News Parade

Commentary on the Highlights of the Week's News . . . by Peter Randal

HELPING HAND: Many of the heavy German shells fired by Spanish insurgent soldiers into Loyalist ranks the past few weeks did not explode. They did no damage, killed no one, because they had been filled with sawdust by munition workers in the German factories where they were made. Not being allowed under the Nazi regime to say a word or perform any act of sympathy towards the Spanish Loyalists, these factory workers found an indirect but marvellously effective way to aid their fellowmen in another country.

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RAY OF HOPE: An all-time record for moisture during the month of February has been achieved on the Regina plains. The heavy snowfall did it. The dry southwest areas of Saskatchewan the past week were blanketed in a welcome coat of white, in some places twelve to eighteen inches deep. Crop prospects have brightened very considerably, especially since this precipitation of snow follows upon the heavy rains of last autumn.

Chances for a good crop are better than they have been for many a long year. Let us hope the West will get a break in 1938.

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CUTTING OFF ONE'S NOSE? It is difficult to understand just why Great Britain is moving toward making a loan of large sums of money to Mussolini. Italy's financial position has been very shaky for the past year. Without substantial aid from an outside power, the Fascist regime might very well face collapse.

If Britain now extends a loan, Mussolini's hand will be strengthened for further depredations in the east; she will be in a position to finance another "volunteer" army expedition into Spain. Italy will be more powerful than ever in the Mediterranean.

But that is what Britain in the long run does not want, because the Mediterranean is her "lifeline" to the Near East and India.

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PERMANENT CAR MARKERS: A plan has been presented to the Toronto Board of Police Commissioners proposing that permanent license plates replace the present yearly markers on Ontario cars. It is suggested that larger plates be used, five inches by 16 for the front and 12 x 14 for the rear. These would be welded to the body of the car and colored stickers attached to windshields would indicate that the yearly fee had been paid.

Sounds grand. If we had the same plates year after year, maybe we could remember our license number.

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BRAVE WOMAN: Ishbel MacDonald, daughter of the late British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, is not a snob. Neither is she a coward. This former hostess at No. 10 Downing Street, London, last week disclosed her plans to marry the village "handyman" of Speen, Buckinghamshire. A former house painter, electrician's helper, ditch-digger, drum-player in the village band, Miss MacDonald's fiance has been a regular customer at the "Old Plow," an inn which she operates.

Miss MacDonald does not allow worry over "what people will say" to stand between her and happiness.

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PRISON FINDINGS: Shortly to be presented to Parliament at Ottawa is the report of the Royal Commission on penitentiaries, a tabulation of findings made during a thorough investigation of Canada's prison system. It is expected there will be some "eye-openers" on how the penal situation is administered, and a number of very definite recommendations for reform.

The report should indeed be valuable, since the Commission took care to hear the evidence in private of every convict who wished to speak. A study has been made of how the "detention and reformation", which the present law calls for, has been carried out.

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PAGING DOBBIN: Next time, he swears, he'll take the horse. A farmer a couple of miles from London the other day set off for town driving his '38 model sedan. The road was horribly icy. He kept her under 25, but before he had gone half a mile, the car slid quietly into the ditch. The neighbor's team did some hefty pulling, negotiated the sedan back onto the road again. This time, our man kept her under 20. But in spite of his careful manipulating of the controls, the car turned right around and faced east instead of west. Annoyed beyond words (do you blame him?) our farmer refused to fight fate any further. He continued east, arrived without event in his own yard a few minutes later, and locked away the car.

LISTEN... on Friday Night "CANADA-1938" IMPERIAL TOBACCO'S INSPIRING PROGRAM

EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT On a National Coast to Coast Network

Mussolini Finds Empire Costly

African Development Appears to Have Absorbed More Than A Billion Dollars

Empire building in Italian East Africa—including Ethiopia and Italian Somaliland—has cost the government nearly 30,000,000,000 lire (about $1,678,000,000) since the beginning of the Italo-Ethiopian war, according to statistics published in the newspaper Popolo Di Roma.

Italy has expended the following sums in East Africa in the last three complete fiscal years:

1934-35—985,000,000 lire.

1935-36—11,136,000,000 lire.

1936-37—17,519,000,000 lire.

Another indication of the large expenses required in colonization was seen in the growing budget deficits since 1930, the article said. The fiscal year of 1930-31 revealed a deficit of only 504,000,000 lire.

Deficits for the last two fiscal years follow:

1935-36—12,686,000,000 lire.

1936-37—16,230,000,000 lire.

These figures include the deficit of the Italian railways.

Paris Replaces Chestnut Trees

With Hardier Varieties, Such As Plane Trees and Sophora — Gas Fumes Killed Some.

Automobile exhausts are continuing their work of destruction to Paris trees, and it will cost the city park department 1,720,000 francs for replacement of dead or dying trees during 1938.

One of the main attractions of the city has always been the number of streets lined with trees, and the city government is attempting to maintain the tradition by substituting hardier varieties for the traditional elms and horse-chestnuts. Several years ago it was necessary to replace the chestnuts on the upper half of the Champs Elysees with plane trees. These are doing well, and the same plan is being followed with other streets. At the same time, experiments have been carried on with a great variety of trees.

Tar Emanations Harmful

One liter of gasoline of the type used by cars in France produces 500 liters of oxide of carbon. This is injurious to most trees, and is the principal cause of the difficulty. It has also been found tha emanations from the tar and asphalt used on the pavements are harmful to vegetation in Summer.

According to this year's park program the chestnuts on the Rue Caulaincourt will be replaced with the sophora, a tree that has been found to be specially strong. The elms of the Boulevard du Palais will be replaced by plane trees, as will those on the Avenue de Maine, the Avenue d'Italie, Avenue de Clichy and Avenue de Saint-Ouen.

Ontario Planning Fish Hatcheries

TORONTO.—It was reported unofficially at Queen's Park last week that construction of four new fish hatcheries with rearing ponds, at an estimated cost of $120,000, is provided for in estimates of the Ontario Department of Game and Fisheries to be recommended for inclusion in the budget at the forthcoming session of the Provincial Legislature.

It was understood the hatcheries will be located at New Liskeard, Peterborough, on Manitoulin Island and in Muskoka. Trout and other varieties of game fish raised in the new plants will be used primarily to stock lakes in the surrounding districts.

WHOLE TRADE OF ORIENT IS SLOWLY STRANGLING

Ruin For All Business Seen In Japanese Victory by Chinese Envoy — Door to Western World Would be Closed.

No highly organized nation in the Occident can hope to escape from the evil results of the desecration of China, declared W. C. Liu, special envoy of the Chinese Government who spoke last week in Toronto.

"A number of well-meaning, fear-stricken pacifists can trace their business losses back to last July when the Japanese were allowed to invade China. Business conditions slowed down even more when the Japanese invested Shanghai on Aug. 13," he said.

"How on earth can the Western nations hope to have a peaceful, prosperous condition of things while the whole trade and commerce of the Orient is being slowly strangled by the war machine of one nation? And believe me when I say it is affecting the whole of the East.

To Close Door

"If Japan wins this war she will close China to all other countries except those who are able and willing to pay heavy tolls. Long before that day arrives Japan will be bankrupt and slowly sinking in her own mire but she will have dragged down China and a large portion of the commercial world with her."

The Chinese nation had every confidence General Chiang Kai-shek would be able to hold Japan in a death grip until the conflict could be brought to an effective conclusion. A new army of 1,500,000 men was taking form in the interior of China. This would in all probability be augmented by units from other nations within a very short time.

"Fighting Own Battles"

Notwithstanding reports from Japanese sources, Mr. Liu asserted China had received no assistance from foreign troops.

"So far we have been fighting our own battles," he said. The Soviet aircraft were purchased in the same way as the airplanes from the United States but no fighting pilots had been supplied.

News In Review

Civilians Killed In Air Raids

HANKOW.—Word that more than 200 civilians, including several foreigners, were killed by Japanese air raiders at Chengchow cast a pall this week over elation raised in Chinese Government circles by reports of Chinese successes along the northern part of the Tientsin-Pukow Railway.

Trade Pact Negotiations

OTTAWA.—Important negotiations which concern the modification of the trade agreement between Canada and the United Kingdom are in progress now. They are antecedent to the negotiations for a revised treaty between Canada and the United States because the negotiations for an Anglo-American pact are ahead of what Ottawa and Washington are figuring on between themselves.

Austria's Nazification

VIENNA.—Fuehrer Adolf Hitler of Germany, backing up an ultimatum with strong military forces along Austria's northern frontier, last week forced Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg to place five Austrian Nazis or Nazi sympathizers in his Cabinet.

Schuschnigg, long a bitter foe of Nazi penetration into Austria, where the Nazi Party has been outlawed since June, 1933, announced his capitulation and submitted his new Cabinet list to President Wilhelm Miklas after Hitler's three-day ultimatum expired.

Rearmament Program Increased

LONDON.—Great Britain this week ended the first year of a £1,500,000,000 ($7,500,000,000 five-year rearmament program and planned a heavy increase in defense expenditures in the second year.

During the 1937-38 fiscal year, Britain has spent £269,739,000 ($1,348,695,000).

Sir Thomas Inskip, Minister for Defense Co-ordination, said the 1938-39 figures would be between £325,000,000 ($1,625,000,000) and £350,000,000 ($1,750,000,000).

Against "Mixed Marriage"

VATICAN CITY.—Referring directly to the prospective marriage between King Zoz I of Albania and Countess Geraldine Apponyi of Hungary, the Vatican organ, Osservatore Romano, this week gave voice to the Catholic Church's objection to "mixed marriages".

Osservatore recalled that ordinarily such a marriage is regarded as void when it involves a union between a Catholic and a person who has not been baptized.

Disturbed By Japs

LONDON, Eng.—The Earl of Plymouth, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, told the House of Lords last week-end the Government is closely watching the problem of international trade on the Yangtse River in China, as well as the future of the Chinese Customs Administration.

Lord Plymouth termed "very disturbing" the announcement by Japanese authorities in Shanghai that they would not respect even foreign obligations secured by the customs.

Killed In Manoeuvres

PRAHA, Czechoslovakia. — Four fliers were killed this week when two Czechoslovakian army planes collided and crashed during manoeuvres near Milovice.

Two Murderesses

NEWARK, N.J.—Mrs. Ethel Strouse Sohl, policeman's daughter, and Genevieve Owens, her companion in a $2.10 holdup during which a bus driver was slain, were convicted of first-degree murder by an all-male jury which recommended mercy.

Denies His Letter Provocative

MOSCOW.—Joseph Stalin's widely published letter appealing to the workers of the world to unite behind the Soviet Union if it is attacked must be read as a document of domestic, rather than international, importance, authoritative Soviet sources declared this week.

They warned that to interpret the message in any other way would inevitably lead to inaccuracy and exaggeration.

When Ice Cream Was First Made

In the Seventeenth Century — Italians Claim Its Discovery

Then one day in a cafe in Palermo the wonder was effected, says the Irish Independent. A young apprentice who saw the ineffectual attempts of his clients to keep cool tried his hand at a mixture of treacle and ice. The result was rather good. In fact it was a considerable improvement on anything hitherto devised. So the apprentice followed up his experiments. He made a wooden box with a double bottom. In the lower department he placed a quantity of crushed ice and filled the other with cream, when lo! the original ice cream. It is not surprising that the apprentice who had the genius to discover ice cream had also the sense to realize the possibilities of his discovery. When he had made sufficient money in Palermo to enable him to start on a large way he established in Paris. It was the beginning of an Italian peaceful penetration that has lasted to the present day. The English claim they had discovered it before this time. It was in 1660 the apprentice from Palermo opened his shop, and it is claimed that Charles I had already treated guests to ices at a banquet. Charles seems to have been very proud of this delicacy; for it is on record that he gave his chef $100 yearly pension to keep the method of production a secret.

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VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA THE EMPIRE THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

They Do It Over There

While Boards of Education on this continent are hesitating about the use of radio broadcasts in schools, there are more than 7,000 schools in England receiving lessons via the ether waves.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Hit Wrong Man

Marshal von Blomberg, German Minister of War, has resigned and departed on a honeymoon with a young lady of whom the army officers did not approve. Now why couldn't that have happened to Chancellor Hitler, instead?—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Children Won't Applaud

A prominent headmaster in South Africa is strongly advocating a six-day school week. He says that the gap from Friday afternoon to Monday morning is too long, but he needn't expect any applause from the ranks of juvenile Canada.—Brantford Expositor.

Radio In The Family

Broadcasters should ever bear in mind that they are not talking to sophisticated adult audiences, as in the theatre, but that what they say goes into homes where there are young boys and girls. What gets by in a theatre, where there has been undue laxity of recent years, is utterly out of place in the midst of a family. Radio has been slipping in this respect for some time, one of the most frequent offenders being a high-priced comedian whose tiresome personal allusions are sometimes in very questionable taste.

Radio is family entertainment, and should be kept as clean as family life itself.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

The Township Clerk

Nominating candidates for the post of "forgotten man" is a not uncommon occupation these days and one hesitates to suggest additional nominees.

Isn't it just possible, however, that, whoever else may be entitled to the designation, the municipal clerk is in line for such recognition?

And now at a time when all over the district, municipal clerks are taking up their duties for the year, it might be opportune to stop and think what that work means.

Clerks are important officers in cities and towns but especially in the rural municipalities the work of the clerk is almost all-embracing. Township councils get in the habit of relying on the clerks in many ways and year by year, as new regulations are put into force by the government, the scope of their duties increases. — Sault Ste. Marie Star.

THE EMPIRE

The Perfect Egg

Canada claims to have produced, after years of research and experiment, what is from the point of view of the consumer in England the perfect imported egg. The first consignment of these eggs has just arrived in London —750 dozen—and they will be distributed to experts in various parts of the country, from whom opinions will be gathered. The housing and feeding of the poultry have been minutely watched, the eggs have been graded and tested, they have been sent over in special chambers kept at a fixed temperature and watched by vigilant C.P.R. officials, and they are being handled on this side with all the care usually bestowed on the most precious cargoes. — Irish Independent.

Cast-off "Charity"

The self-comforting but specious opinion that anything is good enough for charity is apparently more widely held than the large number of genuine givers who make real sacrifices would lead one to believe. It seems there are far too many people who are inclined to look upon charitable institutions as a convenient dustbin in which cast-off clothing and other oddments no longer fit for human human use can be deposited with a minimum of trouble—thus obtaining for the givers a fictitious glow of godliness and at the same time saving them the bother of burning the articles at home. For that, it appears, is what the charitable institutions have to do with the rubbish. After all, charity may cover a multitude of sins, but it must cover something. Blankets that are but shreds of their former selves, gloves without fingers, hats without crowns, coats that let in the four winds of heaven, and other rags that shame gilded alms, can cover nothing but the recipients' confusion and the donor's hypocrisy. In such cases the charity that begins at home might well end there.—Johannesburg Times.

Canada's Best 1937 Customer

Dominion's Sales In the United States Top All Other Nations' For The Past Year.

Canada sold more goods to the United States than any other country during the year 1937, the U. S. Commerce Department announced last week at Washington.

At the same time, the Dominion was the second largest customer of the United States, with the United Kingdom occupying first place as purchaser.

Japan was the United States' third ranking customer, followed by France Germany and Mexico.

The United Kingdom, now negotiating a trade agreement with the United States, bought $535,000,000 worth of merchandise in 1937, out of total United States shipments to the world of $3,345,158,000.

Britain Buys More

The British purchases were 21 per cent more than in 1936.

Canada negotiating a new trade agreement, increased its buying in the U.S. 33 per cent to $510,000,000. Japan which bought cotton and other goods there in large quantities until a few months ago, bought $288,000,000, that was $54,000,000 more than the United States bought from Japan.

Britain and Canada also bought a great deal more from the United States than they sold. Canada's sales in that country totalled $399,000,000 in 1937, an increase of six per cent over 1936.

It is possible to see only about 2,000 stars at any one time with the naked eye, and only persons with keen eyesight can see this number.

400 students occupied a cafe at Lille, France, for 7 hours and drank only one half-pint of beer. They were staking a protest against being forbidden to make a procession.

Americans Trip Maroons for Hockey Victory

Sweeney Schriner, No. 11, of the New York Americans, skates past the net of the Montreal Maroons, having shot a goal past Bill Beveridge, who attempts to save. (Note bulge in net, as puck rebounds from force of shot).