

Voice of the Press

Canada, The Empire and The World at Large

CANADA

More Confidence in the West

Descriptions of conditions in the West a year ago were so gloomy that we greet with joy the return of that part of the country to less pessimistic sentiments. On his way to Sault Ste. Marie, Mr. J. T. M. Anderson, the Prime Minister of Saskatchewan, said: "The crop is magnificent; our population is getting on its feet once more; they are doing more with their own efforts than with the aid of the Government; the West will be the first to recover. This depression, in my opinion, has been a real blessing. We very much prefer this language to the depressing despatches we used to receive last year on Western conditions. The West will be the first to recover." What courageous optimism! Three cheers for the Prairies!—(Le Droit Ottawa.)

Britain's Loan Conversion

Great Britain's master stroke to bring about national financial readjustment by a monster loan conversion scheme has been greeted with acclamations throughout the world. The Old Country has thus staged a remarkable demonstration of her financial genius and of the character and faith of a people who will not be downed. In this matter as in war reparations, Britain has given the world leadership and inspiration at a time when they are most greatly needed.—(Calgary Herald.)

Pedestrians Get a Break

It would really seem that a better day is dawning for the pedestrian. First an Ontario magistrate rules that a person on foot is entitled to as much room on the highway as a motorist; then the Pedestrian Rights Association springs into being and now comes a Vancouver judge with a decision that pedestrians do not have to scurry out of the way at the sound of an automobile horn to avoid responsibility for being run down. This last judgment may be sound law, and the judge gave it by awarding \$1,200 damages, but it might be as well, The Examiner believes, to say safe and each year when motor horns are sounding.—(Peterborough Examiner.)

Benefit of Spending

What puzzles everyone about this depression is the timidity of shoppers in the midst of irresistible bargains. It is contrary to normal psychological processes and can be explained only on the ground of that sheeplike attribute of human nature by which, for good or ill, mass conduct is governed by common impulses. A year or two ago, when prices were much higher than they are today, the tendency was to indulge in a buying orgy. Today though prices have never been so attractive, the purse-strings are tightly drawn, with resulting injury to commerce and industry. It is felt that the solution of our economic difficulties lies largely in the action of citizens themselves—that is to say, those of them who have money to spend, but who will not spend it.—(Hamilton Spectator.)

Unreadable Signatures

To overcome any difficulty in reading signatures, it is the custom of many offices to have the name typewritten directly below so that the reader will have no difficulty in knowing what is meant. This permits of the writer indulging his fancy, but he is fooling the forger by writing his signature in a way that is very difficult to read, while it enables the reader to see at a glance what the name is. If this practice were followed more generally, it would remove a great source of trouble in business both to the party who is answering the letter from a stranger unplainly signed, and to the writer of the letter himself who frequently is quite annoyed if the answer to his letter does not bear his name correctly spelled.—(Monetary Times.)

Highway Danger

Those huge freight trucks that come zooming through the heavy traffic of the highways and through the main streets of provincial highway towns look strangely out of place. They are like wandering warehouses or like straying freight trains. They are a menace to pedestrian in the crowded streets, and their booming noise is an offence to the ears. These mammoth juggernauts should be made to pay dearly for the use of the highways or else be banished from the traffic.—(St. Mary's Journal-Argus.)

THE EMPIRE

Empire Settlement

Sir Robert Horne is not alone in thinking that British industries might begin to establish branches of their organizations in the Dominions and transfer not merely plant but personnel to their new sphere of action. The Dominions can be persuaded that the influx of an organized community will not tend to increase but help rather to solve their local difficulties, since it will make a new centre of trade—of consumption as well as production. Such migrations, however, cannot succeed, can hardly even be attempted, without a revival of the old pioneering enthusiasm.—(London Morning Post.)

The Lancashire Cotton Trade

Like the Bourbons, the cotton magnates learn nothing and forget nothing. Yet for years science and common sense have been knocking at their closed doors. Without exception, everyone who has investigated the cotton trade has reported that wholesale reorganization and centralization is its only salvation. How much longer is Lancashire going to be content to allow its very machinery of existence to be destroyed by the stubborn obstruction of men living in the past?—(London Daily Herald.)

The Colonial Empire

The Colonial Empire, in the past has been overshadowed by the Dominions. The dawn is now bright before us and the day is ours to make of it what we will. We are an Empire and slices of an Empire. We have each our own history, our own peoples and many of us our own languages. We are divided up into fifty-two separate administrations. We have 54,000,000 people and a trade worth together \$400,000,000. Our importance almost takes the breath away. We have only to find a means of welding ourselves together in spirit as well as on paper.—(Trinidad Guardian.)

The Currency Problem

The world's monetary policy produces tremendous irregularities in price levels. But this does not necessarily call for the abandonment of the gold standard; and the opposition to anything of that sort would be so enormous as to make it practically impossible. What is possible is that the value of gold may be fixed by international agreement the value being determined by the general price level of commodities. This might mean that price levels would be lifted say 40 per cent. by the simple process of valuing gold at 40 per cent. less than the present fixed price. The level at which the change should be effected would be one of the toughest problems to solve. Here vested interests would speak very loudly.—(Sydney Bulletin.)

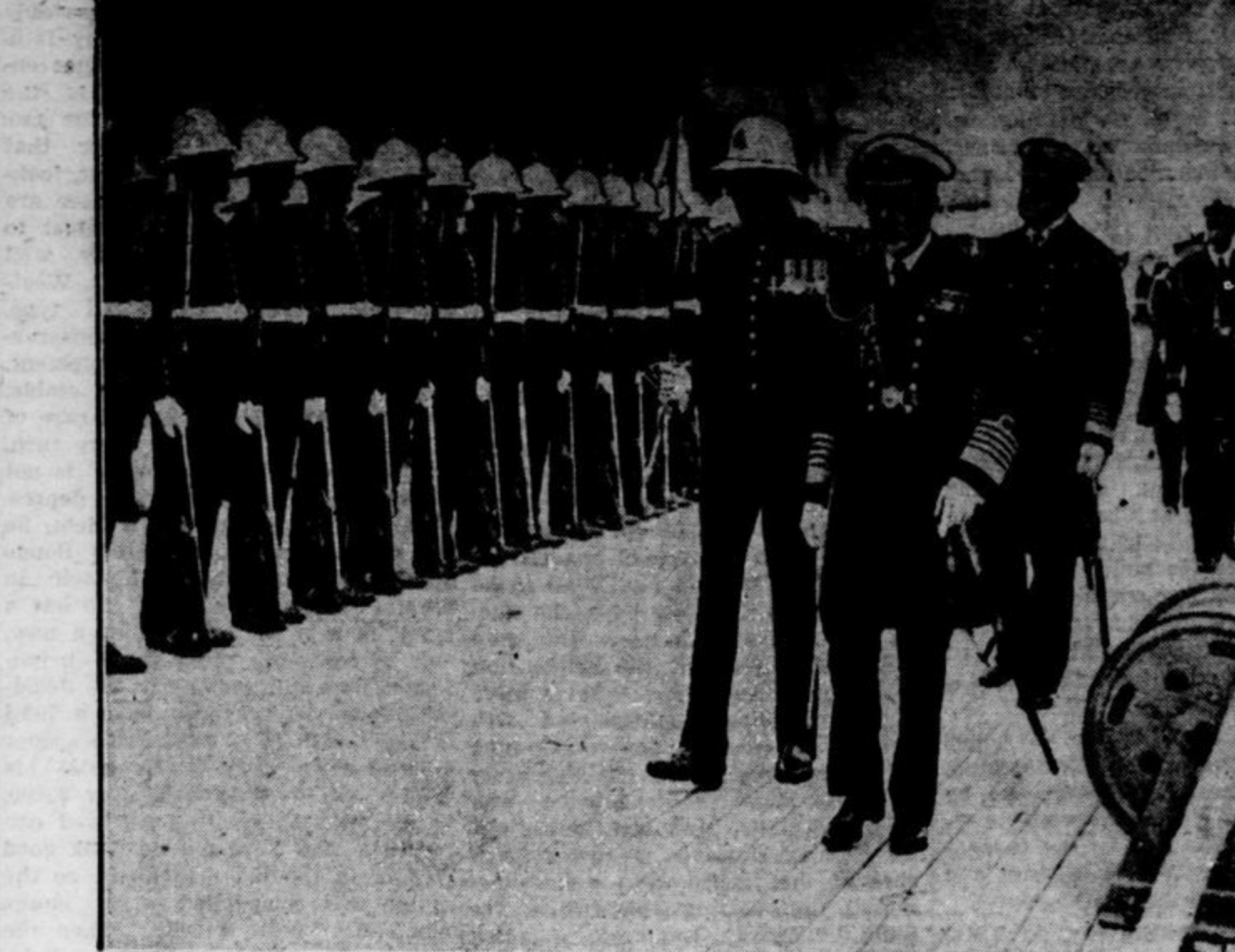
World Economic Co-operation

World conditions have outgrown the stage when the normal friction of markets could with fair rapidity bring prices to a serviceable level after any sudden rise or fall. Under such conditions, there was justification for allowing the process of adjustment to take its own course. Conditions are now vastly different. There has arrived an era of general artificial interference with economic tendencies, and the logical step is to come to a world-wide agreement to transform that interference into guidance for universal benefit. Every economic or financial question for any nation tends now to be a concern to every other nation.—(Auckland Weekly News.)

Empire Tea Preference

For our own part, we think that, apart from restrictions of output, which is immediately necessary, the salvation of the British tea industry may be found at Ottawa. If, as is hoped, arrangements can be made whereby British-grown teas will receive preferential treatment throughout the British Empire, thereby enabling Ceylon to recapture the Australian market, our worries should be at an end. The situation is frankly depressing, but it will not be improved by becoming downhearted to the point of being panic-stricken.—(Colombo Times of Ceylon.)

The King Inspects the Navy



King George VI, attended by officers, as he reviewed the marines on the flagship of the British fleet, H.M.S. Nelson. The review took place at Weymouth, England, recently.

The Socialist State

By Lord Snowden, Former Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a House of Lords Speech.

Some of my Socialist friends have never realized the tremendous recuperative power of capitalism. We shall see ourselves through the crisis, though I do not ignore important changes in our plan for national reorganization and reconstruction. I shall never live to see the establishment of a Socialist State. I believe the economic revolution is working in that direction, but may God save England from such a socialism as they have in Russia today.

Early St. Lawrence Projects

The chronological sequence of canal construction on the St. Lawrence River follows:

- Lachine—First canal built in the year 1709 at Riviere St. Pierre. Depth 1 1/2 feet. Enlargement by stone channels, 1780 to 1804, and deepened to two to three feet.
- First Lachine Canal built between 1821 and 1824. Enlarged between 1843 and 1848, with 9-foot depth. Second and last enlargement, 1873 and 1884, with 14-foot depth. Length, 13 miles; lift, 48 feet.
- Soulanges section—First construction of four-side channels, 6 feet wide and 2 1/2 feet deep, 1779 to 1783. In 1817, locks doubled and canals deepened by one more foot.
- First Beauharnois Canal in that area built 1842 to 1845, depth of 9 feet. Displaced by present Soulanges Canal in 1899, with 14-foot depth, length of 14.67 miles and 8 1/2 foot lift.
- Cornwall Canal built 1834 to 1842 with 9-foot depth. Enlarged to 14-foot depth between 1876 and 1904. Eleven miles long with a 48-foot lift.
- Farran's Point Canal built 1844-1847 with 9-foot depth, enlarged to 14 feet between 1897 and 1901. One and a quarter miles long with 4 1/2-foot lift.
- Rapide Plat Canal, Morrisburg, built with 8-foot depth between 1844 and 1847. Enlarged 1884 to 1904, with 14-foot depth. Length, 3.59 miles; lift, 11 1/2 feet.
- Galops Canal built in two sections (Galops and Inroquois) between 1844 and 1848. Sections joined by Junction Canal, 1851-1856. Original 9-foot depth enlarged to 14 feet between 1888 and 1904. Length, 7.36 miles; lift, 15 1/2 feet.

Emotion Slows Up Workers

Under the above heading, the Science News-Letter called attention to the work which has been done by G. A. Penlock, in an effort to find out the effects of various conditions on the efficiency of workers. It was discovered that the emotional state of the employee was much more important than fatigue. A harsh foreman who frightens the workers under his thumb will decrease the output of his department by such tactics. The man who precedes his working day with a quarrel with his breakfast table with his wife is a most unsatisfactory worker, both from the standpoint of accident and health hazards and from the viewpoint of working efficiency.

Fountain Flow Started By Bending of Drinker

Schenectady, N.Y. — A drinking fountain that operates the instant a person bends over it, is one of the latest contrivances embodying the "electric eye" perfected by the General Electric Company. Such a fountain stands in the main office of the General Electric Building. A tiny beam of infra-red light, almost invisible to the eye, issues from an "electric eye", or photo-electric tube attached to the fountain. Whenever the head of a drinker intercepts the beam a stream of water is turned on automatically.

Her car had broken down on the road opposite a field where a farmer was plowing with a four-horse team. The farmer came over and offered to pull the car to the nearest garage with his team. "I appreciate your kind offer more than I can tell you," the lady in distress told the farmer, "but, unfortunately, you would need twelve more horses. You see, my car has a sixteen-horsepower motor."—Capper's.

Why?

Two friends were having an indignation meeting of their own. Both had suffered domestic strife and now they were comparing notes.

"Aren't women the limit?" growled the first. "We husbands don't know anything at all and our wives know everything."

"Well," said his companion in misery, reluctantly, "there's one thing my wife admits she doesn't know."

"What on earth is that?"

"Why she married me."

New Swimming Light



Three perfect diving poses of Katherine Rawls, 15-year-old Miami marvel, who astounded officials by defeating Georgia Coleman for national diving honors at Long Island. The petite miss will represent America in the olympics.

Canadian Notes

Hamilton, Ont.—An important development in the recovery of sulphur dioxide from gases of low concentration has been made by chemists of Canadian Industries Limited, which will open a possible new source from which Canadian consumers may secure the sulphur dioxide required in manufacturing processes. In order to study the recovery of sulphur dioxide, an experimental plant was erected at Hamilton to duplicate conditions found at plants producing sulphur dioxide gases of low concentration as a waste product. Sulphur was burned and the fumes diluted to varying percentages of concentration, to simulate the waste gases of industry. Thus developed a new method whereby sulphur dioxide may be separated from the waste gases and liquefied. It proved so successful that it is now supplying a portion of Canada's requirements for liquid sulphur dioxide. The process can be adapted to a much larger output, and as many times the total annual consumption of sulphur in Canada goes to waste each year in the form of gases of low concentration, the development promises to be of substantial value to the Dominion. Canadian Industries Limited is considering the erection of a plant for the manufacture of liquid sulphur dioxide on a large scale.

Winnipeg, Man.—Two new products from Manitoba's northland may find a market in Canada if plans of the natural resources committee of the Industrial Development Board of Manitoba are carried out successfully. Samples of birch oil, used for waterproofing leather, and syrup from the Manitoba maple, are now being studied by the committee.

Regina, Saskatchewan.—The value of Manitoba's dairy products last year was \$13,715,000, while that of Saskatchewan was \$18,893,000 and Alberta \$15,914,000, making a total of \$48,522,000. Regina, Saskatchewan.—Taking the figures for the first four months of 1932 as an indicator there will be a record production of lignite coal in the Province of Saskatchewan this year. The output from January 1 to April 30, 1932, was 329,209 tons, compared with 228,060 tons for the corresponding period of 1931, an increase of 101,149 tons. Last year the total production of lignite coal was 655,902 tons, the highest on record for the province.

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.—A herd of 11 Ayrshire dairy cows at the Dominion Experimental Station at Indian Head, Saskatchewan, showed an average profit per head for a twelve month period of \$27.69 over the cost of feed. The best individual performance was a profit over cost of feed of \$42.80 for the lactation period of 174 days, while another good performance was a profit of \$40.94 over a lactation period of 223 days.

Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.—Moose Jaw's most recent industry, the Sterling Oil Refineries Limited, is working at high capacity, turning out 800 barrels, or 25,000 gallons of refined gasoline and oil per day. These products are sold in practically all parts of the province.

Edmonton, Alberta.—Boys' and girls' clubs in connection with agricultural development work in Alberta now number 125, it is reported by the Department of Agriculture. Of these 70 are grain and fodder clubs and the balance is made up of cattle, swine and sheep clubs. The combined membership is about 2,000. Last year there were 94 clubs.

New Westminster, British Columbia.—During the 11 years ended September 30, 1930, the Forestry Commissioners of Great Britain planted a total of 32,330,000 Douglas fir trees on various sites in England, Wales and Scotland. All these trees were raised from seed furnished by the Canadian Government Forest Service, through its seed extraction plant at New Westminster, British Columbia. A considerable quantity of seed of other Western species was furnished to the British Commissioners from the same source. The New Zealand Government has also taken a large quantity of tree seed from Canada in recent years.

Vancouver, British Columbia.—The immediate construction of a million dollar refinery and distribution plant on an 80-acre tract of land by the Shell Oil Company of British Columbia, Ltd., is announced by Mr. Charles Anstie, manager. The plant, which will have approximately 1,500 feet of frontage on the south shore of Burrard Inlet, is to be supplied with 400 foot dock forty feet wide, Mr. Anstie states. It will refine from 2,500 to 3,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Eventually, it will be able to handle 10,000 barrels daily.

Victoria, British Columbia.—A well known packing company proposes to erect a large dehydrating plant in Victoria to handle logberries.

Women on the Stage

Women were first permitted to act on the English stage, as early as 1565. Flaminia set the fashion for women actresses in Italy, but England's attitude was conservative. It was not until 1656 that Mrs. Coleman took the part of Isabella in "The Siege of Rhodes" at Rutland House, thus paving the way for others. In 1662 a Royal patent decreed "all women's parts to be acted by women"; after that the stage was flooded with actresses.

Ancient Moscow To Have Subway

Relics, Prisons, Hidden Passages and Chambers Expected to be Unearthed

Moscow.—Historians, archeologists and the public are excited here over the discoveries expected in connection with the excavations undertaken for the Moscow subway. For the first time in centuries certain central parts of the Russian capital will be explored to a considerable depth. Fascinating relics of the city's wonderful past are expected to be unearthed. Claws will be found, it is hoped, to a number of historical secrets covered up by time.

A sixteenth century cemetery already has been uncovered. The existence of this cemetery was known, since it was the famous burial ground for victims of a great epidemic. But its location, in the heart of the city, was not known until the subway diggers discovered traces.

Digging in Moscow always has been a process full of surprises. In 1910, it is recalled, a full skeleton of a prehistoric mammoth was unearthed in the city when excavations were made for a water main. Digging on Red Square some years later, workers disclosed a secret passage into St. Basil's Church. In the passage were several skeletons, fully dressed in eighteenth century armor.

The first part of the subway will pass through a section which was probably the ancient center of Moscow, containing relics of the strange and almost unknown life of the times. One of the current suppositions is that the prison where the rebel Pugachev and other famous prisoners of the old days were kept is under the present Lubienska Square. If excavations verify this supposition it will have a certain political significance, since the headquarters of the C.P.U. (secret police) is located on the site at present. The subway construction also has revived hopes for the discovery of the fabulous library of Ivan the Terrible, which was kept in a dungeon under the Kremlin walls.

When the subway diggers reach the Kremlin walls—the underground railway will run parallel with one of the walls for a considerable stretch—it is hoped that many secret chambers and passages will be unearthed. Reports of such passages each with its tragic history, have survived for centuries.

Origin of Word "Assassin"

In an article in The Morning Post of London which reveals that remnants of the strange sect of Assassins is still to be found, the writer gives the origin of the word. It will come as a surprise to most persons.

Traces are still to be found, he says, in various parts of Asia, of the mysterious sect of Assassins, one of whose last strongholds has just been discovered in Northern Persia. Small branches of the sect are believed to exist in the mountain districts of Syria, and doctrines similar to theirs are still to be met with in parts of Asia and India.

In the opinion of many, the dissemination of these doctrines has done much to prepare the ground for the revolutionary propaganda which in recent years has made such headway in India.

The name "Assassin" which did not come to be applied to secret murderers in general until a comparatively late date, was derived from the Arabian "hashish", on account of the fact that the members of the sect used to dose themselves with this drug before committing their crimes.

The Order of Assassins was founded in Persia in 1090, by Hassan ben Sabah, and quickly spread into Syria and Asia Minor. Its absolute head was the Old Man of the Mountain and its fanatical practice of secret murder made it a widespread terror for two centuries. While most modern languages use the word "assassination" to mean a secret murder in French it merely means homicide unless the context indicates otherwise.

Empire Currency is Here

Pretty Tourist Believes

Tisbury—A sweet young thing from New York stated went into a bank here and asked to exchange some U.S. currency for Canadian bills. Then she looked at the Dominion bills in evident confusion.

"I don't think," she said, "I'll know how to use your money. I've never had anything to do with those pounds and shillings before."

The teller walked over to the water-cooler and took a long drink.

