NEWS PARADE

The five days of intense diplomatic activity in Europe's capitals which followed upon the close of the Russo-Finnish war reached a climax with the dramatic meeting on Italian soil of Reichsfuehrer Hitler of Germany and Il Duce Mussolini of Italy. 'Twas an event to set the world's tongues wagging. Political interpreters of five continents tied themselves in knots attempting to gauge accurately the subject of the two dictators' conversation. British officials were agreed that nothing good was likely to come out of it for the Allies.

Two Heads, or Three

At worst, Allied observers envisioned, as a result of the Brennero parley, the formation of a three-power entente between Germany, Italy, Russia, which would have as its purpose the undisputed political and economic hegemony of Continental Europe; and the elimination of Britain as a political factor in Southeastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Near East. As second possibility, they foresaw that Mussolini might come into the war on the side of Hitler, joining in vast military operations against Britain and France. Thirdly, they speculated that Hitler and Mussolini might have agreed on measures to "seal up" the Balkan area against any Allied war moves. Fourthly, that the two dictators might merely have discussed economic collaboration between Germany and Italy.

Peace, or "Peace"

There was no doubt in anyone's mind that a big peace offensive was in process of preparation by either Hitler or Mussolini or both . . . a different type of peace from the one proposed by President Roosevelt's envoy, Sumner Welles . . . a peace that would be nine-tenths blackmail. It was to meet the impact of an offensive such as this, rather than of a Blitzkrieg on the Western Front, that the people of France and Britain last week braced themselves . . . the British press set up a clamor that "Great Britain take off kid gloves and fight Germany on every front," wrest back the diplomatic initiative from the dictator powers . . . At the same time it was evident that the British people would choose to fight on, even against the strong security of an entrenched Germany, unless certain primary peace conditions were met: that the independence of Czechoslovakia, Poland be restored; that the Hitler regime be removed from power; that the security of small European nations be assured.

Stalemate Or Else

Last week in Rome the general view appeared to be that the Balkans, the Near East, and the Middle East would be let alone for this spring . . . from the French point of view the situation could be construed thus: if Hitler finds the Allied blockade effective, and if he cannot arrange a "white peace" he is likely to seek a soluton by force of arms; if not, the present stalemate may continue indefinitely.

Land Going Back?

From An Agricultural Standpoint It Is In Southern Ontario, Forestry Official Declares

Land in southern Ontario, from an agricultural standpoint, is "definitely going back," John F. Simmons, of the Forestry Branch, Provincial Department of Lands and Forests, told Wentworth County Council.

"Less than 10 per cent. of the land is bushland, and this percentage is going down all the time," Mr. Simons said. He stressed that forests were necessary for soil and moisture conservation, and hence reforestation was necessary if the land were to produce good crops.

SMALL WOODLOTS NEEDED

"Mortgages and high taxes caused many farmers to cut down trees for commercial purposes, which they would not otherwise have done," William H. English, Reeve of Ancaster, informed council.

Better progress could be made in reforestation, declared William S. Milmine, Reeve of Saltfleet, if there were many small woodlots planted in the county, rather than one large woodlot.

Twelve Years Without Food

A German peasant girl has refused ration cards because she has taken neither food nor drink for 12 years and says she does not need any.

Two Dictators Hold Historic Conference In Brenner Pass

Meeting in hurried conference at Brennero, on Italian soil, last week, Fuehrer Hitler of Germany and Duce Mussolini of Italy were believed to have discussed collaboration of economic interests in the present European set-up. The two dictators are shown, ABOVE, during Hitler's visit to Rome in 1938.

Gardening ....

WHEN TO START

It does soil no good to be dug while too wet. It is liable to become lumpy later, perhaps, to bake hard. With heavy clay soil early working is particularly dangerous.

A good test is to look at one's shoes. If these become muddy after a tramp through the garden it is best to go back to the fire-side and read a seed catalogue or a book.

Texture of both heavy and light soil will be immensely improved by the digging in of well-rotted manure, decaying leaves or other garden refuse. This sort of thing adds humus and moisture absorbing powers to light soil, makes the heavy kind more amenable to spade and fork.

SOMETHING WILL FIT

No matter how unusually situated, there are flowers to fit almost any garden. Some like damp soil, some dry, some full hot sun, others shady corners. Certain types do the best in deep, rich soil, while some actually ask the poorer sorts. Special likes and dislikes will be found mentioned in the better Canadian seed catalogues and if your garden is unusual in location it is advisable to make special selections.

Certain annuals like clarkia, alyssum, larkspur, pansy and phlox which will actually give better results, more delicate coloring if planted in partial shade.

For full sun, especially if planted close to a South wall where there is little protection from Summer heat, there are things like corcopsis, California and other poppies, portulaca or climbing morning glories and nasturtiums, which love the sun and give remarkable results even in a siege of dry weather.

For scent, especially in the evening, a few nicotine, carnations, mignonette or stocks will perfume the whole garden.

Solid beds of annuals or big blocks in borders have exceptional appeal, and these can be made up of petunias, phlox, dwarf marigolds, nasturtiums, verbenas or zinnias.

Pygmy Chimp Brought Home

McGill University Party Returns From Successful Trip to Congo

"Congo Color" was vividly portrayed before a Montreal audience by Duncan McIntyre Hodgson in an illustrated lecture on the McGill expedition which he led into the Belgian Congo last year in search of scinetific specimens. One of the most important specimens retrieved from the jungle was a pygmy chimpanzee, which, according to Mr. Hodgson, is the most intelligent of his family.

A feature of the film was a close-up view of hot lava just after it had belched forth from a volcanic peak, destroying a native village and nearly cutting off the expedition from the direct line of its travels.

SURPRISE LUXURIES

Occasionally the trip, which was carried out for the most part under conditions of discomfort, produced surprise luxuries, and at one point in the heart of darkest Africa the party spent the night in a jungle home far from civilization but all equipped with electric lights and a modern frigidaire.

Dr. Joseph Douglas Hermann, formerly of the Royal Victoria Hospital, accompanied the party and dissected many of the specimens procured, bringing back the vital organs or skeletons for scientific museums.

Canadians Add the Home Touch "Over There"

Canadians in training in England before moving across the channel to France are making their particular section of England as much like the land they left behind as possible. One Canadian trooper erected this totem pole near his quarters. It is a replica of one on an Indian reservation near his Canadian home.

No Such Creature As Ideal Husband

Toronto Newspaperwoman Gives Advice to 1940 Leap Year Girls in Choosing A Mate

"One woman's mate is another woman's poison," is the way Lotta Dempsey, Toronto newspaperwoman, sums up the difficulties of the 1940 Leap Year girl in choosing the right husband.

At Toronto Central Y.M.C.A. Dinner Club, Miss Dempsey conducted last week a "School for Husbands" and among the guests was her own husband, Richard Fisher, Toronto architect. In what she termed a "wife's-eyeview" of this year's crop of husbands she gave it as her considered opinion that there is no such thing as an ideal husband and no woman on earth would want such a paragon even if he did exist. She wanted it understood, however, that she was basing her remarks on contacts with women and women's organizations during the past 15 years' experience as a newspaperwoman rather than her own experience of married life.

LITTLE SURPRISES WELCOME

Miss Dempsey was sure no girl really liked the idea of a Dutch treat. "Instead," she said, "a girl would rather return kindnesses in some other way such as going for walks, having the suitor to dinner, and so forth."

The speaker gave a number of succint bits of advice to husbands and would-be husbands. Never, she urged, let your wife down in public. Don't criticize her emotional outlets (hats, crying at the movies, changing furniture around, etc.). Avoid pampering her as you would a plague. Give her a comfortable, well-fitted, dainty kitchen to work in. And devote at least a minute or two at every lunch hour to thinking about her and planning little surprises.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

SHORT BUT SWEET

One thing for which we ought to be everlastingly grateful is that our political campaigns last only for weeks, whereas those across the border continue for months with increasing oratory.

—Oshawa Times.

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THEY'RE NOT KICKERS

Six Ontario counties — Elgin, Perth, Lambton, Kent, Simcoe and Wellington — have no debenture debt. It will be noticed that these municipalities were not among those making protests recently to the Government about the cutting off of part of the provincial subsidy.

—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

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CRIME AND YOUTH

The crime problem is definitely linked with the unemployment problem, and it cannot be divorced. Lads with jobs have neither the time nor the disposition to plot and execute crimes against property. Crimes of passion will not be as abundant if youngsters are given a chance to live normal lives.

—Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph.

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MUNICIPAL WOODLOTS

Some time ago we had a letter from a correspondent suggesting that our town council would do well to secure a municipal woodlot which would in time save the town considerable money, provide fuel for the town hall and work for the unemployed. If our present council read the article we trust they will give it their serious consideration; if not, we shall be glad to supply them with copies, as we believe the suggestion was one of considerable merit. Conservation is the order of the day and besides conservation a good woodlot is a growing asset and in time would be a paying investment for the town.

—Wiarton Canadian Echo.

What Science Is Doing

TO STOP BLEEDING

Discovery of two new synthetic vitamins which stop bleeding almost instantaneously is reported.

They are chemical developments from the original vitamin K, or anti-bleeding vitamin discovered in alfalfa hay and decayed sardines.

NEW BRAIN AREAS

Discovery of two new brain centres and that human blood cells cling to life for as long as three weeks outside the body was reported last week.

A group of scientists from Yale University announced that they had found in chimpanzees the areas of the brain which control touch and the regions which "fire" or stimulate reactions of the body.

Both discoveries are highly important in the diagnosis of brain tumors and mental disorders because they enable a physician to localize a disturbance.

ACID OF LIFE

The synthesis of a powerful vitamin called the "acid of life" — because nothing could live without it — was made public by Dr. Roger T. Williams, University of Texas, biochemist. Its proper name is panthothenic acid.

Panthothenic acid's possibilities as an aid to human and bacterial life are, in the main, unknown. Tests have shown it a potent stimulant to fertility of hen eggs.

It is so strong an aid to cell growth that an ounce placed in 7,500,000 tons of testing mixture has multiplied the cell count by four.

The Book Shelf..

"HARVEST AT STILLMEADOW"
By Gladys Taber .

Here is a gay and zestful chronicle of a happy life at "Stillmeadow", an ancient Connecticut house where three children and several dozen dogs run riot. Mrs. Taber writes of the busy times there — of country fairs and week-end visitors, dog shows and jam-making. There are sudden bees of gardening and dog-washing.

Deftly the author blends the practical and the fanciful. Plans for an herb garden bring on their tail thoughts about the great English dramatists. But her tips on how to make pin wheel biscuits and real Kennebunk pickle, trim apple trees or handle lazy guests are shrewd and handy good sense.

Mrs. Taber writes a popular column on similar subjects which runs in a well-known women's magazine.

"Harvest at Stillmeadow" . . . by Gladys Taber . . . Toronto: McClelland and Stewart . . . $2.00.

Accent Puzzle To Canadians .

Troops in London Say No Two Residents Seem to Speak Alike

Canadian soldiers sightseeing in London are puzzled by the conglomeration of accents they meet.

"No two persons seem to speak alike," declared one of the men staying at the Canadian Legion Club. "It's too bad," he added with a grin, "because folk go out of their way to put you right and make you feel you are in your home town, and then you just can't catch it. It makes you feel so dumb."

Some British accents are much easier for them to follow than others.

A Scot who took a party of Canadians up to the Whispering Gallery of St. Paul's Cathedral had no difficulty, owing to his slower diction, in making himself clear.

A lively-tongued bus driver — obviously a born Londoner — and a cheery fish porter in the dockside area had them attentive but rather puzzled.

UNDERSTAND NORTHENERS

A waiter who still retained much of his original Devonian brogue, and a rather diffident west countryman who reverted to his native Somerset after a few minutes' conversation gave his hearers no difficulty at all.

A Swansea man also had little difficulty making himself understood.

Similarly, north country dialects, particularly those of Lancashire and Yorkshire, seem to have a familiar ring to the men.

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72 Pages

HERE'S HOW!

For your copy of "Who's Who" which contains Big Time Hockey Statistics and the careers of 131 of its players, send 5c with a 5-lb. Bee Hive Syrup label; or two 2-lb. labels, or two Ivory or Durham Starch labels and 5c. Send requests to address on the label with your name and address.

Bee Hive Syrup

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By Fred Neher

"I regret to announce that the Daisy Riding Club will have to disband due to the death of the horse."

REG'LAR FELLERS—A Lightning Change

By GENE BRYNES