

# News Parade

Commentary on the Highlights of the Week's News . . . By Elizabeth Eedy

**SPRING HATS**—Pancake crowns, bumper brims, bonnets with chin straps will lead in this year's parade of spring hats, the fashion papers tell us. And already we see on the streets of Ontario's small towns, large towns, our style-conscious womenfolk strutting about with the latest millinery confections atop their heads.

The impartial (?) observer cannot help but wish, however, that more women had chosen styles to suit them, had only realized that those chin-strap bonnets are meant to be worn by coy, sweet young things . . . As it is, there are altogether too many worldly-looking women peering out from under unsophisticated brims, who make us think too readily of Little Red Riding Hood's Grandmother . . .

**BIG NAME ROMANCE**—Last year it was the Duke and Duchess of Windsor who had the world's tongues wagging—the love story of a century, so it seemed. This spring it is Greta Garbo and Leopold Stokowski, two of the biggest names in the news, who are providing us with first-class vicarious romance.

As in the case of the other two loves, however, their fame and name would appear to stand in the way of uninterrupted happiness, since the bounds of publicity are forever on their trail.

**"CANADA SHIRKS"**—Writing in the New York Commentator, an American political observer undertakes to criticize the foreign policy of Canada, who, with the other British Dominions, he claims is not doing her duty. This country, he says, expects in the event of war to be defended by the British Navy but is doing nothing in the meantime to strengthen that navy.

"In Britain," our critic points out, "every person on the average is paying \$15 a year for the defence of the Empire. In the Dominions, each white person pays less than a tenth of that sum. Why, the United States is spending more hard cash for the defence of the English-speaking world including Canada, than all the Dominions, ten times over."

Hard words, those. But cold, bitter facts nevertheless. From our own point of view, the situation is rather bad, since if we continue to depend on Great Britain for the protection of our shores, we dare not speak for ourselves nor take independent action in world affairs. In spite of the Statute of Westminster (1931), then, we keep on hanging to Britain's apron strings, and allow London to make our major decisions for us.

**SHANSI FALLS**—With the virtual taking over last week of China's Shansi province by the Japanese, the Rising Sun armies are in position for a westward drive across the Yellow River into the heart of the Chinese Red territory, the mysterious North Shensi area, the country with a "question-mark."

(Few white people have succeeded in penetrating as far as the Communist strongholds there. Edgar Snow in his "Red Star Over China" tells the story of a sojourn in this stamping ground of the Chinese Red forces, presents photographs of people and places never before caught by the camera; describes a visit to the capital of the "mobile Chinese Soviet" in the north central portion of the area.)

The outcome of a campaign in this territory is unpredictable, since Russia at any time might come to the help of the Chinese Communists. Nevertheless Japan now proposes to go ahead and make good her oft-expected declaration that the real object of the present hostilities is to wipe out Red influences in North China.

**THE WORST DRIVERS**—Addressing delegates to the Ontario Motor League's Annual Conference, George A. Hodgson, chief examiner of drivers of Ontario, declared last week that at least 80 percent of the car accidents occurring in this province were caused by drivers whose experience amounted to five years or more. In other words, it is the experienced drivers who ought to know better who pile up the worst records.

"Furthermore," he said, "the color-blind driver is safer than the man who is not colour blind. He can tell you immediately that the top light is red and the bottom green. Our differences are with those who have all their faculties."

Apparently, then, the more a man is aware of his deficiencies, the more alert and careful he will be.

**TEETER-TOTTER**—An Associated Press despatch reads: "Poland stepped into the diplomatic forefront this week as a possible balance between Great Britain and France on one side and Germany and Italy on the other, in proposed European agreements."

Behind this news lies a multitude of interrelated facts, chief of which are: following his conversations with Prime Minister Chamberlain of Great Britain, which he hopes to conclude successfully, Premier Mussolini of Italy is expected to propose an alliance of four great powers who will run Europe's affairs; France would be unenthusiastic about such a plan unless Poland, her ally, were invited to participate in the talks.

## Foresees Ocean Mail Flights During 1938

**Canadian Minister of Transport Predicts Trans-Canada Airlines Ocean Service Will Be In Force Within a Year—21 Pilots Now Ready Trained.**

Ocean-to-ocean mail service will be in operation on the Trans-Canada Airlines within a year, the House of Commons was informed last week by Minister of Transport C. D. Howe.

Two Trips Per Week He also made the announcement that it is "quite within the realm of possibility" that a regular air mail service across the Atlantic Ocean, consisting of two trips each way per week, will be in operation before the end of the present year.

Earlier in the day, the minister had secured first reading for a bill allowing Trans-Canada Airlines to purchase a certain allotment of stock in the company operating the ocean service, as provided for under terms of an agreement with Great Britain, the Irish Free State and Newfoundland.

The Trans-Canada now has 21 pilots. The minister boasted that they are equal to any in the world and are familiar with the British system of navigation. The service from Vancouver to Winnipeg is "pretty well completed," he said, and the jump from Montreal to the Maritimes will be pushed ahead as soon as the weather permits in the spring.

Vancouver to Montreal The Trans-Canada, Mr. Howe said, will have a thorough service from Vancouver to Montreal with only one feeder, from Lethbridge to Edmonton. It was the government's intention to leave ordinary feeder services to private enterprise. Tenders for air mail services connecting the main cities of Saskatchewan, are being called now.

It was generally the government's intention, the minister said, to extend aviation to all part of Canada when air mail warranted it.

## The Great Lakes Fishing Industry

**Commercial Catch Totals 120,000,000 Pounds Annually**

American and Canadian commercial fishermen take some 120,000,000 lbs. of fish out of the Great Lakes annually, valued at approximately \$8,600,000, says the Detroit Free Press.

And yet, as the result of lack of proper regulation, this important industry, conservation experts warn, faces extinction.

The outlook for it is so serious that representatives of the United States and Canadian governments, as well as the governments of Ontario and of the eight states bordering on the Great Lakes, met in Detroit in February to agree upon a uniform protection of small fish.

Decline In Whitefish The decline of the whitefish catch from 2,500,000 to less than 500,000 pounds annually is only one measure of the fate in store for the Great Lakes fisheries if something effective is not promptly done to curb the ravages of cut-throat competition among the fishermen, who seem to act on the assumption that a fish in the net is worth two in the water.

The end of that sort of thing is bound to be the extinction of the stock of commercial fish in the lakes—and, with it, the destruction of the profitable business of supplying tables with piscatorial delicacies fresh from local waters.

As the result of spare-time study more than 500 miners have left the mines of South Wales to enter professions in the last three years.

Professor Delar, of the Sir Humphrey Davy Observatory in Yugoslavia, says 1938 is likely to see the beginning of an active earthquake period.

## Canadian Invents Insulating Silk

**Dry Steam Treatment Found to Increase Silk's Electrical Resistance Powers**

Silk insulation that exhibits 12 1/2 to 17 times more electrical resistance than ordinary silk is revealed in a patent granted at Washington, D.C., to Alfred C. Goodings, of Toronto.

The inventor has discovered that silk of such high insulating value can be obtained by treating the material with dry steam. Thus less silk would be needed to produce the same amount of insulation. The fine wires used in many electrical instruments are insulated with windings of silk thread.

According to his process, the silk fiber is placed in a chamber previously heated to 150 degrees Fahrenheit. The dry steam at a temperature of 220 degrees Fahrenheit is introduced. The treatment lasts for 20 minutes. After this, the silk is dried and ready for its use as an insulating wrapping.

## German Autos Hit British Car Sales

**Are Making Inroads In Britain And Dominions With Subsidy On Exports**

Although the German "People's Car" has not yet appeared, other types already in production are making such inroads in the British market as to cause anxiety among London and Oxford manufacturers.

Whereas only twenty-three German automobiles were imported into Britain in January, 1937, the number jumped to 1,067 last month. Moreover, it is said that, owing to the German subsidy, German trucks and heavy oil vehicles are being imported into South Africa, Ceylon and other British Dominion markets at prices with which neither British nor American makers can compete.

According to the Daily Telegraph, the prime purpose of the German subsidy arrangement is to obtain credits abroad for essential imports. Last year's automobile exports, it is believed, actually paid for all the rubber for tires required on Germany's own automobiles.

CANADA  
THE EMPIRE

# VOICE

of the

THE WORLD  
AT LARGE

# PRESS

## Extinct Species?

The Y.M.C.A. in Toronto is conducting a course to cure blushing and there will be a little mild speculation as to where they find folk nowadays that do blush.—Peterborough Examiner.

## Show-down Inevitable

Eden's strong argument is that if British statesmen surrender to the pressure of threats from other nations, it is possible that this may encourage ambitious and bellicose nations to become even bolder and more threatening, until a show-down would eventually be necessary.—Chatham News.

## Game On The Farms

Sometime there will have to be an understanding as to how much farmers must endure in order to protect game for the sportsmen. Deer are getting so common that they cause serious losses and game preserves make splendid sanctuaries for jack rabbits and other animals that overrun the farms. It is a very debatable question, but it will have to be decided sooner or later.—Farmer's Advocate.

## Humanitarian Feelings

We say "amen" to the indignation of Tavistock people, directed toward the unknown hit-and-run driver who killed a wire-haired terrier puppy in that village. The mean killer neither slowed down in an attempt to miss the wee dog, nor to make amends after running over it. Contrast this incident with one in Dubuque, Iowa, where 12 men worked for ten days to rescue a small terrier from a fox hole.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

## Away From Strangulation

Modern machinery has enabled fewer people to produce more on the farms. This has inevitably been reflected on the villages. But there is a growing realization that urbanization can be carried too far. The huge city strangles itself. Everywhere we see suburban developments as men try to escape from the high taxes and crowded streets of the city. Industry is said to be following the same pathway. Hydro and rapid transportation cancel many of the advantages once possessed by the city. It will be interesting to see what succeeding years contribute to the problem.—London Free Press.

## No "Saturated" West

There is a limiting factor holding down Western—and, for that matter, Canadian—population growth. But that factor decidedly is not "saturation" or overloading of the physical resources. The soil of Western Canada is neither overcrowded nor overworked, nor anywhere near that condition. A look at Russia, with its 165 million people, challenges not only comparison but serious study. Naturally, we do not want to descend to the Russian standard of living, but "standard of living" is itself a shibboleth which might well be analyzed. Some of the ideas and habits by which we mould our lives in Canada might be revised with benefit to everybody in the Dominion—but the scientists who are most capable of attacking the problem have "no actual data" and are so burdened with routine that they have no opportunity to give the long-view leadership which might inspire the people and start a new era of progress.

## Excavated Skulls Obviously Larger

Recently Discovered at Brantford, They Offer Technical Interest But Are Not Abnormal, Authority Declares.

The two skulls, recently discovered in a Brantford gravel-pit, offer points of technical interest, but are not abnormal, according to Dr. J. C. Grant, professor of anatomy, University of Toronto, in whose laboratory they are housed.

Very Wide Cheekbones The specimens are typically Indian and the length of the male skull is about half an inch greater than what is usual today. It also has primitive indications in the formation of the floor of the nose. These points are lacking in the female specimen, which appears to be the "youngest" of the two. Both, however, have the large bump at the back, which is a mark of the Indian. The cheekbones are exceptionally wide.

Comparison at random with the head of a normal man of large build showed barely a quarter of an inch difference in measurement. Had he been living today, the Indian would probably have worn a size 7 1/2 hat.

May Be Centuries Old "The skulls were interesting," said Professor Grant, "but we hope to obtain more of them, in order to enable us to make a definite line-up of the characteristics. One man, or two, with outstanding skull features may have been buried in a graveyard full of normal Indians."

"The bones may be several hundred years old, but their presence in a gravel-pit would not appear to indicate anything in the nature of a prehistoric discovery," he concluded.

The Sphinx in Egypt is being floodlighted for the first time.

## Australian Foreign Policy

Australia's distinctive interests revolve around two different centres; the Pacific and the British Commonwealth of Nations. Our geographical position and our economic welfare inevitably mean a regional preoccupation with the Pacific. In many respects we share parallel interests with the United States, and one of the recognized planks in our foreign policy must be the development of Australian-American friendship and co-operation. We desire to place our trade and other relations with Japan on a satisfactory footing. We recognize her economic difficulties, but, on the other hand, we cannot remain blind to the Japanese aggression which has aroused even India to strengthen her defences, and any potential threat to our security reminds us that we can only find safety in co-operation with Great Britain, just as our interests and loyalties are ineluctably bound up with the Empire.—Sydney Herald.

## Can Japan Last Out?

In the last three years we have heard so much of the horrors of war in Abyssinia, Spain and China that many of us take it for granted our own country must sooner or later be involved in similar miseries. But we overlook one factor of transcendent importance—never before in history has it been so obvious that war cannot pay, even when all the bombs and tanks and artillery are on one side, as they were in the Abyssinian affair. Without foreign credits Italy can do territory I have already, in this article, called attention to the cost in men and money of the German and Italian war in Spain—a war waged by these non-Spaniards with that sinking feeling that any nickings at the end of it are more likely to go to the City of London than to Berlin or Rome. But the most impressive example is that of Japan. Her entire resources are now involved in a campaign which will almost inevitably ruin her. . . . It seems almost unbelievable that any nation should manage to forfeit so much good will in so short a time. Who, after such examples, will dare to start a new war?—Vernon Bartlett in World Review (London).

## Photograph Speedy License Numbers

Camera Has Been Invented That Will Snap Numbers on Fast Automobiles at Night

A camera capable of photographing license numbers of speeding automobiles at night was brought forward last week by the Pennsylvania State police as a new weapon in the state's war on highway accidents.

Commissioner Percy W. Foote said that the camera would be installed soon in many of the patrol's white "ghost cars" that took to the road some time ago to combat highway law violations.

Pierces Brightest Rays Infra-red cameras are being developed for police use by Capt. Flavell M. Williams, retired naval officer and fog camera expert, who was drafted by the Pennsylvania force to carry on his researches.

The photographic marvel, Foote said, is expected to pierce the brightest headlights rays and clock the speed of the car at the same time.

Foote said that he planned to place the equipment in three or four cars operated by each of the 18 police troops in Pennsylvania.

## Paris Ratifies Trade Treaty

Canada to Gain — Dominion Quotas Higher on Several Products

OTTAWA.—The Franco-Canadian trade treaty, ratified last week by the French Chamber of Deputies, is an extension of the 1923 and 1935 commercial agreements. Most important concessions to Canada are larger quotas for lead and zinc in pigs and bars. The additional quota in lead is expected to amount to about \$700,000 and zinc to about \$200,000.

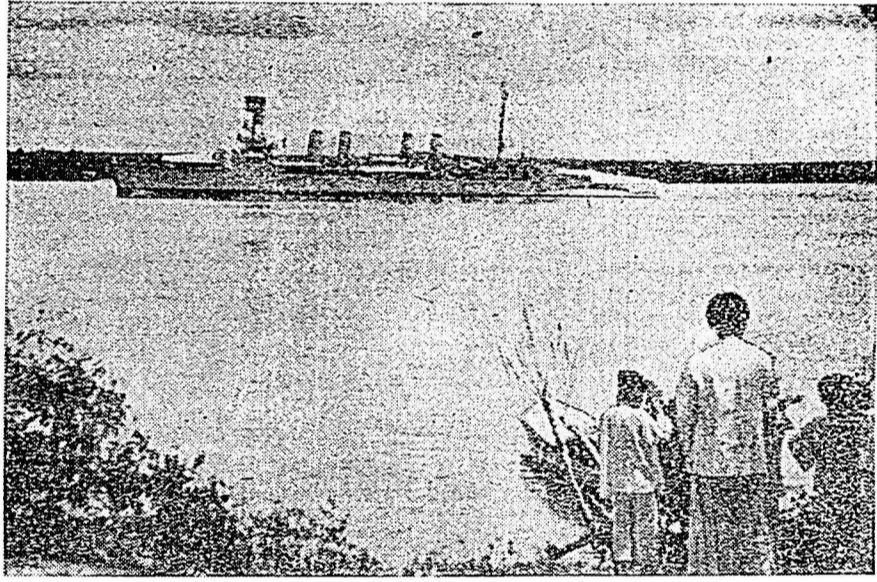
The following other Canadian commodities are given new or additional quotas: Cheese, tomato juice, mowing machines, electrical apparatus, elastic fabrics and manufactures of asbestos.

New arrangements also were made respecting administration of the quota on canned salmon.

Benefits of the French minimum tariff have also been extended to the following Canadian products: Sweetened condensed milk, artificial carbonate of magnesium, uranium oxide, tellurium, incandescent mantles, cast brimstone, gas and alcohol stoves, lamp and gas burners and parts.

Moscow proclaims that its new subway is the most beautiful in the world.

## U. S. S. Memphis Pays Visit to Singapore



Steaming through Johore Straits, the U. S. S. Memphis is shown arriving at Great Britain's new naval base at Singapore.

## Indian Hemp May Not Be Planted

Forest Farmer Cannot Grow Seed Producing Marijuana Drug

FOREST.—Canada's only large plantation of Indian hemp—source of the cigarette narcotic marijuana—will not be sown this year, it was learned from Howard Fraleigh, Forest flax grower, who has seeded 50 acres of Indian hemp yearly since the Great War.

The federal health department is believed to have intervened in the production of Indian hemp in its newly-declared war on marijuana, said to underlie many crimes in the United States.

Worth \$2,000 A Year Oddly the Federal Government's department of agriculture first encouraged Mr. Fraleigh to grow Indian hemp and he first obtained seed from the department. Fibre obtained from the crop and marketed for the manufacture of rope has had an average annual value of \$2,000.

An old statute which forbade the growth of Indian hemp because of the possibility of manufacturing marijuana or hashish from its leaves is now being revived following widespread publicity against the weed.

Cultivated for its fibre, as on the Fraleigh farm, Indian hemp develops into a plant 12 to 15 feet high. In United States areas where it grows wild or is raised illegally, the plant is usually much smaller.

Plucked at Certain Time Although the plant here is different in appearance from the hemp used for narcotics, marijuana could be made from its leaves, according to persons who have studied the plant. The leaves must be plucked at a certain time in their development.

Mr. Fraleigh although acquainted with the possibilities of illegal use of his crop, has always kept his knowledge as secret as possible. It is not believed any of the Lambton crop has found its way into narcotics manufacture.

## Declares Dictators Plan New Holy Roman Empire

Former U.S. Ambassador to Germany Confirms Report on Secret Testimony — Says Britain Will Submit.

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—The Rochester Times-Union last week said William E. Dodd, former United States Ambassador to Germany, confirmed in a telephone conversation his secret testimony before a House Foreign Affairs Committee in which he said Germany and Italy plan to carve a new "Holy Roman Empire" of Fascism from Central Europe and North Africa.

All Europe to Submit After a reporter read Dodd's despatch declaring a member of the committee said Dodd told them Germany wanted The Netherlands, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia and the "Nazification" of Austria and the Balkans, while Italy eyed Spain, Egypt and Palestine, Dodd observed, the paper said:

"Yes, that's right. But I'm sorry I ever got out. They all agreed that not a word of it was to be made public."

Asked his reaction to Hitler's February 20th speech, Dodd said: "He's keeping on demanding more and more. England will submit to these demands (for return of colonies) and that means the whole of Europe."

Encounter Spring and Winter met on the road. Winter was chill and surly; "Go back," he said, "to the other side of the hill, you are far too early." But Spring advanced with a slow, sure step.

Amused at his silly warning, She tossed him a spray of dogwood blooms.

And hid him a curt "Good morning!" —Carolyn Sloot in the New York Sun.

## Index to Predict Length of Life

Biologist Able to Tell if Men Likely to Reach Old Age

Discovery of a biological index that predicts the length of a person's life in average figures after he is adult was reported last week by Dr. Raymond Pearl, famous biologist of Johns Hopkins University.

He talked to the New York Academy of Medicine on "The Search of Longevity." He made the first public announcement of the "index" for foretelling length of life.

The indices are biological measurements, ranging from pulse rate to body shape. They show in effect who shall survive the attacks of disease sufficiently to expect a ripe old age. In the heart and blood vessel class, two groups of white men, 193 in each, were compared. They were first seen at ages ranging from 20 to 60, an average of 40. They were followed until all died.

26 Years Difference One group was long-lived; the other short-lived. The long-lived men averaged 26 years apiece more than the others.

These long-lived men had slower pulse rates. The differences, Dr. Pearl said, were quite small, around four beats a minute less. But this slight difference was statistically significant.

The long-lived men had different blood pressure than the short-lived. Dr. Pearl said he did not wish at this time to reveal the blood pressure differences. The men who lived long averaged six pounds each less weight, notwithstanding that all the men in both classes were average build and weight.

Long-Lived Small-Waisted The men who lived long had smaller chest girths at expiration of breath, and smaller waists at the navel level.

It is not true, Dr. Pearl reported, that the "absolute" length of human life has lengthened. Actually, he said, fewer persons alive at 70 today survive until 90 than 40 years ago. The lengthened life span of today is due to saving the lives of more babies and children, he said.

Gamp Queen: Mrs. Cornwallis Orford, a rich American, owns nearly 300 umbrellas, more than anyone else in the world, but is still looking for more. She has a gallery full of umbrellas collected from all over the world for 20 years. She never uses one herself—"too much trouble to carry," she says.

Sweden's foreign trade is showing the highest money value since 1920.

## News In Brief

### Russo-Japanese Tension

TOKIO—A vigorous Soviet protest this week registered renewed tension in Japan's troubled relations with the Soviet. Moscow protested against the continued detention of two Russian steamships in northern Japan ports and of a Soviet airplane in northeastern Manchoukuo. The Japanese came back with charges that Soviet authorities were "illegally holding" 58 Japanese subjects in Russian Sakhalin and nine Japanese vessels.

### Want to Probe Cures

TORONTO.—Legislative authority for a Government-appointed Commission to investigate secret cancer cures was sought last week in the Ontario House by Hon. Harold J. Kirby, Minister of Health.

Revelation of formula and details of treatment are required by the bill, according to the Minister. Sweeping powers to inquire into any type of "so-called cure" are provided.

### Successful Guerilla Tactics

SHANGHAI.—Chinese reported over the week-end that guerilla bands had recaptured a dozen towns in conquered territory north of the Yellow River. Japanese artillery meanwhile bombarded strategic cities on the south bank.

Most of the reported Chinese successes were along the Honan-Hopeh border, forty to sixty miles behind the Japanese advance lines, which were held up by the broad river.

The Chinese also said a Chinese cavalry detachment repulsed a Japanese drive against Lini, in Southeastern Shantung, killing 500 Japanese.

### Stock Exchange S setback

Stock markets on this continent last week took some hard knocks but after a few hours of slipping prices, they staged a practical comeback.

The recovery in the face of the failure of Richard Whitney & Co., a prominent New York stock exchange firm, was regarded as an excellent demonstration of the strength underlying the market.

### Held On 38 Charges

TORONTO.—Thirty-eight charges of theft, robbery and shopbreaking were laid last week after hours of persistent questioning of four teen-aged boys caught by an unarmed police chief after an eighty-mile-an-hour auto chase and a five-mile manhunt through the bush near Whitby.

### To Open Empire Fair

LONDON.—The King and Queen will open the Empire exposition at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, on May 3 and visit poor districts in Glasgow the following day, it was officially announced this week.