VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA
THE EMPIRE
THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

A Little Too Far

And suppose the theatres stopped the show every few minutes to talk about acidity, mouth wash or auto parts.—Brandon Sun.

Million Accidents

Ontario has had a million accidents since 1915. There is evidently lots of field for such organization as the Safety League to work in.—Peterborough Examiner.

What Police Are For

In the very existence of a revolver are potentialities of tragedy. Tens of thousands of Canadians who now own such weapons would be better advised to depend on police for their protection. That is what police are for.—Edmonton Journal.

Troubles Would Be Multiplied

If government loans were made too easy to obtain, there is reason to fear that the farmer, whose present difficulties arise from too heavy a load of debt, would find before long that his troubles had been multiplied instead of being banished.—Fort William Times-Journal.

No "Free Hand" Possible

How can Britain and France agree to the chief objective of the Hitler regime—a free hand in central Europe? What is meant is annexation of German sections of Czechoslovakia and Austria. France, for instance, has defensive and offensive treaties with the little Entente nations. —Niagara Falls Review.

Underpaid Teachers

It is easy enough to criticize school teachers and to say some of them have not the necessary qualifications for their duties, but school teachers are human beings who must live like everyone else. And if we think so little of the duties of the teaching profession that we withhold from the members of that profession adequate rewards for the services they perform, then the responsibility is not upon the teachers at all, but upon the whole population.—Halifax Herald.

Ontario's North

Premier Hepburn forecasts a far-reaching program of Northern Ontario development.

"We must now turn our eyes," the head of the Government says, "to Northern Ontario and recognize its potentialities, for the hope of this province lies, to a great extent, in the North."

What Mr. Hepburn says is generally recognized. The wealth of the North has contributed in large measure to the progress of this province for a good many years now. It is generally recognized, also, that only a start has been made, that the greatest development lies ahead.—Windsor Daily Star.

Dangerous Pedestrians

If a motorist creates a traffic hazard by pushing through stop lights, by excessive speed and by erratic driving, to an almost similar degree does a pedestrian create a traffic hazard by disobeying traffic signals, darting out from the curb between intersections and generally proceeding as though in a mental fog. If it is fair and reasonable, as it is, to punish a motorist for driving to the common danger, why is it not equally fair and reasonable to penalize a pedestrian for walking to the common danger? Heaven knows we would not increase the burdens of the average man afoot, who has enough to do dodging careless drivers. But just as there is a type of hopeless motorist who needs to be disciplined, so is there a type of defiant, discourteous and reckless pedestrian who needs to be curbed.—Vancouver Sun.

No Such Thing As "Wind-Burn"

When the people talk of wind-burn they are talking about something that does not exist. Scientists at New York University found by test that wind does not produce chapping or redness of the skin, but that it merely makes the action of the sun greater by reducing the moisture of the skin. Wind itself does not redden the skin, but it helps the sun do it. The ultra-violet rays of the sun cause sunburn, and these act more violently on skin that has been dried with the wind.

Since the construction of a new road, a railroad, waterway, airway and motor highway all meet at one point in the village of Tushino, near Moscow.

A—O

THE EMPIRE

Our Trade With India

A feature of the returns for the current fiscal year is the greater trade with the Union of South Africa and with Canada. Neither Dominion enjoys any preference in the Indian market and Canada at least feels aggrieved, as she given Indian products preferential treatment. Both the Union and Canada are in a strong position, as in most years India exports much more to them than they send to her. In the first three months of this year, however, Canada's exports to India were three times their value in the corresponding period of 1936 and trade between the two countries almost balances. This situation is not wholly normal, and the Canadian Government is likely to ask for trade negotiations once those in London are over.—Calcutta Statesman.

Democracy at Bay

Agglomerations of individuals throughout the world are agitating for justice being meted out to China. There is not on record an instance of even one solitary body agitating for placidity being the policy in regard to Japan. It remains, therefore, for the peoples of the various nations to assert their wills. Recently we wrote about the Popular Front coming to Asia. By that we did not mean Communism in all its crudeness. What we meant, and we make the explanation in view of the fact that we have been told that our policy is rather inclined toward the "red" policy, is that we stand first and foremost for the pure principles of democracy, which actually means equality in all things national and international. When one considers that throughout the world there are millions of liberally-minded people, one realizes what enormous power is virtually at the back of China. The cause of China is the cause of Democracy.—Hong Kong News.

Airplane Pilots' Asbestos Suits

Will Enable British Flyers to Land Blazing Ship and Escape

British air pilots are to fly in fireproof clothes—asbestos suits in which a man could sit in a petrol blaze without serious injury.

Ground fire-fighting trials with heavy asbestos suits have produced the new flying type, said to be lighter than the lined flying suits now worn by R. A. F. men. The material is closely woven light asbestos. The flyer wearing such a suit has time after catching fire in the air to land his plane and escape. In an ordinary fabric flying suit a pilot cannot.

Tests have shown that a pilot cannot stand the heat of a real blaze in his plane for more than a few seconds.

An injured man in a fireproof suit could live some time in a crashed blazing plane until rescuers pulled him clear. The suit consists of an overall "teddy bear" suit, helmet, gloves and emergency visor.

Centenarian Eggs Perplex Customs

Australian Officials Are Worrying About the High Duty on 100-Year-Old Ovoids from China.

Customs officials of the Australian Government are now pondering on a problem which is taxing their ingenuity. They are trying to decide whether they should reduce the tariffs on imported eggs so as to allow the entry of 100-year-old eggs which the Chinese of Australia badly want but cannot get.

These ancient eggs are a great delicacy in China. They are encased in a thick coating of dried mud and you can hear the contents of the shell rattle when you give it a shake.

Venerable Delicacies

Chinese egg exporters say that it would not be worth their while to send these venerable delicacies to Australia while the customs duties are so high. On the other hand, Australian egg producers are protesting emphatically against the importation of eggs, and they argue that they can supply all Australia's egg requirements.

But this argument does not help the Chinese residents who, longing for eggs of the centenarian type, say they can only get those which are less than a week old, and so fresh that they upset Chinese stomachs.

And so, while trying to foster trade between China and Australia, the customs officials are mopping their brows in an effort to please all the parties concerned.

Planes Reveal Unscaled Peak

Climbers Will Study Animal Life on Unexplored Mountain Top in Venezuela

An expedition soon will attempt to climb Mount Auyantepuy, hitherto unscaled peak in southern Venezuela, the American Museum of Natural History announces.

Existence of the mountain was revealed by airplanes as access to it is shut off to the north by impenetrable forest and to the south by unexplored Brazilian jungle. No Everest in height—it rises only 8,000 feet—it has a huge flat summit, 300 square miles in area.

Enormous Plateau

The expedition, now at Ciudad Bolivar in Central Venezuela, will fly to the base of Auyantepuy, establish a main camp at about the 5,000-foot mark and from there push to the top.

Dr. George H. H. Tate of the museum, will lead the party. Dr. Tate took part in two previous expeditions to neighboring peaks in 1928 and 1929. The area is believed to have been at one time an enormous plateau which through the centuries has been eroded into a series of separate mountains.

Main object of the expedition will be to study bird and mammal life on the isolated mountain top.

Christmas Day Programs

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation Schedule For December 25th

All programs will be carried over the CBS National Network.

(Eastern Standard Time used throughout)

9.50 a.m.—Official opening of the Ontario Regional Transmitter, CBL. Inaugural Message from the Honourable C. D. Howe, Minister or Transport.

10.00—The King's Message.

10.10—Continuation of Official Opening.

10.30—Music by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Ernest Macmillan, and the Mendelssohn Choir, conducted by Dr. H. A. Fricker.

11.00 a.m.—Christmas Morning Service from St. James Cathedral, Toronto.

12.00 noon—"The Christmas Stocking," a children's fantasy.

1.00 pm.—Special Christmas Day program from the Vatican.

2.00 p.m.—Metropolitan Opera Company, Gounod's "Romeo and Juliet."

5.00 p.m.—"Canadian Christmas," a panorama of Canadian Christmas scenes.

6.30 p.m.—"The Animals' Christmas," a tal by Dan McCowan.

8.00 p.m.—"Reindeer Christmas," a play written by Her Excellency, Lady Tweedsmuir; from Toronto.

8.30 p.m.—"Yuletide Music"; from Vancouver.

9.00 p.m.—N.H.L. Hockey Broadcast.

10.30 p.m.—NBC Symphony Orchestra with Arturo Toscanini conducting.

11.30 p.m.—Canadian Press News; weather forecast.

Britain Studies Evacuation Plan

For Larger Centres — Air Raid Precautions For City of London

LONDON.—The air raids precautions bill received third reading in the House of Commons without division and was sent to the House of Lords.

Home Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare, defending the bill against Labor attacks, declared the "best defence for London is a strong and vigorous air force, capable of tying down the enemy's air force to local defence."

He announced the air raid precautions department would be re-organized along service lines.

Sir Samuel said the government regarded the question of evacuating civilian populations in the event of air attack as "very urgent." A new clause had been added to the bill, he said, to permit the government to proceed with plans for transferring populations in emergency, as well as for the care of refugees.

There are more than 600 broadcasting stations in the United States.

Movie Star Dust Radio

By VIRGINIA DALE

Half of Hollywood is diligently searching for giddy comedies, the sort that have made Carole Lombard and Irene Dunne outstanding stars. The rest of the film colony figure that the public is going to be fed up on loony antics soon, and are getting ready to delve into very serious film biographies.

Garbo still wants to do a comedy, but has turned down four stories that the studio has submitted to her. Kay Francis is all set to launch into a laugh epic. Tyrone Power and Loretta Young have started work on "Her Masterpiece," hoping that it will be as entertaining as their current "Second Honeymoon."

Kay Francis

In the biographical division, there is the life of Clara Barton in which Irene Dunne will star, the life of Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, in which Tyrone Power will be featured, and the life of George Sand, woman novelist, which will star the dainty Annabella.

In the latest radio poll Charlie McCarthy, to no one's surprise, is voted the most popular radio star, and by a wide margin, too. The great hit of the ventriloquist's dummy and the growing appeal of Betty Lou, that imaginary character on the Vallee hour, has set radio sponsors to looking for novelties. And the next one to bid for your approval will be a talking parrot. Sketches are all written for the bird, but the feathery star itself has not been located. It seems that all the tryouts have been a failure.

It takes a long time to score success in radio, motion pictures, and on the stage, so it is a good idea to start at the age of eleven as Joy Hodges did. She is almost twenty-one now and can point with pride to the months when she sang on the radio with Ted Fio Rito's and Ozzie Nelson's orchestras. You will see her on the screen in Universal's "Merry Go Round of 1938" and she is playing the lead with George Cohan in the outstanding Broadway hit of the year, "I'd Rather Be Right," which spoofs the New Deal in amiable fashion. She supported herself all through her four years at Des Moines high school by singing at revival meetings and on the radio.

When you see Carole Lombard in "Nothing Sacred," and Barbara Stanwyck in "Breakfast for Two," you may assume that a course in boxing is a necessary part of every screen actress' training. Barbara puts on gloves and goes after Herbert Marshall for all she is worth, pummeling and swinging until you begin to fear that Marshall will have to play masked bandit roles the rest of his life. Carole doesn't stop for gloves or any such niceties. She just goes into a slap-happy routine with Fredric March with no holds barred.

The M-G-M- radio hour, improving every week, is going to be even better, because it has been decided to concentrate more on comedy. Ted Healy, who hasn't had a chance really to distinguish himself in their pictures, has walked off with all the honors in their radio shows. All inquiries about audience reaction bring Healy specialties. You will be getting them from now on. Soon R. K. O. will launch a radio hour with Milton Berle as master of ceremonies—probably late at night so that it won't interfere with your going to the theater to see their pictures.

Milton Berle

ODDS AND ENDS—Grand National has ambitious plans to star Tex Ritter, Ken Maynard and Ruth Mix in one big super-Western . . . When you hear a dog barking in the radio serial "Pepper Young's Family," it isn't a sound-effects man at work. It is the well-trained pet of Jean Sothern, regular member of the cast . . . Charlie Farrell, encouraged by the great come-back of his former partner, Janet Gaynor, is going to try a comeback too, with Paramount . . . Eleanor Holm had to swim alongside two aligators in "Tarzan's Revenge." Two rifle marksmen stood by just in case . . . Latest actor to want Olivia de Havilland to play opposite him in a Broadway stage play is Brian Aherne, but she still says "No" . . . Voting will begin soon for best screen performance of the year and Charles Boyer is likely to win for his portrayal of Napoleon in "Conquest" . . . Meanwhile several radio sponsors have voted Nadine Conner, currently subbing for Jeannette MacDonald Sunday nights, the best woman singer on the air.

B. C. Introduces Borstal System

Reformatory For Younger Offenders To Be Built At Burnaby

VICTORIA.—Premier T. D. Pattullo said last week that his government intends to establish an institution run on the lines of the "Borstal System" for British Columbia's youthful delinquents.

The system would be introduced for delinquents between the ages of 18 and 25 years, the Premier assured a deputation representing the John Howard Society for Penal Reform.

He said it would be inaugurated in Burnaby municipality, near Vancouver, in the former premises of the Home for the Friendless, which the Government purchased after that charitable-religious institution was closed following a Government investigation.

To Promote Good Conduct

Headed by Right Rev. H. E. Sexton, Bishop of Columbia, the deputation offered the co-operation of the John Howard Society in the after-care work of the Borstal system, whereby youths are supervised for two years after leaving a penal institution.

The original Borstal system, introduced at Borstal prison, Kent, in 1902, divides prisoners into three progressive classes to which they may be promoted by industry and good conduct. It also seeks to train them in a craft they may practice after leaving the institution.

See Ancient Libya A "Granary" Again

Colonists Under Balbo Restore Fertility to Desert

Guided by the iron hand of Marshal Italo Balbo, the colony of Libya, Africa, is slowly but steadily reconquering its ancient place as the "granary of the empire."

Cyrenaica, with an area of 73,000 square miles long neglected by the plow, has conquered the invading desert sands. After the Romans left, Cyrenaica became a waste.

During July, the African colony furnished Italy with 21,000 quintals of hard wheat. (A quintal is slightly more than three and one-half bushels.)

Bumper Cereal Production

Although official statistics for this year's crop are not yet available, agricultural experts estimate that the province of Tripoli alone has yielded approximately 150,000 quintals of barley and 36,000 quintals of wheat.

All the potential resources of the colony are being gradually exploited to make the production sufficient for its expanding population and to emancipate the fatherland from the importation of certain products. This ambitious goal already has been attained for cellulose by the intensive cultivation of alpha, a crop that is particularly abundant this year.

Italian colonists hope that, weather conditions remaining favorable, the production will reach its peak next year. It is also hoped that the present maximum of 16 quintals per hectar will be improved through greater use of choice seeds and chemical fertilizers.

News In Review

Insurgents' Mistaken Bombing

HENDAYE, Franco-Spanish Frontier.—Spanish Government dispatches reported last week that insurgent airmen inflicted serious damage and casualties in a mistaken bombardment of their own field base at Villafranca del Ebro on the north-eastern war-front.

Insurgents resumed bombardment of Madrid, damaging Government barricades in the University City and Casa de Campo areas. Government reports were that 15 persons were killed and more than 30 wounded.

Canada Has No "Treasury"

REGINA. — Hon. N. W. Rowell, chairman of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial relations, warned this week against an apparently widespread assumption that "some kind of treasury exists at Ottawa from which unlimited sums may be drawn for useful public purposes."

"We've pretty nearly reached the point where Canada cannot increase its public debt further; rather, it must be reduced," Mr. Rowell said.

Fatal Explosion

HAMILTON.—Three workmen were killed and one slightly injured by explosions and fire that destroyed the $200,000 benzol recovery unit of the Steel Company of Canada plant. Bodies of the three were recovered.

Will Challenge Validity

TORONTO. — Premier Hepburn of Ontario announced last week-end that unless the Federal Government agrees to permit the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission to export surplus power to the United States, the Ontario Government, with support of Quebec, will challenge the validity of federal legislation imposing the prohibition on export.

Spy Condemned

PRAHA, Czechoslovakia.—A Czech military court this week pronounced the first death sentence for military espionage since introduction of an espionage law in May, 1936.

The man condemned was Josef Bradi, minor official of Asch, a town in Northwest Czechoslovakia. The country for which he was convicted of spying was not disclosed.

Record Gold Production

OTTAWA.—A record Canadian production of gold aggregating close to $145,000,000, is reported by the Department of Mines for the year now ending. Last year the output totalled about $130,000,000. Experience shows that in December the production is always stepped up, the companies cleaning the mills of all the ore on hand.

Professional Murders

PARIS.—Two women who had answered help wanted advertisements inserted in newspapers by Eugene Weidmann, confessed executioner for a murder-for-profit ring, are now reported missing.

Investigating police said they feared that the two women may have met the same fate as Mme. Jeanne Keller, sixth of Weidmann's known victims, whose body was found in a Fontainebleau forest grave. His confession that he had killed Jean DeKoven, young Brooklyn, N.Y., dancer, started the prolonged investigation.

British Note to Japan

LONDON.—Great Britain last week-end sent a formal protest to Japan, demanding "actual measures" to halt attacks on British vessels. The note, which turned out to be milder than the American protest, which President Roosevelt sent to Japan, over the sinking of the U.S.S. Panay, asserted that the Tokio Government failed to carry out previous promises to respect British lives and property in China.

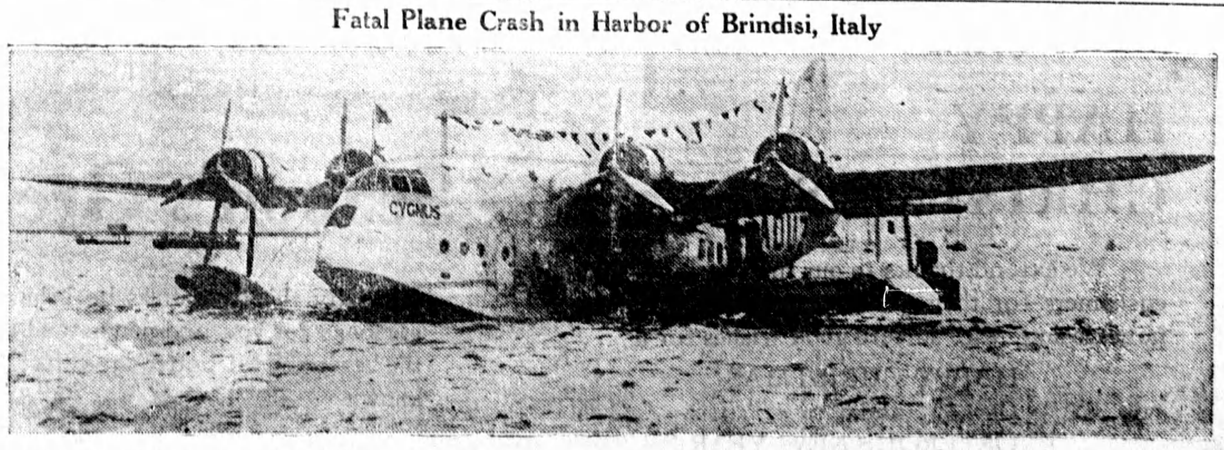
The note was despatched after Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the House of Commons that Britain would not be satisfied with the mere note of apology delivered by Japan.

South China Conflict Expected

SHANGHAI. — Leaders of Japan's armed forces were reported this week to be preparing a great drive into South China to complete their conquest of this war-ravaged nation. Reports of the impending South China invasion, which would bring Japan into even graver collision with British interests, came from many quarters.

British railways now employ nearly 600,000 persons.

Fatal Plane Crash in Harbor of Brindisi, Italy



The Imperial Airways huge flying boat "Cygnus" crashed and sank to the bottom of the harbor at Brindisi, Italy, while en route to London from Karachi, India. A member of the crew and six were killed.