NEWS PARADE...

The Second Great War broke a record in its fifteenth week — for excitement. Two events, one of unexcelled dramatic interest, the other world-shaking in importance, held the spellbound attention of newspaper readers, radio hounds, of all countries. We refer to the "suicide" of the Graf Spee, the expulsion of Russia from the League of Nations.

What a wealth of speculation hinged on these 2 happenings! Had Hitler himself ordered the scuttling of the Spee? Was it a gesture of great bravado, or was she blown up in order that the secrets of her construction might not fall into enemy hands? With regard to the action taken at Geneva, many thinking people felt regret and annoyance that the League had not seen fit previously to do something about the aggressions of Hitler, the rape of Albania by Mussolini. (The League had never even discussed the disappearance of Austria, Czechoslovakia or Poland from the map). Looking ahead, too, the world wondered whether Russia's expulsion would not throw the U.S.S.R. and Germany closer together.

Italian Foreign Minister Count Ciano's speech to the Fascist Chamber embodied the first clear and comprehensive statement of Italian policy since the beginning of the war. He asserted, first of all, that the Rome-Berlin Axis remains strong as ever despite Italy's neutrality. Extenuating Hitler's pact with Stalin, he declared that Italy knew of the accord in advance. Further, he said, Italy informed the Reich last May, that owing to the effects of the campaigns in Ethiopia and Spain, she would not be prepared to engage in warfare for three years. Such a statement appeared to end for the moment any hope that Italy could be induced to come in on the Allies' side. (Same week: Virginia Gayda, one of Mussolini's mouthpieces, in a radio address declared that Italy must have sea outlets at Gibraltar, the Dardanelles and Suez).

During the week U.S. Ambassador Kennedy returned to Washington from his post at London to give a report on the war by word-of-mouth to his chief. He emphatically urged the States to stay out of the conflict at all costs. "This is not our fight," he said.

At home in Canada, the final draft of the momentous Empire air training plan was completed. Highlights: estimated cost of plan for three years, $600,000,000, with Canada's hare, $350,000,000; required establishment in Canada of 67 schools of all types; nearly 40,000 men required to carry out plan, exclusive of students; about 60 new air fields to be constructed and 20 existing fields enlarged; United Kingdom to supply most of aircraft, including engines and spares, as her share in cost; Canada, Australia and New Zealand to contribute to total cost in proportion to use made of plan by pupils from those countries; excluding cost of aircraft supplied by Britain, Canada to bear cost of initial and elementary training in Canada and about four-fifths of remaining costs of program; program to be administered by Dominion Government, with supervisory board composed of representatives from four countries involved; great majority of pupils will be Canadians; pilot training to take about 26 weeks, many thousands of pilots to be turned out each year.

The War at the end of 1939 was not one war, but three: between the Allies and Germany; between Russia and Finland; between Japan and China — Western, Eastern, Far Eastern.

Will Get View Of Six Planets

Astronomer Says Unique Grouping In February Display Is Seen Only Every Few Thousand Years

The people of today will be privileged to witness something which neither their children nor their great-grandchildren will see —a grouping of six planets in the western sky next February, Dr. Frank S. Hogg, professor of astronomy at the David Dunlop Observatory, Toronto, told the Royal Canadian Institute in an address last week.

"It's only every few thousand years that you find as many as six planets in the same region of the skies," he said. "Along with earth, there will appear in the western sky during the latter days of February the planets Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, Mars and Uranus."

Pretty Canadian Girl Is Instructing Future Pilots of The R.C.A.F.

Determined to show the air force that women instructors can turn out as good a pilot as male instructors, pretty Helen Harrison is busily engaged in giving instruction to pilots who have their eyes on the R.C.A.F. She is teaching flying at Kitchener-Waterloo Flying Club after being turned down when she applied for work ferrying military planes. Her record includes the instructing of military pilots in South Africa and test pilot for a Canadian aircraft company. Pictured with her is Provisional Pilot Officer Paul Henderson.

Grand Titles Go To 8 Canadians

At International Hay and Grain Show, Chicago — Winners In Live Stock Section Also

William Rogers of Tappen, B.C., was awarded the grand championship for rye at the twenty-first international grain and hay show Rogers' victory brought the total number of grand championships won by Canada this year at Chicago to eight.

The other grain grand awards were wheat, field beans and oats to Alberta; alfalfa to Saskatchewan; soy beans and field peas to Ontario and timothy seed to British Columbia.

Ontario Boys, Best Corn

Two youthful farmers, members of the Canadian Boys' and Girls' Farm Clubs, Gerald Hessenauer of Rodney, Ont., and Garnett Knister of Ruscomb, Ont., won awards in corn. Hessenauer took first in Region 1 and Knister first in Region 2. These youngsters won against a big field of entries from a wide area in the United States.

In the live stock section Edwards Brothers of Watford, Ont., sold at good prices eight of the thirteen head of Aberdeen-Angus cattle brought to the exhibition.

F. G. Todd, Lucknow, Ont., who showed at the international for the first time this year, scored twice in the Aberdeen-Angus class. Lincoln sheep class championship ram was exhibited by H. M. Lee, Highgate, Ont.

Eastern Canada Winners

Other Eastern Canada winners were:

Breeding shorthorns — Two-year-old heifers, F. H. Deacon and Son, Unionville, Ont., third; senior year-old heifer, T. A. Russell, Downview, Ont., second; junior ond; senior heifer calf, Douglas yearling heifer, James Douglas and Sons, Caledonia, Ont., second Sons, first.

Film Hero Dies Suddenly

Douglas Fairbanks, great star of the silent screen and renowed for his acrobatic ability before the camera, died suddenly from a heart attack at his home in Santa Monica, Calif. He was 55.

Makes Tomatoes

O. A. C. Lecturer Plans to Develop New Types — Takes Seven Generations to Fix the Variety

C. E. Mighton, of Guelph, is a young plant wizard who has set himself to perform a real feat of legerdemain — two of them, in fact. He has determined to be the Burbank of the tomato.

This young lecturer at the Ontario College of Agriculture promises to reach into his scientific hat and pull out a bigger, redder, juicier tomato than any now grown in Canada, and present it to the catsup preservers and tomato juice squeezers of Western Ontario.

"Small, Round, Firm," Wanted

He promises to reach into another hat and pull out a little, firm round tomato, more prolific than any grown in Canada, and to present it to eastern Ontario canners who have been looking for a tomato that won't go squashy in the can.

"There'll be no hocus-pocus or 'abracadabra' about it," said Mighton, in a recent address at Toronto. "We are working along strictly scientific lines, and I think we are meeting success.

Strictly Scientific

"Once you have found the characteristics you want, it takes from six to nine generations to fix them," he said. "At O.A.C., we grow two generations a year, one outside and one in a hothouse, so it will take three to five years to fix our variety once we find it."

Will Regulate Hog Industry

Ottawa Acts to Prevent Scandals Like in Last War

Blanket regulation of Canada's hog industry — designed to guard against any repetition of the bacon scandals of the last war — is to be an immediate result of the arrangement now concluded with the British Government for large-scale purchases of Canadian bacon last week, . .id a story in the Windsor Daily Star.

To Supervise Industry

A bacon control board is being set up by the federal government to supervise all phases of the nation's hog industry. It will regulate not only the price to be paid to the primary producer, but also the operations of the packing plants. The spread that the packers will be allowed to earn will be rigidly specified by the federal bacon authority.

So far as the farmers are concerned, it is likely that the scheme will return them about an average price of nine cents per pound or a little better over the year for their bacon hogs.

Called Adequate

The hog population of the Dominion at the present time is four and one-quarter million animals. This is adequate to the productive requirements of the new British arrangement.

Urges New System Of Ontario Relief

Norfolk Children's Aid Society Superintendent Says Problem "Big Business"

A call for a complete overhauling of the province's relief system as it affects the rural areas was made in Woodstock by Thomas Phillips, superintendent of the Norfolk Children's Aid Society addressing a meteing of the Woodstock Rotary Club.

"This question has now entered the realm of big business," said Mr. Phillips, "and it is time to take its administration away from the municipalities that are ill-equipped to raise the necessary taxation or to appoint persons skilled enough to administer such a problem. Federal and provincial participation have made the lot of municipalities easier but the machinery is creaking badly."

Mr. Phillips advocated that outside of the large urban centres no unit for relief should be less than country-wide and the administration placed in charge of specially trained persons.

VOICE of the PRESS

INTERESTED SPECTATORS

Ethiopians will be interested in Italian indignation over Russian barbarities in Finland. — Brandon Sun.

SUPPORTING THE TOWN BAND

Interesting is the result, the passing of a by-law at Fort Erie to spend a quarter of a mill annually for the town band and that is not a big price to pay for band concerts. It is possible Fort Erie may set a fashion elsewhere in the province. — Niagara Falls Review.

PRESERVE SPIRT OF DEMOCRACY

If there is to be democracy after the war is over, democracy must not be abandoned while the war is on. The spirit of democracy must be respected, not suppressed, within the democracies themselves. The thing for which the war is fought abroad must not be lost at home. — Toronto Star.

WARNINGS UNHEEDED

Another case of poisoning by monoxide gas has been reported. It is regrettable that, in spite of all the warnings that have been published for years regarding the danger of this deadly gas, fatalities still occur to those who thoughtlessly tinker with their motor cars in closed garages while the engine is running. — Brantford Expositor.

MICKIE SAYS—

Nobleman Gave "Sandwiches" Name

The origin of sandwiches is interesting. In the reign of King George III there lived a famous nobleman who was very fond of gambling. He passed whole days at the card table and would not leave his game even for a meal. Naturally he found playing on an empty stomach uncomfortable work, and so devised a plan by which he might eat with as little trouble as possible.

He ordered his servant to cut two thin slices of bread and place meat between. The meal proved satisfying.

The famous nobleman was the Earl of Sandwich, and so popular did his slices of bread and meat become that they were called by his name.

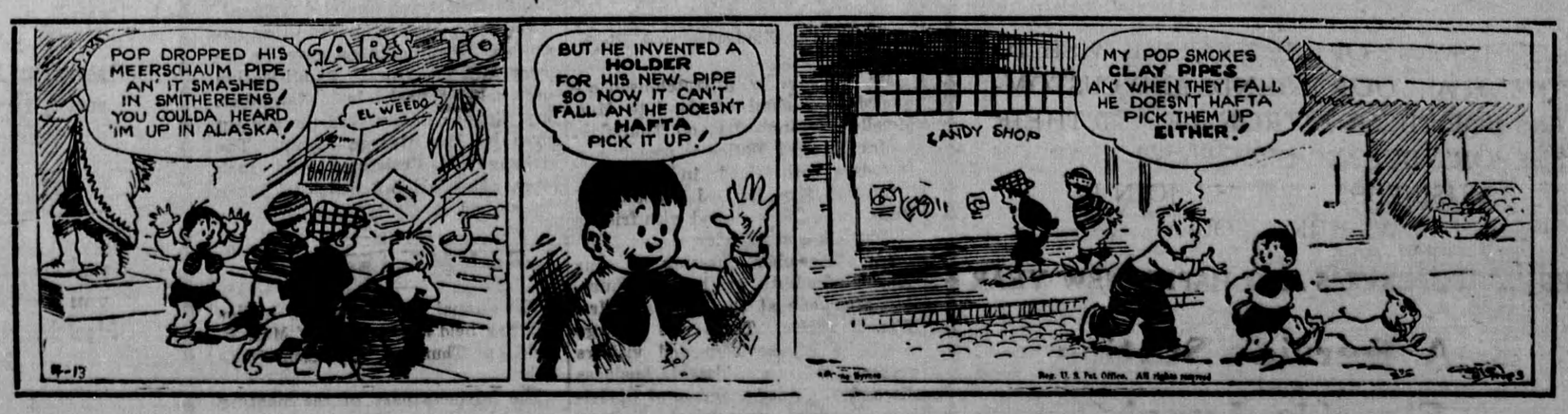
Sell Buffalo Meat All Across Canada

Juicy steaks and roasts of buffalo meat about 35 cents a pound are available all over Canada now.

As a war measure there has been a slaughter of buffalo at the Dominion Government park at Wainwright, Alta., and 3,000 buffalo are being dressed to provide approximately 1,000,000 pounds of meat, which will be distributed nationally.

Big trees of California are said to have no natural enemies and none of these trees has been known to die or insect or disease attack.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"I Want You To Tell Me How You Managed to Get Into the House Without Waking My Wife."

REG'LAR FELLERS—Get the Broom — By GENE BYRNES