News Parade

Commentary on the Highlights of the Week's News . . . By Elizabeth Eedy

MOMENTOUS DAYS: So much is happening in the world today, events are moving so quickly on all fronts, that situations of momentous importance in this quarter or that go practically unnoticed. Our attention can be focussed only on so many points at once. Watching what Hitler is doing in Central Europe, what Mussolini is planning in the Mediterranean, it is physically impossible also to keep our eyes on what is happening in India, in Palestine, in Iraq, in Syria, in Morocco, in South America and Mexico (for world-stirring events are brewing in each one of these corners of the earth). We do well if we are able to watch the progress of the war in China and in Spain.

And in our own dear Canada, there's plenty going on. Whether we read the newspapers or not, to find out.

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TEN-POWER PACT: Urged by Winston Churchill last week in London is a wide European alliance of ten powers calculated to encircle the German Reich and block further aggression on the part of the Nazis. If such a front were formed of the smaller nations of Europe and Russia behind France and Great Britain, using League of Nations machinery, Mr. Churchill declared, the United States would undoubtedly "signal her encouragement and sympathy."

Said Mr. Churchill: "If we can rally even ten well-armed States in Europe, all banded together to attack an aggressor, we would be so strong that immediate danger might be warded off and a breathing space would be gained for building later still a broader structure of peace."

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MIXED BLESSING: With the soil of the Prairies moistened by the best rainfall in 17 years, and crop prospects the most favorable since 1938, Western farmers of the drought-stricken areas are nevertheless not half as happy as we imagine them to be. For two reasons: a good crop means a much lower price will be offered for wheat; a good crop means also that the mortgage companies, who for so long have neglected to foreclose on farms that were seemingly worth nothing, now are likely to clamp down on the debt-ridden farmers. 'Twixt the devil and the deep, our Western neighbors are.

AN ELECTION IN 1938?: Ottawa insists that there is no valid reason for an appeal to the country in 1938, no excuse for a Dominion election this fall. It is talking plausibly, because a trip to the polls is not really due for another two years.

Just the same the opinion is prevalent in some quarters that Parliament will be dissolved next year—the fourth year since the election—but not this fall, or anywhere near it. Should, however, ructions occur between the provinces and the Federal Government that can't be patched up in the usual way, or should a national "emergency" arise, the government might decide to call an election this year.

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CHINESE CHANCES: A special cable to the Toronto Telegram from John Gunther, internationally known journalist, now in Hankow, outlines the main advantages weighing on the Chinese side in favor of their ultimate victory over the Japanese invaders: First, the country is united politically as never before, drawn together by a genuine will to resist Japan and to fight to the finish; second, the facility of the Japanese in guerrilla warfare; third, help from German technical advisers and Russian pilots; fourth, the stupendously difficult job the Japanese have set themselves; fifth, the fact that Japan's standard of living is bound to fall as the war goes on.

Mr. Gunther points to the reverse side of the canvas, citing China's disadvantages: first, the Japanese have virtual command of the air; second, the Chinese army is woefully deficient in artillery; third, the Japanese are better provisioned, better armed; fourth, provincial feeling is still strong among the Chinese, and unification of the armies is yet far from perfect.

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EARLIER VEGETABLES: The spring season in Ontario, advancing apace, is now two weeks ahead of previous years. Vegetables are coming on the market away ahead of schedule, and one dealer predicts that we'll "have strawberries by the first of June."

All very lovely, unless frosts come along and nip our Ontario fruits in the bud.

News In Review

Approve Irish Agreement

LONDON.—The House of Commons last week approved Prime Minister Chamberlain's "peace with Eire" agreement on third and final reading without a vote. It now goes to the House of Lords.

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Conqueror Welcomed Home

BERLIN. Chancellor Adolf Hitler was received in his capital this week, on his return from Italy, with a turbulence of almost hysterical enthusiasm and a splendour surpassing his reception after his bloodless conquest of Austria.

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Fierce Bombardment

HONG KONG.—A Japanese landing party of probably at least 1,000 men occupied the eastern part of Amoy Island, in Fukien Province, in South-eastern China over the week-end, after day-long fighting resulting in numerous casualties, particularly among the Chinese defenders.

Reports from witnesses in the treaty port tell of a concentrated attack, commencing at daylight, by twelve Japanese warships and twenty planes, raining shells and bombs that started fires which are still raging tonight.

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79 Killed In Mine Explosion

DUCKMANTON, Derbyshire, England.—An official death list of seventy-nine was counted last week after two explosions rocked the Markham Colliery here. More than fifty miners were injured. Grief-stricken villagers said almost every home lost at least one worker.

Desperate day-long efforts of rescuers to reach forty-five miners trapped nearly half a mile below the surface failed.

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More Air Crashes

LONDON.—Four airplane crashes, in which eight fliers died this week, raised the total of deaths in the Royal Air Force's preparedness program to 76 in 45 accidents since last Jan. 1.

Two R.A.F. accidents involved fliers at Wyton Field, Huntingdonshire, where three were killed in one accident and two in another.

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Income Tax Act Invalid

CALGARY.—The Alberta Income Tax Act, passed by the Provincial Legislature in 1932, was declared ultra vires, in part, in a judgment of Mr. Justice A. F. Ewing this week.

He held that income derived from outside Alberta when not used in the Province is not taxable.

Empire Flying In Two Years

OTTAWA.—Within eighteen months or two years Empire flying boats will span the world in regular passenger and mail flights, using Trans-Canada Airlines as the main link between Europe and Asia, according to information released here.

Negotiation for the transatlantic flights have been completed, and the huge flying boats are now under construction, four in Great Britain and four in the United States. Test flights will start in July or August this year about the time the Trans-Canada Airlines will link Halifax with Vancouver in regular service.

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Spanish War Deadlocked

HENDAYE, France.—Spanish insurgents and Government armies battled to a deadlock this week on the vital central fronts.

Along the coast road to Alcala de Chivert where insurgents have been attempting to widen their wedge towards Valencia and Castellon de la Plana, Government troops blocked the advance from hilltop entrenchments.

The fighting centred on that approach to the sea where insurgents attempted to widen their seaboard strip by folding the Government right flank back to the west.

Milk May Make New Car Finish

Dairymen Hear of New Byproduct Which Can Give Auto Bodies A Glossy Surface

Possibility of converting surplus milk into a finishing material for automobile bodies was envisioned by dairymen meeting at Utica, N.Y., last week, as the result of a process patented by William S. Murray, research chemist and Republican State chairman.

Henry H. Rathbun, of New Hartford, local director of the Dairymen's League Co-operative Association, said Murray had obtained a patent for a method of converting milk solids into a plastic and had assigned rights of use to the Co-operative.

Mixture of Milk Solids

The process, Rathbun said, would permit the use of milk solids as a finish on automobiles and for other purposes for which a hard, glossy surface is desired.

The process, he said, involves the mixture of milk solids, including casein and lactose, with a weak acid, a tanning agent and an alkaline material. The mixture is treated with water at a temperature of 100 to 120 degrees centigrade, and then is dried.

Ontario Has Most Accredited Herds

Leads In Cattle Free of T.B., says Agricultural Minister Gardiner

Agriculture Minister Gradiner last week informed the House of Commons 939 herds of pure-bred beef cattle in Canada are accredited for tuberculosis—tested and found free of the disease—and 112 herds are in process of accreditation. The information was sought by Harry Leader (Lib., Portage la Prairie).

Seven Provinces have tuberculosis-free areas—Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

Totalling 518

Ontario, with 518, has the most accredited herds. Manitoba has 183, Saskatchewan 96, Quebec 82, Alberta 48, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, 4 each; New Brunswick 3 and British Columbia 1.

There were 8,840,500 cattle in Canada in 1937 and 9,610 were exported to Great Britain. Irish exports to Great Britain last year totalled 850,032.

Bulk of the beef cattle exported to the United Kingdom recently has been feeders or stores.

Strong Biceps For Drivers

ISTANBUL.—Applicants for drivers' licenses in Turkey's capital must have more than mere skill. The municipality has tightened its requirements for candidates, who must have "strong biceps, physical endurance, good height and weight."

Gigantic Loss Through Weeds

$150,000,000 Every Year in Canada, Inspectors Are Told

PETROLIA, Ont. — "The annual loss in the Province of Ontario due to the infestation of weeds amounted to between $15,200,000 and $22,500,000, and the loss throughout the Dominion is approximately $150,000,000," stated J. D. McLeod of the Department of Agriculture, Toronto, when addressing the annual meeting of the Lambton County week inspectors here last week.

"The cause of the present weed problem is due to the neglect in sowing seeds in the past," he continued. He said this year considerable effort will be made to clean up cemeteries.

The speaker also advocated cleaning of threshing machines and all equipment before moving as provided for in the Weed Control Act and stated this will assist greatly in controlling the spread of weed seeds onto the roadsides and on the neighboring farms. It was pointed out threshers should be vitally interested in weed control as their business and revenue is governed by the condition of the crop.

W. P. MacDonald, agricultural representative for Lambton County, said that because of the untiring energy of the 30 county weed inspectors, Lambton is not considered a "weedy" county.

Twenty years ago somebody invented a make of car in a story. It had a dashboard device which flashed a white light at 15 m.p.h., a green light at 25 m.p.h., a red light at 40 m.p.h., and played "Nearer, My God, to Thee," at 60 miles an hour.

Our Small Town Editors Have Ink In Their Blood

Writes R. C. Reade In Toronto Star Weekly—Canadian Newspaperman Is Often Editor, Reporter, Pressman, Typesetter, Delivery Boy Rolled Into One.

The thrill and the skill of newspaper work are no monopoly of the large centres. A survey of Canada's small weeklies from coast to coast shows that they do not need rotogravure to give them color. They have it in the editorial chair.

"What A Man!"

Looking them over from coast to coast, from James Edward Patrick Butler, editor of the Newcastle Union Advocate in New Brunswick, who was not afraid to tell his town that it was "a sink-hole of vice, drunkenness and poverty," to Hugh Savage, who calls himself "governing director" of the Cowichan Leader in Duncan, a small town 40 miles north of Victoria on Vancouver Island, and has lived a score of lives as soldier and sailor, farmer, gold miner, storekeeper, Shakespearean researcher, flour miller and M.P.P. as well as editor, I am forced to exclaim again and again, "What a man!"

Veterans of the Game

The real veterans of the weekly game are in Ontario. The dean of them all is W. H. Thurston, editor of the Flesherton Advance, now in his 79th year but still reporting the news of the Flesherton district in which he was born. He is one of the many who are printers as well as editors. He began newspaper life 60 years ago as a compositor. His brother edits the Bobcaygeon Independent.

Arthur H. Wright, editor of the Mount Forest Confederate, is older in years though younger in weekly service. He is 83, but did not enter journalism until 1901, when he retired from the teaching profession. He was for 15 years English master in Galt collegiate. His paper, he is confident, is the only one in the world that is called "Confederate". Its first issue appeared one week after the British North America Act established the Dominion of Canada.

Helped Mould Politics

Another colorful old-timer is Jas. A. Evoy, editor of the Carp Review, Carp, Ont., one of those universal men for whom weekly journalism is famous. He is linotype operator, pressman and reporter as well as editor and publisher. And he still finds time to catch more large bass than any other fisherman in the district.

It is half a century since he got his first job with a weekly newspaper and, unlike the majority of his confreres in the weekly field, he has never tried his hand at anything else. He has played an important part in the political history of the province. He established the Kemptville Telegram to launch G. Howard Ferguson into public life. He sold the paper to Mr. Ferguson but continued to manage it until, a few years ago, he founded the Carp Review.

"When I began as a printer's devil," he says, "the principal piece of machinery was a hand press on which the four pages were printed after the paper had been dampened and left weighted down for several hours. The type was all set by hand. We used to adjust it in the forms with a piece of paper here and there or a whittled-down match."

That Printer's Error

Ed. Stacey, editor of the weekly Teeswater News, gives as his most amusing case of printer's "pi", a combination of sport and society news. He wrote about a former Kincardine hockey player who was going to England. Startled subscribers kept ringing the phone for days in order to tell him that the joke was on him. His article read "Murray Munro is starting on the forward line in a black coat with Persian lamb trimmings and black hat with matching accessories."

Say Greenland Was Linked With Norway

Polar Expedition Suspects Land Exists In Arctic That Once Linked the Two Continents

COPENHAGEN.—Dr. Lauge Koch, Danish explorer, departed by seaplane last week for the Spitzbergen group of Norwegian Arctic islands, to start a polar expedition to ascertain whether firm land exists between Spitzbergen and North Greenland.

Dr. Koch, who has observed the area from the air, contends that, from a geographical viewpoint, there probably is land there, because the northern and eastern Alp-chains would intersect between Spitzbergen and North Greenland.

Saw It Once Far Off

Dr. Koch's uncle, Captain J. P. Koch, reported in 1907 he had sighted land. Members of another expedition in 1912 said they had seen it but only at a distance. Last winter, Soviet explorers drifting down from the North Pole on an ice floe thought they sighted land through the Arctic darkness.

The Danish government has placed the vessel Gustav Holm at Dr. Kock's disposal to make sure. The vessel will serve as a base of operations which Dr. Koch flies from Spitzbergen to Peary Land and back, passing over the area where the existence of land is suspected.

Photographic Survey

If Dr. Koch sights no land from the air a complete photographic survey will be undertaken from Peary Land.

The Spitzbergen group lies about 400 miles off the extreme northern coast of Norway and about the same distance west of Peary Land, which is the northernmost tip of North Greenland, 450 miles from the North Pole.

"Take care of the pence," goes the old saying. One young American undergraduate has just taken a European holiday on the savings of 12 years—all in coppers and nickles.

"I saved for a sunny day—not a rainy one," was her comment.

VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA THE EMPIRE THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

Not To Be Sneezed At

Ontario is planning a drive against hay fever and that is a movement that is not to be sneezed at.—Peterborough Examiner.

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Or Go To Grandma's Funeral

The provincial comptroller of finance reveals that every citizen of Ontario works 54 days a year to support the government. If we knew which days of the year they were, we might be tempted to stay home on some of them.—E. J. P., in Stratford Beacon-Herald.

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The Good Old Days

Someone suggests that when we begin pining for the "good old days" we should run the automobile into the lake, throw the radio into the garbage can, tear the telephone off the wall and throw the electric light switch out of the window. Yes, and take the airplane down out of the sky while we hitch up the ox team.—Lethbridge Herald.

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Canadians Ate Less Meat

The Canadian people consumed more pork in 1937 than beef and veal. This was the experience in 1936, but in 1935 and 1934 they consumed more beef than pork. In 1937 the consumption of pork was 62.35 pounds per capita as against 58.89 pounds of beef and veal. The consumption of pork in 1936 was 67.08 pounds per capita and of beef and veal 60.48 pounds. On the whole, therefore, the Canadian people ate less meat last year than they did in the previous year.—St. Catharines Standard.

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The Hitch-Hiking Nuisance

As Spring opens up and motoring for pleasure or business becomes more intensive, the hitch-hiking nuisance increases. Few people object to giving a "lift" to some needy person, but the galling part (with emphasis on the gall) is that most of the would-be riders are people who can well afford to pay their way. They use simply this means of transportation that they may be spared the purchase of a ticket on recognized carriers.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

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Arms and the Nations

In Washington, where there is more talk than usual about armaments, they have been compiling data on the naval strengths of various nations. The result is interesting.

Soviet Russia, it appears, has the most submarines, with something like 150 of them. Italy comes second, with 84 ships built and 14 building. France has 92, Britain 70, Germany 61 and Japan 60. Altogether there are more under-sea craft in the world today than during the height of submarine warfare in 1917.—Ottawa Journal.

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Pull for the Prairies

Faith in the prairies is not confined to those who dwell on these once fertile grain lands, for Senator Iva C. Fallis, who knows the prairies from former residence until 1920 in the West, voices the opinion that, given rain in June and July, the prairies can raise the finest wheat in the world.

In that opinion she is simply expressing the general view held by farmers in the West. They know that, given reasonable weather conditions during the growing season, the land will yield an abundant crop, but they also are aware, from bitter experience, that under drought conditions little or nothing can be expected from the land.—Moose Jaw Times-Journal.

THE EMPIRE

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Australia's Warning

In every democracy the public must now address itself to the realities of the menace thus disclosed. Whether another great war may yet be averted is problematical; but this much may be proclaimed as certain, that unless the opponents—wherever they may be found—of brigandage in international danger, the chances of averting ultimate war must be counted negligible. We must face the vital fact that Germany, Italy, and Japan are today mobilized for war. In the Mediterranean (Spain), in China, in Austria, without declaration of hostilities, defying treaties and careless in excuses, they are simply ravaging defenceless neighbors for their own gain. In each of these ventures no limit is set to the objectives; and no spectator can propound a formula for diplomatic bargaining, in check to this process, which will not leave the marauder with at least a part of his loot. This we regard as the gravest aspect of the world situation in its challenge—now unmistakable—to every people that possesses anything worth coveting. The moral to us here in Australia is inescapable. —Sydney Herald.

Selling Our Wheat In Many Countries

Canada Is Again Worrying About the Problem of World Markets

With prospects for the best Canadian wheat crop in many years, eyes of the growers turn again to the problem of world markets. So quickly does the picture shift that nations once regarded as formidable competitors in export may be forced by a bad season to look for imports. And some of the competitors which the Dominion feared most not long ago, notably Russia, have been forced by internal conditions to slacken pressure in selling abroad, says the Hamilton Spectator.

United Kingdom Best Customer

In this connection the figures issued by the Canadian Board of Grain Commissioners covering exports for the crop year 1936-37 are revealing. It is shown that the United Kingdom is still our best wheat customer, a fact which is frequently overlooked. The "self-sufficiency" drive which has led France and Germany to grow—even at great cost—the wheat they need, has cut down these once substantial customers of the Dominion's grain to relatively small buyers.

For our total exports of 145,886,172 bushels chief destinations were as follows:

United Kingdom	81,901,064
Belgium	15,994,766
Holland	6,900,035
France	6,255,301
Italy	4,887,132
Irish Free State	4,507,684
Denmark	4,491,399
Norway	3,800,611
Germany	3,764,610
Switzerland	2,355,092
Greece	2,137,226
Morocco	1,813,870
Japan	1,762,400
Finland	1,117,132

Canada shipped her wheat direct to thirty countries in all, a commentary on the extent and variety of our foreign commerce.

Sued For Biting Dog

A man who bit his neighbor's dog has been used by the owner for $570 damages against probably loss of the animal, at Gargh, India. Defendant declared that the dog attacked him, so he seized it by the scruff of the neck and bit it, to teach it a lesson.

The BOOK SHELF

By ELIZABETH EEDY

"LITTLE LAMB" By Dahris Martin

In large and winsome pictures and with one of those chiming little stories that repeat, the plight of a small lamb whose woolly coat came off in patches is unfolded here for very small people. Baba did not like the idea at all; he had been all white, all over. He was now beginning to show pink spots where the skin had no wool at all. It did not look right to him, and he did not think it looked right to anybody. So he went to the merchant for a new coat, and this worthy sent him to the tailor, and he to the weaver, until at last the shepherd, melted by the tears of Baba—and anything more moving than this picture of Baba in tears it would be hard for a baby to find—sent him to Black Sheep. That wise animal laughed and laughed. Baba's new coat was coming in; this was why the old one was coming out in spots, and the story ends with a skipping lamb singing about his brand-new coat white as milk, soft as silk and warm as a quilt.

Although the story is for very little listeners, the pictures will be appealing to almost any child up to and including the age when first teeth begin to work loose.

"Little Lamb," by Dahris Martin. Pictures in color by Lilly Somppi. 36 pp. Toronto: Musson Book Co. $1.75.

Spanish Silver Paves Old Mexican Streets

Streets of several Mexican mining towns literally are paved with silver, the National Geographic Society reports.

"Early Spanish processes of separating silver from the ore were crude and left much silver in the tailings," the society said. "The tailings often were used for road surfacing. When the silver content is particularly high, the tailings are dug up and re-worked."