News Parade

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

THE NEXT SESSION: The House of Commons at Ottawa cannot afford to remain up for long. There's a new Canada-United States trade agreement in the offing, the pressure of world events is more concentrated than ever before. So Parliament will likely reconvene in October. If it doesn't, it should . . . .

The next session cannot help but be interesting. In the meantime the Quebec and Ontario provincial governments will have shot off a few fireworks, most embarrassing to Ottawa, and rumors of an early general election will have become increasingly persistent throughout the land.

Who knows but that it may be a momentous session, too, capable of reshaping the destiny of Canada?

Maybe so, but we very much doubt it.

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OUT TO BEAT NATURE: The West is facing the best crop prospects in eight years, but while looking forward with much joy to a bountiful harvest, prairie farmers nevertheless are mindful that there is no guarantee that the blight of drought will not strike again next season. They are grateful, then, for the work that is being done by the Dominion Government to produce a grain that will stand up against a lack of moisture. The first Canadian experiments in search of such a wheat are being carried on at Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

The scientists at work on the job haven't progressed very far yet, but they believe they are on the right track. Should they succeed in finding a drought-resistant wheat, they will receive as much recognition as came to Sir Charles Saunders for discovering Marquis wheat. This famous grain overcame the menace of early frosts, but could not withstand the onslaughts of rust and drought. Now, rust-resistant wheat has superseded Marquis on the prairies.

Thus only one of the three major crop enemies remains to be overcome. Once this objective is achieved, the Canadian West should be unconquerable.

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ESCAPING THE HEAT: Down here in Ontario we have plenty of reason to complain of the heat these summer days. We pant, puff, perspire from dawn to dark. We would feel less sorry for ourselves, however, if we paused to think of what it would be like to live in the Arctic regions, where the sun shine 24 hours a day and night-time brings no blessed coolness.

Be thankful for small mercies.

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LIFE - LINE THREATENED: The London, England, News Chronicle this week makes startling disclosure of a plan allegedly cooked up by the two partners of the Rome-Berlin axis which aims at the closing of the Mediterranean to Great Britain and a cutting off of the Empire Cape route to the Far East. This double objective would be achieved by the seizure of Gibraltar (already dominated by German long-range guns); by having General Franco (should he win the Spanish war) turn and seize Portugal (Gibraltar cannot be held without Portugal).

The purpose behind the plan is said to be the crippling of both Britain and France, the latter being cut off from her important army reserve in North America.

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HOLY LAND'S UNHOLY ROW: The worst troubles in recent Palestine history broke out there the beginning of this month with the hanging of a 19-year-old Jew who had ambushed an Arab bus. Riots have been continuing ever since while casualty lists mount daily. Dozens of people have been killed and hundreds wounded.

In the midst of this reign of terror British troops are attempting to restore some kind of order. Soldiers are stationed in every village in the zone of violence, but bombings, stabbings keep on happening.

For hundreds of years the Arabs and the Jews have been hostile to one another. They each want the Holy Land to themselves for religious as well as economic reasons. The partitioning of Palestine among Jews, Arabs and British as recommended last summer by a British Commission has therefore not been found popular. In fact the presentation of the report was a signal for the outbreak of new violence.

It is difficult to see where it is all going to end.

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THE WEEK'S QUESTION: Who is frequently said to be the most unpopular diplomat in Europe? Answer: Colonel Josef Beck, Poland's Foreign Minister.

Radium Must Be Coaxed From Ore

OTTAWA, — The method by which Canada's sub-Arctic deposits of life-saving radium are "coaxed" out of the pitch-blende ore mined on the shore of Great Bear Lake near the Arctic Circle have been revealed for the first time.

Marcel Pochon, chief chemist, of the Eldorado Gold Mines, Limited, and E. J. Walli, mine engineer, described to the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its summer meeting the methods used in mining, transporting and refining radium.

It's Roasted First

Radium might be called a "coy" element, the Eldorado company specialists declared, since it is very difficult to extract from the other valuable minerals which occur in combination with it. In early refining operations, silver was considered a nuisance in efforts to pull the radium out of the pitchblende ore.

Today, however, these and other difficulties have been largely overcome by new chemical methods employed in a recently completed refinery at Port Hope, Ont., and both the radium and silver can be extracted without waste.

The ore is first roasted in furnaces and washed with large quantities of acid to remove the silver and uranium. The ore which remains is then treated with tremendous quantities of barium and chemical which physicians introduce into the stomach and intestines as a contrast material in making X-ray photographs.

Radium Salt Is Left

The barium is the "coaxing" material which pulls radium into affinity with itself, Pochon explained, but 7,500 grams of barium must be used to pull one gram of radium out of hiding in the ore. A total of six tons of chemicals must be used to treat one ton of concentrated ore.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

KONRAD HENLEIN

North America has its Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy; Europe at the present moment is being treated to a similar exhibition of ventriloquism by two no less prominent figures than Adolf Hitler and Konrad Henlein. Hitler speaks but the words appear to come from the mouth of Henlein, who as leader of the Sudeten German party in Czechoslovakia, is calling for union with Germany.

Henlein is only 40 years old. Nevertheless he fought in the Austrian army (like Hitler) during the Great War, was wounded on the Trentino front, captured by the Italians and sent to a little island in the Mediterranean where he mastered the Czech language, became an adept at gymnastics. After the peace treaties, he found his native town was now part of the newly-created Czechoslovakia, and he himself, born of German stock, was one of the minority.

Organized Athletic Unions

Henlein worked as a bank clerk for a while, became dissatisfied and took up the teaching of gymnastics at Asch, near the German border.

His rise from obscurity was swift. Henlein went from town to town in his capacity of gymnastics teacher, organizing unions of German-speaking athletes (Turnvereins) in opposition to the Czech-speaking "sokols." From 1925 on Henlein incorporated a great many of Hitler's ideas in the new organizations and moulded his men into veritable "storm troopers."

In October of 1933 Henlein formed the Sudeten Deutsche Partei when the Czech Gov. dissolved the German Nazi and Nationalist parties. Two years later, his party met with tremendous success in the elections, formed the second largest bloc in the Czech parliament.

The Man Unmasked

At that time, Henlein still pretended to support democracy but the mask began slipping. He made innumerable visits to Berlin, consulting with General Goering and other Nazi officials. In October, 1937, he openly asked for autonomy for the German minority in Czechoslovakia.

Secure in the knowledge that he is backed by Hitler, the once unknown gymnastics teacher has gone on from threat to threat. The two demands he now makes are: autonomy for the German minority in Czechoslovakia; a change in the foreign policy of Czechoslovakia which would include abandonment of its alliances with France and Soviet Russia.

No Martyr, He

In June, 1938, Henlein was charged with treason, but the accusation was almost immediately withdrawn since the Czech government has no desire to make a martyr of him.

The picture at the head of the column shows Henlein, medium-sized, short-sighted, athletic, leaving his hotel in London, England in May when he called on certain British diplomats seeking their sympathy and support.

VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA — THE EMPIRE — THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

They Know the Sounds

Some women who hear a man prowling around the house at four a.m. are frightened; others are married to men who fish.—Victoria Times.

Doing Double Duty

When the haying season is on the eight-hour day gets sadly neglected. It looks more like one eight-hour day before noon and then another in the afternoon.—Peterborough Examiner.

Summer Brings Its Problems

Europe may have its worries over bomb-proof shelters and gas masks but we've our problems too. Once more 10,000,000 Canadians face Summer and no one has invented a true mosquito-proof pair of pyjamas.—Ottawa Journal.

Breeders of Dictatorship

Where dictatorship has come, it has come by reason of the failure of men to govern themselves. It is likely to come—because there is no other probable alternative—wherever nations show themselves too tired, careless or uncourageous for the disciplines and exertions of freedom.—Vancouver Province.

Rural Viewpoint Wanted

Modern transport, press and film are creating in England what Earl Baldwin describes as a "standardized suburban mechanized mind." We already have too much of that here. Rural people accept all too placidly the urban viewpoint, and wholesome rural independence is becoming inarticulate.—Farmer's Advocate.

World-wide Soil Erosion

Great Britain is making an investigation of soil erosion in all parts of the world and will issue a bulletin being prepared by the Imperial Bureau of Soil Science and of Herbage Plants. In it will be disclosed how much damage is being caused the world's food supplies by soil erosion, and different attempts to fight the menace will be discussed. Reports so far received in London show that the problem affects Africa, China, India, Australia, Russia, all round the Mediterranean, the Dutch East Indies and the British West Indies as well as the mid-western states of America and the prairie provinces of Canada. In Africa it has been caused by over-grazing, in Australia by over-grazing and rabbits, and in China and Italy by deforestation.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Bring It Into The Open

Ontario and Quebec are the richest of the provinces. They have many natural advantages. As the West sees the situation, they are also the chief beneficiaries of the national fiscal policy. Their prosperity, as it looks to the rest of Canada, perfectly exemplifies the scriptural saying that "to him that hath shall be given." It was to be expected that, of all the provinces, they would be the least interested in a study of the federal system which might lead to changes. They are naturally for the status quo. The Prairie and Maritime Provinces are just as naturally reformist and, therefore, eager to present arguments and statistical statements tending to show a need for change. It has been suggested that the inquiry has produced or encouraged sectional feeling in Canada. That is clearly not so. The cleavage existed before the Rowell Commission was thought of. And the national interest is obviously better served by an open debate on this difference of opinion than by efforts to hush it up by singing "O Canada!" —Winnipeg Free Press.

The EMPIRE

On Retiring Today

If a man enjoys his work, and he is physically and mentally equal to doing it efficiently, there are very good reasons why he should go on working. And these reasons are reinforced in the case of men who are so single-minded that their work is also their hobby. But for the most part, and particularly today when the means of recreation and amusement are so readily available in so many different forms, the average man, one imagines, would be happy to retire at 60 if he were able to continue living in modest comfort. The old conception of the dignity of labor has been weakened by the introduction into offices and factories of machines that can do as much work in a day as a man can do in three. Work has become in many ways less satisfying to the individual than it used to be. Craftsmanship has decayed, and one cannot expect a workman to take so much pride and pleasure in operating a machine that manufactures a single unit as his grandfather did in making the whole job himself by hand.—Glasgow Herald.

Educate Indians To Housekeeping

Saskatchewan Seeks to Aid Indian Families in Raising Standard of Living—Women Taught Housecraft.

Education of Indian women in household arts, with a view to promoting a higher standard of living among the tribes, has been undertaken by the Saskatchewan Department of Indian Affairs with the co-operation of women's clubs, states a recent despatch from Winnipeg.

"The Indian woman has more influence over her husband than the white woman has over hers," claimed Dr. Thomas Robertson, Inspector of Indian Agencies in Saskatchewan. "In the past not enough attention has been paid them. Money has been spent on men for farming equipment and improvements, but the department now aims at a higher standard of living through women's education.

Eager to Learn

"Requests of Indian women that meetings sponsored by the department be devoted to work shows the interest they are taking in their work," Dr. Robertson said. "Indian women, young and old, are eager to learn."

At the meetings they are being instructed in sewing, knitting, canning, cooking and other household arts. Dr. Robertson believes craft work has improved 50 per cent. in many Indian homes in the past two years. Children are learning to spin in schools and are teaching others in homes.

Move to Save The Wild Fowl

Canadians Are Asked to Co-operate With American Sportsmen.

NORTH BATTLEFORD, Sask. — Canadians were urged to co-operate with American sportsmen in their fowl conservation efforts by E. D. Russenholt of Winnipeg, assistant general manager of Ducks Unlimited, in an address here.

He said United States workers could not carry out their extensive campaign without assistance from Canadians because of the large number of ducks hatched in this country.

Ducks Unlimited

"We believe we can multiply ducks to an almost unlimited extent and with your co-operation we are going to put forth our best efforts," Russenholt said. He cited the experience of the state of Maine which, through 40 years of game conservation, now has an annual revenue of $25,000,000 from fish and game.

Gas Meters In Taxis

The Japanese are getting anxious about their war against China. They've just decided to ration their petrol supply. In future, motorists may purchase only one gallon of petrol a day—taxi-drivers may have seven. Taxi fares doubled when this rationing was announced.

And as a result of these new "gas" restrictions, all taxi-cags will be fitted with meters, to prevent overcharging.

Argentina's exports gained nearly 40 per cent. in value last year.

Remarkable Dog Good Policeman

Mongrel Stops Other Canines Chasing Autos

Few dogs have the intelligence of Major, a mongrel owned by Bobby HcConnell of Lanigan, Sask., 75 miles east of Saskatoon.

Adept at the usual begging, rolling and shaking paw tricks, Major has also learned to prevent other dogs from running after automobiles.

Early in his life Major was reprimanded by Master Bobby for chasing cars and he learned his lesson well. Now he acts as constable to the other dogs by shouldering them from the road when autos pass.

Warns of Fire

On one occasion the dog spotted a fire. His antics aroused workmen and the building was saved.

Every morning and noon Major escorts the neighborhood children to school, often carrying their books.

Major has learned to carry wood into the house but insists on a reward for his efforts. Once the expected reward was not forthcoming so Major calmly picked up the wood and took it out of the house.

Poverty Common In Newfoundland

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. — Newfoundland's employment problem generally has failed to improve during the last six months despite high hopes held at the beginning of the year 1938. Of a total population of about 290,000, 50,000 persons are on able-bodied relief and many others are very near it. More than 12,000 fishermen are without supplies or any other means of support.

In some cases discontent at their lot — poverty, hardship, the dole— has driven people to open protest against conditions.

Reasons for Hard Times

The four are: Suspension of the Cander development because of changes in plans of the English newsprint company, Bowater-Lloyd, Limited, fathers of the proposals; delay in conclusion of general seafoods agreement with the commission of government; setback in the herring-reduction operations of the Santa Cruz Oil Company owing to lack of herring in Placentia Bay; and curtailment of forestry operations.

On Mistress Alice Oliver

Here sleeps, past earth's awakening,
A woman, true as pretty;
Who was herself in every thing;
And wise no less than witty.
Her lightest turn of foot—hand—head
Was way of wind with water;
So with her thoughts and all she said—
It was her heart had taught her.
O thou most dear and loving soul,
Think not I shall forget thee;
Nor take amiss what here is writ
For those who never met thee!

—Walter de la Mare, in The Lyric.

Manufacturers of Britain increased production $64,000,000 last year.

THE WONDERLAND OF OZ

What do you mean, allies?" asked the King. "I'll explain," said Guph. "You're going to attack a mighty country. They haven't much of an army in Oz, but Ozma has a fairy wand and your magic belt, and in the south of the Emerald City lives a Sorceress named Glinda. Also there is a wizard who is very good and it will be no easy thing to overcome all this magic."

"We have fifty thousand soldiers!" cried the King, proudly. "Yes, but they are gnomes," remarked Guph, knocking the ashes out of his pipe on the King's chest. "Gnomes are immortals, but they are not very strong on magic. When you lost your magic belt, most of your magic power was taken. Against Ozma you and your gnomes would have no show at all." The King's eyes flashed angrily.

"Then away you go to the slicing machine!" he cried. "Not yet," said the general, filling his pipe from the King's tobacco pouch. "What will you do?" asked the Monarch. "I propose to obtain the power we need," answered Guph. "There are many evil creatures who have sufficient power to conquer and destroy the Land of Oz. We will get them on our side and then take Ozma and her people by surprise."

The King was delighted with this idea for he realized how clever it was. "Truly, Guph, you are the greatest general I have ever had!" he exclaimed, his eyes sparkling with joy. "You go at once and make arrangements with the evil powers to assist us and meantime I'll begin to dig the tunnel." "I thought you'd agree with me, King," replied the gnome. "I'll start this very afternoon to visit the chief of the Whimsies."