

News Parade

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

HIDE AND SEEK: His Holiness Pope Pius XI hasn't much liking for Adolf Hitler in view of the persecution that priests of the Catholic Church have undergone in Germany. But when Dr. Fuehrer refused to seek an audience with the Pope on his recent visit to Rome, the displeasure of the Vatican dropped to a new low. To show Adolf Hitler that his latest discourtesy had not gone unnoticed, His Holiness closed the Vatican museums during the whole period of Hitler's stay. The instant Hitler said good-bye to Rome, the museums were thrown open again to the public.

MEDALS OF MERIT: This week at Toronto the Royal Society of Canada is presenting medals of merit to three distinguished Canadians. The awards this year go to Colonel William Wood, of Quebec City, author of many historical volumes, for outstanding work in connection with the history of Canada; Mazo de la Roche, Toronto-born author of the "Jalna" novels, "for accomplishing in imaginative or critical literature some achievement of significance or conspicuous merit"; Dr. W. Lash Miller, Professor of Physical Chemistry at the University of Toronto, for his pioneer work in several new fields of scientific interest.

"WE'RE SELFISH UP HERE": The former Australian Trade Minister, Sir Henry Gullett, is criticizing Canada's "grave injustice to Australian manufacturers and British exporters." Under the present Australian-Canada tariff agreement, he says, movement of goods between the two Dominions "is amazingly one-sided" and the Australian market and the Australian secondary industries are being thrown open to preferential competition from Canadian manufacturers as well as from the United Kingdom.

The Australian Trade Minister resigned last year because preferential treatment extended to Canada under the Australian-Canada agreement was a "very bad one-sided bargain".

FORGOTTEN MEN: Names not in the news these days are legion. The daily papers are too busy telling us about the latest war developments, too crowded with stories of munitions contracts being let, to feature Mahatma Gandhi (for instance); the Duke of Windsor (except to mention that his bathtub isn't of 20-carat gold); the Queen of Egypt; Kemal Ataturk (who is doing so much to make a modern country out of Turkey); the Pankhursts; Rev.

Seven Climbing Mount Everest

Expedition Arrives at Base Camp On Tallest Mountain in the World — Pray For Late Monsoon

The leader of the British Mount Everest Expedition has reported its arrival at the base camp, 12 miles away from the tallest mountain in the world. There have been two journeys of reconnaissance. This will be the fifth British attempt to scale, says the New York Times. The seven members of the party have been trained in one of the hardest schools. They know the mountain sickness, "the altitude" sore throat, and the double vision, the sudden temporary blindness, the wastage of muscle, the fainting fits, the breathlessness, the dilated heart, the lassitude and the physical decline at heights of 21,000 feet or so.

Used To Great Heights: These men are acclimatized. They are used to great heights, roaring blizzards, avalanches, but with what oxygen apparatus can they be sure of being able to move save at a snail's pace, even to breathe, to see, in the last 1,000 feet, if they reach it? The North Col is more than terrible enough.

The top of Everest is a mile higher. The Seven against Thebes seem like mere crazy braggers compared with the Seven against Everest. They are prepared for all the dangers in store for them. They know that the monsoon and its enormous snows, that will end the short time in which alone their adventure has an opportunity, are capricious visitors.

In 1921 the monsoon broke on Everest on July 7; in 1922 in the first week of June; in 1924 on June 16; in 1933 on May 30; in 1935 on June 6; in 1936 on May 25. Let us hope for a late monsoon. It is with hope and not gloomy forebodings that we think of the Seven. Among well-remembered names in their number we note Odell, who at the height of 26,000 feet was the last man to see Mallory and Irvine.

England has a movement for abolishing dog licenses and taxing bicycles instead.

A-C

Canada's Grain Acreage Down

Decline of Over 1,000,000 Sown Bushels Is Indicated

A decrease of nearly 1,400,000 acres in the area sown to spring grains in Canada in 1935 was indicated by farmers' intentions as of May 1, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics first report of the present season states. The intended area of spring wheat is 24,105,590 acres, compared with 24,851,400 acres sown in 1937 and 28,646,100 acres in the peak year, 1932. The indicated decrease in the spring wheat area from that of last year is 745,000 acres, or three per cent. The principal decrease will occur in Saskatchewan, while increases are indicated in Manitoba and Alberta.

Less Wheat in Manitoba: Durum wheat acreage will be decreased considerably from 2,322,000 acres sown in 1937 to 1,693,000 acres intended for 1938. This decrease will take place mainly in Manitoba where it will be more than offset by an increase in the sowing of rust-resistant bread wheats. Oats and barley are also expected to show decreases of three and five per cent, respectively, with the principal reductions occurring in Saskatchewan.

Barley acreage in Ontario will show a decrease of 16,600 acres, or nine per cent, and flaxseed a reduction of 48,600 acres or 20 per cent. The area sown to mixed grains will remain normal in Eastern Canada, while showing a moderate reduction in the Western Provinces.

Potato acreage will be reduced in nearly every province to a total level that of a year ago, if farmers' present intentions are realized.

Italy's Propaganda Expense \$6,522,400

Teaching Youth in Foreign Lands Fascist Culture Costs That Much Annually

Italy spends 124,000,000 lire (\$6,522,400) annually on propaganda of various kinds in foreign countries in an effort to make new converts for fascism and to keep Italians living abroad in closer contact with their homeland, a study of the current financial budget reveals. Almost half of this money, most of which comes from the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is spent on Italian schools abroad. The Italian Government maintains 138 schools in foreign lands and gives financial assistance to an additional 654.

Schools On This Continent: This alone costs the government \$3,000,000 yearly. These schools, which are chiefly established in the United States, South America and France, have a total attendance of 65,000. The pupils are almost exclusively sons and daughters of Italians living abroad and the main aim of these schools is to teach them Italian and get them interested in the new Fascist Italy.

The Fascist party boasts that more than 30,000 Italian boys and girls living in foreign countries are now regularly inscribed in the Billia organization, recently renamed the "Gioventu del Littorio."

"The deepest need of our generation is a redefinition of success. We are obsessed by the economic aspect of life. It is good to have the things money will buy, but the most important things are those that money will not buy."—Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

of the

CANADA

THE WORLD AT LARGE

more available to combat the dread scourge of . . . —Kitchener Record.

Drastic Expedient: The Primitive tribes of Africa are reported to be scaring their children with stories of civilization.—Hamilton Spectator.

In Time for the Next: The first volume of Canada's official war history has at last appeared. When the final volume reaches the public, most of the survivors of the war will probably be in their graves.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

Plenty of Old Crocks: Of 353 cars tested by expert mechanics in Port Hope this week only 49 were found in proper mechanical condition. Either the cars in Port Hope are exceptionally bad or there's a lot of old "crocks" in the province.—Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Radium in Canada: The discovery of radium in a remote region of Canada was a veritable godsend since this rarest of minerals was previously found in only one part of the world, the Belgian Congo mines in Africa. Up to a few years ago radium cost \$70,000 a gram before the Belgian monopoly was broken by Canadian competition. This radium was made

A Costly Privilege: Comparison of the income tax schedules of Canada and Britain show the latter to be enormously more drastic, and so is the gas tax over there. This costs the people a lot to live close to Europe.—St. Catharines Standard.

What A Picture! The picture of nine provincial sweepstakes each occurring several times a year is not one to contemplate with easy complacency. Once each province was well set up in the sweepstake business, the element of competition would, no doubt, come into play and Prince Edward Island gave more in prizes than any other, as it could well afford to do, it would probably get the largest share of the nation's sweepstake dollars.—Financial Times, Montreal.

Mounties on Display: People away from the U.S. border do not understand the American desire to see a Mountie. It would pay Windsor and the Soo to stand the expense of getting members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police stationed at each place. As both cities already have members of the force stationed on their borders, and as tourists want to see them why can't a sensible arrangement be made? U. S. fathers have told this column that the reason they came to town was to let their children see our famous R.C.M.P.'s. Can't the force recruit a few more men, or use those whose age justifies a soft job?—Sault Ste. Marie Star.

He Can't Get Away With It: Walter Winchell gets away with his keynote reporting in a big city, and is well paid for it. The same stuff in a small town would bring him to fist fights very quickly. We nicknamed an ardent fisherman "The grasshopper king", and he came around and gave us his opinion, which wasn't complimentary. Other little references of a humorous nature have caused a near fight at times, simply because we are so convenient to be got at that almost before the ink on the paper is dry someone comes around with threats to clean up the whole range in the print shop. We usually keep the type mall within range so that if the callers become too threatening we can take up arms in defence of the liberty of the press.—Coleman, Alta., Journal.

THE EMPIRE

Where the Japanese Erred: Had (the Japanese militarists') ambitions been less grandiose, had they attempted to make Nationalist China an equal ally instead of an anti-Communist pawn, they might without serious sacrifices have enormously strengthened the political and economic position of their island empire, and established a powerful barrier against the further advance of Russian bayonets and ideas in Eastern Asia. So far from effecting this, they have first spurred the Soviet Union to improve its own military position in the Far East and they have now given it the chance of playing the role of tertius gaudens. They have made China their enemy for many a year; they have alarmed their German associates in the anti-Comintern Pact, whose efforts at mediation were dashed by the Japanese Government's manifesto refusing to deal with the Chinese Central Government; and their conduct of the military campaign exceeded that followed the capture of Nanking and have been reported in detail by trust-worthy eye-witnesses—it is not contributed to improve their country's reputation in the English-speaking world. In fact, they appear to have achieved the opposite of what they set out to do.—The Times, London.

Falls Is Assuming Shape of Horseshoe: Officials reported this week that Niagara Falls once more changed its shape slightly during the past winter, and the United States falls is taking on a horseshoe shape similar to that of the famous Canadian Horseshoe falls.

The Niagara Falls, N.Y., publicity department announced that a survey had revealed that the crest of the more decided saw-tooth appearance than in former years. Two V-shaped indentations have appeared in the crest, each about 20 to 30 feet deep. "It is clearly evident that erosion is progressing at a rapid rate and that the heretofore fairly even and straight American falls is taking on a horseshoe shape, similar to that on the Canadian side of the river," the bureau reported.

Claims Birds Learn Faster Than Dogs: An intelligent canary is easier to train and learns faster than a dog, Teresa Switzer asserted last week at Buffalo.

Miss Switzer has trained more than 200 canaries to sing the scale, recognize colors, shake hands and wink. If you want to train your canary she advised: (1) start when the canary is young; (2) teach the bird to eat from your hand instead of letting its mother feed it; (3) teach it in the evening after an afternoon of rest.

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Plans A Descent To Ocean Bottom

Chicago Man, Who Deals in Sunk Treasure, Will Dive for the Mexican Crown Jewels

Capt. John Craig, of Chicago, who deals in sunken treasure and pirate booty on a strictly law-abiding basis, said he would descend to the ocean floor off the Virginia Capes next month in a quest which may yield a portion of the Mexican crown jewels and the rubies of the Empress Carlotta.

The treasure, which included 362 tons of silver bars, was lost when the liner Merida carrying refugees of the Mexican revolution, went down 55 miles off the Virginia coast. Craig said the bulk, object of several previous treasure hunts, was lying upside down in the sand and was particularly hazardous to divers. "Breath Oxygen and Helium" "We hope to overcome part of that," he said, "by the new equipment we will carry, going away with trailing airplanes which might be fouled."

The new diving equipment was tested this spring, when Max Nohl left a coast guard cutter off Milwaukee and went down to a new world record of 420 feet in Lake Michigan. The divers breathe a mixture of helium and oxygen fed from tanks carried on their backs, eliminating the hydrogen mixture which left divers susceptible to the "bends" and to the danger of becoming stupified if they remained down too long.

Sank With Treasure: Francisco Madero had seized control from the dictator Diaz, and forbidden exportation of wealth. Penalty for disobedience was death. The Merida almost had reached its haven when it was rammed by the Admiral Farragut looming suddenly out of the dark. The Merida went down and with all its treasure.

New Light Switch Made of Mercury

Instead of the Old Snap Kind Now In Use—Is Being Subjected To Harsh Test

Operated by a motor, a new type of switch for controlling lights and other electrical circuits, has been on test for three and a half years. Its mechanism has been rocked back and forth, opening and closing its circuit once every second. By June 2 the switch will have been operated 140,000,000 miles.

The test is under way in the laboratories of the General Electric Company at Schenectady. If the normal use of such a switch in the home would cause it to be operated three times a day, the test would be equivalent to about 140,000 years of actual usage.

Runs Through Tube: The new switch is designed to replace the familiar snap switch. Its essential part is a tube containing mercury. This tube is tilted up or down to an on or off position. When in the on position the mercury is in the end of the tube through which electrodes project and forms a circuit. When it runs to the other end of the tube the circuit is opened.

The tube is filled with hydrogen, which keeps the mercury from oxidizing and cools the arc formed. It is made of a special alloy impervious to hydrogen, as most common metals permit hydrogen to leak through the pores of what appears to be their solid structure.

Last Free Indians May Take Reserve

Propose to Offer Land and Treaty Money To Tribe

Roaming bands of Indians in the Alberta district of Rocky Mountain House, among the last of the redmen to move to the West without benefit of reserves or treaty money, may get a grant of land for a reserve of their own.

In a power-wash with Henry Stelfox, Rocky Mountain house representative of the Federal Department of Indian Affairs, the proposal was advanced to the Nomad Indians that they accept treaty money and set up a reserve in the foothills country west of the north Saskatchewan River.

In Roving Bands: The proposed reserve would extend from the Baptiste River north of the Brazeau River and west of the boundary of the Clearwater forest reserve.

Some years ago these Indians, remnant of a tribe which sought refuge in Canada from the United States years ago, were found to be in great need and arrangements had to be dropped, however, when the Indians refused to give their names as required by the government. The Indians have not reached any decision and it is not known if any deadline for acceptance of the plan was set. The roving bands, mainly composed of Cree and Chinlewan Indians, gain a living by hunting, cutting brush for farmers and selling beadwork and buckskin work

Pipers of the Private Army of Atholl Precede Wedding Party



Viscount Fincastle and his bride, the former Pamela Hermon-Hodge, leave St. Margaret's Church, London, following their wedding. Pipers of the private army of the Duke of Atholl, to which family the Viscount is related, precede the wedding party.

Substitute For Radium Found

Boy of 16 Discovers It—New Product Believed Better Since It Is Less Dangerous

Dr. E. A. Smith, of New York, who said he was associated with the late Mme. Curie in her isolation of radium, declared last week 16-year-old Wallace L. Minto of Jersey City "has something" in his claim of a safer, more economical artificial radium.

Dr. Smith, who has laboratories at North Bergen and Newark, N.J., witnessed a demonstration of the youth's finding at the annual meeting of the Eastern Electric Research Association.

Minto, a high school student, showed, with the aid of a Geiger tube, what he described as the greater strength of his product as compared with the genuine radium.

"Young Minto definitely has made great strides," Dr. Smith said. "I predict a great future for him."

Made For \$250 A Gram: Minto said his artificial radium was less dangerous than the genuine article due to fewer alpha rays and more beta and gamma rays. It also is more economical, he said, because it was made from ore found near his home town, whereas genuine radium comes from the Canadian north and several other distant points.

Minto, who also claims to have found and named four new elements in the last two years—since he was 14 years old—said his artificial radium could be manufactured for about \$250 a gram in small quantities, more economically in increased output. Genuine radium sells for about \$25,000 a gram.

The high school scientist has named his newly discovered elements, Nos. 93 to 96, inclusive, ekauranium, ekaaluminum, ponderosium and ekaplutonium. "Money is not required to buy one necessity of the soul."—Thorau.

News In Review

Two Missionaries Shot: PEIPING.—Death of two British missionaries because Chinese guerrilla bands failed to recognize the British flag and took them for Japanese spies occurred here last week.

The victims were Dr. H. G. Wyatt, a physician, and Miss Beulah Glasby. The story was brought back by a fellow missionary who was travelling with them north of Taiyuanfu, Shansi Province Capital, where the incident occurred.

Won't Sell Anticosti: OTTAWA.—The Island of Anticosti, situated on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which from a military point of view is of strategic importance, will not be sold to any foreign nation, according to an intimation made in the House of Commons last week by Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

Germany Speeds Danube Project: BERLIN.—The Government decreed this week that the Rhine-Danube Canal via the River Main be completed by 1945. Simultaneously the Danube will be developed as a "Reich waterway" up to the new German border below Vienna.

The decree represents considerable speeding up of one of Europe's most important waterway projects because the original plan envisaged 1950 as the completion date. But the decree says: "Austria's reunion with the German Reich and the execution of the four-year plan demand speedier completion of the project."

New Beef Marketing Policy: OTTAWA.—A new marketing policy for Canadian beef, through which it is hoped ultimately to send 200,000 head of cattle a year to Great Britain and 200,000 to the United States was outlined to the House of Commons this week by Hon. James G. Gardiner, Minister of Agriculture.

The policy is only in its experimental stage, the Minister admitted, and

only twenty-five carcasses per week are being shipped.

Half A City Sold: CARDIFF, WALES.—Practically half a city changed hands this week when the immensely wealthy Marquess of Bute sold part of this world port of 200,000 population for a price understood to be about \$20,000,000 (\$100,000,000).

The real estate deal was believed to be the largest ever recorded in Great Britain.

Death Penalty for Treason: RIO DE JANEIRO.—The death penalty for crimes against the nation aiming at its disintegration or against the regime was decreed last week by President Getulio Vargas in a law amending Article 122 of the Nov. 10 Constitution. The law is not retroactive, thus it will not reach those implicated in the May 11 Putsch.

Refugees Face Desperate Plight: SHANGHAI.—The International Red Cross issued an urgent appeal this week for financial aid, declaring its funds were exhausted and 170,000 Chinese refugees here faced a "desperate plight." Officials said food reserves were adequate for only one more month.

Claims Birds Learn Faster Than Dogs: An intelligent canary is easier to train and learns faster than a dog, Teresa Switzer asserted last week at Buffalo.

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