

**SLATS' DIARY**  
(By Oliver N. Warren)

Sunday: The preacher sed to all of us use are infloents for the church & I ast Pa what are infloents & he sed its what you think you have got until you try it on some boddie.

Monday: The Dr. sent Pa notis witch sed the check Pa give Doc has cum back. That makes us even then sed Pa for so has the pane I give it to the Dr. for curing.

Tuesday: At supper Ma & Unkel Hen was a wandering why is it are famby cant save no money or nothing. Pa sed he noes. It are becos the nabors is all ways a bying sum thing or doing sum thing we cant afford.

Wednesday: Blisters says his Ma is hard harted & crool. He sed he sed to her he diddent feel good & wanted to stay out of skool. Where is it you dont feel well at she sed, & he replide & sed in skool, & then he had to cum. Tho it hurt him bad.

Thursday: The teecher sed for us boys in the class this p. m. to tell why did we want to be governer, presedent or sum thing. Jake sed becos he wood have sum boddie to dig bate then. The teecher sed Jake aint got no ambischen or nothing. Enney how he has got ideas thot I.

Friday: Went over to call on Jane last evening & her Ma sed to me we turn off the lights at nine 30. That suites me fine I replide & sed & at nine 25 Jane's Ma cum in & sed it is time to go. & soon I was on my way.

Saturday: Was out quale hunting with Blisters this a. m. We got up a flock & Blisters kep sighting & sighting & etc but diddent shoot. Sed evry time he was redy to shoot I a nother I got in the way. Aint he dum? But come to think I shot twict & kilt the same as Blisters.

**Ottawa Spotlight**

By Wilfrid Eggleston

Ottawa, Nov. 24.—The session, it would appear, is not more than six weeks away. The capital, which is always a sort of five-ringed circus, with a show going on in one tent or another, seems to be exceptionally busy behind the scenes these days, and as a rule the tempo goes up as the session approaches. Here are the chief matters engaging the government at the moment:

1. Negotiations to form an aviation company to fly the mails, and run a passenger service across the Dominion, linking up with the United States, ultimately with Britain, and with Asia.

2. Preparing for the conference of provincial treasurers and the Minister of Finance, called for December 9th, which is to deal chiefly with two things: (a) the co-ordination of government loans, and (b) co-operation between Dominion and province in regard to taxation.

3. Preparing for the conference of agricultural authorities in the following week, at which a reorganization of the Dominion department of agriculture is to be discussed, and plans laid for stimulating the export sale of live cattle and other farm products.

4. Drafting a modest defence program for the Dominion.

5. Approving the departmental estimates.

6. Drafting legislation for the session. Early reports say that the program is being kept light.

7. Amalgamating the departments of interior, immigration, colonization, mines etc. into the new single department of mines and resources, under Hon. T. A. Crerar.

Meantime on December 1st the royal commission to inquire into the best method of marketing Canadian wheat is scheduled to begin, although with the textile probe developing so much life at the tail end, Hon. W. F. A. Turgeon (commissioner for both inquiries) may not be ready to start immediately.

(New Problems)

The textile revelations have given the government another series of problems. What is to be done about companies that hide reserves from the taxing authorities? Should Canada adopt a similar method to that used in Britain and the United States and permit companies to pool their profits—average them—over a period of several years? What can be done about companies which make fat profits but cut wages meanwhile, or even close down at times because they fear future competition? The Liberal philosophy is one of non-intervention except so far as is imperative; on the other hand Mr. Mackenzie King has long held very advanced views about the need of industry taking in the worker as a shareholder and recipient of profits. It will be interesting to see the government's reaction. One probable effect will be a further reduction in textile duties.

When the Agricultural Marketing committee meets at Ottawa on December 14th to discuss sales of Canadian farm products abroad, the Ministers of Agriculture of the three prairie provinces will arrive prepared to discuss also the important matter of drought settlement and re-settlement. Ottawa feels that some areas in the semi-arid drought area of the prairie should be abandoned in a systematic way, the present settlers being assisted to move to more promising areas. But before any state-assisted movement takes place, it is desired to know all the important details about the soil, the local weather conditions, the present ownership of the land, the debts, and so forth.

At the December conference, it is likely that a committee will be struck to prepare information about the worst drought 'pockets' in the west so that selective movement to better lands nearby can begin as soon as possible.

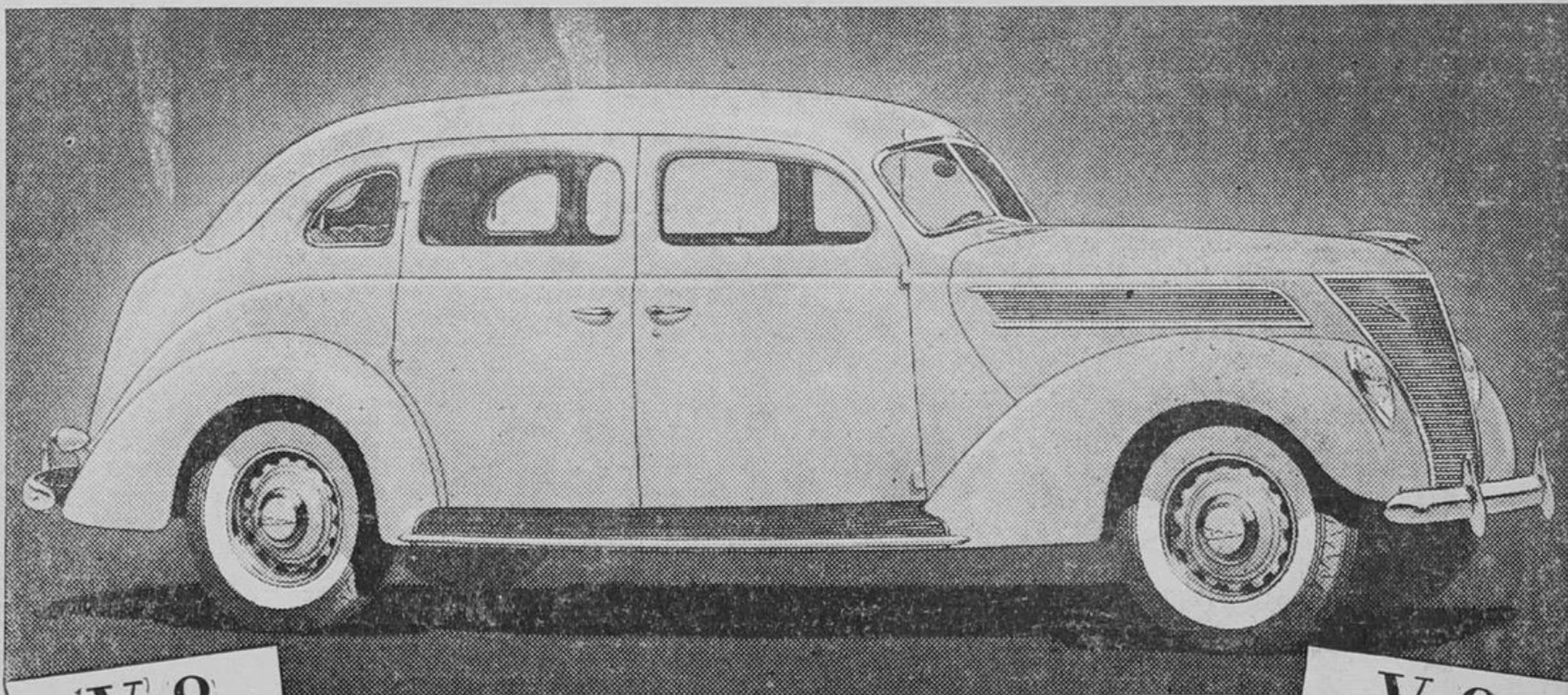
(Not Keen About Divorces)

The Senate is reported to be anxious to be excused from the duty of hearing petitions for divorce. All provinces except Quebec and Prince Edward Island—the latter having had only 1 divorce since Confederation—have divorce courts of their own. Quebec still follows the course of introducing a private bill in the Senate for each divorce petition, and a committee of the Upper Chamber deals with each case individually. The provincial courts are a much more satisfactory tribunal for the purpose, it is claimed.

A police sergeant in Newcastle, Eng., was recently assessed \$175 damages for wrongful arrest.

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**THE VENEREAL DISEASES**

The Venereal diseases the greatest menace of womanhood. Readily prevented, rather easily cured. On the wane in most civilized countries where there are efficient health services.

The venereal diseases have in the past done more damage to the health of women than any other type of infection. Up till 20 years ago mention of these afflictions was taboo in the daily press. It was not mentioned in polite society. One of the most helpful things in a campaign against a disease is to get the public talking about it. Scarcely a dent was made in the armour of tuberculosis until about 30 years ago when health officers and other medical men gave publicity to the measures which have been so successful in lessening the ravages of that malady. The same thing is true in respect to cancer.

The movement against the venereal diseases in Canada began 20 years ago by the enactments providing for adequate compulsory treatment and the cheapening of the required remedies. This was followed by the demand of provincial health officers and other interested persons that the government of Canada assist the provinces financially in the care of cases. To the credit

of the present Chief Justice of Ontario, then acting in the capacity of Minister of Health at Ottawa, the demand was successful and a sum of \$200,000 was provided annually over a period of years for this purpose, to be succeeded for a few years by one-half this sum. The provinces for the most part provided equivalent sums of money, set up clinics for treatment and machinery to see that persons having venereal disease continued treatment until cured.

At the time the admissions to hospitals showed about 12% of venereal disease. To-day similar admissions are less than 2%.

The two principal venereal diseases are syphilis and gonorrhoea. Of the two possibly the latter is the more destructive of the health of women. On the other hand taken all in all, syphilis is one of the most fearful of all human diseases. It is said to have been brought to Europe by the sailors of Columbus following the discovery of America. It rapidly spread through the inhabitants of the continent and has long since reached to and beyond the fringes of civilization.

These afflictions are by no means conquered. It is only by eternal vigilance that they will be prevented from resuming their former place in the society of devastating diseases. Public health authorities can never rest on their oars. Infectious disease is like the jungle; it grows overnight in the absence of control.

It costs less to control disease than to treat it. In Canada the annual cost of treatment of disease reaches the enormous total of Three Hundred and Eleven Millions of dollars (\$311,000,000). We spend only

about six to seven millions in the effort to prevent disease. The necessary expenditure in disease control through health departments is about \$2.50 per capita, or for all Canada something under \$30,000,000. If that sum were spent on prevention every year it is a fair estimate that the cost of treatment would be cut in half.

One hopes that one of these days a statesman will arise with vision calculated to give enduring battle against the forces of disease. He will have a hard fight but the results will entitle him to whatever honours may come his way.

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

**TORONTO MAYOR**

With three possible candidates in the running, William D. Robbins, veteran Controller and council member should have little difficulty in being elected Mayor of Toronto in this year's selection, which for the first time will take place early in December. Mr. Robbins has been acting Mayor during the illness of Mayor Sam McBride. If elected he will be the second "Labor" mayor in the history of the city.

**BARRIE**

A number of young men were recently hailed to court in Barrie for failing to pay the \$5.00 municipal poll tax. They were ordered to pay the tax and an additional \$2.25 each as costs.

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