Parliamentary Doings

With Ontario's Legislators, Spring, 1939

BY EEDY

The Ontario Legislature was a haunted House last week when the ghosts of that East Hastings by-election (December, 1936) walked again . . . . things thought long decently dead were aired by Premier Hepburn and Opposition Leader Drew during the most heated interchange of the session . . . . something about Colonel Drew's having referred to (so they said) the French-Canadians as "a defeated race".

What started these grave-digging operations was a speech by the Liberal Member for Cochrane North, J. A. Habel (French-speaking), who rose to the defence of his own people and accused certain "gang" members of trying to promote disunity in this country . . . . In the melee which ensued, insulting words were flung across the floor of the House, and the Speaker had all but to knock the heads of the two party leaders together to restore order.

Speaking of deaths and burials and such, brings us to a serious piece of legislation just introduced, a Bill to amend the Coroner's Act which would give the Attorney-General power to order an inquest in cases where a body has been removed from Ontario . . . . This provision is to be retroactive, with the result that Mr. Conant would have power to order an inquest in the sensational Sidley will case.

Criticism of the Bill by the Opposition centred around the making of "a fishing expendition" out of each inquest, designed to injure the good name of deceased persons . . . . the Attorney-General would reduce the number of apparently needless inquests, declaring that the average inquest costs about $60, and that an autopsy adds $15 to $20 to the costs . . . . Mr. Croll of Windsor on the other hand considers inquests "a safety valve", helping to ally the fears of families of deceased people.

Hospitalization of mentally ill persons, the Premier claims, is one of the greatest problems in Ontario at the present time . . . . only one out of five persons committed to an institution has a chance to recover, he says . . . . After Ontario's three new hospitals are completed, we find, they will serve to relieve only the pressure existing in the other institutions, as the average increase in resident "mental" patients in Ontario every year is 500 . . . . insane asylum population increased in the province 16.2 per cent. between 1932 and 1936, or 4 per cent. per year . . . . until now there are over 15,000 in mental institutions . . . . building more hospitals for the mentally ill is like locking the stable door after the horse is gone . . . . Time to catch people is before they go insane . . . . Negatively, build more hospitals; positively, sterilize the unfit and make it possible for people to live well-rounded out, saner lives.

The Liquor Control Board of Ontario paid over to the province at the end of March $10,500,000 on account of profits and permits . . . . total legal sales in Ontario of beer, wine and spirits soared to $51,005,688 during the year ending Mar. 31, an increase of 10.6% over the previous year . . . . the ten and one-half million dollars is being used to help balance Ontario's budget.

Which way the wind blows: public reaction to the suggested raising of the tax on gasoline is universally unfavorable, rural districts being particularly opposed . . . . individual farmers could not expect to gain to the same extent as urban residents through a sharing of the increase with municipalities.

An important amendment to Ontario's Mining Act provides for annual medical inspections to be given to miners engaged in dust occupations . . . . it also hits at high-grading (boot-legging of gold).

We'll talk about the new Budget next week.

Wings

Howe'er unhappy I may be
There is some beauty left to me:
A bird's wild song, the smell of rain,
And then my heart leaps up again.
From wooded hills I hear the call
To quiet streams or waterfall.
Through winding paths they beckon me
And so much beauty do I see
That I forget unhappy things,
And heart and feet alike have wings.

—Jessie Martin Graham, in the Christian Century.

The Conquering Hero Surveys His Biggest Conquest

Erect in his slowly moving automobile this radiophoto shows Adolf Hitler making his triumphant entry into conquered Bruenn, formerly Brno, capital of the "protectorate" of Moravia. "Enthusiastic" inhabitants jam a Swastika-decorated balcony to snap into the Nazi salute as the Fuehrer passes on his way to the city hall from the railroad station. The second armored division of the German army which had preceded him into Germany's new domain was reviewed by Hitler here.

The BOOK SHELF

By ELIZABETH EEDY

"DANGER SIGNAL"
By Phyllis Bottome

How to prevent a murder . . . . which she feels sure is bound to happen . . . . is the problem confronting Dr. Silla, Czech psychologist. When the red-haired girl raises her eyes, and lowers them again, shamefacedly, Dr. Silla knows she will have to act fast.

It's a fascinating story of tangled human emotions—a drama in which life and love and death are all mixed up. The author (who wrote "Private Worlds", "Mortal Storm") does a smooth job of unravelling. The death of Archer clarifies it all for the distraught heroine.

But we're not telling you if the murder came off. . . .

"Danger Signal" . . . . by Phyllis Bottome . . . . Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 215 Victoria Street — $2.50.

Planes To Fly At 500 M.P.H.

U. S. Army Officials Foresee Early Achievement Following Tests

Speed of 500 miles an hour in the air, it developed this week, apparently will be achieved soon.

At Wright Field, the United States Army's test laboratory for new types of warplanes, officers said that Lieutenant Ben Kelsey, the pilot who crashed on February 11 in a new twin-motor pursuit plant after a near-record transcontinental flight, had "cruised" at 60 per cent. of power on his jaunt.

Kelsey's actual flying time for the 2,454 miles from Southern California to New York was just a shade more than seven hours.

While the use of full throttle would not have given him 40 per cent. more speed—speed does not increase in direct ratio to the amount of power used—his pace for the entire distance indicated a probably top for the ship in excess of 450 miles an hour, engineers said.

The low-wing, all-metal experimental Lockheed was fitted with 1,000 horsepower engines. At cruising power they delivered an average of some 350 miles an hour.

Engines almost twice as powerful, which would provide a tremendous increase in speed, are now under test.

U.S. Wheat Being Milled In Ontario

Ottawa Giving Consideration to Matter; Makes it Hard for Farmers of This Province

Trade Minister Euler told the House of Commons at Ottawa last week that the Government was giving consideration to the situation created by the inflow of American wheat into Eastern Canada, displacing Ontario-grown wheat.

There was no doubt some wheat was coming in from the United States and being milled in Ontario, and possibly some was being exported, he said. These importations were coming in under the law as it stands at present.

"I may admit, however, that the situation is giving some concern to the Government, but at the moment I can only say that it is receiving consideration," the Minister said.

Conservative Leader Manion drew the Government's attention to the question when he reported Ontario farmers finding it impossible to sell their wheat through usual channels because 600,000 bushels of "subsidized American wheat" had been brought into Ontario for use by certain Ontario flour mills.

Dog Days

Leaving his dog locked in the car one day last week, Bob Keith, of Disney, Okla., went about his business. The dog brushed against the emergency brake and released it; the car coasted down an incline, finally smashing into a store. Customers broke down the store door in their rush for freedom—and the dog bit the workman who released him.

Dwarf Fruit Trees Growing In Favor

Claiming Important Places In Smaller Orchards of States

Dwarf varieties of fruit trees are claiming an important place in the smaller orchards of New York state, Prof. H. B. Tukey, Ph.D., head of the Geneva, N.Y., experimental station, told a gathering of fruit men in the armories, Strathroy, Ont., last week.

Prof. Tukey was the principal speaker at the annual dinner of the H. C. Downham Nurseries of Strathroy attended by 100 firm representatives and agricultural authorities of the district.

For Closer Planting

The New York expert told that because of the closer planting in small orchards the dwarf varieties were now favored by the smaller grower. They are no longer a novelty but must be considered an advance in fruit growing.

Prof. Tukey told of the progress in fruit growing in his state where he said two Canadian originations, the McIntosh Red and the McCowen, the latter coming from the Ottawa experimental station, were the most favored varieties.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

THE MAP OF EUROPE

Publishing an up-to-date atlas is as tricky as getting out a Hollywood fan magazine with all the stars married to the right people. —Winnipeg Tribune.

ONE FOR CANADIAN YOUTH

The 17-year-old Middlesex farmer who was the leading winner at the Middlesex Seed Fair is a pretty good answer to those who deplore the decadence of Canadian youth.—London Free Press.

TRY BATHING BEAUTIES

What with the reputation our politicians are getting these days it would be pretty hard to stir up any interest in one of those sea monsters.—Hamilton Spectator.

PLENTY FAST ENOUGH

A speaker on traffic safety urges motorists to pledge themselves not to exceed 50 miles per hour. It is good advice. A mile in 72 seconds, even under perfect conditions, ought to be fast enough for anybody using the public roads.—Ottawa Journal.

FLAW IN DEMOCRACY

One flaw in a democracy is that right after a government is elected it wants to rest on its oars; then shortly before it is time to go to the country the government is afraid to introduce progressive legislation for fear of offending some voters.—Kitchener Record.

OUR PURCHASING POWER

Practically half the total number of passenger automobiles sold to customers in Canada in 1938 were sold in Ontario: 47,575 out of the dominion total of 95,972, or 49.6 per cent.

Just over half the entire passenger car registration in Canada was in Ontario: 582,212 out of 1,160,973, or 50.1 per cent.

Next to Ontario's 45,575 new car purchases came Quebec's 18,156. Next to Ontario's registration of 582,212 came Quebec's 169,803.

The purchase and possession of motor cars is an important indication of the purchasing power of Ontario's people.—Toronto Star Weekly.

Seed Catalogues

This is the month the postman brings,
Trudging through snow and rain and fogs,
These early harbingers of Spring's
Return—the garden catalogues.
Snug by the blazing hearth, I plan
A flower-bed woven of a dream
Of larkspur and valerian
And lilies bending by a stream.
Though these frail seedlings may not bloom
In bright profusion, what I see
Prefigured in this lamp-lit room
Is none the less reality.
Nor frost nor winter storms shall pale
This pledge of April's counterpart,
Nor all the winds of heaven assail
A garden planted in the heart!

Toronto Boy Missing From Prague

Fears are felt for the safety of Gordon Skilling, Toronto-born radio commentator for the Czech government in Prague. Mr. Skilling presented the case for the Czech government over the air during the Munich crisis and has not been heard from since Hitler's forces moved into Prague. Anxiety has also been expressed for the safety of his wife.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

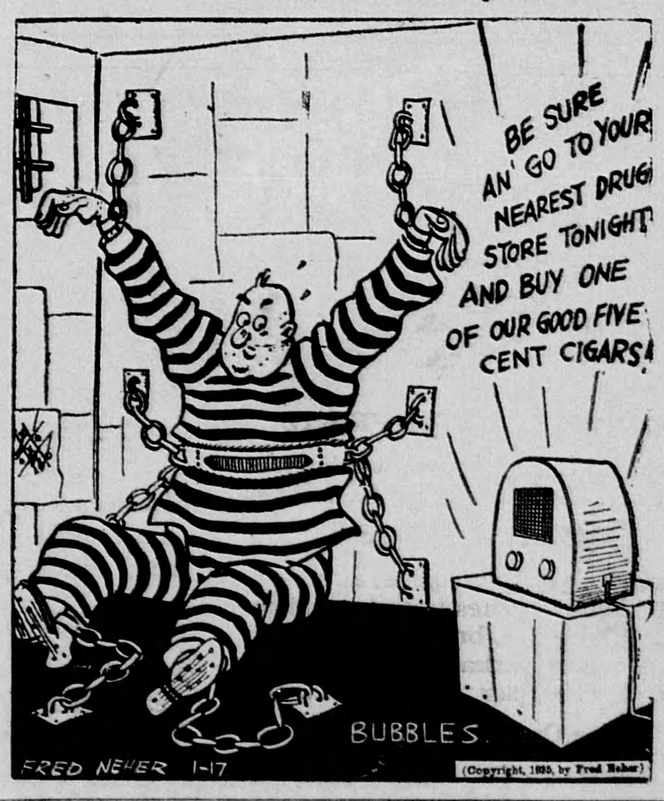
By William Ferguson

THE English sparrow is the only true sparrow in this country, all others being finches. Some of the more common of the great list of names among our so-called sparrows include the vesper, song, chipping, tree, field, fox, white-throated, lark, savannah, swamp and white crowned.

NEXT: What animal has the most valuable fur?

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By Fred Neher



WONDERLAND OF OZ

By L. Frank Baum

"Oh, this is lots of fun!" Dorothy exclaimed. "Let's find the rest of him and get him all together." "What's the rest of him like?" asked the Wizard. "Here are some pieces of blue legs and green arms, but I don't know whether they are his or not." "Look for a white shirt and a white apron," said the head, which had been put together, speaking in a rather faint voice. "I am the cook."

"Oh, thank you," said Dorothy. "It's lucky we started you first, for I am hungry and you can be cooking something for us to eat while we match the other folks together." It was not very difficult now that they had a hint as to how the man was dressed to find the other pieces belonging to him, and now they all worked on the cook trying piece after piece to see if it would fit. They finally had him set up complete.

When he was finished, the cook bowed low before them and said: "I will go to the kitchen now and prepare your dinner. You will find it hard to get all the Fuddles together, so I advise you to begin on the Lord High Chigglewitz, whose name is Larry. He's a fat man dressed in a blue coat, a pink vest and brown breeches. As he is the chief personage in this town of Fuddlecumjig, he will be able to assist you with the others."

"We will," said the Wizard. "Thank you for the suggestion." Aunt Em was the first to discover a piece of the Chigglewitz. "This matching folks together seems foolish to me," she said, "but we may as well get rid of some of this rubbish." They worked eagerly and Billina's sharp eyes proved a great help to them, as she could put her head close to the various pieces that lay around. So before long old Larry was standing before them complete.