

Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

The Landward Movement

There is a landward movement in all countries. It is inevitable, and the present efforts in Manitoba and the other provinces of Canada may draw attention to this and may encourage a wider, voluntary movement from the cities to the rural districts. But the success of the efforts now being made here will depend on adherence to the strict and almost severe methods that have been followed thus far, and on giving only a minimum of assistance so that the settlers will know that they must depend for themselves and make the utmost use of their opportunity.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Independence Impossible

Nothing has so far emerged from republican Ireland to give the least promise of Irish economic independence. Politically Ireland may be as independent as Canada, but financially Ireland is no more independent of outside money power than Canada is independent of New York. President de Valera may know how to bring about Irish independence, but it is not likely that he will be independent so long as the national credit has to be pledged to private sources. The present Irish administration will be made to toe the line, just as surely as England had to do the line last September or as Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries have been compelled to submit to the policy of deflation imposed from outside sources.—Ottawa Citizen.

Dangerous Drivers

Picked observers of the American Railway Association who made a survey of the actions of motorists at grade crossings, report that 71 per cent. of the drivers exercised reasonable care, 14 per cent. were reckless and 12 per cent. doubtful. Reasonable care meant reduced speed, looking in both directions and obedience to warning signals. It is pretty safe to say that the 71 per cent. class had little or no representation in the accidents that did occur at crossings. The fact that 26 per cent. are either reckless or "doubtful" shows that at this late day there is still need for safety lessons to control the dangerous ones.—Montreal Gazette.

Automobiles on the Farm

At the present time Canada counts one motor car for every 2.27 farms, Ontario having the highest percentage, with one car for every 1.53 farm. Quebec comes last on the list with a car for 5.06 farms, which, by the way, cannot be considered a drawback, for though the car may be a great convenience, it is still very often an object of great luxury and, for young farmers, a constant invitation to relaxation and idleness.—La Tribune, Sherbrooke.

Never Satisfied

If prices are up, we are not satisfied. If they are down, we are still grumbling. What, then, will bring us content? The thing that is needed is stability. It is not the fact that prices are high or that they are low that matters so much as that they refuse to stay anywhere. When they go up, the dollar goes down, and people who have dollars find they are worth only 90 or 80 or 70 per cent. of their former value—in goods, that is. When prices are down, the individual who borrowed at a different level finds he has to produce more goods to pay his debt. It is this fluctuation which has given rise to the demand for "the honest dollar"; that is, the dollar that will buy approximately the same quantity of goods to-day as to-morrow and next year as last year.—Vancouver Province.

Saving on Health

If there should prove truth in the report that among the economic measures the Provincial Government contemplates the abandonment of the services of the Public Health nurses as built up since 1916, then the full measure of the risk should be known. Six months ago the staff of 50 nurses was distributed over the whole Province and not as heretofore only in those municipalities willing to pay a part of the cost. The equipment for the welfare stations, the first aid and the educational work is all at hand. The only cost is that of maintaining the nurses in the field, which averages about \$2,000 per nurse. The total amount saved if the whole service is wiped out is estimated at \$100,000. And the whole structure of years which has yielded blessing far and wide will go into the discard.—Winnipeg Free Press.

THE EMPIRE

Reasons For Conference Success

They (the delegates at the Imperial Conference) have worked as they have never worked before; and let it never be forgotten that it was the initiative, the resources, and the organization of the Canadian Government, whose circumstances have tended to make them the storm-centre of criticism, that provided the opportunity for this intense concentration on a single task. There could never have been the same dispatch of business, or the same measure of agreement, if the delegations had been scattered as they must have been at Lausanne, or for the matter of that in London—in a dozen separate offices and hotels. They owe not a little of their success to the spacious capacity of Parliament Buildings and the Chateau Laurier. But political leaders everywhere are bound to justify themselves in the end to their constituents. Oppositions are not to be controlled. There will be attacks and counterattacks, suggestions that too much has been conceded and too little secured, complaints that there has been no dramatic climax and no immediate decline in unemployment.

Faint Symphony

I walk into the woods, and there a great
Unbroken silence seems to settle
down.
Around me, after all the noise of
town.
Suddenly at peace, I stand and wait;
Breathing it in, I let the stillness
drie
Away the harsher, louder rhythms
and slings;
Faintly at first, through all the
sunken glen
A brightly varied music comes alive.

Motorbus and Public

Regulation of motor-coach traffic out of London is a problem both urgent and difficult. When the Road Traffic Act came into force last year, the roads were overburdened with superfluous coaches whose owners were not concerned so much to serve the public as to establish their claims to the Metropolitan Traffic Commissioner's sanction. Accordingly the Commissioner, faced with the enormous task of bringing order into a vast, spontaneously-generated chaos, did not hesitate to be restrictive. The final report of Lord Amulree's committee of inquiry just issued deals with the appeals against the Commissioner's restrictions, and in the majority of cases it recommends modification, complete or partial, of his original decisions. The obvious common sense of the situation is that there should be on the road enough motor-coaches to supply the public need, and no more, and, second, that the economic laws of supply and demand will realize that ideal, in the long run, better than arbitrary legislation.—London Morning Post.

Better Food

Not the least of the human victories of these latter centuries has been the conquest of new foods, of better foods, of more varied foods. Explorers and scientists and inventors have all played their parts. And the good work still goes on. The Food Investigation Board of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is a body for which the public cares little. But its work, amongst other things, gives us promise of fresh British fruit all the year round. The time is near when it will be no queerer to have fresh raspberries than fresh beef at Christmas-time.—London Daily Herald.

OTHER OPINIONS

British Redivivus

Far from being discouraged by world economic conditions, Great Britain is redoubling its efforts to assure its industrial future by great national enterprises. One of the most important is a scheme for electrical power distribution known as the Grid System, expected to be more simple and economical than any other in operation in the world. The basis of this enterprise which is to link up the entire industrial system of Britain is in a great electric station, the first unit of which recently was opened with national ceremony on the bank of the lower Thames. The site in 1923 was a desolate and remote marshland and to make a foundation for the buildings vast superstructures of piles and cement had to be prepared. When completed 40 acres of the 100-acre tract will be occupied by the station. A jetty has been built at which oceangoing vessels can discharge their cargoes of coal at all states of the tide.—Detroit News.

Peasant and Soviet

The peasant and his wife have no use for Soviet notes except as means of purchasing the goods they require, and if they cannot obtain these goods they will stay at home and keep their produce for themselves. The Soviet Press is now denouncing the light industry organizations for not supplying suitable wares, and efforts are being made to meet the deficiency. Even the big factories engaged in heavy industry have been ordered to utilize their scrapheaps to make nails, buckets, and other articles for peasant use. And to cope with the difficulty from the other side all the factories have been instructed to organize "self-supply systems," to relieve the Government's task of finding food by establishing pigsties and poultry farms, and to make their own bargains with the peasants for the supply of produce from the country. To make the outlook still more depressing, the reports of the condition of crops grow steadily more discouraging.—London Times.

Expect Rise in Fur Market

There are slight indications of rising prices in the fur market. F. A. Stacpool, manager of the Hudson Bay Company, London, England, reported recently to the Canadian National Railways following an inspection of the company's stores and posts in Western Canada. In May the market showed a surprising increase over February, he said, the upturn amounting in some cases to 39 and 35 per cent., according to a Canadian National Railways bulletin.

True Dignity is Never Gained by Force

True dignity is never gained by force, and never lost when honors are withdrawn.—Massinger.

Advise Farmers on Lamb Feeding

More revenue from lambs for North Dakota farmers and feeders is the object of a series of twenty-four lamb grading and feeding demonstrations which opened in Pembina County, N.D. The sessions were scheduled by extension agents in six counties and are designed to provide farmers with information on market grades and methods of feeding which will be of value to them in increasing the returns from lamb feeding. J. T. Dinwoodie, live stock feeding specialist of the North Dakota Agricultural College extension service, is assisting with the work, says a recent bulletin.

Britain Credits Will Be Fully Paid Sept. 10th

London.—With the repayment of 2,500,000,000 francs to France on Sept. 10, the United Kingdom will have repaid in full the entire amount of foreign credits obtained by the treasury in the financial crisis of September, 1931. The credits totalled \$200,000,000 from the United States, and 5,000,000,000 francs from France, of which half was advanced by banks and the remainder subscribed by the French public in the form of bonds. The whole of the United States credit was repaid by the treasury in March and April, with the right to re-borrow \$50,000,000 at any time up to August 23. This right not having been exercised will now finally lapse.

Size of Peas Lead To Strike in London

London.—The size of peas led to a strike in Covent Garden. The prevalence of small peas decided pea shellers to ask more than 2d. a quart for shelling peas, on the ground that it taken longer to shell a quart of small peas than a quart of large ones. Between 60 and 70 women were involved in the dislocation of the pea traffic, which is headed by a family that has supplied shelled peas to restaurants and caterers of London for more than 100 years. Administration of the property has descended from the princes to a board of assessors, which visits the farmers each spring. This year the assessors threatened the farmers with eviction.

Microphone is Installed in St. Paul's Cathedral

London.—When Sir Christopher Wren built St. Paul's Cathedral (1675-1710) he left a note giving the distances at which speakers could be heard from the pulpit. His instructions have been rendered obsolete by the installation of a microphone in the pulpit, and a system of loudspeakers concealed in the choir. Hitherto, it has been difficult to hear a speaker owing to the resonance under the great dome.

Record Office Holders

London.—Having accepted an invitation to continue in office as Mayor and Mayoress of Paddington for 1932-33, Sir George and Lady Handover will extend a remarkable record of service, for it will be the tenth time that Sir George has been Mayor, while Lady Handover will have been Mayoress on 12 occasions. Sir George previously held office from 1912 to 1920 and again in 1921-22. Lady Handover has twice officiated as Mayoress in addition to acting in that capacity during her husband's mayoralty.

Return to Mountain Farms

Lexington, Ky.—The back-to-the-land movement is being translated into "back-to-the-mountains" in Kentucky. Seven thousand families have returned to farms in twenty-six eastern mountain counties of Kentucky in the last two years.

Illiterates Shows Drop of 6 Per Cent in U.S.

Group data compiled by the Census Bureau on the 1930 reports, says "The Philadelphia Bulletin," show a reduction from 8 to 4.3 per cent. in illiteracy in the United States. The efficacy of the school system and the effectiveness of compulsory attendance are reflected in the fact that only 420,533 of American illiterates in 1930 were under twenty-one. This group was 58.79 in number in 1920, the percentage of improvement being 1.1 as compared with 2.3 in the group including ages from twenty-five to thirty-four. During a forty-year drop in illiteracy, from 13.3 to 4.3 per cent., the percentages of male and female illiterates have been nearly equal, in 1930 4.4 per cent. among males and 4.3 among females. Males in 1920 had a percentage of 6.0, females 5.9 per cent., each group making an improvement of 1.6 in the figures. Male and female whites in 1930 had the same percentage of illiterates, 2.7. To reach this equality the male white population gained a trifle more than the females, as in 1920 the percentages were 4.1 male illiterates and 4.0 females.

Spanish Farmers Seek Relief on 800 A.D. Tax

Madrid.—Thirteen farmers from Logrono Province called on Premier Manuel Azana recently and sent him delving into history books. They asked merely to be relieved of a tax system imposed in 800 A.D. by the Visigoth King, Ramiro of Leon. Administration of the property has descended from the princes to a board of assessors, which visits the farmers each spring. This year the assessors threatened the farmers with eviction.

Women Voters Exceed Men in Barcelona

Spain's premier city, Barcelona, has a total of 445,152 registered voters. Women surpass the men by 52,102. The two sexes list as follows: Women voters, 239,127; men voters, 246,025.

Boredom Declared Cause of Time Lost by Workers

London.—Boredom causes industrial workers in England to lose more time from their jobs than all the recognized industrial diseases put together, the report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1931 shows. This is the result of the mechanization of industry, according to a comment in The Lancet, English medical journal. The vague nervous disabilities that have increased greatly in recent years are really the result of ennui on the part of the machine hand, it is thought. This state of boredom so great as to cause nervous ailments severe enough to lose time from work, was almost unknown to the craftsman, The Lancet points out.

New Altitude Record



The other day, Maryse Hiltz, daring Frenchwoman, hit 32,500 feet in her plane—a new record. Men aviators better look to their laurels.

France and Defense

By Paul Reynaud, Recent Minister of Finance of France, on arriving at New York.

I am afraid that the spirit of peace in Europe is not controlled as we would like. It is a serious question, requiring great thought and meditation. We never speak of peace in France except with enthusiasm. We suffered too much from the war. The love of peace is just as great in France as it is here. The American and the French views are the same on this question. President Hoover but recently declared, when the issue arose as to reduction in effectives, that America should never be left in such a position as to make her susceptible to the invasion of foreign troops. We in France have the same feeling. It is the feeling of the peasant of France is the soul of France. France is governed by fact. However many changes in Ministries may take place, the policy of France, which is influenced alone by fact, remains the same. The transition from one party leadership to another is scarcely observable.

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Canadian Notes

Edmonton, Alta.—The immediate construction of a \$40,000 warehouse in Edmonton has been authorized by the Motor Car Supply Company of Canada, according to an announcement by Mr. C. D. MacKenzie, manager of the Edmonton branch. The new building, which will contain 29,000 square feet of space, will be constructed on a site owned by the company, and is expected to be ready for occupation by October 15.

Calgary, Alta.—Cars of cattle being shipped at the present time are reported to be in better condition than for many years. Pasture and moisture conditions have been excellent since early spring and are still favorable. The C.P.R. Holstein cows from the Strathmore farm were the winners in this class of livestock at the recent Calgary Exhibition. The condition of these cows was the subject of much favorable comment.

Vernon, B.C.—The Co-operative Growers at Pentiction are going in for crystallizing cherries this year, under the direction of an expert from the Dominion Experimental Station at West Summerland. Pius provide for treating 20 tons of Royal Anne cherries for consumption at soda fountains and as candied or Maraschino cherries. A good market has been assured for the product.

Vancouver, B.C.—Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company's chemical fertilizer industry is being developed along extensive lines and more than \$250,000 worth of sulphate of ammonia has been shipped during the last few weeks. The company is shipping fertilizer to the plantations of Hawaii, the citrus orchards of California and the farming regions of China and the Dutch East Indies. A cargo of 3,000 tons of fertilizer fertilizer was recently sent to the Dutch East Indies. Indian agricultural interests have asked for samples, and it is expected that a large quantity of fertilizer will be marketed in India later in the year.

Nanaimo, B.C.—Fisheries Experimental Stations at Nanaimo and at Prince Rupert have found the liver oil of halibut off this coast rich in Vitamin A. There is value also in salmon livers, formerly a total loss, and in the livers of the grey or ling cod and the grey fish (dog fish). Tests are still being carried out with salmon, grey fish and ling cod, but halibut liver oil is now an established factor and brings steady commercial returns from eastern manufacturing laboratories.

Victoria, B.C.—The fisheries of British Columbia constitute one of its principal industries. The total value of output of the province in 1931 was \$11,095,222. The size of the annual revenue from the British Columbia fisheries is dependent chiefly on the size of the salmon pack. Last year the total marketed value of the salmon, including used fresh, canned, dry-salted, etc., was \$7,196,744. The halibut catch, which is second in importance in British Columbia to the salmon, amounted to 32,005 cwt. The catch of fish of all kinds in British Columbia in 1931 amounted to 4,649,962 cwt. with a value to the fishermen of \$5,880,953.

Business in Germany

By Dr. Hans Luther, President of the Reichsbank.

Regarding German debts abroad, I would like to refer to a recent interview given by Dr. Warmbold, the Minister of Economics, in which his idea of unilateral interference by the government in German interest obligations was unequivocally repudiated. I shall not say that the economic crisis has actually passed the turning point, but the elemental force of the economic shrinking process is no longer so great as to prevent our now making the utmost efforts to encourage enterprise. Mych which, in the former phase of the crisis, would have been engulfed by the weight of events can now be undertaken with the prospect of success, especially since Lausanne has de facto eliminated the superpressure of reparations. . . .

But the stagnation of business can be overcome only by the will of business men no longer to stagnate. Even if the government's economic program seems to be a way toward vigorous co-operation, what matters in the last analysis is that those called upon to conduct private enterprises should now really be minded to set them going.

The contention that the credit stringency of Germany is due to the fact that Germany has so little gold is a fairy tale. Nor is it made truer by being maintained by persons who ought to know better. German industry and business can perform the enormous tasks facing them only if their currency is safe against unforeseeable fluctuations—briefly, only if Germany maintains the gold standard.

Inspector (severely): "I understand that since you joined the force you have neither made a single arrest nor issued a single summons!" Policeman (compliantly): "And now what do I get? A pair of white gloves, ain't it?"

News Tit-Bits

Elephants Beg for Coppers

Brussels.—The director of the Antwerp Zoo, who has little sense of humor, reported that there have been "no cases of sickness from overfeeding" among the thousands of animals in his care. He mentioned the tons of horse-meat fed to the carnivores, the hay and beet sugar provided for the elephants in winter and the fresh clover for the dairy antelope. But he said nothing about the hundred and one tricks used by the animals to beg food from visitors to supplement their diet.

Judging by the actions of the beasts, the official arena is about 50 per cent below par. Lions and tigers patrol their cages, beating their lean flanks against the iron bars, the sea lions lift their voices in protest and sea fowl rush the visitors for food.

The elephants know best how to improve each shining hour; they beg for coppers to be turned into tid-bits by their keepers.

Executioner Sells Books

Prague.—The former public executioner of Prague, Broumarsky, who lost his job because he gave an unauthorized interview to a newspaper, is now making a living by selling books from a public stand in one of the leading streets of the city.

Idle Musicians to Give Opera

Paris.—Hoping to relieve somewhat the plight of hundreds of unemployed musicians in Paris, an association they have just formed will produce the opera "Aida" in the open-air sports stadium at Colombes. Singers of the Paris Opera have promised to play leading parts in the cast of more than 500 persons. There will be an orchestra of 129 unemployed musicians and the brass band of the Mounted Republican Guards will be present.

Eiffel Tower to Be Painted

Paris.—The Eiffel Tower soon will weigh thirty-eight tons more, when the task of cleaning and painting it is completed. Thirty-eight tons of paint will be required to cover the entire surface of the steel structure, which weighs 7,300,000 tons. The painting is done every seven years.

To Ski Over Aegean Sea

Vienna.—Fritz Eitelmayr, who in 1923 at the age of 19 made the first crossing of the English Channel in a collapsible boat, left Villach in Carinthia recently on water-skis, on which he intends to walk by water to Athens.

He is following the course of the Drave and the Danube to the Black Sea, and will then ski through the Dorsporus and the Dardanelles across the Aegean Sea to Athens. He will return to Austria by skiing over the Adriatic along the Dalmatian coast.

He is being accompanied only by his friend Ferdinand Schwamberger in a collapsible boat.

Restoration of "Angelus" A Two Month's Task

Paris.—Two months of work by experts will be necessary to repair "The Angelus," the Millet masterpiece which was slashed recently by a man, believed by police to be a lunatic, at the Louvre Museum.

The process is a delicate one. First of all, the severed threads of the canvas have to be drawn together and gummed. Following this a new foundation is formed by a piece of fine gauze. This operation alone takes three weeks. After that the cut in the actual painting has to be repaired. Artists, experts in this class of work, are employed. The tints of the old paint are exactly matched and the scar is filled so cleverly that when the paint is quite dry nothing of the rent can be detected.

Jean Mistler, Under-Secretary for Fine Arts, has brought formal charges against Pierre Suillard, 31 years old, an engineer, living in Paris. If acquitted he will be responsible, the maximum punishment of seven years at hard labor will be sought, to discourage repetitions of his crime. The man who stole Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" received five years.

Canada's First Radium Refinery

Port Hope has been selected as the site of Canada's first radium refinery. It is being built by Eldorado Gold Mines, Ltd., which is extensively interested in the pitchblende deposits at Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories in the vicinity of the Mackenzie River. M. Pochon, a French chemist and radium expert, has been engaged to manage the plant. The refinery, according to a recent bulletin from the Canadian National Railways, will be equipped to segregate any silver that comes with the pitchblende, although high-grade silver ore is being taken out separately at the Eldorado property and is being sent to a silver refinery. Last year twenty tons of pitchblende ore were taken out for assay. This is now at Ottawa and will be taken to the new refinery when it is ready to begin operations.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER



He Might as Well Get Used to it

