VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA
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CANADA

Cure for Floods

As has been pointed out many times by expert engineers these floods can be prevented only by carrying out extensive schemes of reforestration, together with the construction of works that will hold back flood waters and fill swamps and low places with water. Schemes of reforestration, while these will be valuable in years to come, provide no immediate remedy. This can be done only by the construction of dams and retaining basins at strategic points. The need extends over the entire province, consequently there must be cooperation between provincial and municipal government if these works are to be carried out economically and effectively. There must be some well planned comprehensive scehme. The recent warning, with its widespread damage, destruction of bridges and other property, together with much human suffering, should not pass unheeded. Without any doubt these floods will become more destructive from year to year.—Brantford Expositor.

Best Friend

A recent nation-wide pole conducted by the Institute of Public Opinion, marking the twentieth anniversary of the United States entrance into the World War, indicates that Great Britin is the most liked European nation among the American people by a wide margin.

Great Britain heads the poll with a fifty-five percent vote, with France second and Germany third. The vote in favour of Great Britain was five times greater than accorded France and almost seven times greater than for Germany. The vote by percentages was as follows:

Britain 55, France 11, Germany 8, Finland 4, Ireland 4, Italy 3, Switzerland 3, Belgium 2, Norway 2, Sweden 2, Denmark 1, Greece 1, Holland 1, U. S. S. R. (Russia) 1, all others 2. — Calgary Herald.

No First Aid

"Because no one knew how to apply a tourniquet," a boy in Sherwin township, 70 miles from Sudbury bled to death from an accidental rifle wound. That incident points forcibly to its own moral. — Kirkland Lake Northern News.

96 Years on One Farm

The oldest resident of Tilbury East Township recently celebrated her ninety-sixth birthday at the farm where she has spent practically all of her life.

In a day when a restless urge impels families and individuals to move at frequent intervals, a life spent in the same spot may seem singularly lacking in what the majority consider most worth while. It may appear secluded, uneventful, dull. But there is another side to the picture.

The old lady of Tilbury has known no other life than that of the farm. She has become part and parcel of her environment. Its interests are hers. The neighbours are her friends. The church, the school, the rural activities, have for nearly a century claimed her thoughts and her time. She has made countless friends and has played an interesting part in the development of the community. — Kitchener Record.

Our Funny Clothes

What will some citizen of the future—draped perhaps in the long and free and flowing robes which the Greeks wore, and sitting in some chromium-plated hades of a room — what will he think of us and our clothes?

The women with their funny bits of pancake perched precariously on their marcelled heads! The men with their stupid dull suits and their intricate collars!

We tremble to think what the verdict of posterity will be upon some of our magazine covers, with those lop-sided, simpering girls, with their hips out of joint and their heads larger than their bodies. That, these people of the future will imagine, was our idea of beauty!

No, the knife cuts both ways. The only thing to do is to live in the present, get what pleasure we can out of looking at our women, with their funny hats, abjure clever younger writers and struggle through the task of collecting echoes of the past, with mental blinkers on. — Hamilton Spectator.

The Return of the Beaver

Of all countries in the world Canada should be interested in the preservation of the beaver, the little animal which was largely responsible for the development of the Canadian north-west, whose pelts were at one time common currency in the territories ruled by the Hudson's Bay Company, but which has been decimated by greedy trappers attracted by the value of its fur. — Fort William Times Journal.

Means Business

Anyone who doubts that Britain is in dead earnest about rearming has only to look at the tax load the Britishers are willing to carry these days.

Before Neville Chamberlain, chancellor of the exchequer brought in his new budget, with its higher rates, the British taxpayer was shelling 22½ per cent of his income to the government in a direct tax. Beyond that he was carrying a load of "nuisance taxes whose weight can be appraised by the size of those affecting motorists.

British motorists have been paying taxes of 16 cents on each gallon of gasoline. They also pay a horsepower tax on their autos, so set up that a man who owns a 25-horsepower car must pay $125 a year for his license.

When a nation that is paying taxes at such rates submits to still heavier taxes for the sake of re-armament, it must be admitted that such a nation is decidedly in earnest about its preparedness program. — Kitchener Record.

The King's Birthday

June 9th, instead of his natal day, December 14, is to be observed in Canada as well as in the United Kingdom as the birthday of King George VI.

We out here and many papers in the East had hoped with The Ottawa Journal the Government would set May 24 for official observance of the Sovereign's birthday. For, May 24th has the appropriateness of royal associations, marking the advent of Summer, coming for Canadians as the first outdoor holiday of the year and at a season when our countryside is fresh and lovely — Victoria Times.

THE EMPIRE

Handbook for Teachers

Being issued by the Board of Education is a six hundred page handbook for teachers.

Points of the Board's new system are that good music is an essential of a child's education, that a girl should begin by learning household duties, such as ironing, cleaning silver and cooking.

Under the new regime, both boys and girls are to learn gardening, embarrassing questions about the child's personal reactions to the sentiments of a poem are to be cut out, are labelled as hypocrisy and sentimentality breeders.

Left out of future history lessons will be details of Henry VIII's matrimonial quibble, intricate policies of modern times. Children are to hear more of swashbuckling heroes like Drake and Raleigh.

Relief to the non-mathematical is that dreaded, long and complex fractions are to disappear. — London Calvacade.

Englishwoman Goes To Court Rather Than Tell Her Age

Bases Refusal on Contention That Plaintiff Would Have to Prove Her Liability

Miss Leslie Hamer, of the May Fair Hotel, London, W., was summoned at Oxford Police Court recently for neglecting to attend a summons under the seal of the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries. She pleaded "not guilty" and conducted her own defence.

It was stated that Miss Hamer had owned land in Surrey which was subject to a quit rent. The Lord of the Manor had applied to the Minister of Agriculture to have the quit rent abolished and compensation paid, for which, as it was based on the expectancy of life, it was essential that Miss Hamer should give her age. She had refused to do so, and had also refused to attend an inquiry at Oxford when she would have been asked to give her age.

Miss Hamer, giving evidence, said her contention was that she was not liable for quit rent on the land and that if she gave her age she would have to prove she was not liable, whereas, at present, the Lord of the Manor had to prove she was liable. She said she did not attend the inquiry at Oxford because the day before she went to the Ministry of Health, and saw an official, and as a result of the conversation she understood that she would try and settle the matter with the Lord of the Manor himself. Miss Hamer said she still refused to give her age.

The summons was dismissed. The case, it was stated, was the first of its kind in England.

Quints Thriving

Gained in Height and Weight During Past Month

CALLANDER, Ont., — Just a month from their third birthday the Dionne quintuplets stepped on the scales and laughed up at Dr. Allan Roy Dafoe as he marked up their weights and measured their height.

Three of the quints have gained in height during the past month and four of them put on weight. Yvonne had a slight cold for a few days and dropped half a pound, but she could well afford it.

Marie, smallest of the quints, produced a tooth, a quarter inch of height and four ounces of weight. She and Emile lead the teeth parade with 17 each now. The others have 16.

The gain brought Marie's height to 34 inches, the same as Emilie's. Cecile gained half an inch to reach 34¾ inches. Annette put on an eighth of an inch to hit 34 5-8, and Yvonne remained at 34½.

Here are their weights in pounds and ounces with the gain from March 28th:

Yvonne, 30 lbs, 8 ozs. loss 8 ounces. Anette, 31 pounds, 8 ounces gain of 12 ounces; Cecile, 31 pounds, gain of 16 ounces; Emilie, 30 pounds, gain of 16 ounces; Marie, 27 pounds, gain of 4 ounces.

News Parade

By Peter Randal

LABOR MARCHES

There was a touch of summer in the air. Perky little suits and hats bobbed along Yonge Street as their owners attended to the usual Saturday morning shopping. The last strokes of twelve rolled heavily from the City Hall tower and men in new uniforms swarmed down University Avenue. Quiet little knots of people linked into a procession, each recognizing his neighbor by the little red ribbon of organized labor. Workmen, factory hands, shopgirls all formed part of Toronto's annual May Day Parade. There were speeches in Queen's Park and the evening newspapers reported all quiet on the labor front.

But was all quiet? There are those who sense a subtle difference in this year's labor parade. They say it was better organized, larger, while many of the banners carried the letters C. I.O. Mr. Hepburn is one of those said to have sensed the difference. A conference was held with the leader of the Conservative opposition and the subject of discussion hinged on the possible formation of a coalition government to face this new force in the land. The Honourable Earl Rowe is said to have had hurried conferences with Mr. Bennett, who was about to sail for the Coronation, and other members of the Conservative campaign division and the answer, if there was any, was no.

It may well be that the powers had reason to think seriously. Federal authorities estimate a C.I.O. membership in Canada before the end of the present year. Organizers are even now at work in five industries including the automobile industry, the rubber industry, the mining industry, the textile industry and the steel industry. Danger signals have begun to fly all over the industrial map of Eastern Canada. Settlement of the General Motors strike at Oshawa, though not a C.I.O. victory, was far from a definite defeat and the readiness with which the auxiliary divisions of the industry have signed agreements based on the terms of the Oshawa peace pact is ample evidence of the new found power of this organization.

Will labor be satisfied with the meeting of its industrial demands? The actions of government leaders and the opinions of many leading Canadians seem to foreshadow the entry of a new and stronger labor party into politics.

AND THERE

In England they are really kicking about the income tax and with a far bigger reason than the average Canadian. Under the new budget announced by Neville Chamberlain the prosperous Englishman must pay the government one dollar out of every four he makes. There were kicks from without the Conservative fold but also from within. These were the most important as having a possible bearing on Mr. Chamberlain's elevation to the Prime Ministership on the retirement of Mr. Baldwin. But Mr. Chamberlain shrugs his lean shoulders and explains that his "soak the rich" policy is only one means of attempting to raise the price of Britain's rearmament program. $7,500,000,000 is a lot of money but in these precarious times, John Bull thinks it none too much.

FLOODS AT HOME

But Western Ontario had more to worry about than mere economic unrest in the past week. The forces of nature rebelled and the strongest government can do little against rivers which rise twenty-eight feet above their normal levels in the course of a single night. A train was wrecked, houses were dashes to pieces, dams and bridges were swept away. Five people lost their lives, ten thousand were driven from their homes and the repair bill is variously estimated at from $3,500,000 to $5,000,000. Chairman E. V. Buchanan of the London Public Utilities Commission says it will be a year before the damage to the city water system has been repaired. So high has been the loss that a plebiscite on a proposed addition to Victoria Hospital, long a cherished project, has been dropped. According to insurance companies, few people carried flood insurance. For years they have thought of Ontario as a haven of security out of which they might peep at the devastation of flood, famine and dust storms so characteristic of the United States of the Middle West. Now it is a different story. Many are suddenly realizing that these visitations are not acts of God but the results of civilized greed. If Canada has been spared until now, it is only because our capacity has not allowed us to keep up with our American contemporaries. Too many forests have been cut down. Too many swamps have been drained. Some system of water storage must be devised to take the place of these natural distributors. Already engineers are studying the possibilities of controlling the rivers of Western Ontario and it is to be hoped that the results will bear fruit in something more concrete than academic discussion.

BLOCKADE RUNNER

Things are happening so swiftly in Great Britain that it seems almost too much for one government to handle. Many think it is too much and that the present government leaves a good deal to be desired. For instance there is a very indefinite British foreign policy in regard to Spain. For weeks British freighters were forced to lay with rotting cargoes in French ports while thousands of civilians starved in beleagued Bilbao. It wasn't the British navy that took the situation into its own hands, in an attempt to break the blockade of the insurgent Spanish fleet, but Captain David (Potato) Jones of the Seven Seas Spray. With typical bulldog determination, Potato Jones defied the blockade, helped a little it must be admitted, by the presence of a great British battlecruiser which rolled, as if by accident, into the Spanish line of fire. Other food ships have followed the example of the Seven Seas Spray and the blockade is ended. General Franco is said to be pleaty angry about it and back in London, Potato Jones is the hero of the hour.

TAX HEADACHES: HERE

There were a great many headaches last week and it wasn't only the stock market. Income tax returns had to be filed. To most of us, a few dollars would look like prosperity but one London, Ontario, man had so much of it that it cost him $4,000,000 in government tribute. An Irishman would say that it almost pays to be poor.

HUMANITY TAKES A HAND

The storm signals are up at Bilbao and the pilots of several Eureopean ships of state are wondering just what will happen next. Last week, the insurgents massacred 800 civilians at the ancient Basque capital of Guernica. The operation was carried out, it is charged by Loyalists, by German planes and directed by German officers. Great Britain and France have determined that such a death shall not come to the 300,000 civilians, mostly women and children, now in Bilbao. Ignoring the protests of General Franco, arrangements have been completed for their evacuation to places of safety on French and British soil. On the heels of this action comes word that Hitler and Mussolini intend to ignore demands that they withdraw their troops from Spain.

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

The war in Spain must take a back seat to the great Coronation pageant to take place in London next week. From far off India, fabulous princes are even now on their way to the centre of the Empire. But the common people of India will not be there. They are protesting against the new constitution imposed upon them by British diplomacy or lack of it. From every Empire country, in fact from the whole world people continue the movement toward London. Great plans have been made for their reception. Hotels are booked to capacity. Seats along the coronation route are selling as high as $200. The parks will be thrown upen the night before the big event for those who want to sleep on the ground. All in all, Great Britain expects to make approximately $30,000,000 out of the big show. But behind the scenes things are not moving as smoothly as they might. 25,000 busmen have seized upon the opportunity to strike for a seven and a half hour day knowing that their demands must be met before the Coronation if traffic is not to become hopelessly jammed. The strike is now on and no settlement in sight.

A KING—RETIRED

In a sleepy little courtroom at Ipswich, a job lot of divorces were made final this week. Workmen were hammering on Coronation decorations outside as the famous divorce case of Simpson was finally closed. It was distinguished from many others of its kind only by a different cypher. A young man in St. Wolfgang, Austria hastily packed his bags and began a dash across Europe. It was soon ended at the Chateau de Cande in France. They say Edward smiled for the first time in months. Wedding plans are in the air and the Empire awaiting the crowning of his brother can but wish him the happines which he gave so much to obtain.

Ontario Revenues Soar $2,000,000 Over Estimate

Jumps to $9,313,000 — Actual Surplus Makes More Certain Reduction in Motor License Fees, Announces Premier Hepburn

TORONTO.—This week, Premier Hepburn forecast an actual surplus of $9,313,000 in Ontario Government revenues, instead of $7,343,000 as estimated in his March budget speech.

He attributed the increase from succession duties and stated further that the Lands and forests Department would make "a little more certain" the reduction of license fees for passenger motor vehicles.

In his Budget speech the Premier hinted strongly that the reduction granted commercial vehicle users might be extended to include owners of passenger cars if finances warranted such action. No other cuts in taxation are planned for the immediate future. The savings passed on to the taxpayers already total $9,600,000, it was revealed.

Soaring revenues in various Government departments had been responsible for the two-million dollar addition to the surplus, the Premier declared, revealing also that his Government had been able to keep within his forecast of a reduction of $33,000,000 in gross provincial debt.

Rumors of an impending election were groundless, Mr. Hepburn stated. He did not believe, he said, that there was any public demand for an election.

News In Review

North Bay Plans Licenses For All Tourist Homes

NORTH BAY, — Steps to license homes catering to summer tourists were taken by the North Bay City Council last week. Second reading was given to a by-law providing for zoning the city for this purpose, with fees ranging from $10 to $20.

Alderman C. Tremblay was outspoken in his objection. "The rates," he declared, "were unreasonable in fact, the by-law is uncalled for."

North Gets Planes

SAULT STE MARIE, ONT., — The Ontario Air Service will have twenty-four airplanes for forest fire suppression and detection work this summer, Director George Ponsford has announced. Two new planes are being manufactured at the hangar here.

One of the new planes ordered will be placed at Port Arthur and the other at Sioux Lookout. Both are of the semi-transport type, making them available for both suppression and detection flying. They are equipped with two-way-voice radio.

Two aircraft were built in the hangars here last year. The engine is now in a third, while the fourth will not be ready until June.

Canada — Haiti Pact

OTTAWA. — A commercial agreement between Canada and Haiti giving most-favoured nation treatment in tariff matter has been signed Hon. W. E. Euler, Minister of Trade and Commerce announced this week. The pact was signed on April 23rd on behalf of Canada by the British Miniseter of Port-au-Prince, Haita.

The agreement provides for the extension of most-favoured-nation treatment in tariff matters by each country to the products of the other for a period of one year, but will remain in force thereafter until denounced on six months' notice before being given by either party.

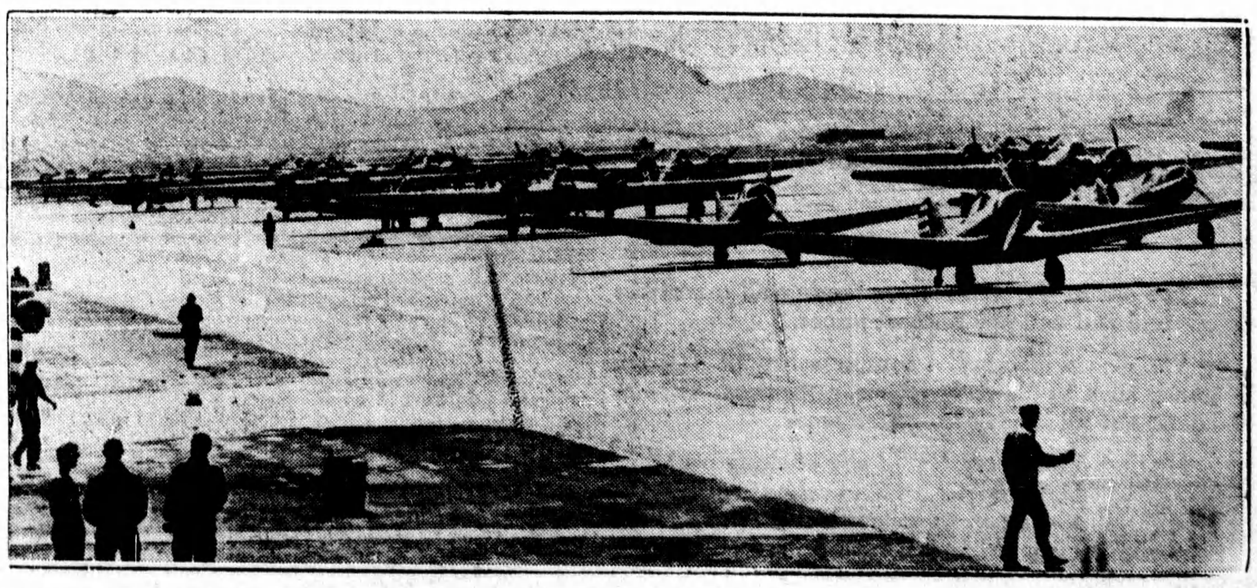
The new commercial agreement assures that Canadian goods imported into Haiti will be granted the benefit of the minimum tariff of that country, in place of the maximum tariff, which is double the minimum tariff.

The chief products exported from Haiti-Canada to Haiti are flour, salted ond smoked fish and rubber tires, while imports consist chiefly of sisal, istle and tampico fibre.

B. C. Newspaper Classed Among 11 Best Weeklies

VERNON, B.C., — The Vernon News, published by W. S. Harris, in this twon 200 miles west of Vancouver, has been included in the "all-star 11" of American weekly newspapers, chosen by Professor John Casey, the head of the School of Journalism, the University of Oklahoma.

War Game Bombers



A squadron of huge army bombing planes make a picture of deadly beauty as they line up at Murdoc Dry Lake, Cal., before taking air for war games.