News Parade

Commentary on the Highlights of the Week's News . . . By Elizabeth Eedy

DEATH DEFERRED—Wild rejoicing marked the Austrian Nazis' reception of Hitler's triumphal march into Vienna, but while these vociferous demonstrations were going on in the streets of the capital, the country's anti-Nazi Jews sought frantically to escape into the border, or covered their homes.

A number of the fugitives succeeded in finding a gateway, but it was not long before Nazi soldiers stationed at border points were stopping all persons leaving the country.

Efforts to force out of Austria the wealthy Jews had failed, several prominent Jews had committed suicide rather than face the horrors of Nazi rule. Prof. Freud, internationally known psychiatrist of the University of Vienna, and a number of the social elite, and Dr. Eiselsberg, X-ray specialist, shot themselves the Nazification of Austria was continued under a new slogan: "One blood, one folk, one reich, one fuehrer."

The suicide toll already has passed the hundred mark, and will likely go higher as Nazis continue throwing hundreds into prison, depriving the Jews of all civil rights.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT—The European crisis cleared off for the moment, leaving us with a short breathing space before the next crisis. From a next crisis there will be a crisis, within the next decade, perhaps, because all the ingredients are ready mixed. The pot has only to come to a boil. Meantime we are provided with a chance to act before it is too late. Time for the powers to digest Austria, consolidate her new position in Central Europe before going after Czechoslovakia. To take on Czechoslovakia he would have to throw a major part of his army into the field against the latter's contract, highly-efficient defense forces; he would have to be prepared to fight Russia, too, and perhaps France, both allies of Czechoslovakia.

DRAMA FESTIVAL—Greater interest than ever is being taken this year in getting ready for the Dominion Drama Festival to be held at Winnipeg in May. After the regional eliminations have all been run off, full-length plays in English and in French will be sent from the Dominion at large, to compete for the Sir Ellsworth Flavelle Trophy. A minimum standard of excellence has to be met before the various groups may compete in the finals.

It is indeed encouraging to note the increasing interest in the drama throughout the Dominion. We hope the Festival will bring a crop of rising actors to the fore and get them started on the road.

FLOOD CONTROL—Within the next [illegible] will be spent on flood control, water conservation, and flood control project for the Grand River Valley. The cost of undertaking is to be borne in a three-way split by the Federal and Ontario Governments and the interested municipalities.

Commissioners will be appointed—one from Kitchener, three from Brantford, two from Galt and one each from the other benefiting municipalities along the Grand River and its upper tributaries—who will have a chief engineer to supervise the carrying out of the project. It is hoped to get engineering work under way by the middle of June.

Major projects involve the erection of two dams, one at Waldemar on the upper Grand River, west of Hespeler, and one at Haller, on the Nith River near Drayton. These will hold back the water in flood times and keep it from flooding the countryside; in summer they will release enough water that for the past few years there has been drought-ridden.

TURN IT DOWN—The United States Government has flatly turned down the request made by Premier Mitchell Hepburn of Ontario that we export surplus power for the use of American consumers. Washington plainly does not want Ontario's power, especially on a short-term basis, subject to withdrawal.

If, however, the Province of Ontario and the Dominion of Canada should be willing to develop the St. Lawrence waterway for power, the Washington Government would agree to the diversion of the Kenogami River waters via Long Lac into the Great Lakes system.

Note: It is unlikely that events will find the Province of Ontario prepared to spend millions of dollars on a St. Lawrence waterway project.

PRESS IN PERIL—Freedom of the Press is in "very real peril," according to J. A. Spender, distinguished British newspaperman, who, last week told the Institute of Journalists in London that "a very few false steps may seriously prejudice the liberties which are the common cause of the whole profession."

Freedom of the press "is totally extinguished in one-half of the world, and in the other half there are enough enemies of liberty who will gladly seize any handle that we may give them," said Mr. Spender.

Highlights Of Hitler's Career

The Past Five Years of His Life Have Been Eventful Ones For Germany And For the World.

1933

January 30.—Appointed chancellor of Germany.

October 14. — Germany leaves the League of Nations and the Disarmament Conference.

1934

June 14.—Meets Premier Mussolini of Italy at Venice.

June 30.—The "blood purge"; incipient revolt by Storm Troop Leader Ernst Roehm quelled by gunfire.

July 26.—Franz von Papen appointed as his special ambassador in Austria, which mourned the Nazi assassination of Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss.

August 2.—President von Hindenburg dies; Hitler assumes functions of the president under the title of Reichs-chancellor and Fuehrer.

November 28.—Nazi named to head Danzig State.

1935

March 16.—Reintroduction of universal military service in Germany.

June 18. — German-British naval agreement concluded.

1936

March 7.—Remilitarization of the Rhineland, Hitler's peace offer.

July 11.—Restoration of friendly relations between Germany and Austria.

August 28.—German compulsory military service extended to two years.

October 24. — Germany recognizes Italy's conquest of Ethiopia.

November 14. — Germany discards limitations of the Versailles Treaty concerning rivers and streams.

1937

January 13. — Hermann Wilhelm Goering goes to Rome for conversations with Il Duce.

1938

February 12.—Hitler summons Chancellor Kurt von Schuschnigg of Austria to Berchtesgaden; demands an increase in Nazi influence in the Austrian Government.

February 15.—Hitler accepts new Austrian cabinet, reorganized to include five Nazi-friendly members.

March 11.—Hitler Nazifies Austria.

The BOOK SHELF

By ELIZABETH EEDY

THE BOOK OF BIRDS

The first comprehensive work ever published with all major species of birds of Canada and the United States shown in full color has been issued by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. As well as vivid portraits of 950 birds, this handsome work in two volumes contains biographies setting forth the characteristics of each species of bird, its range, breeding habits and other features of behaviour. Clever migration maps, too, disclose new developments in the study of bird migration through bird-banding.

The "Book of Birds" brings into the home the many aspects of beauty, mystery and entertaining fact from the far-flung kingdom of birds, is of interest to all nature lovers as well as to the trained scientific observer.

Thirty-seven fascinating articles by outstanding bird authorities make a veritable encyclopedia of bird-lore. A thing of beauty, "The Book of Birds" is also eminently useful.

National Geographic Society, of Washington, D.C., publishes "The Book of Birds" at cost ($5). Ed. by Gilbert Grosvenor and Alexander Wetmore, 738 pages, two volumes.

Ontario Mines Topped Record

TORONTO. — The Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in convention here heard reports of record mineral production in Ontario and Quebec during the last year. Ontario mineral production, from all sources, reached $229,938,000, an increase of 24 per cent. in value over 1936, itself a record year. Quebec's bureau of mines in a statement said a new high, $65,089,000, was reached in that province in 1937, an increase of nearly 31 per cent.

The Ontario report said the seasonal decline in structural materials and clay products was normal and prospects for 1938 indicate that last year's record might even be exceeded.

In Quebec the low ebb in mineral production was reached in 1932, when the total fell to $25,638,000. Starting in 1933 the survey took an upward turn which has since been maintained.

Says Science Is Changing Our Attitude To World

Psychologist Declares That The Past Few Decades Have Seen Our Conceptions of Life on This Universe Turned Upside Down — New Adjustments Now To Be Made

Scientific advances in the last few decades is turning our world upside down and it would be well for its leaders to think about the environmental readjustments necessary to happiness, Dr. Gerald Wendt, of New York, told the Association of Commerce at New York last week.

Dr. Wendt, director of the American Institute of New York, was drafted January 1st to the director of science for the New York World's Fair, 1939. He spoke on "What Science Is Doing To Us."

After recalling the various basic raw materials necessary to the things we use today and some of the inventions they have made possible the Dr. said:

Improve Conditions

"My definition of science is the best use of the human intelligence for improving the conditions under which we live — that is modifying our environment to our purposes.

"We have accomplished this to such an extent that our environment has receded as a problem and so the next generation will have to devote its energies to modifying the social environment.

No Longer Combat Nature

"My grandfather, for instance, went out to Iowa in 1853 and, like thousands of other pioneers, came face to face with nature. Today I work in a skyscraper and I live in a skyscraper and I go underground between them. Half the time I do not even know what the weather is. And the only time I come face to face with nature is when I go to a hospital. Otherwise — and that hasn't happened yet — I seldom encounter nature.

"Our contacts, therefore, are slowly being reduced to those with other individuals, and the energy we once gave to combating nature we now expend on people. That is where our next task lies — to adjust ourselves to each other while adjusting science and ourselves."

Didn't Need to Write

It was revealed recently that a self-made man who had 29 banking accounts was illiterate and could not write his own cheques.

Engineer Forecasts Speed of 600 M.P.H.

Achievement Anticipated In The Stratosphere

WASHINGTON. — Airplanes which will fly at speeds approaching the speed of sound are "just around the corner," an aeronautical engineer told the Society of Automotive Engineers here last week.

G. T. Lampton, of Williamsport, Pa., declared that 500-miles-an-hour airplanes operating at high altitudes soon will be built and that planes capable of flying 600 miles an hour are conceivable.

The speed of sound is approximately 760 miles an hour. Previous estimates of the ultimate speed of human flight have fixed the figure at somewhere between 475 and 550 miles per hour.

In a special high-speed wind tunnel of the national advisory committee for aeronautics at Langley Field, Va., speeds of 700 miles per hour can be demonstrated.

Tests of model airplanes in this tunnel have indicated that at speeds in excess of 400 miles an hour a "shock wave" develops on the wings or nose of an airplane and creates a tremendous resistance, thus definitely limiting its speed.

Lampton pointed out, however, that his estimates of speed were based on the assumption high speed airplanes of the future will fly mostly in the stratosphere where, under rarefied air conditions, the "shock wave" will not appear until very high speeds are reached.

Such airplanes would not only improve long-range commercial flying, particularly over the oceans, aviation experts pointed out, but would have considerable military advantage in time of war. It would be possible to reach and attack an objective before a defending force could organize its anti-aircraft batteries.

Fossils for Company

A scientist recently told a crowded court that he spent nights among the fossils in the British Museum rather than go home and face his wife.

Brazil expects to grow more cotton per acre this year than ever before because of more rigorous seed selection.

VOICE of the PRESS

CANADA THE EMPIRE

THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

Watch Out!

French bombing planes now fly at altitudes of 36,000 feet. In the next war one will not even have the doubtful satisfaction of seeing where the bomb comes from before being killed by it.—London Free Press.

Stockings And War

If ladies' chiffon stockings drop in price within the next few months, we are informed by an enquiring writer, Neil O'Hara, it'll be because Japan is dumping raw silk stocks on the market at panic prices to raise war funds that it so desperately needs. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Female of the Species

The fact has been noted in Montreal that the women motorists there very seldom appear on charges of infringing the traffic laws. One explanation is that they are more careful and better drivers and the other that the female of the species is usually much more charming than the male variety. —Brantford Expositor.

Pepping Them Up

A Toronto pastor where the congregational singing had been half-hearted, painfully so, is reported to have secured great results when, prior to the singing of the Doxology at the close of the service, he remarked to his parishioners: "Just imagine you are singing 'Hail, hail, the gang's all here'." The response was vociferous. —St. Catharines Standard.

Tightening Up On Paroles

It will be reassuring to the people of Ontario to know that Attorney-General Conant has given his assurance that he will go carefully into any appeals for remission of jail sentences, and that only in exceptional cases will appeals be granted. This assurance was given in reply to a request of the Police Association of Ontario and the Chief Constables' Association of Canada. The police know better than anybody else the great dangers that lurk in the too-free granting of appeals for parole. With their records to guide them, they are unable to escape the conclusion that some paroled prisoners persist in living the life of a criminal.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

THE EMPIRE

What Chance For The Jews?

What has happened since 1933 to the 500,000 Jews of Germany is dramatic; it attracted at first the attention of the world, and called forth the solidarity of the Jewish communities for a planned overseas emigration. What is happening to the millions of Jews in Poland, Austria, Hungary and Roumania is less dramatic, but more terrible; it has so far not attracted the serious attention of the general public, nor has it evoked in equal measure the solidarity of outside Jewry. The problem is that of over 5,000,000 men, women and children, full of energy and the will to live, intelligent and talented, who are not only denied the possibility of developing their capacities in their own country, but also increasingly deprived of the means of existence, and, in a narrowing world, denied the possibility of emigration. Of the 10,000,000 Jews in Europe, only 2,000,000, who are citizens of the Soviet Union, enjoy equality of opportunity, but without individual or religious freedom; and 1,000,000 in the Western democratic countries, who enjoy both that opportunity and individual and religious freedom, have a fair chance in life. Of the rest, over 2,000,000 are in Poland, nearly 1,000,000 in the kingdom of Greater Roumania, another 1,000,000 divided between a reduced Austria and a reduced Hungary, some 400,000 in Czechoslovakia who are relatively well off—350,000 in Germany, and 250,000 between Latvia, Lithuania and Yugoslavia. They constitute an international social problem which cannot be solved by philanthropy alone, or by any efforts of the Jewish community alone; but requires the united efforts of the nations, such as was made by the States members of the League when 2,000,000 Greeks in 1922 were uprooted from the Ottoman Empire.—Nineteenth Century And After (London).

News In Review

Jap Lines Badly Shaken

SHANGHAI.—Chinese Communist armies in guerrilla bands are choking Japanese communication lines in hit-and-run attacks throughout the vast North China war area.

Reports from the North China provinces invaded by Japanese troops indicated this week that swift Chinese thrusts behind the lines had stalled movement of Japanese reinforcements to the central front.

Based in mountainous areas away from railway lines which Japanese have conquered, the Chinese Communists have struck time and again at isolated Japanese detachments.

Liberal Returned

SARNIA.—East Lambton this week remained in the Government column, with Charles O. Fairbank, Reeve of Petrolia, retaining the seat made vacant by the death of Milton D. McVicar. With ten polls out of 123 unreported in the Provincial by-election, the Liberal-Progressive had a majority of 2,482 over James A. Currie, Conservative.

British-Jap Agreement Expected

SHANGHAI. — Unofficial Japanese say that a British-Japanese agreement with regard to China may be reached within a week or so. According to the sources, it may be based on Japan's undertaking to recognize Britain's dominant interests in Central and South China and Britain's recognition of Japan's dominance in North China.

Nazis In Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO.—Efforts by the German government to regain free Nazi cultural activity for Germans in Brazil ran into a blind alley this week.

It was ascertained at the Foreign Office that Foreign Minister Oswaldo Aranha has rejected flatly the latest series of representations against Brazil's ban on Nazi activities.

Czechoslovakia's Hitlerites

PRAHA, Czechoslovakia.—The Nazi Sudeten Germans under Konrad Henlein, who is called the "Czechoslovakian Hitler," became the largest party in Parliament last week-end when the German Agrarian League (distinct from the Czech Agrarian Party) withdrew from the Government.

The Agrarians, one of the smaller German minority parties which had supported President Edouard Benes in his efforts to resist Fuehrer Adolf Hitler's "Nazification" of Czechoslovakia, withdrew from the Cabinet and merged with Henlein's Sudeten German party.

The surprise move, hailed by Nazis as bringing nearer a German fulfilment of Bismarck's 50-year-old theory that "the master of Bohemia is the master of Europe," gave Henlein forty-nine deputies in the lower Chamber of Parliament.

Refugees From Nazi Austria Flock to Borders, Seeking Safety

Anti-Nazi Austrians fleeing before the development of German ideas in the peaceful conquest of Austria are flocking to various borders in quest of safe havens. This Radiophoto shows a Nazi border patrol at Lindau, on the Austro-Swiss line turning back a car of refugees, while a priest at right is allowed to pass unmolested.

Must Surrender Eskimo Relics

To Ottawa—Canadian Scientists, Archaeologists and Explorers No Longer Able to Take Away Specimens Without Report.

OTTAWA—No longer will scientists, archaeologists and explorers be able to excavate Eskimo ruins in Canada's Northwest Territories and carry off what they find.

New regulations, now effective, require all archaeological specimens to be submitted to the Dominion Government. Anything required by the National Museum of Canada will be retained and the remainder will be returned to the finder only on the condition that they be permanently deposited in some public institution, in Canada or elsewhere, where they will be available for study.

One time the rule in archaeological research was "finders keepers." However, the League of Nations set to work and finally recommended to all countries in which excavation work was likely, a standard set of rules, chief aim being to ensure to each country the retention of anything dug up in its own domain if so desired.

Permits Needed

In 1930, the Council of the North West Territories adopted an ordinance for protection of Eskimo ruins. This required permits from the Commissioner of the Territories for examination and excavation of archaeological sites and laid down various other regulations which have now been supplemented by the League of Nations.

Alligator in Bed

A Prague chambermaid found a live alligator in a bed. She was so scared she lost all power of speech for some hours. It was an American's pet.

Sunburn Meter

ATLANTIC CITY.—An ultra-violet ray meter may be installed on the beach here next summer so that bathers may know when they've had enough sunburn for safety.

Livestock Shows Definite Increase

Higher Egg Prices May Cause Farmers to Raise More Chickens This Spring

Production of livestock was definitely on the increase in the past year, according to a report of the Ontario Department of Agriculture last week, which said that cattle, sheep and lambs were considerably higher now than a year ago. Swine, hens and chickens, however, showed a decrease.

The department listed 2,619,209 head of cattle, all classes, in December, 1937, compared with 2,502,000 a year previously. The report added that low prices for eggs in the spring of 1937 combined with high grain prices caused farmers to reduce poultry flocks to the lowest level in some years, particularly in northern and eastern Ontario, but with egg prices on the uptrend it was expected farmers would raise more chickens this spring.

Vitamin B-1 Aids In Plant Growth

Scientists Find What Makes Roots Develop

Vitamin B-1, essential for healthy conditions of human and animal bodies, has been found to act as a hormone for stimulating root growth in plants with an even more powerful action than is produced by the plant growth hormone, auxin. A group of scientists working at the California Institute of Technology, Dr. F. W. Went, Dr. James Bonner, and Dr. C. C. Warner, report in a communication to "Science" that they were able to produce roots on plant cuttings by use of B-1 vitamin, called aneurin, when the plant growth hormone, auxin, failed to produce such results.

Cuttings Treated Specially

They treated 200 cuttings of the plant leaf Coleus with auxin and [illegible] failed to produce roots. Twelve of these failures were treated with water and twelve with aneurin. Only three roots developed on the water-treated group and sixty-seven vigorous roots developed on the plants receiving aneurin. They also report that certain amino acids, substances that are essential to the maintenance of life in man and animals, are beneficial in producing root growth in plants.

They believe that aneurin is the limiting factor in plant growth. Used alone it will not produce root growth, but after the process has been initiated with auxin the aneurin is necessary for its continuation. Without aneurin no growth of roots is possible. The small amount of this substance that is ordinarily required for growth is produced by the plant in other parts of its anatomy.

Plan Waterway Without Tides

To Be Made of Father Thames In England — New Barrage Scheme Has It In View.

LONDON.—A Thames without tides sounds as incredible as England without roast beef. But that's what supporters of the Thames barrage scheme have in mind.

The barrage proposal is discussed at a public inquiry opening at the offices of the Port of London Authority, March 29.

A Dam 1,500 Feet Long

One plan ready for submission to the inquiry, prepared by J. H. O. Bunge, engineer, envisages a dam 1,500 feet long across the Thames at Woolwich. It would have four barge locks and three locks for steamships with causeways permitting road and rail traffic over the river. Above the dam the water level would remain unchanged. Estimated cost of the project is $22,500,000.

New Dock Space

Here are some of the advantages claimed for the barrage idea by its promoters:

It would give London new dock space, 25 miles long.

Ships could leave and arrive below the barrage at any state of the tide.

On a tideless river a passenger river-boat service could more easily be established.

A constant water level above the barrage would cheapen navigating costs by lessening the need for night traffic.

The river would be much cleaner as 80 per cent. of London's sewage enters the Thames below the barrage site.

Sundial Made From Obelisk

In Public Square In Centre of Paris, France

PARIS.—The seventy-five foot obelisk in the centre of the Place de la Concorde that once stood in front of a pylon erected by Rameses II at the Temple of Luxor will become part of a vast sundial. The Municipal Council of Paris has appropriated 3,000 francs to finance the plan.

The great Egyptian obelisks, such as Cleopatra's Needle in London and the smaller one in Central Park in New York, are believed to have served in olden times as sundials as well as embellishments of the temples. Each is topped by a pyramidion, the faces of which are inclined at an angle of 60 degrees, and formerly the pyramidions were sheathed in bright metal that caught and reflected the sun's rays.

Government Adds 2,000,000 Whitefish

Two million tiny whitefish found a new home in Lake Erie last month as part of the Ontario game and fisheries department's program to build up the depleted fishing grounds.

The fry were taken on board a tug off Port Stanley in large metal containers, being released into the lake a short distance off the harbor entrance.

Whitefish have been becoming scarce in that part of the lake, although years ago these were numerous and constituted a valuable portion of the fishermen's revenues.

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