

The Ottawa Spotlight

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, March 17th.—The trade agreement with the United States was formally approved by parliament in a recorded vote. Liberals, C.C.F., Social Credit, Reconstruction and Miss Macphail voted for the United States agreement, only the forces of Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett opposing it. The vote was 175 to 39—one of the largest majorities ever recorded in the Canadian parliament on an issue so momentous and so contentious as between the major parties. The House proceeded at once to deal with the items of the treaty one by one. This uncovered a good deal of party feeling and cleavages in attitude toward tariffs, and will probably take some time.

Pensions for The Blind

Aside from these trade matters, which monopolized the time of our legislators last week, there were two or three interesting diversions. The last complete private member's day was about equally divided between a debate on pensions for the blind and a request for special recognition of the problem of youth in Canada. The first of these, sponsored by Dr. Thomas Donnelly, Liberal member for Wood Mountain, Sask., asked the government to consider giving the old age pension (Maximum \$20. per month) to all blind persons at forty. The second, sponsored by Denton Massey, famous Bible Class leader from Toronto, urged the creation of a commission to deal specially with education and training for the youth of to-day.

Canada and Empire Defence

The grave crisis in Europe precipitated by Germany's military occupation of the Rhineland was reflected by a couple of exchanges in the House of Commons. In reply to a question levelled by J. S. Woodsworth, C. C. F. leader, the Prime Minister explained Canada's position in regard to Empire defence. He stated and reiterated that Canada was not committed in any way to an empire defence policy, nor was she signatory to the Locarno Pact, nor was she—as Rt. Hon. R. J. Thomas had said—obligated through the League of Nations because of any action of the Mother country. Replying to a further question by Mr. Bennett, the prime minister said that of course there were obligations by Canada under the covenant of the league. So far, he thought, these had been honored to the letter; any further obligations under the League covenant would be carefully considered as they arose.

Conscription of Germans

Mr. Woodsworth objected to a proclamation issued by Ludwig Kempff, consul-general for Germany, instructing all Germans in Canada they were subject to conscription, and warning them that if they failed to register they could be punished. The C. C. F. leader wanted to know how a German consul-general could mete out punishment to persons resident in Canada. He regarded the whole statement as an extraordinary one, and asked the government to make a statement. Mr. Mackenzie King promised that he would, after having obtained from Ludwig Kempff his exact words.

The farm implement question came up again, and led to a rather curious turn. The agricultural committee, which has been entrusted with the task of finding out why prices have recently risen, decided, after a vote in which Conservatives opposed Liberals and others that the House should be asked to pass along to the implement companies a request that the higher prices should not be charged until the inquiry was over.

The Soya Bean

The House—in committee of ways and means over the United States trade agreement—had a couple of warm sessions over the important question of the soya bean. It appears that the soya bean is, next to coal, the most remarkable substance known for the number of derivatives and by-products. Everything from duco to synthetic milk, it seems, may be made from it, and when the bean is 'puffed' and roasted, it is superior in flavour to the finest peanuts. No wonder that the House grew interested! It further transpired that the present acreage of soya beans in Canada was about 10,000, of which about half was cut for ensilage, and the remainder was threshed for the bean. A plant at Chatham has been extracting oil or otherwise processing the bean, another plant at Stratford failed to get going, and one is under way at Montreal.

Several Conservative members were much distressed because the soya bean, which formerly was protected at a rate of two cents per pound, is now to enter free from the United States. Mr. Bennett saw in

the binding of the free item for three years the end of any immediate possibility of the starting of a soya bean industry in Canada. On the other side, it was stated that the prospects of any considerable acreage in Canada was very slight and in view of the importance of the article, it was well to have free access to it.

Pensions for The Blind

The government accepted the principle of pensions for the blind at 40, Mr. Dunning observing that of course if it were granted at 40, it would not be long before the government would probably have to pay it to all blind persons as soon as they become of age when normal people are able to get out and fend for themselves. But the Minister of Finance was not prepared to say that the government could pay the pension to the blind at 40 this session. He was not prepared to agree to any more financial commitments until the financial horizon cleared a bit. Which prompted some members to say that money could be found for less worthy objects. One member in this connection cited the fact that in the past five years a total of more than \$18,000,000 had been paid out for travelling expenses.

A rather sharp cleavage became evident in the discussions on fruit and vegetable tariffs, the prairie members lining up to some extent against the Ontario members. A similar rift was evident in the discussion on the soya bean. There is a 'Ginger Group' of Liberals in this session, the nucleus coming from Saskatchewan, but with some supporters also from Manitoba and Ontario. Gordon Ross of Moose Jaw, and Malcolm MacLean of Melfort represent its views about as effectively as any on the question of freer trade: while W. A. Tucker of Rosthern appears to be the radical leader in the matter of finance. Against the fiery background of these members' doctrine, the government benches appear conservative at times, if not reactionary. Whether in the ensuing months, the 'Ginger Group' will do anything more than get up and speak trenchantly at party caucuses is questionable, of course. But if the Liberal party fails to be Liberal in doctrine and action, it will not have the excuse that there was no internal leadership on the matter.

Liberals and Youth

Denton Massey's resolution regarding youth was approved by the government, Hon. Norman Rogers stating that the Employment Commission which was being set up would, among other things, be charged with a duty of doing everything possible for youth. A few words from the close of the Labor Minister's address represents quite fairly the government's point of view on this question:

"I do not believe the youth of this Dominion expect ready-made jobs, nor do I believe that the solution for unemployed youth lies in public employment. If I did believe that I should have some misgivings for the future of Canada. It is our duty to create conditions within which our Canadian youth may once more, as in other years, find their own opportunities and make the most of them."

Fruit and Vegetable Tariffs

The tariffs against fruits and vegetables entering Canada from the United States have been reduced substantially, but most of them are still as high as Hamah's gallows during the period when the Canadian horticulturist is placing his product on the market. Formerly they ranged from 25 per cent to about 300 per cent; now they range from 15 per cent to about 200 per cent. The prairie members wanted to know why they should be penalized for the sake of their brethren east and west. They pointed out that fruits and vegetables in most parts of the prairie were scarce and highly appreciated and that it would be of tremendous benefit if they could be obtained freely in the most available market. The members from the eastern provinces and from British Columbia, took the view that the market gardeners of Canada were living only a little above the starvation wage, and that the home market should be preserved. They added the claim that the Canadian gardener did not take advantage of the tariff, and that internal competition drove the price down to a reasonable level. But one of the Social Credit members rather startled the house by telling them that a 75 cent basket of California tomatoes formerly paid \$2.15 duty on its way to Calgary, entirely aside from the freight.

The private members' days having gone, government business will now proceed five days a week, and we

can expect somewhat more speed in the program here. The government has a number of measures all ready to bring down, but apparently doesn't see any point in putting them on the order paper until they are ready to go on with them. The unemployment commission will be about next. The inquiry into the wheat board should start in a few days time. There are several inquiries pending. Anthracite coal will be the subject of one of these. The royal commission inquiring into textiles is, meanwhile, probing a very complex and difficult subject.

Here and There

Stating emphatically that success depends on luck, Captain Charles M. Hudson, D.S.O., and Bar, R.N.R., commander of Q-boat for two years of the war, had a hard job convincing the Active Club International at Hotel Vancouver recently of the entire truth of the statement. They thought that skill, courage and foresight had something to do with success after hearing some of his adventures.

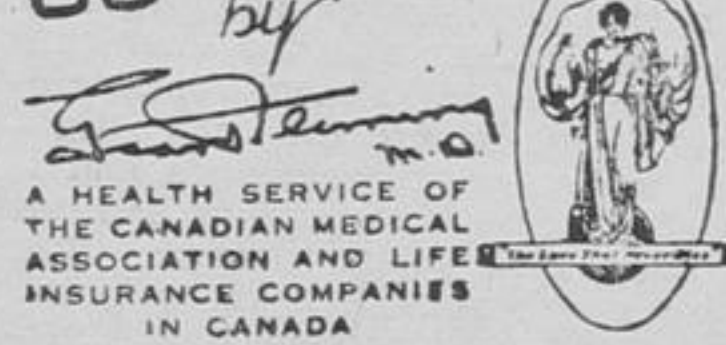
Recently the Royal York Hotel, Toronto held a Cherry Pie Contest wide open to everybody and gave ten prizes in order of merit and the good housewives of the Queen City were all agog. The judges of course had their work cut out for them—or may be they did a bit of cutting for themselves.

"It is a pity every British Columbia business man can not find it possible to visit the Far East, particularly Japan," said C. A. Cotterell, assistant general manager, British Columbia, for the Canadian Pacific Railway, just back from a trip to the Orient. Mr. Cotterell thought a visit would be an education, enlightening and of inestimable value in a practical sense.

Two prominent British residents in Kobe are fighting a losing battle against a sacred pine tree which they fear is about to fall on their residence, according to passengers arriving in Victoria recently on the Empress of Japan. They can't get it felled because it is believed if that is done, a pestilence will strike the district.

"The Canadian Pacific's biggest liner, the 42,500-ton Empress of Britain, to be designated 'cabin' ship following the abolition of 'first class' designation by the North Atlantic Conference, will continue in operation as a high class, high speed, de luxe liner," William Baird, steamship passenger traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific, said recently.

HEALTH



VINCENT'S ANGINA

Vincent's Angina was first described in 1898. It is an important disease, and it has frequently been mistaken for diphtheria. It became comparatively common among the soldiers of the World War, when the condition was known as "trench mouth." Later, it was widely spread throughout the civil population.

Like other infections and communicable diseases, Vincent's Angina is caused by a living agent or bacterium. This particular disease is unusual in that it results from the combined action of two different kinds of bacteria working together as a team.

The disease rarely occurs in young children. It is during the high school years that it begins to appear. It may be either acute or chronic, and the severity of the attacks varies a great deal. The onset may be mild or severe.

The usual onset is marked by the appearance of a spot on the gums or cheek. This spot is tender and is covered with a whitish film which can be easily removed, leaving a bleeding surface. Unless properly treated, the condition spreads rapidly. There is slight fever with nausea. Usually, there is some pain on swallowing, and the glands of the neck are swollen. The breath is offensive.

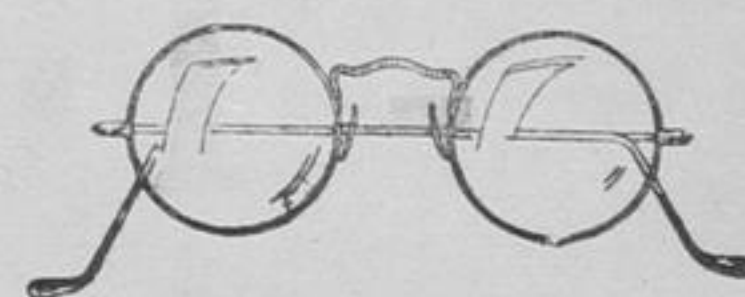
The prevention of Vincent's Angina depends upon keeping the mouth clean and healthy. This is not a guarantee that the disease will not occur, but it renders it much less likely.

The rapid spread which occurred among the soldiers was the result of conditions which made the transference of bacteria from one mouth to another much more likely than is the case in ordinary civil life.

The transfer may be by direct contact, notably in kissing, and in the use of common eating and drinking utensils, or of eating and drinking utensils which are not sterilized between use. Since the war, the disease has continued its unusual prevalence, and some believe that it is actually on the increase.

The harm which may result from Vincent's Angina depends upon how promptly the condition is brought under proper treatment, and treatment must be continued until a healthy mouth is secured. The mouth must be put into first-class shape, through dental treatments to repair, clean and correct diseased or faulty conditions. Vincent's Angina is a disease which requires skilled care, as otherwise it will pass into a chronic condition which is destructive to the health of the mouth.

Questions concerning health, addressed to the Canadian Medical Association, 184 College St., Toronto, will be answered personally by letter.



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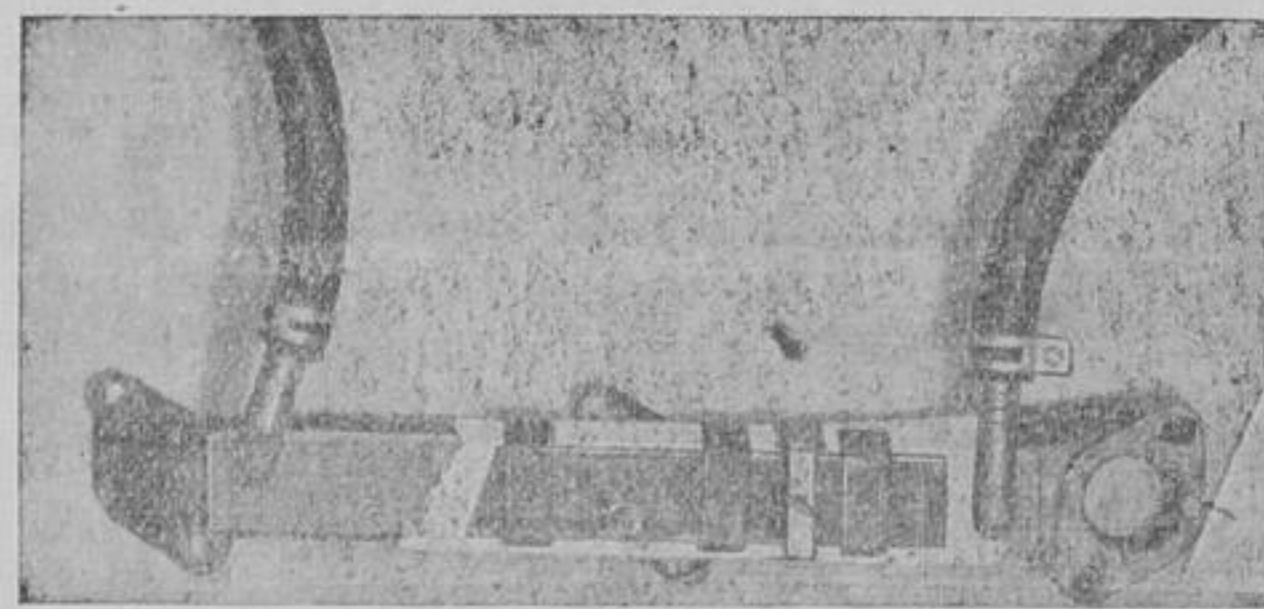
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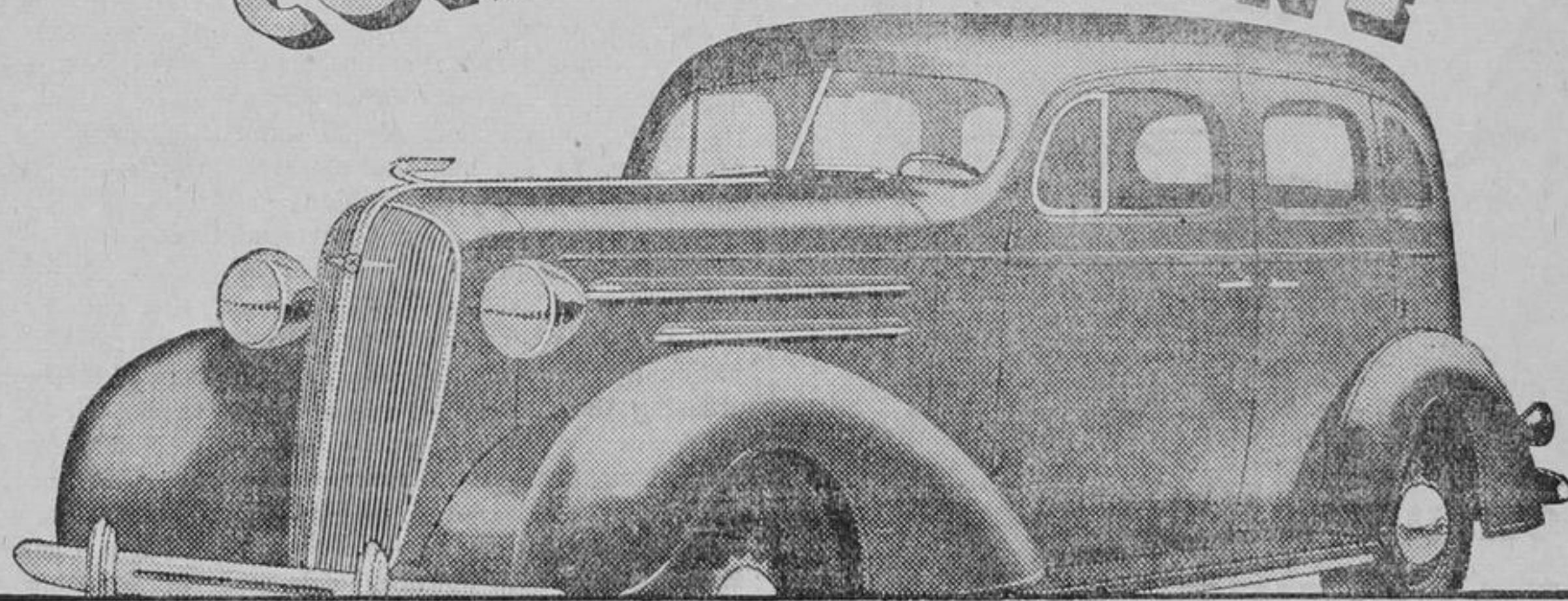
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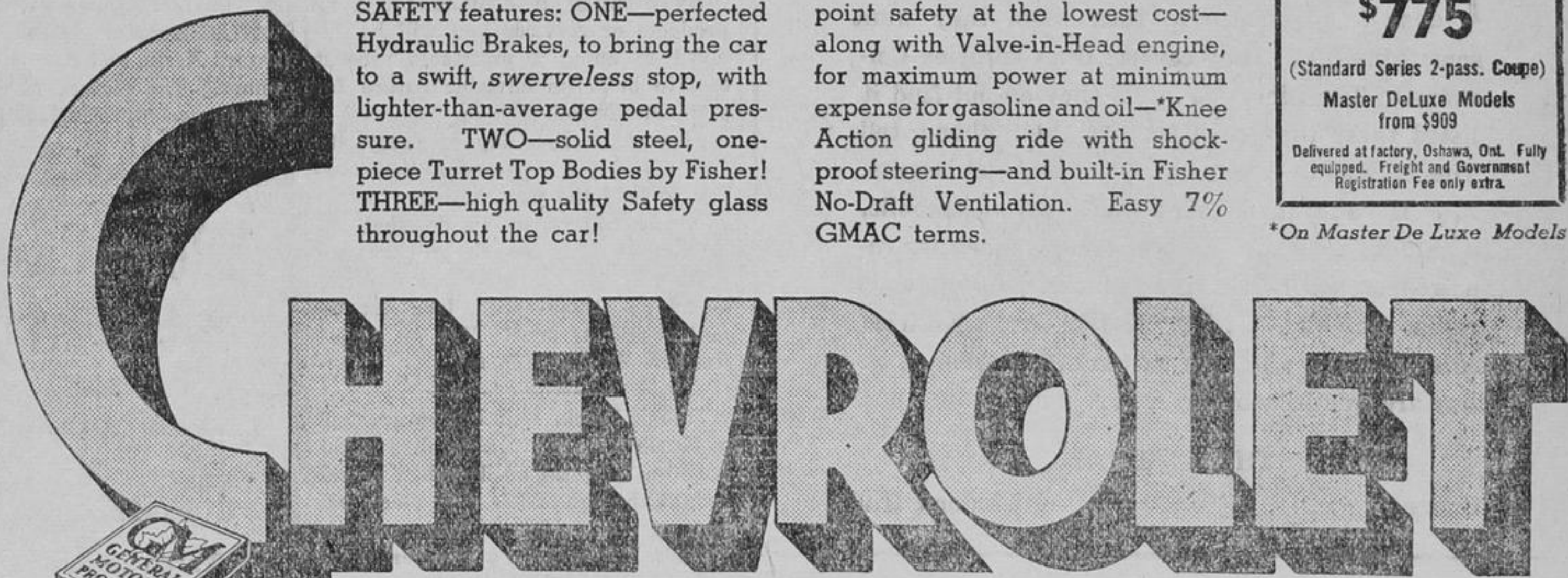
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