a day-long sitting of the committee, the Provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick protested the provision in the bill concerning Federal regulation of certain highway traffic. They claimed it was a violation of Provincial rights and unconstitutional.

FEAR FURTHER HANDICAP

Representatives of bus and transport companies followed up this objection with the claim the legislation was unnecessary and inexpedient. They said their companies were being heavily taxed by the Provincial Governments and further licensing by the Dominion would be a great handicap.

The highway traffic provision provides for Federal Government regulation of all traffic of interprovincial and international character and movements on Dominion highways.

The clause of the bill referring to Government regulation of air transport came in for comment when officials of several Western Canada air services appeared. They said limited control was possible but warned against too drastic regulation.

Irving S. Fairty, vice-president of Gray Coach Lines, Limited, Toronto, told the committee his company was regulated by the Province of Ontario in 75 ways, and "that is more control than is exercised over railways."

BUILT NEW BUSINESS

The Duff Commission found that coaches and busses were not substantial competitors of the railways, he said.

"We have practically built up a new business on our own in coach and bus operation and no railway economist would say we have ever taken more than five per cent of business that formerly went to the railways," he said. "The coach and bus business is practically cooperating with the railways."

He said bus companies were taxed heavily in Ontario and other provinces, with the average motor coach in Ontario paying approximately $935 annually to the province in various ways.

High Winds, Sleet, Snow Sweep Central Ontario

Grand River at Elora Rises to Highest Levels in Last Fifteen Years — Hydro Poles Break in Wind — Farmers In Fergus District Rush Stock to High Ground — Barns Threatened by Floods.

Snow storms, rain and sleet together with high winds, created new flood dangers throughout Central Ontario over the week-end.

The Grand River was on the rampage again and at Elora it was reported to be at the highest level in fifteen years. A tremendous ice jam at Fergus was swept out at 8.30 Sunday night. The roar of the ice break could be heard for miles.

High winds ripped off roof tops, levelled fences and smashed windows over wide areas.

Wallaceburg and Dresden were in darkness Sunday night when a score of Hydro poles were knocked to the ground.

Water in Hospital

At Penetanguishene, six inches of water flooded the main street and firemen were called to the General Hospital to pump three feet of water from the basement. The hospital fires were put out when the water flooded the furnace-room.

Worst damage was caused by the Grand River. The Canadian Legion clubrooms in Elora were flooded, and homes along the river bank for miles reported water entering basements. Two miles east of Fergus the roaring waters were brushing the bottom of Shand's Bridge, while two other bridges were reported covered by the floods. At Elora, the levee near Bissell's factory was reported to have cracked, endangering the factory and levels below.

Fergus Bears Brunt

The Fergus-Elora area bore the brunt of the floods. Several streets in both towns were under water, while farmers along the river were rushing their stock to higher land, fearing the water would sweep away barns. The Fergus-Orangeville Highway was covered with four feet of water and at one point in the river the water was said to have risen thirty feet.

To the north, torrential rains caused the most danger. Barrie, Midland and Penetanguischene all reported flooded basements and dangerous highway conditions. Six cars were stalled in a subway near Midland. Bus traffic was delayed.

Two washouts disrupted train service on the Canadian Pacific Railway near Midhurst, about eight miles north of the town. Trains are being re-routed over the Canadian National Railways tracks through Barrie.

In Kent County the storm swept in from Lake St. Clair. A score of Hydro poles were knocked down. Operations of the Dominion Glass Company were upset by loss of power. Extra men were called to work when the blowers failed. The Wallaceburg power plant on the Snye River was also affected by the storm.

Near Cyclone Rages

AILSA CRAIG, Ont.—A storm of near-cyclonic porportions swept this section of Middlesex County late Sunday causing heavy damage. The blow lasted 10 minutes.

Telephone and Hydro service was disrupted. The town was in darkness for some time, but shortly after the supper hour the lights were restored in the downtown area. Telephone service also was resumed.

Houses Surrounded

FERGUS.—Setting a new mark for the past half century, the huge Grand River ice jam started away from here with a thundering roar and within half an hour had surrounded two houses along the northerly bank with the occupants forced to vacate through three feet of water.

Four persons trapped in a frame house owned by Jack Howard, fled through a yard which resembled a miniature lake as the huge cakes of ice struck forcibly against its walls. Only a row of cedar trees, creaking loudly with the pressure of ice against them, saved the Howard home from being swept down stream on the crest of the flood.

A few hundred yards down stream men worked frantically to rescue a horse owned by L. Bala, from a stable near the river edge when the ice swirled around to a depth of several feet.

Water rose ten feet in less than an hour above the Beatty dam flooding the boiler room of the lower story with three feet of water and extinguishing the fires in both boilers.

"It's the highest I've ever seen it," declared James Gow, "and I've lived beside the river for 55 years." Gow's residence was flooded with three feet of water.

Want Lewis C.I.O. For Canadians

Clothing Workers Pass Resolution Urging Formation—Press 40-Hour Week

MONTREAL — Immediate establishment of a Canadian branch of Jno. L. Lewis's Committee for Industrial commended by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America meeting here Sunday in their third all-Canadian conference. Delegates were present from Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal locals.

The same resolution fully endorsed the organization drive in the steel industry (now in progress at Hamilton, though that city was not mentioned) and extending to the organizers the use of all available "organizing forces" of the clothing workers. They also offered " all possible financial and moral support."

The Lewis C.I.O. was formed in the United States with the object of enlisting all workers in a given industry into one big union, instead of into separate units organized on a craft basis. The Canadian conference of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in the preamble to its resoluation, extolled the C.I.O. method as vital to the preservation of labor solidarity.

Wants National Agreement

The conference also decided to press immediately for the establishment of the forty-hour work week "on a national basis." This was taken to mean that not only would a forty-hour week be a demand in the new Toronto and Hamilton contracts, where the present agreements expire next May 1, but that Montreal unions would take advantage of a clause in their brand-new contract (Jan. 1, 1937—July 1, 1938), to ask that negotiations be reopened on the subject of work hours. At present the union contracts in all three districts are on a 44 hour-week basis.

Mollison to Fly Films Of May Coronation

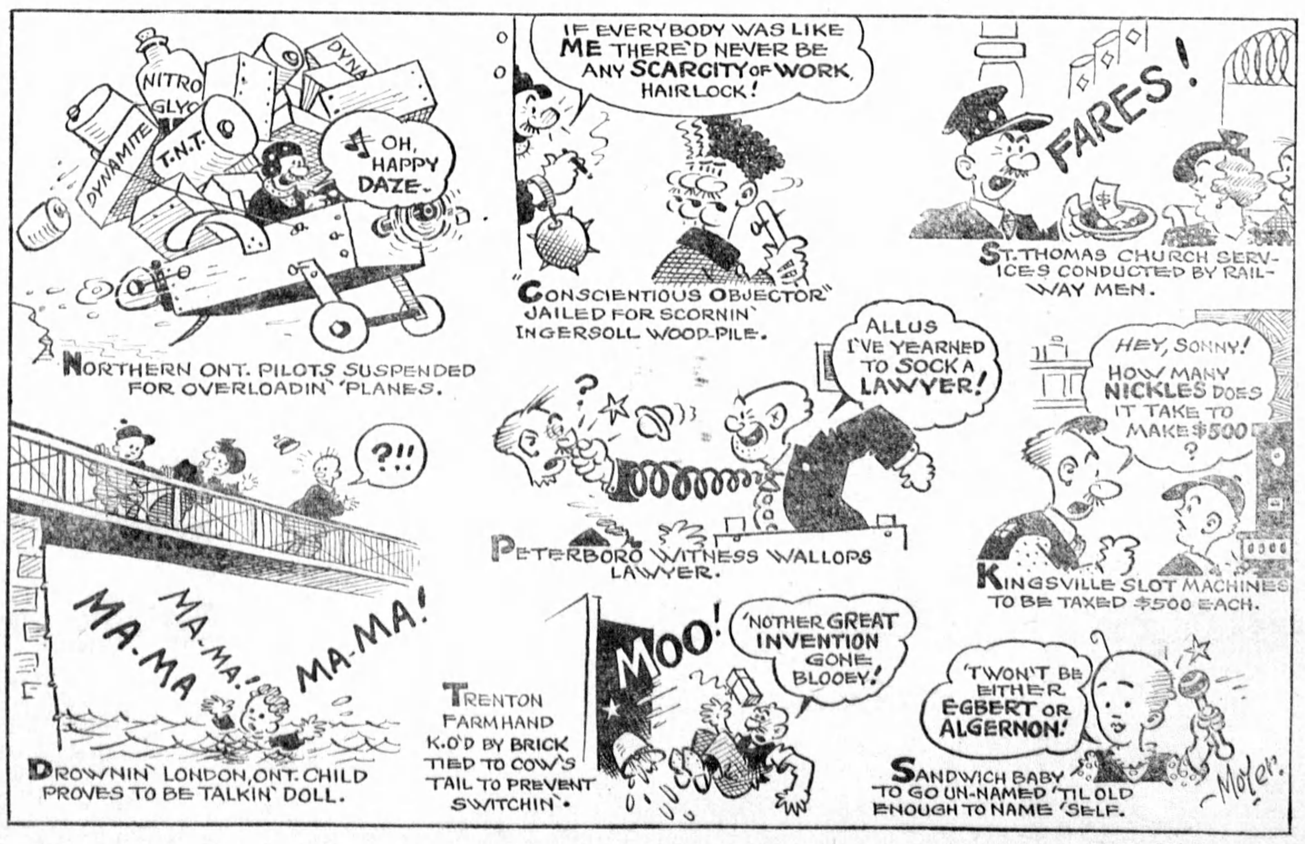
LONDON, — Captain James Mollison plans to fly films of King George VI's Coronation in May from London to New York in a plane to be built specially for him, it was reported Sunday.

The long-distance flier expected to remain in the United States until autumn, when he will use the same plane in the New York-Paris air race, commemorating the tenth anniversary of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh's history-making Atlantic hop.

Production Aid

Thousands of Acres in Eastern Ontario in Need of Drainage Surveyors Told

TORONTO.—If properly drained, the production of thousands of acres in Eastern Ontario could be greatly increased, declared Lieut.-Col. A. W. Gray, chairman of the drainage committee of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors reported to the annual convention of the association recently.

In Grenville county, the speaker said, a two-mile drain was placed and now over 20 families are making a good living from the land. No taxes are owing on the property while at least seven of the holdings were sold for taxes before drainage was installed. Much of this undrained land, he pointed out, produced inferior timber owing to the wet condition of the soil.

C. Fraser Aylesworth, charter member, urged the erection of a cairn on the ancient "post" at Kingston to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization. From this post all original surveys in Ontario were centred. Situated 75 feet from the Sir John A. Macdonald monument at King and West streets, the post is still visible several inches above the ground.