# Voice of the Press

## Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

### CANADA

#### Leave Garage Doors Open

In spite of repeated warnings, deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning in garages continue to mount up. The death of a young Kitchener businessman, overcome by fumes from the motor of his automobile, is the latest example of the folly of remaining in a garage while the engine is "heating up." In this case it is stated that the door of the garage was partly open. Under the most ordinary circumstances motorists should be sure to see that the doors of the garage are wide open before attempting to start up their motors. After they are started the safest plan is to get out as soon as possible and let the engine "heat up" in the open air.—Chatham News.

#### Carrying a Gun

The law and the police ought to make gun-toting so hazardous that criminals will not run the risk of having one about their person.—Edmonton Journal.

#### Canadian Seed

The numerous prizes won by Canadian grain at the Hay and Grain Show in Chicago suggest that Canada has an opportunity, if she will seize it, to establish herself as the seed-producer par excellence of the world. The vigour of northern-grown seeds is proverbial. It is all very well to produce grain in large quantities for the markets of the world. Canada will, no doubt, continue to do this. But why should she not take full advantage of the rewards offering in the smaller, more specialized field of seed-growing. The rewards are worth gathering.—Vancouver Province.

#### Over-production in Canada

We have, in the past, put practically all our eggs in two different baskets—wheat in the West, wood-pulp in the East. There is no more wheat being sold, and newsprint plants are partly closed up, three-fourths of them being in bankruptcy. In both cases there has been overproduction, in relation to the possible market. Shall we know enough to profit by the lesson, when business picks up again? Or are we going to repeat the mistakes of the past?—Le Devoir, Montreal.

#### Back to Small Industries

Are we to experience a revival of the village industries that were forced out of business by the pressure of mass production centred in the larger towns and cities of the country?

A report from the province of Quebec is that recent months have witnessed the re-opening of a number of small tanneries situated in that part of the Dominion that have been closed for from 25 to 50 years. The farmers, seeking a market for their hides, are, apparently, finding it in these small industrial institutions which are in turn contributing to the domestic production of footwear.

These Quebec farmers are evidently finding it profitable to return to the opening of industrial establishments with a limited capacity in order to market their products and also to fill their leather needs.—Brockville Recorder.

#### Still Waiting

Another Christmas, the fourth of the depression, and the world is still waiting for the sunrise. It's been a long, tough wait, but at least the sunrise is three years nearer than it was in 1929. A lot of grief is behind us.

We look to the future with renewed hopes, enheartened by the indications that things are moving at last. The world has finally awakened to the fact that waiting is not good enough, that positive action is necessary to effect release from the depression morass.

The peoples of the world are at last coming to grips with the real issues of the depression, those of money, credit, war debts, tariffs, taxation and armaments, and something is going to result. Next Christmas should be a substantially brighter one than this.—P. M. R. in Toronto Saturday Night.

Hospital officials announce that babies now are $15 to $30 cheaper than they used to be. And the quality is practically the same.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

### THE EMPIRE

#### The Canadian Banking System

It must have come as a shock to many persons in the United States to read that part of President Hoover's last address to Congress in which he pointed out that since January, 1930, there have been 4,655 bank failures in the United States, whereas in Canada, "Where the situation has been in a large degree identical with our own, there have been no substantial bank failures." This is an open admission of the superiority of the Canadian banking system, a confession that the United States had something of a very important character to learn from a part of the British Empire.—Kingston (Jamaica) Gleaner.

#### Helping the British Farmer

Though the plight of the meat market may be, and everyone hopes it will be, temporary, the disposition to urge the claims of the British farmer, to place them above those of all others is not likely to pass away. Duties on Empire produce are by no means impossible. It is significant, for instance, that in the Ottawa agreements the schedule dealing with eggs, butter, cheese and poultry assures free entry to the exports of the Dominions for three years, but reserves thereafter the right to impose duties or quantitative restrictions so long as preference over foreign produce is given. No Dominion is entitled to a word of protest against this policy, because, as already suggested, their own practice inhibits them from objecting to the exercise by Britain of a liberty they have always claimed for themselves—Auckland Weekly News.

#### The Dual Policy in India

In two spheres at the same time the Government are trying to carry out what is known as the dual policy. The principal aspect of the duality which seems inherent in the British Government's mentality at the present juncture is the decision to press on with the new Constitution while firmly striking at all unconstitutional forms of agitation. In a country such as Great Britain, or most Western countries where the Government have an immense backing among the educated as well as among the uneducated portion of the community, such a policy might prove workable. It will never prove workable in India, where the Government has little or no following among the educated Indian communities to whom it is proposed to hand over power. There are no moderate and friendly parties in India to whom Great Britain can hand over with sure expectations that they will play fair and deliver the goods.—Calcutta Englishman.

#### Britain's New Start

In the heavy industries coal is on the verge of fresh development. It is well known that hydro-generation and other chemical processes are ready now to give a vigorous impetus to further output. The opportunities for it are immense. The coal measures of the United Kingdom are greater than those of Germany, the most highly industrialized State on the Continent. The deposits of bituminous coal in this country are far richer than those of even the United States. It remains now for the people of Great Britain to make full use of these unrivalled possibilities by an energetic increase of the national production. — London Daily Express.

#### Footing the Bill

John Bull is used to paying. He has been paying ever since the war, and has become hardened to standing treat to the nations. The pleasing conviction prevalent abroad that whatever happens John Bull will foot the bill, so sedulously fostered by successive British Governments, is as strong as ever. Even the staggering prospect of handing over colossal sums to the U.S.A. while getting not a penny from our own debtors does not appal the British taxpayer. Nothing appals him any more. He knows from long experience that he is "for it" in any case.—Plain Dealer in Truth. (London.)

#### The Price of Wool

Australia is easily the world's largest producer of high-grade wool; and its supremacy is not threatened. No largely increased quantity of this wool could come quickly from any other country. Further, the world has been consuming current production. Of almost every other agricultural product there are large stocks; of wool there has been practically no carry-over for years. Yet the committee which was appointed to inquire into the wool industry finds that Australian wool is costing a great deal more to produce than it is fetching in the market. This suggests that there is something radically wrong somewhere. Unless competition in some shape or other is driving us to it, why are we selling at a loss?—Sydney Bulletin.

### AMERICA

#### Distress in the United States

It is easily possible for the total economic situation to be worse even though the employment statistics are better. It is worse. And that for at least two reasons. The men who are going back to work are going back at lower wages; and those who still have jobs or businesses of their own have lower incomes and depleted reserves so that it is with more difficulty that they can extend aid to the unemployed. Careful estimates from every quarter are absolutely unanimous in their agreement that the needs for relief will be greater this winter than ever before in the history of this Republic. — Christian Century (New York).

## Italy Educates Libyan Nomads

Rome.—The efforts made by the Italian Government to abolish nomad life in the Libyan colony and to transform the wandering tribes into agriculturists is beginning to bear fruit.

Evidence of this is afforded by the increasing number of children belonging to tribes who attend the Italian schools at the oasis of Hamada el Hombra. The nomad children will remain at the oasis during the school term and will be housed, clothed and fed by the Italian Government.

## Britain's National Taxation Estimated $54.12 Per Cap.

London.—Great Britain's national taxation, imposed before the debt payment, was estimated by Neville Chamberlain, Chancellor of the Exchequer, at £16 8d. a head, equivalent to $77.08 at par, or $54.12 at current exchange.

# Sunday School Lesson

**January 8. Lesson II—Jesus Begins His Work—Mark 1: 12-20. Golden Text—The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.—Mark 1: 15.**

ANALYSIS

I. "TEMPTED LIKE AS WE ARE," Mark 1: 12, 13.

II. THE COSTLY WAY, Mark 1: 14, 15.

III. A BIGGER JOB, Mark 1: 16-20.

INTRODUCTION—Mark is the Gospel of the mighty deeds of Jesus. Its theme is reflected in its vivid direct, forceful style. "Straightway" is one of Mark's characteristic words. It means immediately, forthwith, at once, *tout de suite*. Jesus, in the face of increasing difficult and dangerous situations, overcomes every adversary.

I. "TEMPTED LIKE AS WE ARE," Mark 1: 12, 13.

After that tremendous experience at Jordan-side, an intense and overmastering impulse compelled Jesus to seek solitude. That impulse was so strong as to be explained only by that new, dominant, divine personality which had now taken possession of him. Note Mark's vivid way of putting it, "immediately the spirit driveth him," v. 12.

Jesus, sure now that he was his Father's chosen One ("beloved," in v. 11, means "chosen") for the great task, must face the various methods presenting themselves for the accomplishing of that task. What road must he mark out for himself? "The wilderness" (v. 12) means the desolate and lonely country that rises from the deep valley of the Jordan.

What happened there Jesus himself must have told. Again, Mark's account is very brief. He evidently takes for granted that his readers are familiar with it. He does not mention the fact, but he seems to assume it in his reference to the ministering angels. For the forty days' fast, compare the experience of Moses (Exod. 34: 28) and Elijah 1 Kings 19: 8. The "wild beasts" may well be taken literally. That territory was infested with them. Probably also the expression is symbolic of the "powers of darkness" which sought to persuade Jesus that the world's way of doing things was better. "Gratify your God-given desire to help the poor by feeding them, improving their earthly lot, relieving their crushing load of poverty," Matt. 4: 3. "Take Rome's way of militarism and conquest. You have the power, if only you will use it. Your people are waiting for a leader like you," Matt. 4: 8, 9. "No? Well, then, God must love you for your brave loyalty. He will surely take care of you. In every place of danger you will walk unscathed. Even a fall from the pinnacle of this temple will leave you unhurt . . . and how it would impress and convince the people!" Matt. 4: 6. That whole spiritual struggle Mark passes over with his brief but gripping sentence, "he was with the wild beasts."

From all these alluring prospects Jesus turned. No easy road to popularity, no shortcut to power, no expectations for an easy road—but the unpopular, disappointing, dangerous way marked itself out for him. The decision was made, with shining face and heart aflame with God (v. 13) he returned to try to make that same God known to men.

II. THE COSTLY WAY, Mark 1: 14, 15.

The "costly way" so bravely resolved upon in the wilderness soon thrust itself upon our Lord. The first news that greeted him upon his return was that John was in prison. Any one who knew Herod would know that John's earthly career was about ended. Jesus loved John. It was John's preaching that had called Jesus out from Nazareth. The people would certainly rally around any leader who would undertake to liberate him. Love, loyalty, chivalry, patriotism, religion all seemed to call for action. But Mark briefly records, "Jesus came into Galilee preaching." It looked as if he had run away.

Had Jesus struck a blow for John he would have been hailed as the long-expected, nationalistic, militaristic Messiah. It would have spelled disaster to his real Messiahship. John's physical safety must then be sacrificed for the sake of that spiritual kingdom in which John will surely have his place. On to Galilee, therefore, Jesus went.

It takes a brave heart and a great love to do the things that appears selfish and cowardly. It was part of the costly way that our Lord had chosen.

At first Jesus' message was practically identical with that of John, vs. 14, 15. It called for a spiritual preparation for a spiritual kingdom. To the restive, impetuous Galileans, both the message and its method must have been disappointing. But Jesus, thrilled with the consciousness of his oneness with his Father, knew that he represented a kingdom greater even than Rome.

III. A BIGGER JOB, Mark 1: 16-20.

An example of that personal influence soon occurred. Walking by the sea, Jesus saw some people fishing. With great dramatic power Mark tells the story. Did these men know Jesus before? We cannot say. Even if they did, he was only an itinerant preacher, with no stated income; they were fishermen. The fish business was flourishing. Yet Mark records, "and straightway" they forsook their nets and followed him, vs. 18, 20.

Of the first pair one at least was married. It is not uncommon in the East today for a man to leave his wife to follow a "holy-man." To leave one's father was another matter, but Zebedee was evidently well-established. He could employ hired labor, v. 20.

Think of the compelling power of the personality which took these men from a sure job to undertake what to business common-sense must have appeared a great uncertainty. It was the authority of a God-filled life.

"The authority of Jesus is not arbitrary, and yet it is the most imperial the world has ever known. Like the authority of the physician in whom confidence is felt and whose commands are promptly obeyed because it is believed that he knows best; like the authority of the sea-captain in the time of storm, whose commands are implicitly followed because one has confidence that in this course alone is safety, such is the authority of Jesus."

Of the work facing them they knew little—except that the knowledge of fishing which they now possessed was to be put to greater use, v. 17. Gifts of personality, knowledge, skill, when consecrated to God's purposes, find greater scope for their use than they found ever before.

## France Plans Abolition Of All Grade Crossings

Paris.—Pending complete abolition of grade crossings, the French Ministry of Public Works has issued an order prohibiting ground-level railroad crossings to be constructed in the future.

In the national equipment bill a regular allotment of funds in each budget has been devoted to suppression of the existing grade crossings. There are nearly 40,000 of them and it will be many years before the work can be finished. From possessing only 100,000 motor vehicles in 1914 France has come to have 1,700,000 automobiles. Although there are fewer accidents in France than in many other countries, the Ministry of Public Works regards grade crossings as a principal cause of accidents.

Five hundred ground-level crossings have been marked for early replacement by viaducts or tunnels.

## "Escape Proof" Block Is Proved Escapable

Ossining, N.Y.—Two convicts escaped from Sing Sing's new "escape proof" cell block recently. They sawed out of individual cells, slipped past three guards, and used the prison's own ladders to get over the wall.

They were John Egan, 33, serving ten years for assault, and William Sutton, 30, serving 30 years for robbery.

The convicts used a length of rope kept by the guards to pull up water and food to slide down the outside of the wall.

An hour after the escape, the men were seen walking along a highway toward Albany. They were still in prison uniform.

## Ancient High School

At Emmerich in Germany this fall the high school will celebrate its 120th anniversary. When it was first established Charles Martel was fighting to drive the Saracens out of Europe and the so-called Dark Ages were just beginning. In 1592 it became so famous a school that it had 2,000 pupils, and during the course of its history it has been controlled by the Jesuits, and the Knights of Malta and in 1811 it was closed by order of Napoleon Bonaparte. Many well-known statesmen and ecclesiastics have been among its students. Emmerich is on the Rhine, an ancient walled town of Rhenish Russia, about 50 miles from Dusseldorf.

## A Father At 30

Congratulations showered upon England's Brigadier-General Hugh Cholmondeley and wife. Mr. Cholmondeley celebrated his 50th birthday on December 1. On December 4 his wife gave birth to a daughter.

## $1,334,962 Is Received On Radio Licenses

Ottawa.—The net cash received by the Department of Marine for radio-receiving set licenses for the first eight and a half months of the present fiscal year, that is up to the middle of December, amounts to $1,334,962, according to a statement issued recently by Hon. Alfred Duranleau, Minister of Marine. This does not include the commissions to those authorized to sell the licenses.

This collection would indicate that about 685,000 radio licenses have been sold since April 1 last, with 3 1-2 months of the fiscal year yet to be accounted for.

The Minister said that the co-operation of radio manufacturers, dealers and service men, in ensuring the collection of all license fees, had proved very satisfactory. Under the regulations no set may be sold or serviced unless the owner, or prospective owner, possesses a license.

It would appear, from bureau of statistics' figures accompanying the Minister's statement, that all radio owners have not paid their license fees. The bureau estimated recently that Canada had a total of 770,436 radio-receiving sets, or 74.32 sets per 1,000 of population.

## Women Out-Talked In British Commons

London.—One spot where women do not out-talk men, is Parliament. The record for a year, just compiled, shows that lady legislators were buried, so to speak, under a mountain of male oratory.

The biggest talker in the last session was Sir Stafford Cripps, a Labor Opposition leader. According to the Parliamentary Gazette from November 3, 1931, to November 17, 1932, Sir Stafford spoke enough to fill 374 columns.

Women fared comparatively badly. The highest was the Duchess of Atholl, who had 63 columns.

Second rank to Sir Stafford was taken by George Lansbury, leader of the Labor party, with 348 columns. The Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, had 83 columns.

In the House of Lords, Viscount Hailsham headed the list with 265 columns.

## Capt. Mollison Planning One-Stop Flight to Brazil

London.—Capt. James A. Mollison, only man to succeed in flying westward crossing of the Atlantic alone, is planning a one-stop flight from Ireland to Rio de Janeiro in February, it was learned this week.

Mollison, husband of Amy Johnson Mollison, will use his small biplane "Heart's Content," in which he flew non-stop to New York.

He intends to refuel at Dakar before starting across the south Atlantic, it is understood.

## Eminent Radiologist Is Martyr to Science

Paris.—Dr. Georges Haret, eminent French radiologist and head of the radiology department at Laribosiere Hospital, died here last week as a result of X-Ray burns incurred in a scientic career beginning with treatment of wounded soldiers during the war. He was 58 years old.

Previously the fingers of his right hand and then his right arm had been amputated.

# Farm Queries

## Henry G. Bell, B.S.A., Dept. of Chemistry, O.A.C.

Address All Letters to Farm Editor, 73 Adelaide St West, Toronto. All Answers Will Appear in this Column. If Personal Reply is Desired, Enclose Stamped and Addressed Envelope.

Under present farming conditions it is possible, if not generally probable, that practices may be adopted next summer which have large capacity for soil injury. When buildings are vacated and stand idle for a period of time, rapid deterioration is bound to take place. The case with soil is not exactly parallel. Nature provides that if a field is left untilled, grass and weed growth quickly cover its surface, generally preventing erosion and adding to the organic matter of the soil. But the temptation is, in times when certain hoed crops are most profitable, to grow these crops on larger areas of good soil without giving attention to the maintenance of organic matter or humus. It is from this practice that injury may result to the farm. This is an established fact from long time observation. Organic matter or plant fibre in the soil is absolutely necessary for the retention of sufficient water for plant growth. As soon as organic matter is removed from the soil, water leaves it rapidly, especially on light sandy or gravelly soils. Growing of hoed crops gives best opportunity for a depletion of organic matter. In an experiment continuing for over thirtyy ears, where corn was grown continuously, the organic matter in the soil was depleted two-thirds within that period of time. Where hoed crops were alternated with grain and hay crops, the loss was reduced to a little more than one-quarter. Where hoed crop, grain, clover and timothy were grown in rotation and backed up by a dressing of about sixteen tons manure per acre once in the rotation, or six times in a period of thirty years, there was practically no loss of organic matter. The physical condition of the soil was kept in best form and its water-holding capacity was not lowered.

Rothamsted Experimental Station pointed out some years ago that a soil receiving 14 tons annually for thirty-five years holds thirty-two tons more water per acre in the top nine inches than does the same soil without manure.

Organic matter not only retains precipitation for the growing crops, but it is very active in catching and holding plant food or plant nutrients which come into solution. Successive crops take from this store of plantfood in the soil varying quantities of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash, but if the organic matter of the soil is lowered, not only does this loss of plant food on the part of the crops wearing down the soil occur, but nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash and lime go out in soil drainage in increasing amounts. Cornell Agricultural Experiment Station and Rothamsted Experimental Station, both have established this point from studies of soil in large tanks. On certain of the tanks the surface soil was kept bare of crops throughout the growing season. On other similar tanks and with the same soils a rotation of crops was followed. From these tests it is established beyond a doubt that there is a large loss especially of nitrogen, potash and lime, from bare soil. This information points to the beneficial practice of keeping the soil area cropped so as to prevent such loss.

Organic matter itself has been proven to have a holding capacity for important nutrients of growing crops in its decay in the soil it has the power to incorporate ammonia, potash, phosphoric acid and calcium or lime through the formation of various organic substances containing these constituents. If the plant fibre or organic matter of the soil is worn out or used up, these substances are lost in drainage waters.

In the maintenance of organic matter there is another point that should be kept in mind and that is the injury to succeeding crops that may be done by an inpudicious heavy application of straw or very strawy manure. The decay of straw is dependent very largely on the work of microorganisms. These organisms in their growth use considerable quantities of nitrogen. It is possible, then, that too heavy an application of strawy manure incorporated into a soil, especially in spring, may result in nitrogen starvation of succeeding crops. If this strawy manure were applied in the fall and had all winter to decay, such a wasteful locking up of nitrogen would be avoided. In fact, organic matter applied in this way actually builds up the nitrogen supply within the soil. In the process of decay nitrogen from the air is incorporated in the soil. Where straw is to be applied to the soil for fall wheat, frequently good results are obtained from applying it on clover sod or on stubble where sweet clover has been grown in the grain. The decay of the legume crop meets the immediate needs of nitrogen of the organisms of decay operating on the strawy manure and together they add to the nitrogen content of the soil.

The physical effect of organic matter is considerable. For light gravelly loam or sandy soils organic matter is the one thing that gives them substance or water-holding capacity. On heavy clay soils the incorporation of organic matter greatly assists the circulation of air throughout the soil.

Plant fibre in the soil can be built up by manuring, by plowing in crop residues such as stubble, leaves, vines of potatoes and other waste parts of any crop. A crop of clover or other legume not only adds organic matter in the volume of roots it produces and the abundant top growth, but it adds nitrogen to a soil by virtue of the bacteria that grow upon its roots. Non-leguminous crops such as buckwheat, rye, etc., add plant fibre but no more nitrogen than they take out of the soil.

Whatever the condition of farming business, attention should be given to keeping the farm machine—the soil—in best possible condition by the maintenance of its organic matter.

## 60 Kinds of Taxes Raise Food Peiping Prices

Peiping—Sixty different kinds of taxes are collected in Peiping, according to the returns of the Municipal Finance Bureau. All business operations are heavily taxed while even the small property owner has been made "land poor" because of the levies imposed by the authorities.

Food prices have mounted rapidly as a result of the taxation burden. Social workers have estimated that taxes on meat amount to 30 per cent. From the time an animal enters the city until it is delivered to the consumer it is taxed ten times. This figure does not include levies imposed as it enters the city gates.

## Dogs Bite 8,000 a Year

Trenton, N.J.—More than 8,000 persons in New Jersey were bitten by dogs during the first year of the enforcement of a law making compulsory the reporting of accidents of this character, a report by the State Department of Health shows. This figure emphasizes, according to Dr. J. Lyan Mahaffey, director of the department, the necessity of the annual inoculation of dogs against rabies.

The report shows further that of 911 dogs examined 535 were found to be suffering from rabies.

## Albertans See Distant Capital Reflected in Sky

Leduc, Alta.—A number of residents here have reported seeing in the sky a mirage of the city of Edmonton, capital of the Province of Alberta.

City streets of Edmonton, witnesses said, appeared clearly in the mirage, with the Legislature Buildings and other familiar structures standing out in the sky. Edmonton is about twenty miles north of this hamlet.

## Madrid Plans to Electrify Roads

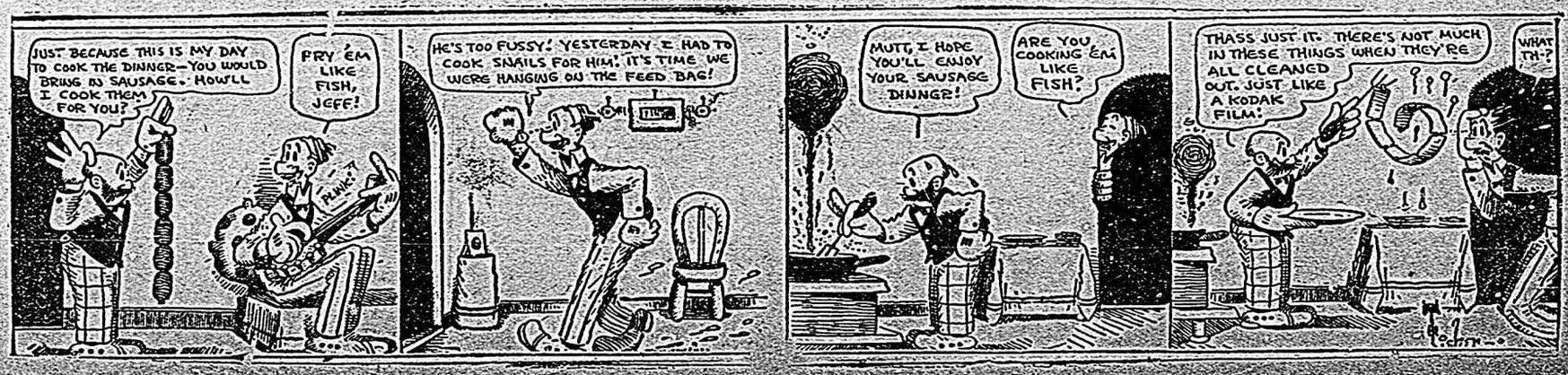
Madrid. — A commission has been appointed to study the electrification of all railroad lines within a radius of forty or fifty miles of Madrid and the construction of an underground station in the centre of the capital. The project is to make commuters of the people living at Aranjuez, Toledo, Avila, Segovia, Alcala de Henares and other nearby cities. It is also planned to bring the Sierra Guadarrama mountains, with their Winter sports, within a few minutes of Madrid.

## Cigarettes 1 Cent Each

McClellanville, S.C.—Many merchants in this section obligingly break open a package of cigarettes and sell them at one cent each to customers who find it necessary to buy their smokes in small quantities. One day recently a customer came into a local store and asked for one cigarette. The merchant took one from package and laid it on the counter. The customer then carefully removed an egg from his pocket, laid it on the counter, picked up the cigarette and walked away.

## Son is Punished For Disrespect to Father

Rome.—The newspapers give prominence to the action of one of the provincial Fascist chiefs who has suspended a member of the Fascist party for two months on the ground that he "acted disrespectfully toward his father." This, it is pointed out, is entirely in line with Roman traditions, which are based on the principle of "patria podestas." It is also completely in accordance with Fascist principles, which have made of the family unit the foundation of the State.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

And Then Mutt Crowned Him With the Skillet