News Parade

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

THAT SALES TAX: The 1938 Budget just brought down in the House by Finance Minister Dunning pleased a lot of people, manufacturers of builders' supplies particularly. But others, who had hoped to see that 8 per cent. sales tax reduced were not so pleased.

The sales tax, nicknamed "nuisance tax," originated in the teens of this century as a war tax. In the boom years of the twenties it dropped to 1 per cent, then following the depression, it made three successive jumps till it got up to 8 per cent. Now the situation has reached the point where 26 per cent. of all revenue collected by the Dominion Government comes from the sales tax.

Every man, woman and child in this country is affected by the tax because it ups the price of all the property and merchandise, etc., that we buy—everything except food.

IN DIFFICULTIES: Mussolini's diplomatic representatives are pushing like anything now to have the Anglo-Italian agreement of April 16th brought into action at once in spite of the fact that the war in Spain is nowhere near a conclusion (withdrawal of Italian "volunteers" from Spain at the end of the war was one of the terms of the treaty). Reason for the haste on the part of Italy: Mussolini is hard-pressed for cash, wants to borrow some from England; drought pretty well ruined Italian crops this year so Italy will have to buy grain from Russia; thirdly, Mussolini wants real-for-sure recognition made of the new Italian Empire (meaning sovereignty over Abyssinia).

RURAL HYDRO: Extension of Hydro service in rural areas to two services per mile, instead of three, is beginning to show definite results throughout Ontario. More farmers are installing the service and enjoying the benefits of electric light now that the old "guarantee" contracts (under which if two farmers wanted to have hydro service they had to sign a third contract and pay a charge of $1 per month) have been cancelled.

Soon we won't have to go to the city to see the brights lights . . . . when every farm home in Ontario is electrified.

READY FOR ACTION: The situation in France? Very complex, we assure you, as usual. But here are the highlights: Premier Daladier's "Radical Socialist" (not radical at all) government which came into power in April has gained a free hand to rule the republic by decree until November, has adjourned parliament and silenced all effective opposition for the time being.

While making the utmost diplomatic efforts to stave off a European conflict, the government is nevertheless organizing France on a war-time basis, ready for action. France's mobilization orders are printed and ready for use if necessary, in every commune of the republic. The Maginot line of defense along the eastern borders is thought to be impregnable against invasion (But not so the Spanish border—there is cause for worry about that, with German and Italian armies on the other side of those mountains).

FOURTEEN DAYS: What of France's ally, Czechoslovakia? Pledged to go to her aid, it is estimated it would take fourteen days for French armies to find themselves in a position inside Czechoslovakia where they could repel any invader . . . . It has leaked out within the past week that the plan to invade Czechoslovakia most favored by the German military staff schedules a swift, overpowering series of attacks on the Czech front crush all opposition, end everything before fourteen days are up.

IRISH ELECTIONS: Prime Minister Eamon de Valera of Eine went to town on the issue of his new sweeping agreements with England, won the June elections (second in Eire within a year) with an overwhelming majority. Now Prime Minister de Valera has what he has been wanting for seven years.

In 1931 when de Valera's group, the Fianna Fail, became the Government party, it had a precarious majority; for the last five years it has been dependent upon a small Labor group to hold office. Now for the first time Mr. de Valera will be independent of all small groups, and he is free to pursue his policy of reconstruction and national defense.

Canada's Only Pet Cemetery

Located Near Aurora Is Abloom With Flowers on the Graves —Dogs, Cats, Canary, Horse Buried There.

Sweet peas, tulips, daffodils and hyacinths bloom in Happy Woodland, Canada's only pet cemetery where $50 caskets and plain graves mark the burial places of favorite animals.

A soldier's horse lies in the cemetery and a canary whose body was sent from Winnipeg rests beneath a spreading shade tree. But dogs and cats occupy most of the plots.

The cemetery was laid out 11 years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Victor Blochin as a burial place for their pets, but gradually it has become a public place. As its fame has spread the bodies of animals have been sent to Aurora from many parts of the Dominion.

Collie and a Monkey

A 10-year-old boy brought his collie. Soon afterwards the collie's friend Peter, a monkey, followed.

Most of the owners ask only that their pets be buried in simple shrouds with plain headstones over the graves. There are many expensive caskets and memorials, though, among the long, soft grass and swaying flowers.

Plan Developing Canadian Drama

C. B. C. Manager Encourages Writing Plays for Radio — Drama to Interpret Canada

The great field for endeavor open to Canadian authors in the "drama of manners, a drama to interpret Canada to Canadians," Major Gladstone Murray, general manager of the Canadian Broadcasting Coporation, told delegates attending the 17th annual convention of the Canadian Authors' Association, in the city of Montreal, last week.

The C. B. C. was encouraging Canadian writing and asked that the scripts be submitted, he said. "If we succeed in establishing a Canadian dramatic presentation, it will serve a double purpose. Not only will the position of the Canadian author be consolidated but broadcasting will get away from imitation of other large network ideas."

Readings and spoken essays if authentic and well-done are a very worth-while advertisement, he believed.

What Constitutes Drama

"Canadian drama is not necessarily the historical events of the time of Jacques Cartier, General Brock and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police," he said. "If you are interested in writing for radio, put your history books back on the shelf and write something perplexing, amusing or vitally real."

Highways In Dominion Now Total 400,000 Miles

Canada's Vast Network Is One Of Outstanding Developments of Present Century—Cavalcade of Four Million Tourists A Year.

Canada's vast network of highways, comprising more than 400,000 miles, is among the outstanding developments of the present century. In addition to providing arteries of travel for more than a million motor cars of Canadian registration, these highways also carry a great cavalcade of more than four million tourist automobiles a year from other lands. The surfaced highway mileage in Canada exceeds 99,350 miles, while unsurfaced roads totalled more than 311,000 miles.

Early Travel by Water

In the early days of settlement roads were auxiliary to water routes as avenues of transportation. They were used during the summer season when portages were necessary to avoid obstacles in river and lake travel, and in winter when ice prevented navigation. With the spread of settlement and the demand for means of communication between centres of population, overland routes became necessary and road construction got under way in the pioneer stages of the development of the country.

Road building in Canada received additional stimulation with the advent of the automobile, which revolutionized the mode of travel of the nation. This gave birth to the motor tourist industry, which has been an incentive to governing bodies to improve trunk roads and scenic highways within their jurisdictions. Today Canada's highway systems link modern cities with regions of almost primeval wilderness, and serve a land blessed by an indulgent Nature with an unrivalled wealth of travel attractions.

Parks, Scenic Wonders

From east to west, there is the scenic beauty of the Maritimes, the old-world charm of Quebec, the Ontario lake regions, the world-famed Niagara, the Great Lakes, the parklands of the prairies, and the grandeur of the mighty Rocky and Selkirk mountains, to mention only some of the more outstanding while countless lakes, river and forests provide facilities for fishing, hunting and summer and winter sports.

Among Canada's greatest attractions for travellers by highway or other means are the National Parks, comprising twenty separate units with a total area of about 12,525 square miles. Within the National Parks are almost 600 miles of all-weather motor highways and more than 200 miles of secondary scenic and historic associations.

That "Something"

Smilers Win the Best Jobs, Says Expert

It's the people who smile who get the best jobs. That is the declaration of Mr. Herbert Trevell, grey-haired, kindly-eyed man who interviews hundreds of applicants a week for a big Birmingham (England) business house.

'Smilers stand a much better chance than the glum ones," he told me.

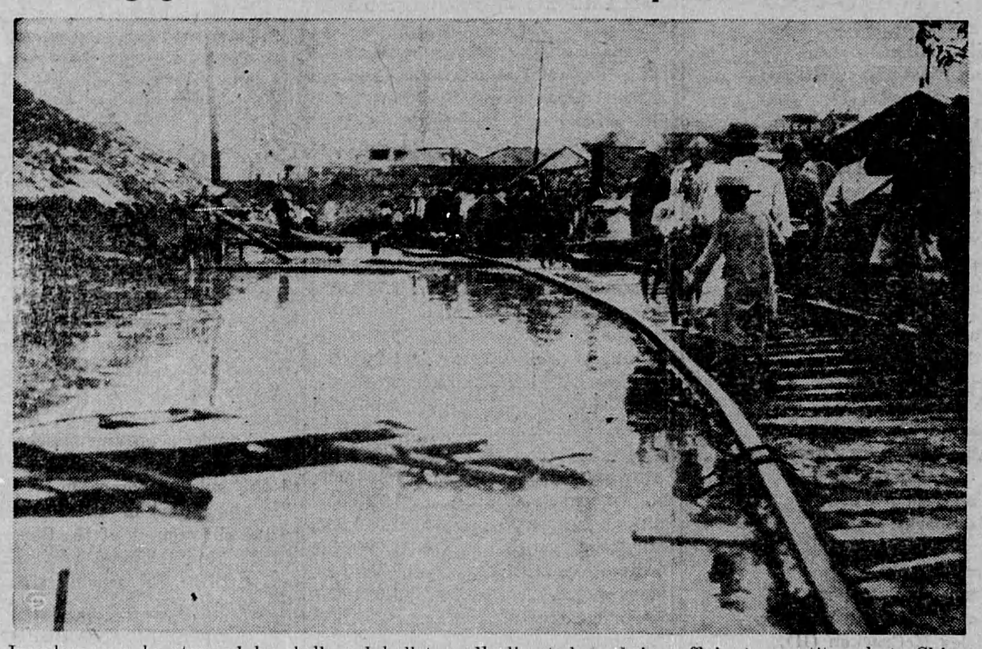
"I see so many men and women in my little office every day, as I have done for years, that I can tell at once whether the applicants have got that 'something' that is the difference between success and failure.

"And the smile goes a long way towards that 'something'."

So keep smiling. It may get you a raise or a better job.

The standardization of fruit and vegetables is being studied by the British agricultural department.

Raging Yellow River Drowned Chinese and Japanese Both



Invaders can be stopped by shell and bullet, well directed and in sufficient quantity, but China has never been able to curb the Yellow river—that is why the great waterway, at once a blessing and a curse, is called "China's sorrow." The Yellow river again in revolt and already has claimed an estimated 150,000 victims over hundreds of square miles of Honan province. Scenes like the ABOVE, once more are the rule as refugees flee the raging waters. Here you see a railroad rendered useless by the flood. The river plays no favorites, either, for it is reported that thousands of invading Japanese troops were among its victims.

VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA
THE EMPIRE
THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

No Camouflage Job

There seems to be more to the railroad problem than just fixing a locomotive to look like something else.—Sherbrooke Record.

Cat Out Of The Bag

That Japanese admiral who in an unguarded moment, admitted that there is a war on over in Asia, let the cat out of a cellophane bag, so to speak.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

The Real Patriot

The real patriot is the man who, without fear or favor, not only disinterestedly supports what he believes to be right in public matters, but takes the trouble to inform himself, to the very best of his ability, upon all questions of public moment.—Guelph Mercury.

Horror a La Mode

Gas Masks are chic, according to latest reports. London society has taken them up and everybody that really matters is attending gas-raid salons. The best-known leaders of the haut monde are holding smell-soirees. Vials of liquid that smell like the real gas are passed around and delicately sniffed, masks are worn, and classes in raid-behaviour — exclusive classes—are held. You can almost hear the screams of amusement over here.—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

Not By Lazy Women

A woman's convention has placed itself on record as favoring the appointment of more women to the Senate of Canada. With all due respect for the ladies, we think this is a lazy woman's plea. Women, if they want to get into public life, should be willing to go into the arena and toil for their political honors, and, by fighting elections, prove their ability. Agnes Macphail and Mrs. Black, we feel sure, would not ask to be excused from struggle and demand a place in the Senate that can be won by mere appointment, and not by hard work. — Fort William Times-Journal.

Let's Sing More

No, this is no tirade against radios and phonographs. It is an appeal for more singing. Yes, and, incidentally, it is a plea for more whistling. Singing and whistling drive away the blue devils. They heal neighborly quarrels and promote domestic felicity. The old Methodist church won her way to dominance in the world and to a special service at untold value by her singing. When she degenerated to having her singing done by proxy, she lost ground. No nation is great, or remains great long, unless her people are singers. Denmark was saved by her songs and her religion.—Exeter Times-Advocate.

The Deep Waterway Project

But, while nature invited this project and it is obviously right that it should ultimately be carried out, the new treaty will have anything anything but an easy path in either country. In the United States there will be continued opposition from the States interested in developing a water route from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico, from the interests that seek to protect the traffic between Buffalo and New York by the Erie Canal, and from the power corporations and others. In Canada, opposition has been expressed to the project in the Maritimes, in Quebec and in British Columbia; and Premier Hepburn, of Ontario, has been, and still is, opposed. There are many friends of the project in Ontario, however and that Province and the Prairie Provinces which would chiefly benefit, have a little over half the population of Canada. That makes the project one of national importance. If half the country benefited directly, the rest of the country would assuredly benefit indirectly. — Winnipeg Free Press.

The EMPIRE

Why China Must Be Helped

Germany has annexed Austria. From the Baltic to the Adriatic they now cry in frenzied passion "Heil, Hitler!" What next! Il Duce is now the head of an empire and he dreams visions of the glory of ancient Rome. Spain will soon be a complete Fascist State. All that is lacking now is a Japanese victory in China. That would be the signal for real action by the dictators. Fortunately, China by her own determined efforts has prevented the fulfilment of that aim so far. Far from being crushed and beaten, China's spirit burns more luminously than ever. Her will to win remains as strong as it ever was and she will maintain the resistance and make any further sacrifice required by her. In return China asks, and the democracies must give her, every assistance to continue the struggle until victory has been achieved. The defeat of China is the surest way to put the clock back fifty years and to ensure the visitation on humanity of the greatest horrors it has endured since the dawn of time.—Hong Kong Press.

Ontario's War On Ragweed

Plant Is Responsible for 80 Per Cent. of Hay Fever—You Can Help Eradicate It

TORONTO. — In an effort to eradicate ragweed, the pollen from the flowers of which is believed to be responsible for 80 per cent. of Ontario's hay fever, a joint letter has been sent out by the Department of Health, Education and Agriculture of the Provincial Government to municipal clerks urging that war be waged on this weed.

Spread Increases

The communication which bears the signature of Harold J. Kirby, Minister of Health; Dr. L. J. Simpson, Minister of Education, and P. M. Dewan, Minister of Agriculture, reads in part:

"The several interested departments of Government have during the last few years been reminded of the increase in the spread of ragweed. This plant is apparently found with increasing frequency in all parts of Southern Ontario.

Three Per Cent. Suffer

"While hay fever is not considered to be a serious form of illness, it is extremely disturbing to those who are affected by it and its complications are frequently serious enough. It is estimated that somewhere in the neighborhood of 3 per cent. of the population are susceptible to various manifestations of allergy, with hay fever due to ragweed as the most important single item.

"The plant can be easily identified, and as it is listed among the noxious weeds, suitable arrangements should be made to ensure its destruction in all communities, both rural and urban, before the plant begins to flower in late June or early July. The second growth of the cut stalk should be again cut down late in August or early September."

Accident Toll Outranks War

U.S. 1937 Fatalities More Than Double Number Killed At Front

The U. S. National Safety Council announced last week that accidents claimed 106,000 lives in 1937 — a total more than twice as great as the number of American lives lost in the World War.

Injuries from accidents disabled 9,900,000 persons during the year—at least one member of every fourth family.

Cost $3,600,000,000

The calculable costs of all accidents ran to $3,600,000,000 which, the council said, was enough to build 75 Empire State buildings.

Motor vehicle accidents during 1937 caused 39,500 deaths, 1,360,000 personal injuries and an economic loss of $1,700,000,000. The traffic fatalities represented a four percent. increase over 1936.

Ordinary colds cost England $125,000,000 in the last twelve months in lost work, treatment and other expenses.

Domestic Pig Is Slandered

We often say someone is "a dirty pig," but little do we realize that we are slandering the poor pig. This little animal is naturally clean and will not wallow or sleep in filth unless nothing better is available. Pigs are among the cleanest of all farm animals if allowed to be so. Most pigs are "pigs" because their owners force them to live and bathe in dirty places. Neither is the pig more lazy than other animals, if allowed his freedom.

Germans registered with the police of England number 9,000 men and 11,000 women.

5 Head-Hunters Are Sent Down

MANILA, P. I.—Five Kalinga head-hunters drew minimum sentences last week for lopping off the heads of two Christian youths.

The court was lenient because the head-hunters were uneducated, lived in wild country and belonged to a non-Christian tribe.

The ruling of the Philippine Court of Appeals upheld the trial court. Each of the Kalingas was sentenced to 12 to 16 years in prison and to indemnify the heirs of their victims $1,000.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

REV. GEORGE A. LITTLE

Addressing a Temperance Rally in Trinity United Church, Toronto, last week, Rev. Dr. George A. Little, a well-known official of the United Church of Canada whose picture appears at the head of this column, inaugurated a Province-wide campaign against the beverage rooms of Ontario.

Dr. Little charged that both Liberals and Conservatives in Ontario had been "plastic as putty" in the hands of the Moderation League. The Moderation League, he said, "had more influence with the Government than all the churches."

Terming beer 'the danger spot in the Ontario alcoholic picture," Dr. Little called for a vigorous campaign to restrict its sale. The speaker charged that campaign funds from brewers to politicians, as well as the liquor profits in the Provincial Budget, were responsible for the continuance of beverage rooms.

Controversy Rages

The suggestion was advanced that Liquor Commissioner E. G. Odette "plants beverage rooms" near Protestant Churches and avoids putting them "near a Roman Catholic church or near the home of a Roman Catholic Pries'." "We need not hope," Dr. Little said, "that the traditions of English Protestantism will be familiar to a man of French-Canadian, Catholic extraction."

A great stir was created in the Ontario press by Dr. Little's statements chiefly by virtue of the controversial issues raised. Aside from the liquor question, whether one is an advocate of temperance or not, one deplores the unfortunate reference to a man of French extraction which is likely to arouse feelings of antagonism in this day when Canada needs all the "hands" towards national solidarity she can muster.