

### Water Dollars

By PAUL STAYTON

McChure Syndicate—WNU Service.

SPIC ALVORD aimed a plump finger at the contraption of wheels, fans and tube coils on the platform attached to his gaudy trailer. Turning to the wisp of an old man beside him in the hot, dusty alley of Sandog, he urged: "Just the thing for your dry claim. Watch!"

He touched a button. A tiny motor, prestone-cooled—always a good sales point—began to purr. Wheels flashed. Fans cut air. A two-inch pipe coughed and was spurting water.

Old Hank Barth hitched his battered canteen higher on one thin shoulder. Baby-blue eyes stared incredulously at the jet. "Where's it all comin' from?" he marveled.

Spic restrained a chuckle. His guarded inquiries about the dumbness of the prosperous old prospector had not been time wasted.

"Air contains moisture," Spic sprouted. "These fans draw air into those coils, where electrical currents," he lied glibly, "condense its moisture into a gushing stream, pure and cold."

He stopped the machinery, and the jet died. No use draining the tank cleverly concealed in the trailer. Barth smiled like a child meeting Santa. "If I had that much water steady for my sluice boxes—"

"Only two grand," Spic encouraged.

Barth patted a bulging vest pocket. "Ain't the money worries me. It's temperature—"

"Temperature?" Spic asked, puzzled.

"Yep. It's hot here, but this is nothin' to out at my diggin's. Fiery Desert is like a candle. Air so siz-zlin' mightn't have enough water to make this proposition work at all."

"All air contains moisture," Spic argued.

"Not on old Fiery."

"How far?"

"Forty mile," Barth glanced aside. "Just give me time to load up my truck with supplies. Stuck it out waitin' for rain till I drank my last tin of tomatoes."

Spic hustled him towards the luxurious sedan that drew the trailer. Take no chance on a sucker talking and being tipped off. "Can't wait. Bring you back afterwards for your truck," he promised.

Before entering, Barth examined his canteen: without water one can live only a few days on a blistering desert. Spic slid behind the wheel and placed his own canteen on the seat between them. The gauge showed enough gas to make the forty-mile trip there and back nicely, he judged.

Soon to the hum of an air-cooled motor, the desert was opening. Cholla cacti and sun-seared ridges streamed past the windows of the speeding car. Presently the road grew bad. Second gear was often necessary. Spic gulped time and again from his canteen. Barth sipped occasionally at his. "How much farther?" Spic questioned when they had gone forty-six miles.

"Just a piece."

"You said forty."

"Forty as the crow flies," Barth hedged. "By this corkscrew road it's farther. How's gas?"

Spic looked down, startled. Second-gear driving had drawn heavily on the tank. It was almost empty.

Barth sighed. "Drive on. I'll foot it back to town and bring some out on my truck. There's one spring on the way I can strike for water. Take me four-five days." He smiled pitifully at Spic's soft bulk. "You'll hafta stay at the shack. You never could hoof it to town."

The starved motor was coughing when Spic stopped before a rough board cabin overlooking a row of sluice boxes in a dry yellow gulch. Despite the furnace blast of a late afternoon sun he smiled confidently as he got out and led the old prospector behind the trailer. His touch awoke the water machine. Wheels, fans, pistons, flashed into action.

Water gushed.

Barth grinned to his ears. "It's got even the air of old Fiery licked," he cackled.

Together they lifted and lugged the heavy but worthless contraption into the shadow of the cabin and set it down. "Stay here and don't get lost," Barth advised. "The sooner I start the sooner I'll get back with gas."

He turned abruptly and struck off into the desert, across lengthening rock shadows. Spic watched him out of sight, then entered the hot little shack. On a shelf he saw bacon, beans, flour. Sight of the dry food made him thirsty.

Spic raised his now light canteen to his lips, drained it in two quick gulps, then lumbered across the room to a barrel above which a tin dipper hung.

The barrel was empty.

Suddenly he remembered what Barth had said about drinking his last tin of tomatoes. Hands trembling, he began to search. There was no water in the cabin, nor any substitute.

Three days later a weary figure dropped flat beside a desert spring, thrust his face into the water and drank thirstily. One more day to Sandog.

Though life-giving, the water was hot and bad. Hank Barth sighed. The fine cold drinks Spic was enjoying whenever he turned on that water machine!

### "As We See It"

(By J. A. Strang)

WE DON'T SUPPOSE that you would call it news if we mentioned that this Canada of ours is a Big Country. We never realized its size until driving on the Prairie. Out there one can see quite a distance and besides that there are no trees to break the distant scenes. It is somewhere around three thousand miles from Halifax to Vancouver. Yes we could say that Canada was a big country. The Old Country Folk notice its size when they come out here and the average person over there who has never been in Canada hasn't very much idea of just how big it really is. Naturally we think that they should have a much better idea of our Dominion but most of us haven't a much better idea of the size of the British Islands either. Just to settle our curiosity we measured a large map of the Islands and comparing them to the scale of the map we found that from Lands End, which is the extreme Southern point of the main land of England, to John O Groat's House, which is the extreme tip of Scotland, on the north, is approximately six hundred miles. A motor trip from Toronto to Montreal would cover about three hundred and fifty miles so that would give us an idea of the length of the British Islands. With those lads of ours over there holidaying in so many different places we like to have an idea how far they have to travel to get there and compared with a trip in our country most of their trips aren't very long. Of course they do their travelling by train instead of by Motor as we might like to do it. Even a trip right around the Island, along the coast, wouldn't be a very long trip. One thing sure the boys that are over there are learning a good deal about the Old Country and it will be interesting to have their opinion of the many ways they have of doing things over there compared with the way that we do them. We do hope that those boys and girls will all be spared to come back and tell us all about the Old Land when they get this Big Job cleaned up.

DURING THE FIRST Great War we had some difficult words to pronounce such as Ypres. It was called everything from Yee-Pee to Wipers. In this war we seem to have so many new names to pronounce and it is interesting to hear the pronunciation of some of them. For instance Truk is pronounced as though it were spelled Trook. We often wonder who is the authority on the way any given word should be pronounced. And styles seem to change in pronunciation as they do in so many other things. The word Programme used to be pronounced Pro-gram now the up to date announcer calls it Program. The new way of pronouncing that word though often doesn't improve the quality of the programme that follows. Program would go alright to announce those Blue Singers that carry on with a rather mournful howl, in fact even the title program is far too good for them.

THE BOYS OVERSEAS were recently informed that some of their January mail had to be dumped into the Atlantic. This then would account for those missing letters that we all looked for early in February. As far as we know this is the first time that any letters to us from over there have not been received. Just about a year ago some of our letters to England failed to arrive. The mail service on the whole has been very satisfactory, we would think, considering the many problems that have to be faced.

THE LOCAL DRIVE for funds for the Red Cross is on right now. There is no need of waiting for a canvasser to call. Just hand in your contribution to headquarters, in fact we shouldn't have to be canvassed for funds for this worthy objective at all. We should consider it a privilege to be able to help along that organization. The zero hour for the opening of that much talked of Second Front is just around the corner. The Red Cross is ready to do its part. They look to us to provide the necessary where-with-all to enable them to carry on. We are not going to let them down.

### TERRA COTTA FARMERS' CLUB MET

The February meeting of the Terra Cotta U.F.O. and F.P.W. Clubs was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Cook.

The Women opened their meeting by the singing of "The Maple Leaf" and repeating the Lord's prayer Mrs. Carson Watson gave a paper on "Sweet are the uses of Adversity."

Mr. T. L. Leslie and Mrs. Cook gave the histories of their farms from the time the land was sold by the Crown. Mrs. Cook showed the Crown deed for their farm, bearing the seal of William IV.

Progressive euchre was played, Mr. and Mrs. E. Armstrong won the prizes. Lunch was served.

Have an Irish joke ready for the March meeting, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Reid.

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**"It was the Red Cross parcels that gave us courage..."**

**"I don't know what we would have done without Red Cross parcels!"**

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*The Need Grows as Victory Nears*

### British Bankers on Postwar Prospects

Their Views on Britain's Place in the New Form and Direction of World Trade

With belief in victory transformed from a dogged act of faith into a well-founded conviction, leading British bankers, acting upon the principle enunciated by the London head of Barclays Bank that "events do not wait upon plans", are now giving much attention to the aftermath of war and the problems that will follow.

Thus for the first time during the war the Chairmen of all the larger banks in the United Kingdom, whose annual meetings have just been held, have devoted the general content of their reviews addressed to shareholders to a consideration of prospects and preparations in regard, first, to the transition period from war to peace, and, second, in respect to the long-term outlook for the recovery of world trade.

In order that Canadians may have an opportunity of studying these views, the Bank of Montreal, in a special supplement accompanying the February issue of its monthly Business Summary, just published, has reprinted extracts from the annual addresses of the chairman of six of the leading banks in the United Kingdom.

In an introduction it is noted that, as in Canada, the financial statements of the respective banks show deposit and other accounts at record high levels, with uniformly high liquidity of assets.

POST-WAR TRANSITION PERIOD. In respect to the post-war transition period, the view is expressed by Edwin Fisher, of Barclays Bank, that there will be no sudden or violent change-over, because the period following the war will be dominated by scarcity, emphasized by the latent demands which then spring to life.

For this reason, he said, "we must anticipate a measure of control, with the exercise of priorities, until the whole machine adjusts itself to the new conditions. But no one will want to see the continuance of any control which has outlived its purpose, for although there must always be safeguards to protect the interests of the State and of the community, the very same interests are best served by giving full rein to those priceless assets, individuality and enterprise, which can flourish only in an atmosphere of freedom. In this immediate period after the war, we may expect to see activity and stimulus to employment, but we must so prepare ourselves that the prosperity which such a condition creates does not bind us to the problems which will follow."

The Hon. Rupert E. Beckett, Chairman of the Westminster Bank, expressed the opinion that some considerable time would elapse before the nations of the world could be envisaged as working peaceably together. The prime need of those who had undergone the miseries of invasion, starvation and slavery would be an adequate supply of food, shelter and clothing.

"Thus for some time after the war," he said, "the allies will have to be, as it were, self-contained, and perform the role of general provider to the stricken nations and re-creator of their industries. The first essential step then is for the allies to thresh out inter se the means towards these ends. America, Russia, China and ourselves should be able to achieve miracles so long as our solidarity as war comrades can be continued in years of peace."

The Rt. Hon. Lord Warrington, Chairman of Lloyds Bank, said, in connection with the transition period, that it would be a great relief to industry if some definite announcement could be made on an important point stressed in the report of a delegation appointed by the League of Nations last year, which report stated:

"The post-war problems created by the construction of war plants will be particularly serious if provision is not made to allow producers to amortize their plants adequately during the war. If, in the interests of national revenue, amortization rates are kept low, so that at the end of the war the unamortized capital value as determined by the income it can earn in the production of peace-time goods, a powerful factor of dislocation will have been created."

THE PROSPECTS OF RECOVERY. Asking "What are the prospects of our recovery after the war?" the Hon. Rupert E. Beckett said: "It is obvious

that we have suffered considerable losses in many directions: our stock of gold, our foreign investments, our ships at sea, our factories and houses. The total loss from all these sources cannot be easily computed: it is certainly severe, but should not be unduly large either in comparison with our pre-war total national wealth or with our current productive capacity. Much, however, will depend upon the character of the peace settlement. If peace is established with the appearance of durability, the possibilities of recovery not only for ourselves but for the world at large, will be greatly stimulated and will be rendered more favourable than at any other time during the past quarter of a century.

In connection with this subject, the topic discussed at greatest length in the addresses was that of the re-establishment of export trade. Lord Warrington declared that "without it we can neither eat nor work," and that "it is idle to suppose we can exist on home markets alone." He said that as there had been a great reduction in the foreign investments of Britain, the interest on which provided one of the chief invisible exports of the United Kingdom, they would be more than ever dependent on restoring their visible exports to the fullest extent.

Edwin Fisher expressed a similar view, remarking, "Situated as we are, our dependence on imports cannot be denied, and imports have to be paid for by exports. Thus, even after making allowances for the increased productive power which has been generated at home during the impelling war years, we must build up our overseas trade if we are to restore, let alone improve, our standard of living."

Nothing that, under the stimulus of war conditions, secondary industries had been developed and extended in primary producing countries, and that British merchandise and services must expand to meet a growing rigour of competition as the deficiencies arising out of the war are made good and the more permanent pattern of the future emerges. Mr. Fisher said: "Nevertheless, it is a fact that through the industrial development that has taken place in those countries, their standards of life should tend to rise and they should be in a position to utilize their gain in purchasing power in the markets of the world to the benefit of all concerned."

The Hon. Rupert E. Beckett said it was mainly on the export side of trade that unemployment before the war was most marked and proved so obstinate to cure, and, in this respect, the difficulties had not decreased but multiplied. Exporters would find themselves operating in a world where marked changes in the form and direction of world trade had been brought about by the war. He proceeded: "America will emerge as a more powerful competitor in the export field, but on the other hand, Continental and Japanese competition will be much less formidable. South American countries, formerly among our best customers, have turned energetically towards industrialization of their own economy, as have also important countries within the Empire, from which it follows that the demand from these sources for some classes of our goods will be smaller than heretofore."

"It is therefore up to us to be ready with new and attractive lines of goods so as not to miss the chance of at least maintaining our trade with these countries at its pre-war level. These some of our principal exports demand imports of the raw material, but we cannot pay for imports except by exports. Another part of our imports consists of food of all kinds; whilst continuing to foster our own increased agricultural output, we can, if need be, cut imports to a minimum, but we shall to that extent prejudice the purchasing power of the primary producing countries, with inevitable adverse repercussions on our own trade. All these, and other factors, render the outlook for our export trade far from simple and straightforward, and resolution of the complex problems involved with call for vision, energy, and perseverance." Mr. Beckett added a warning against accepting at this stage "easy phrases and pleasant prognostications" founded on schemes put forward by economists and others.

"Already," he said, "the Government debt in this country has risen to more than \$80,000,000,000, and the end is not yet. The costs of service of the debt will have increased considerably. All nations in the world war are in the same dilemma and are spending on a similarly prodigious scale. I repeat, then, how can anyone say at this stage 'what we can afford when the longest-for days of peace at last arrive?'"