News Parade

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

HIDE AND SEEK: His Holiness Pope Pius XI hasn't much liking for Adolf Hitler in view of the persecution that priests of the Catholic Church have undergone in Germany. But when der Fuehrer refused to seek an audience with the Pope on his recent visit to Rome, the displeasure of the Vatican dropped to a new low. To show Adolf Hitler that his latest discourtesy had not gone unnoticed, His Holiness closed the Vatican museums during the whole period of Hitler's stay. The instant Hitler said good-bye to Rome, the museums were thrown upen again to the public.

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MEDALS OF MERIT: This week at Toronto the Royal Society of Canada is presenting medals of merit to three distinguished Canadians. The awards this year go to Colonel William Wood, of Quebec City, author of many historical volumes, for outstanding work in connection with the history of Canada; Mazo de la Roche, Toronto-born author of the "Jalna" novels, "for accomplishing in imaginative or critical literature some achievement of significance or conspicuous merit"; Dr. W. Lash Miller, Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Toronto, for his pioneer work in several new fields of scientific interest.

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"WE'RE SELFISH UP HERE": The former Australian Trade Minister, Sir Henry Gullett, is criticising Canada's "grave injustice to Australian manufacturers and British exporters." Under the present Australian-Canada tariff agreement, he says, movement of goods between the two Dominions "is amazingly one-sided" and the Australian market and the Australian secondary industries are being thrown open to preferential competition from Canadian manufacturers as well as from the United Kingdom.

The Australian Trade Minister resigned last year because preferential treatment extended to Canada under the Australian - Canada agreement was a "very bad one-sided bargain".

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FORGOTTEN MEN: Names not in the news these days are legion. The daily papers are too busy telling us about the latest war developments, too crowded with stories of munitions contracts being let, to feature Mahatma Ghandi (for instance); the Duke of Windsor (except to mention that his bathtub isn't of 20-carat gold); the Queen of Egypt; Kemal Ataturk (who is doing so much to make a modern country out of Turkey); the Pankhursts; Rev. Israel Noe (who starved himself within an inch of the grave); Aimee Semple Macpherson Hutton. And there are many, many others. About some of them, however, we might cheerfully say, "Good riddance!"

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TWENTY MONTHS TOO LATE: "People who talk of preventing another great war," says Captain B. H. Liddell Hart, one of the world's three of four greatest military experts, "are already twenty months out of date. The second Great War of the twentieth century began in July, 1936, in Spain, following the encouragement and experience which had been gained by Japan in Manchuria and Italy in Abyssinia in defying the League of Nations and developing the new technique of camouflaged war."

Grave words, those, yet they appear to be the truth, nevertheless. It is too late for us to stop what has already been set in motion. We have only the power to check the progress of events which are now in the offing

Continuing, Liddell Hart declares: "that we have failed to see this war in progress is due to the fact that we are still thinking politically, whereas the dictator states are thinking militarily."

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FARMS IN THE NORTH: Thousands of fertile acres in Northern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are lying idle, according to Mr. Rene Pelletier, M.P. for Peace River, while thousands of farmers are living in the drought areas of the West at heavy government expense.

Following this statement, Mr. Pelletier makes the sensible suggestion that a scientific survey of the northern sections of the Prairie Provinces be made with a view to settling people from the dried-out areas on suitable farming land farther north.

There are also vast portions of Northern Ontario that could be utilized for a similar purpose, sections where there is rich, fertile agricultural soil not now in production.

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WHY THE DELAY: Trans-Canada Airlines are having difficulty getting started on its first year, a complete air service across the country. They are encountering trouble particularly in establishing the Winnipeg-Montreal run. Reason for the delay: Planes which the company hoped soon to secure from the manufacturers are reportedly being sold to the Japanese Government who are offering a higher price for the machines.

Canada's Grain Acreage Down

Decline of Over 1,000,000 Sown Bushels Is Indicated

A decrease of nearly 1,400,000 acres in the area s wn to Spring grains in Canada in 1938 was indicated by farmers' intentions as of May 1, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics first crop report of the present season states.

The intended area of spring wheat is 24,105,900 acres, compared with 24,851,400 acres sown in 1937 and 26,646,100 acres in the peak year, 1932. The indicated decrease in the spring wheat area from that of last year is 745,000 acres, or three per cent. The principal decrease will occur in Saskatchewan, while increases are indicated in Manitoba and Alberta.

Less Wheat In Manitoba

Durum wheat acreage will be decreased considerably from 2,322,000 acres sown in 1937 to 1,693,000 acres intended for 1938. This decrease will take place mainly in Manitoba where it will be more than offset by an increase in the sowing of rust-resistant bread wheats. Oats and barley are also expected to show decreases of three and five per cent. respectively, with the principal reductions occurring in Saskatchewan.

Barley acreage in Ontario will be moderately reduced. Spring rye will show a decrease of 16,600 acres, or nine per cent. and flax-seed a reduction of 48,600 acres or 20 per cent. The area sown to mixed grains will remain normal in Eastern Canada, while showing a moderate reduction in the Western Provinces.

Potato acreage will be reduced in nearly every province to a total level 20,200 acres or four per cent. less than that of a year ago, if farmers' present intentions are realized.

Italy's Propaganda Expense $6,522,400

Teaching Youth in Foreign Lands Fascist Culture Costs That Much Annually

Italy spends 124,000,000 lire ($6,522,400) annually on propaganda of various kinds in foreign countries in an effort to make new converts for fascism and to keep Italians living aboard in closer contact with their homeland, a study of the current financial budget reveals.

Almost half of this money, most of which comes from the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is spent on Italian schools aboard. The Italian Government maintains 138 schools in foreign lands and gives financial assistance to an additional 654.

Schools On This Continent

This alone costs the government $3,000,000 yearly. These schools, which are chiefly established in the United States, South America and France, have a total attendance of 65,000. The pupils are almost exclusively sons and daughters of Italians living abroad and the main aim of these schools is to teach them Italian and get them interested in the new Fascist Italy.

The Fascist party boasts that more than 80,000 Italian boys and girls living in foreign countries are now regularly inscribed in the Bililla organization, recently renamed the "Gioventu del Littorio."

"The deepest need of our generation is a redefinition of success. We are obsessed by the economic aspect of life. It is good to have the things money will buy, but the most important things are those that money will not buy."—Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA THE EMPIRE

THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

Drastic Expedient

The Primitive tribes of Africa are reported to be scaring their children with stories of civilization.—Hamilton Spectator.

In Time for the Next

The first volume of Canada's official war history has at last appeared. When the final volume reaches the public, most of the survivors of the war will probably be in their graves.—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Plenty of Old Crocks

Of 359 cars tested by expert mechanics in Port Hope this week only 49 were found in proper mechanical condition. Either the cars in Port Hope are exceptionally bad or there's a lot of old "crocks" in the province.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Radium in Canada

The discovery of radium in a remote region of Canada was a veritable godsend since this rarest of minerals was previously found in only one part of the world, the Belgian Congo mines in Africa. Up to a few years ago radium cost $70,000 a gram before the Belgian monopoly was broken by Canadian competition. Thus radium was made more available to combat the dread scourge of cancer.—Kitchener Record.

A Costly Privilege

Comparison of the income tax schedules of Canada and Britain show the latter to be enormously more drastic, and so is the gas tax over there, three times as much as it is in Ontario. It costs the people a lot to live close to Europe.—St. Catharines Standard.

What A Picture!

The picture of nine provincial sweepstakes each occurring several times a year is not one to contemplate with easy complacency. Once each province was well set up in the sweepstake business, the element of competition would, no doubt, come into play and if Prince Edward Island gave more in prizes than any other, as it could well afford to do, it would probably get the largest share of the nation's sweepstake dollars.—Financial Times, Montreal.

Mounties on Display

People away from the U.S. border do not understand the American desire to see a Mountie. It would pay Windsor and the Soo to stand the expense of getting members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stationed at each place. As both cities already have members of the force stationed on their borders, and as tourists want to see them why can't a sensible arrangement be made? U. S. fathers have told this column that the reason they came to town was to let their children see our famous R.C.M.P.'s. Can't the force recruit a few more men, or use those whose age justifies a soft job?—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

He Can't Get Away With It

Walter Winchell gets away with his keyhole reporting in a big city, and is well paid for it. The same stuff in a small town would bring him to fist fights very quickly. We nick-named an ardent fisherman "The grasshopper king", and he came around and gave us his opinion, which wasn't complimentary. Other little references of a humorous nature have caused a near fight at times, simply because we are so convenient to be got at that almost before the ink on the paper is dry someone comes around with revenge gleaming in his eye and threatens to clean up the whole gang in the print shop. We usually keep the type mallet within range so that if the callers become too threatening we can take up arms in defence of the liberty of the press.—Coleman, Alta., Journal.

THE EMPIRE

Where the Japanese Erred

Had (the Japanese militarists') ambitions been less grandiose, had they attempted to make Nationalist China an equal ally instead of an anti-Communist pawn, they might without serious sacrifices have enormously strengthened the political and economic position of their island empire, and established a powerful barrier against the further advance of Russian bayonets and ideas in Eastern Asia. So far from effecting this, they have first spurred the Soviet Union to improve its own military position in the Far East and they have now given it the chance of playing the role of tertius gaudens. They have made China their enemy for many a year; they have alarmed their German associates in the anti-Comintern Pact, whose efforts at mediation were dashed by the Japanese Government's manifesto refusing to deal with the Chinese Central Government; and their conduct of the military campaign—including above all the undisciplined excesses that followed the capture of Nanking and have been reported in detail by trustworthy eye-witnesses—has not contributed to improve their country's reputation in the English-speaking world. In fact, they appear to have achieved the opposite of what they set out to do.—The Times, London.

Pipers of the Private Army of Atholl Precede Wedding Party

Viscount Fincastle and his bride, the former Pamela Hermon-Hodge, leave St. Margaret's Church, London, following their wedding. Pipers of the private army of the Duke of Atholl, to which family the Viscount is related, precede the wedding party.

Seven Climbing Mount Everest

Expedition Arrives at Base Camp On Tallest Mountain in the World — Pray For Late Monsoon

The leader of the British Mount Everest Expedition has reported its arrival at the base camp, 12 miles away from the tallest mountain in the world. There have been two journeys of reconnaissance. This will be the fifth British attempt to scale, says the New York Times. The seven members of the party have been trained in one of the hardest schools. They know the mountain sickness, "the altitude" sore throat, and the double vision, the sudden temporrary blindness, the wastage of muscle, the fainting fits, the breathlessness, the dilated heart, the lassitude and the physical decline at heights of 21,000 feet or so.

Used To Great Heights

These men are "acclimatized", They are used to great heights, roaring blizzards, avalanches; but with what oxygen apparatus can they be sure of being able to move save at a snail's pace, even to breathe, to see, in the last 1,000 feet, if they reach it? The North Col is more than terrible enough.

The top of Everest is a mile higher. The Seven against Thebes seem like mere crazy braggarts compared with the Seven against Everest. They are prepared for all the dangers in store for them. They know that the monsoon and its enormous snows,that will end the short timein which alone their adventure has an opportunity, are capricious visitors.

In 1921 the monsoon broke on Everest on July 7; in 1922 in the first week of June; in 1924 on June 16; in 1933 on May 30; in 1935 on June 6; in 1936 on May 25. Let us hope for a late monsoon. It is with hope and not gloomy forebodings that we think of the Seven. Among well-remembered names in their number we note Odell, who at the height of 26,000 feet was thelast man to see Mallory and Irvine.

England has a movement for abolishing dog licenses and taxing bicycles instead.

A—C

To Fight Leprosy On World Scale

Plan Includes Drastic Measures—Half the Patients Can Do Normal Day's Work

A plan for eradication of leprosy throughout the world "in a very few generations" by means of segregation and sterilization was outlined recently by Percy Burgess, president of the Leonard Wood Memorial for the Eradication of Leprosy, who has completed a tour of leprosaria in all parts of the world.

The plan, approved by the World Conference on Leprosy, calls for the segregation of lepers in colonies that would be self-supporting by an interchange of goods on a world-wide basis. The lepers would lead a normal life except that those married would be sterilized. Mr. Burgess estimated that 50 per cent of lepers could do a normal day's work.

Of the world's 3,000,000 lepers, two-thirds, he said, were in India and in China.

Firemen Arrive Six Months Late

LAHORE, India.—A house caught alight in a Punjab State.

The owner sent an urgent letter to the State fire brigade, as there was no telephone.

The chief fire brigade officer "acknowledged" the letter and left it over for his successor, as he was shortly going on leave.

The successor arrived five months later, found it was a case for "immediate" attention and forwarded it to the Dewan (minister) "for favor of necessary action".

The Dewan in turn submitted the request to the Ruler for "favor of immediate sanction."

The Ruler ordered that the State fire brigade "proceed forthwith to the scene of the occurrence to avoid further damage to the building."

When the fire brigade arrived at the scene of the fire a new building had sprung up in place of the one destroyed six months earlier.

About 60 per cent of the fatal highway accidents in England and 76 per cent of the non-fatal occur on roads having a speed limit of 30 miles an hour.

Substitute For Radium Found

Boy of 16 Discovers It—New Product Believed Better Since It Is Less Dangerous

Dr. E. A. Smith, of New York, who said he was associated with the late Mme. Curie in her isolation of radium, declared last week 16-year-old Wallace L. Minto of Jersey City "has something" in his claim of a safer, more economical artificial radium.

Dr. Smith, who has laboratories at North Bergen and Newark, N.J., witnessed a demonstration of the youth's finding at the annual meeting of the Eastern Electronic Research Association.

Minto, a high school student, showed, with the aid of a Geiger tube, what he described as the greater strength of his product as compared with the genuine radium.

"Young Minto definitely has made great strides," Dr. Smith said. "I predict a great future for him."

Made For $250 A Gram

Minto said his artificial radium was less dangerous than the genuine article due to fewer alpha rays and more beta and gamma rays. It also is more economical, he said, because it was made from ore found near his home town, whereas genuine radium comes from the Canadian north and several other distant points.

Minto, who also claims to have found and named four new elements in the last two years—since he was 14 years old—said his artificial radium could be manufactured for about $250 a gram in small quantities, more economically in increased output. Genuine radium sells for about $25,000 a gram.

The high school scientist has named his newly discovered elements, Nos. 93 to 96, inclusive, ekarhenium, ekairidium, ponderosmium and ekaplatinum.

"Money is not required to buy one necessity of the soul."—Thoreau.

News In Review

Two Missionaries Shot

PEIPING. — Death of two British missionaries because Chinese guerilla bands failed to recognize the British flag and took them for Japanese spies occurred here last week.

The victims were Dr. H. G. Wyatt, a physician, and Miss Beulah Glasby. The story was brought back by a fellow missionary who was travelling with them north of Taiyuanfu, Shansi Province Capital, where the incident occurred.

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Won't Sell Anticosti

OTTAWA.—The Island of Anticosti, situated on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which from a military point of view is of strategic importance, will not be sold to any foreign nation, according to an intimation made in the House of Commons last week by Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

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Germany Speeds Danube Project

BERLIN.—The Government decreed this week that the Rhine-Danube Canal via the River Main be completed by 1945. Simultaneously the Danube will be developed as a "Reich waterway" up to the new German border below Vienna.

The decree represents considerable speeding up of one of Europe's most important waterway projects because the original plan envisaged 1950 as the completion date. But the decree says: "Austria's reunion with the German Reich and the execution of the four-year plan demand speedier completion of the project."

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New Beef Marketing Policy

OTTAWA.—A new marketing policy for Canadian beef, through which it is hoped ultimately to send 200,000 head of cattle a year to Great Britain and 200,000 to the United States was outlined to the House of Commons this week by Hon. James G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture.

The policy is only in its experimental stage, the Minister admitted, and only twenty-five carcases per week are being shipped.

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Half A City Sold

CARDIFF, WALES. — Practically half a city changed hands this week when the immensely wealthy Marquess of Bute sold part of this world port of 200,000 population for a price understood to be about £20,000,000 ($100,000,000).

The real estate deal was believed to be the largest ever recorded in Great Britain.

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Death Penalty for Treason

RIO DE JANEIRO. — The death penalty for crimes against the nation aiming at its disintegration or against the regime was decreed last week by President Getulio Vargas in a law amending Article 122 of the Nov. 10 Constitution. The law is not retroactive, thus it will not reach those implicated in the May 11 Putsch.

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Refugees Face Desperate Plight

SHANGHAI.—The International Red Cross issued an urgent appeal this week for financial aid, declaring its funds were exhausted and 170,000 Chinese refugees here faced a "desperate plight." Officials said food reserves were adequate for only one more month.

Claims Birds Learn Faster Than Dogs

An intelligent canary is easier to train and learns faster than a dog, Teressa Switzer asserted last week at Buffalo.

Miss Switzer has trained more than 200 canaries to sing the scale, recognize colors, shake hands and wink. If you want to train your canary she advised: (1) start when the canary is young; (2) teach the bird to eat from your hand instead of letting its mother feed it; (3) teach it in the evening after an afternoon of rest.

"Refrain from covetousness, and thy estate shall prosper."—Plato.

Falls Is Assuming Shape of Horseshoe

Officials reported this week that Niagara Falls once more changed its shape slightly during the past winter, and the United States falls is taking on a horseshoe shape similar to that of the famous Canadian Horseshoe falls.

The Niagara Falls, N.Y., publicity department announced that a survey had revealed that the crest of the United States falls had developed a more decided saw-tooth appearance than in former years. Two V-shaped indentations have appeared in the crest, each about 20 to 30 feet deep.

"It is clearly evident that erosion is progressing at a rapid rate and that the heretofore fairly even and straight American falls is taking on a horseshoe shape, similar to that on the Canadian side of the river," the bureau reported.