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A BREAK, OR THE BREAKS

Hon. Mitchell Hepburn has raised another storm by banning the showing in Ontario of "The March of Time" film about Canada's effort in the present war. As chairman of the board of censors of motion pictures in the province Premier Hepburn describes the picture as "blatant political propaganda" and decrees that it will not be shown in the province until after the election. He points out that in the 1937 provincial election it was proposed to use United States films showing C.I.O. riots in United States industrial plants as propaganda to assist the Liberal party cause. The chairman and the members of the Ontario board decided that such action would be unfair and improper in provincial affairs, and it is held as equally unfair and improper in regard to the Federal field. Hon. Mr. Hepburn adds that if a picture on the theme of "Canada's Lack of War Effort" were presented to the Ontario board, it would be banned as promptly and completely.

There are people who accuse Premier Hepburn of making too hasty or too prejudiced decisions. It might be well if these good people would take care not to fall into the same fault on their own account in judging Hon. Mr. Hepburn's picture ban. Is it fair to say: "Just another 'break' by Hepburn?" From another angle it is decidedly giving a "break" to the opposition, to the parties opposing the Dominion government, and the "breaks" have been all the other way so far. Hon. Mr. King banned the opposition from giving its case in parliament, by scuttling parliament. He has banned the opposition from the use of the radio, by handing out a generous supply of gags to all radio station managers, the said gags being designed to fit only opposition mouths and to leave King supporters with the fullest jaw freedom.

Before condemning Premier Hepburn's action, it might be well to consider this United States film. References made in the newspaper despatches from Ottawa suggest that the film gives information in regard to Canada's forces that Col. Drew would not be permitted to mention over the radio. There are scenes that might well be described as "false and misleading" and liable to "give comfort to the enemies of the Empire." Someone may say:—"But I don't see how this or that in the picture could do any harm!" Will that same gentleman stand up and take his solemn affidavit that passages just as apparently innocuous have not been blacked out of the radio addresses of Hon. Dr. Manion or Hon. Denton Massey or some other honourable speaker for the opposition?

To those who may suggest that motion pictures—even from a foreign country—should be free from ban for purely political reasons, one question:—"Will the provinces that may permit the showing of this film accept a film that makes reply to this one?" That is the test of freedom in such matters. The freedom of the press is possible because there is always possibility for the other side to be stated. Without this freedom of reply—even though the cost of reply rests on those responding—there is no freedom, but simply the loaded dice of dictatorship. The truth is that under the present conduct of radio and motion pictures the freedom is so circumscribed as to make either the film or the broadcast entirely unsuited for political propaganda. The present election is showing that the radio is no more than a convenient tool for governmental party purposes. If Hon. Mr. Hepburn has done no more than to show that there is to be no such unfair prostitution of the film industry, he has done something.

SERVICE ON THE HOME FRONT

Reports from overseas tell of the high morale of the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen on the battle lines, or preparing for active service. The reports may well make Canadian and other British hearts thrill with pride and satisfaction. The men on the firing lines are all cheerful, confident, ready, willing, eager to do their part, to give their all. How about the home front? Its importance should not be forgotten. For months people have been asking, "What can we do to help?" Fault has been found with the government because it did not point the way, give leadership and direction. There are two ways, however, in which all can take part to the fullest measure of their ability, without the need for any special direction from the government. These two ways are "working" and "giving." The work of the world has to be carried on as usual—indeed, with greater earnestness than usual. And there are many ways in which "giving" is a genuine patriotic duty. The Red Cross campaign was one opportunity for service on the home front. The amount of work being done by the women—in Timmins, Schumacher, South Porcupine, Dome, the Ankerite, the Pamour—all over the district—all over Canada is evidence conclusive that at least a large proportion

are doing their full bit on the home front.

The campaign of the Legion War Services Incorporated now nearing its close offered another chance for those on the home front to do their bit. In the Legion War Services work men who had been through all the trials, the hardships, the dangers, the temptations of active service, are offering a variety of services for the soldiers overseas—sports, recreation, entertainment, personal services, educational advantages. It is a series of services from men who know what it is all about. Its efficiency and value are guaranteed by the experience and the proven capability and good faith of the men sponsoring it. If you haven't helped this worthy cause, you have been asleep on duty at the home front. There is still time to remedy any fault along this line. Let your dollars report to the War Services funds. Do not allow yourself to be marked A.W.O.L. when the roll call is completed on this line of the home front service.

Any failure to answer any previous call for service—Canadian Red Cross, Polish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Legion War Services, should be set right at once—this week. For next week starts another engagement on the home front. Next week the battle for funds for the Salvation Army Red Shield commences. Here is another opportunity for effective service on the home front. The Salvation Army is seeking a million dollars in Canada—\$10,000 in Timmins and district—for the Red Shield work. It may seem like a lot of money—but there will be a lot of service given for it. For that million dollars the Salvation Army will give the soldiers at home and overseas many million dollars of benefits. Ask any returned man—no matter what his creed—no matter if he had no creed—what he thought of the Salvation Army in the last war. Any veteran of the last war will tell you that the Salvation Army was always right along with the other armies. They were the moral supports of the Allies, always ready with a cheery word—and a cup of coffee—and a welcome—all free—for the soldier on leave and at loose ends. There were reading rooms, day can'teens, recreation centres, writing rooms, with free stationery, for the soldier lad who wanted to write home. "The Salvation Army service was for body, mind and soul," was the way one soldier of the last war phrased it. So broad was the service of the Salvation Army in the last war that hearing the returned men speak of it, it might be argued that it duplicates the work of the Red Cross, the Legion War Services and other organizations. Asked about this, one returned man replied:—"It does, perhaps, and yet it doesn't overlap. Anyway the regular army would be incomplete, at home, or abroad, without the Salvation Army." The truth is that all these services are necessary,—indeed essential,—and all should have the fullest support from the home front. It is good counsel on the home front these days to say:—"Give! Give Till it Hurts!" and to add the further word:—"And don't be hurt too easily!" Those on the battle fronts—yes, and on some other home fronts—are giving so much and so cheerfully, that what is asked on this home front is little indeed in comparison.

Put the Legion War Services over the top this week, and then send the Red Shield of the Salvation Army to another victory next week. That is the duty and the privilege of the home front.

OLD SOLDIERS AND NEW

One writer objecting to Premier Hepburn's ban on the "Canada at War" picture made in the U.S.A., in suggesting how wise and wonderful a picture it is, says that the film emphasizes the idea that the men enlisting in the present war are a much superior lot to the soldiers of 1914 to 1918—that they have joined the ranks without bands or noise and are impelled by a sheer stern sense of duty and not from a mere love of adventure. If that point shows on the film it is enough to warrant any ban. It is false and misleading and should give comfort to the enemy in the fact that at least the film makers have a poor opinion of the intelligence of Canadians. It has been a fact that the funereal atmosphere fostered during the present war has not only hampered Canada's war effort, but it has acted in depressing way in regard to Canada's contributions to auxiliary causes. On the side, it is interesting to note that in appealing for subscriptions to the war loan the sad dignity was dropped long enough and there was fanfare enough to make that effort a success. A little bandmusic and a few uniforms on parade would have helped, not hindered the general progress. For that, however, there would have had to be some uniforms and accoutrements on hand and other preparations.

No one questions the high sense of duty, of love of freedom impelling men to enlist these days. But to believe this it is not necessary to reflect on the gallant men who went singing to the last war—and returned with the smile still on their lips, despite all they had seen and all that they had suffered. It is the mark of the brave that they carry with them gay cheerfulness as well as courage. But to suggest that most of them—or any material proportion of them—went simply for adventure—is to reflect on the general intelligence. The stories of horrors that came back here did not halt, but rather spurred forward the hosts of men who wished to wipe such evils from the earth. It is true that some of the old soldiers pretend that they went over "just for the trip," but this is only a sample of the way men hide their real feelings. Listen to a group of old soldiers!

New Liskeard Couple Celebrate Their Golden Wedding

Have Been Over 41 Years in the North.

New Liskeard, March 7.—(Special to The Advance)—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bowen, who came to Northern Ontario more than 41 years ago from the eastern part of the province which had been their earlier home, observed their golden wedding anniversary on Tuesday at the home of their son, Claud Bowen, in Hudson township ten miles from here. The bride of 1890 baked the special cake which graced the festive board when members of the family gathered during the day to keep the occasion with their parents.

Mrs. Bowen is the former Christina McChesney, a sister of Samuel and John McChesney, prominent lumbermen of the Porcupine district, and she said that when she landed from a Lake Temiskaming steamer at New Liskeard on November 18th, 1898, with her husband, they had four children and twenty-five cents. The money was used to buy soap with which to wash the youngsters' clothes. Mrs. Bowen is in her 67th year and, like her husband, who was 72 in January, enjoys the best of health.

In the four decades since he came north, Mr. Bowen said, he had farmed and lumbered and also had travelled extensively over the countryside as far as Nighthawk Lake by canoe and trail as a timber cruiser, looking chiefly for

likely stands of trees on veterans' lots. He remembers Cobalt when only a lumberman's camp stood on ground now occupied by the railway station property, and he was one of five men in the syndicate which staked the King Edward mine on Cross Lake here, and which property was recorded in his name. He knew Charlie Taylor, the man who installed the air plant at Ragged Chutes, before he ever came north and was working with his father at the Golden Pledge mine in Kalarad township, Lennox and Addington county.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowen were married in Flinton, at the home of Mrs. John O'Hara, the bride's sister, on March 5, 1890, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. W. G. Hudgins, Methodist minister here. The bridesmaid was Miss Hattie Osterhout and the groomsmen, Hawley Stone. On first coming north the couple lived in Harris township, then moved into town, going to Hudson township 20 years ago. The couple had fifteen children, of whom four sons and seven daughters survive and attended the celebration this week together with some of the 35 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Couldn't Be Less

Patrick worked for a notoriously stingy boss and lost no chance to let the fact be known. One day a waggish friend, wishing to twist him, remarked:—"Pat, I hear your boss just gave you a brand new suit of clothes."

"No," said Pat, "only a part of a suit."

"What part?"

"The sleeves in the vest."

Funeral Services for Late C. Canie Held Yesterday

Was Eighty-Three Years of Age at Time of Death.

The Rev. Fr. Theriault conducted funeral services on Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock for the late Mr. Chas. Canie, at the Notre Dame des Lourdes Church. The pallbearers were Messrs J. B. Charrette, Hector Chateauvert, David Martin, J. B. Lachapelle, Hyacinthe Charlebois, and Claude Desaulniers, and a large number of floral tributes expressed the regard and esteem in which the late Mr. Canie was held by his many friends here.

The late Mr. Canie passed away on

Sunday night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Lachapelle, of 7 Preston street. Born in Gracefield, Que., he was eighty-three years old, and had been a resident of Timmins for the past twenty-nine years.

Left to mourn his loss are three sons and two daughters.

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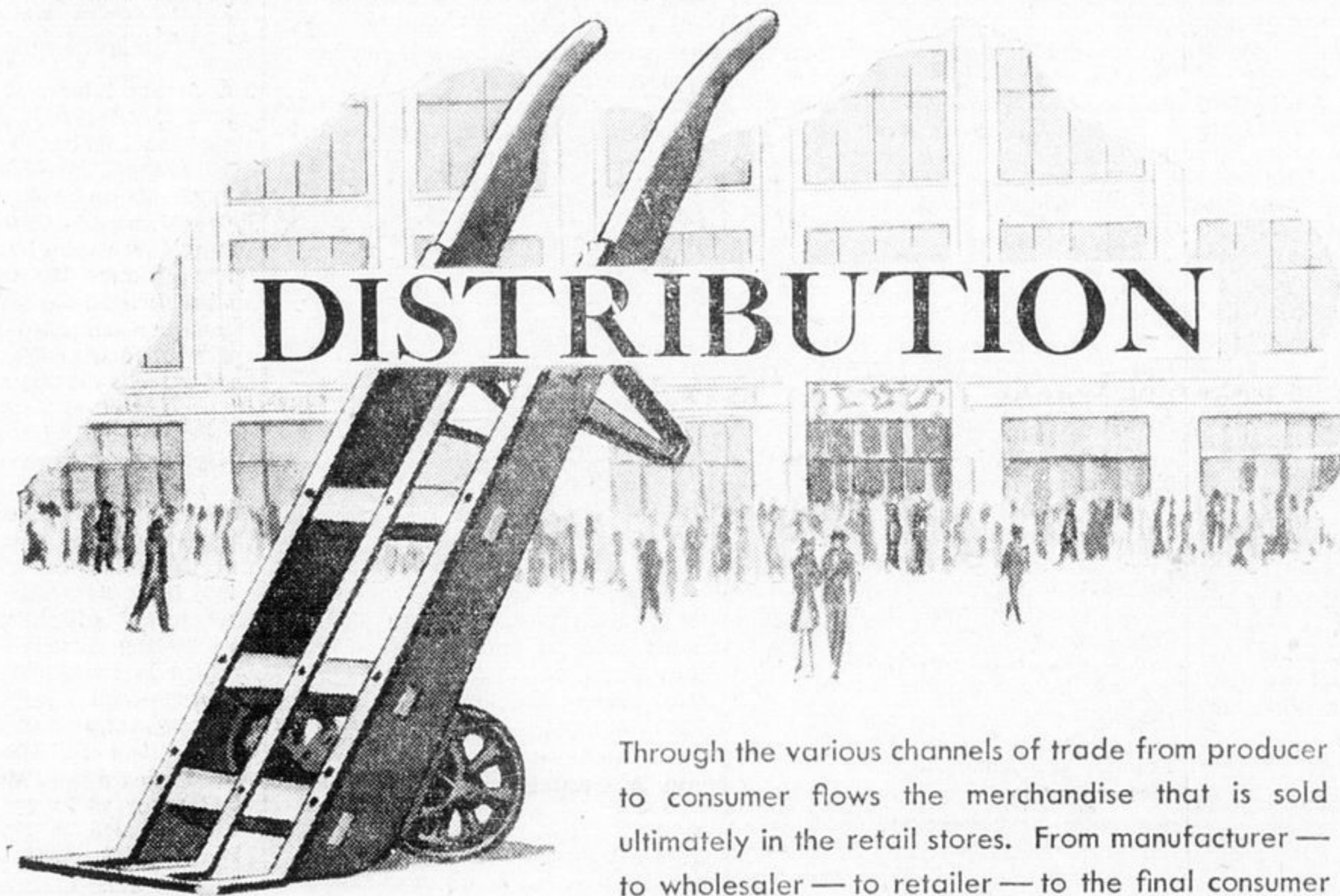
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H. C. SCARTH, Manager, Timmins Branch

Do they speak of love of country, or of their devotion to high ideals? No. Instead they curse the sergeant-major to his face, and say behind his back that he was a good guy and a plucky lad. They talk of bully beef and sing of Mademoiselle of Armentiers. But actions speak louder than words, and in peace, no less than war, the soldiers of the last war have shown themselves men, loyal and true, and thoughtful. It is true that the spirit of adventure is strong in youth. It is a powerful force in the youth of to-day or so many of them would never have forced their way overseas despite all the obstacles. But to say that nothing but the spirit of adventure moved the soldiers of to-day or twenty-five years ago is to reflect on their intelligence. The most of the men who left here for the last war knew what they had to face. But they went cheerfully. If they wished naught but adventure and action, the whole wide world called them—to Alaska, to the far North, to the East, to India, China, Africa, to many new places. Not only did mere adventure call them, but it offered to pay them well. If they answered the call of patriotism and duty, let no man, no film, deny the truth and the sense.

GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

Soviet Russia evidently believes in a three-party system—one party in power, an opposition party in jail, and the third party in the grave. The opposition party is recruited constantly from the party in power, and the third party keeps

drawing members from the opposition group, but the movement is strictly on the one-way principle.

Last year municipalities in Ontario were ordered—indeed, compelled—to print on their tax-bills the words:—"General tax rate has been reduced by reason of the 1½ mill Provincial subsidy to the municipality." Will municipalities this year be permitted to add to the 1940 tax bills the words:—"General tax rate has been increased by reason of the withdrawal of ½ mill Provincial subsidy to municipalities?"

"Confucius Say," followed by some wise-crack or smart-alec saying has achieved the form of an epidemic on this continent. A newspaper syndicate in the United States is offering a daily group of these quips as a newspaper feature. The number of newspapers buying this feature is a proof of its popular appeal for the moment. It is an odd commentary on human nature and shows that the world has little respect for the religions of others. To literally hundreds of millions of people Confucius is a sacred character, and yet tens of thousands of people are using the name in most disrespectful way. It may be interesting to note that at the last census there were 24,037 men and women in Canada who believe that Confucius is more than a saint. In the district of Cochrane alone there are probably fifty or more earnest followers who may be tempted to remark:—"Confucius say that man who belittle other man's religion has little religion of his own."

Established New High Record in Ford Truck Sales

Windsor, Ont., March 2.—An all-time record in retail sales of trucks and commercial cars for the three months ending January 31 has been established by Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited, it is announced today by R. M. Sales, sales manager.

Ford truck and commercial retail sales in Canada for January of this year show a 118 per cent increase over the corresponding month of a year ago. Ford sales accounted for 36 per cent of the total Canadian commercial registrations in January.

Mr. Sales reports that commercial vehicle volume for the three months is considerably better than the 1929 total which set the previous high for the period. The increase began in November, was more marked in December and even greater for January. The new record is based entirely on retail commercial sales in Canada and does not include trucks purchased by the Government for military purposes.

"Commercial registrations are generally considered to be an accurate business barometer, as improvement in industry and business is immediately reflected by an increased demand for trucks and commercial vehicles," Mr. Sales states.

The present upward trend is continuing, as deliveries of Ford trucks and commercial units to the public for the first twenty days in February show an increase of 104 per cent.

Brandon Sun:—Of course, if Communism worked, nobody else would.