

# The Russell Leader

RUSSELL, ONTARIO.  
Established 1899

The Only Newspaper in Russell County  
Published Every Thursday

GARLAND HALL, Manager.  
Telephone 38.

Subscription Rates—\$1.00 to any address in Canada, \$1.50 if not so paid. \$1.50 to any address in the United States payable in advance; \$2.00 if not so paid. Advertising Rates on application to this office.

## ONTARIO POWER NEED IS KEY TO ST. LAWRENCE.

Publication of correspondence three weeks ago between Prime Minister King and Premier Hepburn of Ontario regarding the St. Lawrence Waterway project more or less confirms an argument made by Toronto's Financial Post, namely, that Ontario holds the key to this situation and that that key will probably not be turned until this province feels a need for the hydro-electric power that lies dormant in our mighty monarch of Eastern Ontario.

When a treaty was originally negotiated with the United States in 1932, the major item of expense (about \$120 millions) was assigned to rest on Ontario's shoulders. This was the province's share of the cost of joint Hydro power developments which will bring the province some 1.5 million horsepower of electric energy. The \$30 or \$40 millions which Ottawa was to contribute was a comparatively small item in the bill of cost and was indicative of the fact that power is the primary and indeed the only justification of the St. Lawrence project as far as Canada is concerned.

According to the King-Hepburn correspondence, the U.S. Government, as recently as last November, made official enquiry from Ottawa as to whether this country was prepared to proceed with further negotiations regarding the waterway. Prime Minister King accordingly asked Mr. Hepburn to again state whether Ontario was prepared to co-operate on the matter. Mr. Hepburn replied that in view of tentative plans for settlement of the dispute with Quebec power companies, Ontario's power requirements were taken care of for "many, many years to come." Further discussions are to be held between "members of the Ontario Hydro Commission and technical officials of both governments."

Most experts in this line agree that Ontario's newly purchased power supplies, though currently affording a small surplus of power, will little more than meet normal growth requirements during the next decade. In fact, Ontario must again look for new sources of power within a very few years if load increases continue at the nominal growth rate of about seven per cent. annually.

Since the St. Lawrence project would deliver no power for at least five years from date of the treaty, far-sighted hydraulic engineers like Hydro's chairman, Dr. Hogg (who has already predicted that the St. Lawrence must sooner or later be developed as a source of Ontario power), will probably play an important part in bringing about consummation of this enterprise—perhaps more quickly than now appears.

Hesitancy to make the St. Lawrence the real Niagara of Ontario would appear to be based more on politics than common-sense opposition.

## CANADIAN RED CROSS GIVING ANSWER TO CHINA'S APPEAL.

Beginning next week-end and extending until the end of February, the Canadian Red Cross Society and the religious bodies in Canada are uniting in a national appeal for the relief of war sufferers in China.

Both Japan and China were tendered medical and relief assistance by the International Red Cross, representing all national societies. Japan declined, stating that she had already made necessary provision. China accepted, with a gratitude that reflects her terrible need.

China is suffering. The extent and severity of that suffering has seldom, if ever, found equal in the history of nations.

The shelling and bombing of cities, bringing terror, death, disablement and destitution, not alone to soldiers, but to countless women and little children helplessly caught in the maelstrom of war, have created distress of unparalleled proportions. At the expressed wish of Canadian citizens in many parts of the Dominion, the Red Cross and religious workers of Canada, in affiliation, are creating a fund, through which our people may express their sympathy in tangible form.

No brief is needed for this appeal. Day by day, press and radio are laying the stark facts of this great tragedy before us. The need for kindly assistance will never be greater. In the face of suffering such as theirs, our sympathy and help can know no barriers of race or creed.

Canada will do its share in meeting this need promptly, with generous heart and hand. Donations, made payable to the "Red Cross Chinese Relief Fund," may be made at any local bank or Red Cross office or church body and minister.

## COUNTRY EDITOR SECURES SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPAL CRUSADE.

Up in Fergus the municipal council was not doing right by our Nell; the Nell in this case being the Fergus News-Record, which is a good newspaper and holds up its end for its community on every occasion.

And so the editor thought something should be done about it. And he wrote editorials and he interested possible council timber and he sat back to see what would happen. And something did happen.

The ratepayers went to the polls and they wiped every man of last year's council off the municipal slate and possibly will keep them wiped off for some time to come.

There are times when a newspaper comes to the conclusion that it has stood enough and that something should be done about it. It is then the editor rolls up his sleeves, squares his shoulders if he can write that way, and decides to permit his thoughts to run unbridled, unchecked. And when that happens, though it rarely does happen, there is something in the paper for those who like that sort of thing.

We don't know whether the Fergus man would qualify as a scrapping editor who can scrap, but it is apparent at this distance that his council has not been giving him the co-operation his newspaper deserves.

That he should turn on his council, and tan their hides and hang them on the fence to dry, is only what was to have been expected. He lost none of his prestige by stepping into the fray with rights and lefts. And the justice of his cause only added more steam to his punches.

The council of the village of Fergus has learned its lesson this time, the would-be councillors of the future will remember what happened in the dying days of 1937 and resolve that they will not want any more of that, and the town will secure a sound, progressive, business-like administration in the future.

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND COMMENT

In 1937, 320,000 Americans spent \$234,000,000 in Canada—and three stowaways were found on one ship from Europe.

Stock brokers are noted for their palatial, well furnished homes. No wonder, considering the fine work they do on some people's pocketbooks.

Fatal traffic accidents are fewer in rainy and snowy weather when drivers are alert, proving that careful driving lessens the number of motor accidents.

Guess work, puzzles and contests have reached the "big business" status in the U.S. with an annual payroll of \$27,000,000 and guaranteeing employment to every one of its applicants—and yet despite the fact that few of its workers ever get paid it has never had a strike.

An attempt is being made to build a hotel opposite Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. And it might be a fine idea at that. The Toronto fans who get an easy headache by looking at their hockey team could just slip across the street and do something about it.

We are always glad to see the Toronto Maple Leafs handed a defeat or a tie on their home ice, and this despite the fact that we like the Queen City as a whole. In our humble opinion the Toronto hockey team would be more popular with us if Red Foster would quit kidding about his team not clicking when as a matter of fact they are getting the worst of it, click or no click.

With the announcement that the president of the General Motors Corp. of the United States received over a half million dollars in salary for the year 1937, no one need wonder why labor organizations revolt. In the opinion of the Smiths Falls Record-News, no man is worth that much money, per annum, to any business. That sum would give employment to many men at \$25 per week. Such capitalists need to be severely jolted, concludes that paper.

The editor of the Trenton Courier-Advocate reports a sure-fire cure for the common cold curse, but doesn't give the name of the cure any undue publicity. However, the subject is always good for an editorial in most newspapers. Personally we want to say that all these directions about how to avoid a cold are nix, nux and nuts. If a cold spots you there is only one thing to do, take it and try to look pleasant until it has run its course. The person who invents seven sure methods of losing a cold overnight can retire on the biggest fortune ever made by any one man, and a bigger one than Barnum dreamed of.

Much is being said these days about industry, but what about the farmer? As still higher wages and more paid holidays make jobs in the towns more attractive in this country, so will the present drift from the land become a stampede. How can farmers' sons and daughters be encouraged to stay on the farm? Not by saying that agriculture is important and the basic industry of Canada; nor by extolling the charms of country life. Steps or action must be taken to help the farmer to make a job in the country as good as a job in the town. Prosperity passes agriculture by because no great effort has been or is being made to take prosperity to the countryside. If farmers received the same encouragement, assistance and consideration as does industry, perhaps the country would be in a more flourishing condition.

## The Ottawa Spotlight

By Spectator

Ottawa, Jan. 18th.—In the small, unpretentious stone building, which stands in the shadow of Confederation building on the banks of the Ottawa, and which, once a carpenter shop, has housed Canada's highest court of justice for many years, six black robed justices have been listening to arguments on the famous Alberta cases. As you sit in the back row of seats of this chamber you are impressed with the simple dignity of this venerable court which has been called upon to decide the important constitutional questions involved in these cases and you are impressed as well by the imposing array of learned counsel presenting the arguments.

It took only one day for arguments to be heard on whether the Dominion still possesses the right to disallow provincial statutes and if a lieutenant governor has the right to reserve assent on provincial bills for the decision of the governor general. The court will later give its judgment on whether these rights have lapsed, or been impaired in any way by constitutional practice or still remain in full force.

The court is also called on to decide whether or not three bills passed by the Alberta legislature are valid; that is if the provincial government had the power under the constitution to pass them. These bills deal with the control of credit in the province, with the taxation of banks and with certain restrictions on the press. The arguments are based on provisions of the British North America Act which define the sphere of jurisdiction of the Dominion and the provinces. On the one hand the provinces may exclusively legislate on matters affecting "property and civil rights within the province" while the Dominion has exclusive jurisdiction over "Banking and Currency" and questions relating to "Peace, Order and Good Government."

About these and other provisions of our constitution the battle of legal wits has been raging. But it is not correct to call it a battle; it is rather a sober exchange of argument by some of the greatest legal talent in Canada on questions of profound importance to our system of government. Whatever the decision of the Supreme Court may be appeals without question will be carried to "the foot of the throne" that is to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, the court of last resort for cases originating in the Dominion.

### Constitution Questions in Coming Session

Each session meets in a distinctive atmosphere of its own created by the nature of the country's problems which at the time are pressing for solution or explanation. The questions that have given this session its own atmosphere are the impending trade arrangements between Canada and the United States and the United Kingdom, and the constitutional issues that have arisen or come more to the fore in the months just past.

Constitutional questions crop up in the Alberta cases before the Supreme Court—in fact that they are the very essence of these references—in the work of the Rowell Commission on financial relations between the provinces and the Dominion, in the discussion about the export of power, and in the situation in which the projected legislation on unemployment insurance is now placed.

The Alberta cases are sub judice and therefore they remain practically dead letters until the courts have given their decisions. Similarly the Rowell commission, while it may be the subject of some discussion will carry on probably throughout the whole life of the session. It will likely not be before the 1939 session that the report will be in the hands of parliament for exhaustive debate. On the question of the export of power there is certain to be some fireworks in the house. In the case of unemployment insurance six provinces have agreed to the necessary amendment to the constitution to allow the Dominion to carry the new law, one province, New Brunswick hesitates to agree until it is passed on by the provincial legislature, another, Alberta has asked for further information and Quebec's premier, M. Duplessis opposes the amendment. So the matter rests but full particulars of the suggested amendment will be mailed to provincial governments before the opening of the session.

However these individual issues may be decided, what is of paramount importance to the Canadian people is that the spirit of unity which is no doubt grounded on firm foundations should grow in force, and that sectional feeling should not gain head to an extent that it might clog the wheels of sound, progressive government. Sectional feeling in itself is not wrong. It must naturally exist in a country with such a variety of local interests as Canada, but it was to harmonize sectional interests with the interests of the community at large that the federal system was originally evolved.

### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Any one can make and keep; It will help one's constitution, And enable one to sleep. "I will try to keep from fretting When I cannot see the sun; I will try to keep from getting Into quarrels I may shun. I will try to keep from grieving Over troubles that are past; I will try to keep believing Things will all come right at last, I will try to keep from sighing, When I ought to smile, instead; I will try to keep on trying To deserve to get ahead."

## What Others Think

### GOOD ADVICE

(Smiths Falls Record-News)  
According to a Professor of Surgery, in a large United States university, passengers should not cross their legs when riding in an automobile piloted by a reckless driver. He claims that by crossing one's legs, a dislocation of a hip or a knee injury may result in an automobile collision or mishap. The Professor recommends that a passenger in the front seat can avoid such injuries by planting both feet on the floor boards and leaning well back in the seat. Here is our tip to anyone riding with a reckless driver "Cross your fingers and pray for the best."

### COST OF DYING LOW IN 1937

(Trenton Courier Advocate)  
The cost of living is thought to be rather high in this day and age, but if that is so what about the cost of dying. Particularly in comparison with the price of funerals in the old days. In 1857 there was a funeral in Trenton and all the particulars except the name of the deceased are given in the old minute books of the town offices. Presumably the bill was made out by a doctor and as the man, a Scotchman, had no means it was presented to the village council for payment. The particulars were as follows:—Mrs. Allen \$10; digging grave, \$5.00; goods, wet or dry not stated, \$3.00; coffin, \$3.00; laying out, \$1; a total of \$18.50.

Even at that low figure it stands to reason that the early settlers deserved for the early settlers were like that.

### TESTING SLOT MACHINES

(Winchester Press)  
Commenting on the subject of slot machines in a recent editorial, the Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin stated that "beating the machine is a real job." It goes on to say that the Rotarian tells how a school headmaster came out ahead with

his class of boys. He went to police headquarters, secured a confiscated gambling device and had it set up in the mathematics room of his school. Then he arranged with the mathematics instructor to work up a problem involving the law of mathematical probability. The boys were to play the machine with "phoney" money to solve the problem. And they discovered several surprising things. They learned, for example, that a player hits the "jack pot" once in 4,000 times. At a nickel a "throw" that meant it would cost about \$200 to win \$5. They learned also that the next highest "payoff" was once in 2,000 plays and made it cost \$100 to win \$1. This teacher now reports that gambling isn't so popular in his school as once it was—the boys saw what gambling really is.

### THE PREACHER'S NEW COAT

(Peterboro Examiner)  
The minister at Chatham was in court complaining that some persons had stolen his overcoat. And it was a new one. The man who is said to have done the stealing was also in court, and from there he went to spend two months in jail.

Just how a minister should look at such a case we do not know for sure. As a rule we expect them to do all sorts of things which we ourselves would not do. They are not supposed to grow angry on short notice; they are supposed to keep the purse strings open and to receive all who come for aid and send them on their way rejoicing.

But losing an overcoat, and a new one, with winter settling down for business, comes in a peculiar classification. There is some reference to clothing in Matthew, where it says: "And if any man will sue thee at law and take thy coat, let him have thy cloak also." But of course that does not say anything about a man going into the home and stealing a new overcoat even if it was the minister's coat.



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