

News Parade

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

SUNDAY COMPANY: Take a drive through Eastern or Western Ontario's agricultural areas of a Sunday afternoon, and what do you see in every farm lane? Two or three swank cars standing empty after bringing a load of visitors from the city or nearest big town to sponge on their poor farmer friends and relatives for the day. And there you see the company, rocking back and forth on the veranda chairs while the farmer's wife, up since dawn, slaves in the kitchen in mortal fear lest the table won't "groan" enough to suit those limitless city-bred appetites, always ready for another meal.

Sweet are the uses of hospitality but they can't stand too much strain. If the farmers of Ontario were not such out-and-out individuals, they would long ago have risen up in a body to protest against their Sundays being taken away from them in such inconsiderate fashion.

But even though the farmer may never go on strike for a free Sunday, some day he will murder the occupants of the first car to turn into his lane of a Sabbath morn. And the jury will acquit him . . .

SENATE KILLED IT: The people of Canada felt that at last they were getting some action when, following the report of the Royal Commission probe into the Dominion's prisons, the Government gave notice of its intention to carry out some of the recommended reforms, to establish a three-man Commission to administer Canada's penal system. But the Senate killed the bill as it was rushed through on the final day of the parliamentary session.

Prison reform in Canada is thus given an indefinite setback because our parliamentarians were in a hurry to get away for the holiday.

A GRIM LAUGH: Vexatious protests from the British people led by the parliamentary Opposition caused Prime Minister Chamberlain last week to make a real fuss about the consistent bombing of British ships by insurgent airmen in Spain (55 British vessels have been sunk in two years with corresponding loss of life).

But the ironic part of it is that Mr. Chamberlain asked Mussolini to ask France to stop the bombings, when everybody knew that Italian planes were responsible for the outrages! A laugh indeed, but a grim one.

FEELING THE PINCH: Pulling in her belt another notch at home last week, Japan is preparing for the greater and greater

strain which is sure to be felt as the Chinese war keeps on. War essentials are now rationed (no more cotton cloth or iron products may be manufactured for domestic use); imports, save of war materials, are curtailed; the government is controlling prices of commodities.

Says Japanese War Minister Itagaki: "The war will continue a long time. Chiang Kai-shek may attempt to continue hostilities throughout his lifetime and as long as Chiang continues, Japan must continue. Consequently, it is necessary that the Japanese resolve to continue fighting at least ten years."

Political observers are practically unanimous in their view that, at the rate she is now going, Japan cannot possibly last those ten years.

BUMPER CROP: Hold your breath now lest something happen to spoil Western Canada's chances for a bumper wheat crop this year. At the moment, everything is all set for the fulfillment of our Prairie farmers' best hopes, moisture conditions being just right.

The next two weeks will be decisive ones. Better times for all of Canada will result if present crop conditions hold.

NEXT OBJECTIVE: Poor little neutral Switzerland is shivering in her shoes. Within her borders dwell 3,000,000 German-speaking people, a juicy bite for Herr Hitler whose avowed purpose is to unite all the German race into one nation. Switzerland shivers in spite of the assurance given by Berlin last week that no German troops would march through her territory in event of war. One reason why she quakes: German Field Marshal Goring recently published in his "National Zeitung" map of Greater Germany, prepared by Reich propagandists for school use, which pictured practically the whole of Switzerland as belonging to the Reich. The Swiss frontier is "the boundary of the internal separation of the German people," announced Goring's news-sheet and claimed Switzerland's 3,000,000 Germans as "exiled citizens of the German Reich."

In France, however, the belief is current that the next Hitler "putsch" (now that Czechoslovakia has him stopped for the time being) will result in the annexation of Danzig. The capture of this Baltic port would be an easy walk-over, would restore Hitler's flagging prestige.

Expect developments in that direction, then, not many week-ends off.

The Human Skin Is Illness Clue

Doctors Foretell Course of Disease by Its Elasticity

Ability of the human skin to stretch is a newly discovered prognosticator of death or recovery in several serious diseases. The methods of using skin stretch, worked out at Tulane University school of medicine, were reported to the American Medical Association by William A. Soderman, M.D., and George Burch, M.D.

When It Tightens

The skin, which doctors call "the outer defense of the body," changes its elasticity during disease. The change is connected with alterations in the pressure of body tissues. The Tulane physicians have worked out methods of measuring both skin stretch

and tissue pressure and of using them to foretell the course of illness before the patient himself feels a change.

In disease the skin tightens; the tissue pressure rises. In health the abdomen skin has the greatest elasticity, six times as much as that of the shin bone, and twice as much as the skin on the back of the hand.

The pressure in the tissues of the back of the hand is equal to a column of water half an inch deep. From this low it ranges up to an inch-and-a-half of water for leg tissues. But in some diseases these tissue pressures are multiplied up to 10 or 15-fold.

The diseases are heart edema, kidney troubles, pernicious anemia, peritonitis, pregnancy toxemia, malnutrition and scleroderma. The latter is the "steel skin" described by Sir William Osler. The skin loses all its elasticity, until fingers cannot bend and finally it cracks.

A Good Voice Is An Asset

An Unpleasant One Ruins the Whole Effect Otherwise Produced by One's Personality.

It's a mistake for any girl to work hard to improve her figure, hair, skin and her taste in clothes but ignore completely the fact that she has an improperly placed, unpleasant voice. Because, no matter how attractive she is, unless her voice has a fairly soothing effect on others, they just aren't going to listen to her—not for long anyway.

To say that a girl has a nice voice doesn't necessarily mean that she has a low voice. It can be high and still be pleasant to the ear.

Breathe Correctly

One good way to begin a voice-improvement campaign is to do a breathing exercise regularly until you breathe correctly all of the

time without thinking about it. Do practice speaking slowly and enunciating correctly. Nothing is worse on anyone's nerves than having to listen to a woman who rattles on, slurring words together and speaking so rapidly that half she says can't be understood at all.

The exercise to correct bad speech is as simple as the breathing exercise that will tend to improve the voice. Just read aloud for fifteen minutes every day. Go to your room, close the door, then read. Listen to yourself and try

Lobster-eating Champ

Charles A. Young won the world lobster-eating championship at Atlantic City by eating 22 lobsters in 2 hours.

Silica, sand, salt and limestone or lead, the four principal substances necessary for glass-making, are well distributed throughout the world. Nearly all the materials necessary for the many branches of the glass industry are obtainable in the United States.

VOICE of the PRESS CANADA THE EMPIRE

THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

Farmer's Utopia

The farm without weeds is either owned and operated by a master farmer, or the soil is so poor that nothing will grow.—Farmer's Advocate.

Not "News"

We just thought we'd tell you that: There are 48 nations in the world still at war. A large number of autoists drove safely and courteously through Vancouver streets yesterday. Several million Canadians are working and drawing regular pay cheques. We saw people laughing this morning. The mangie-wurtzel crop is good this year. Most people really like spinach. A girl and boy sat on a Victory Square bench at lunch yesterday, and lost track of the world around them as they looked in each other's eyes. This isn't news, but we thought we'd tell you. Sometimes we get so fed up with news that we like to stop and think of things like these.—Vancouver Sun.

Where The Taxes Go

Where some of our taxes go: To pay interest charges on the public debt of Canada, makes necessary a weekly outlay of \$2,750,000. Try working that out in days and minutes.—Niagara Falls Review.

Sometime We'll Learn

The Highway Traffic Act now makes it clear that passing another vehicle on the right is not permitted, and no exception is made in respect of street intersections, but the news does not seem to have got around.

Public Service Its Purpose

This is something The Journal has sought to emphasize all along; the clear fact that interest on the national investment in the Canadian National Railways is and must be in resulting public service; just as the interest on investments in many other public works—aids to navigation, harbors, post offices, etc.—is and must be in public service. In other words, to put the matter briefly, transportation, in a land such as Canada, is a basic and essential government function—its cost a part of the cost of government; of the national existence.—Ottawa Journal.

The Dictionary Says So

Those who lost money some years ago betting that "transpire" didn't mean "sweat," are now being asked to lose some more by people who say they can produce dictionary authority for accenting the noun "envelope" on the second syllable. And they can. Funk and Wagnall, Century and the New Imperial give this as the preferred accent. As for pronouncing the first "e" like the "a" in "alone," some authorities favor that too, but the Oxford English dictionary, while

What Science Is Doing

DRUG ATTACKS PNEUMONIA

LONDON, England.—A drug that attacks pneumonia by breaking down the capsules or shells of the bacteria and allowing the white blood corpuscles to vanquish the organisms points the way to a new line of medical research, experts believe.

Two physicians at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, reporting in the Lancet, describe results of pneumonia treatment with a new member of the so-called "sulphanilamide group" of drugs, "M and B 693," named after the makers, May and Baker.

NORTHERN LIGHTS MAKE NOISES

Many persons have claimed they could hear sounds from the heavens during displays of northern lights, but most of the observers were without scientific training. A report by Professor Carl Stormer, of the Institute of Theoretical Astrophysics, Norway, states that during the great auroral display on January 25 and 26 members of his staff distinctly heard sounds which they associated with the movement of the white beams in the lights, and reports from outside observers confirm their findings.

LISTEN TO BLOOD STREAM

HAMILTON.—Medical men attending a clinic at the General Hospital here saw a demonstration of an amplified stethoscope, a new instrument which actually "broadcasts" movements of the organs of the body and the blood stream.

The demonstration was one of the features of a two-day program.

VACCINATION FOR CANCER

TORONTO.—Vaccination against experimental cancer is being successfully carried out in the laboratories of the department of medical research, University of Toronto, in the Banting Institute. To date it has been proved effective in mice, against chemically induced cancer and will have to be tried out on monkeys when further developed.

After that, its application to human beings would be considered. Dr. W. R. Franks, assistant professor in charge of the work, says.

NEW ELEMENT TOO ELUSIVE

TORONTO.—The chances of man ever discovering or seeing the element "illinium," one of the few missing links in the table of elements, have vanished.

Dr. T. R. Wilkins, of the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y., told the American Physical Society meeting here last month that a new method of precise chemical analysis indicates the element either does not exist or at most comes into existence and vanishes again in a few millionths of a second.

Illinium has been the most elusive of the elements and was so named by a group of University of Illinois physicists who made the nearest approach to isolating and identifying it. It is one of the so-called "rare earths," samarium and neodymium being its nearest neighbors.

Men Welcome Practicality

Women Should Remember This When Shopping For Them

Salemen in men's shops never forget that they have to have in stock what they call women's merchandise—things that appeal to wives who shop for their husbands and are subsequently exchanged. It is a woman's duty, obviously, to steer clear of these eye-catchers. This turns out to be laughably easy if the woman keeps in mind one fundamental; the garment or accessory the woman is considering for her male relative will be welcomed if it has practical value.

Several men's shops in New York were combed for practical, attractive summer things this week.

A shirt made like a carpenter's jacket of closely woven nubby cotton has a row of deep pockets across the front below the waist, where a man can tuck the things he wishes to carry about with him. For the man joining the ladies on the terrace of his country club there has been designed a collarless jacket of heavy crash linen that is cool and looks easy to wear. Single-breasted, with long sleeves and an elastic strap across the back to give it a slightly nipped-in line at the waist, it can be had in navy or white.

Crop Outlook Is Favorable For Ontario

Department of Agriculture Report Shows Bountiful Harvest for Most of Province; Damaged Tobacco Replanted.

TORONTO.—Spring rains and warm weather have brought promise of good crops in most parts of the province, the Ontario Department of Agriculture announces.

The report says: "A new industry in the form of an alfalfa dehydration plant is in full swing in the Oakville district. This plant is merchandising approximately 20 tons per day."

Look Promising

North Simcoe reported that frequent and heavy rains in the past two weeks "have promoted very rapid growth," although damage was heavy in the north part of the county from a recent storm. Prince Edward County, in Central Ontario, reported that "all crops look promising."

"Hay crop is looking very good as we have had plenty of rain, but the grain crop is probably damaged by a little too much rain," the department's representative in Coburne said. The report added that "all crops, however, looking better than average."

Abundant Feed

Pastures in Middlesex County generally are in excellent condition with abundant feed for all kinds of livestock. Spring rains there will have a fair length of straw while corn and roots "are rather backward because of cool weather, but in most instances are a good stand."

Britain is aiding emigration to Australia.

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Pitt Invented Weir Tax

British Treasury Once Taxed Windows, Hats and Hair

A hundred and fifty years ago, says the Magazine London "Tit-Bits," when we had lost our American colonies and had just concluded a war with France, Pitt, as Treasury dictator, invented all sorts of weird taxes to raise the money needed to pay the country's way.

He put a tax on horses, which so enraged a farmer, named Jonathan Thatcher, that he rode a cow to market as a protest. Windows were also taxed, the larger the house the greater the tax—which explains the many blind windows to be seen in old mansions today. Hackney coaches, hats and hair-powder; game licenses, hearts, and candles, all brought unpopular grist to the Chancellor's mill. That was in 1784.

"Plum-pudding" tax

In 1797 a clock tax was imposed at the rate of 2s. 6d. in London and Middlesex, and 1s. elsewhere. The tax was a failure and was repealed the next year.

Cromwell invented the "plum-pudding" tax, one on currants and raisins, while 200 years ago a tax on malt drove the Scots to strike by refusing to drink beer. But here the Chancellor won, and the Scots swallowed the tax.

Crop Is Best In Six Years

Finance Minister Dunning Says Conditions in Western Wheat Belt Unequaled Since 1932.

OTTAWA.—Crop conditions in the wheat-growing areas are better than at any time since 1932. Finance Minister Dunning told the House of Commons last week.

"In the southern drought triangle the improvement in moisture conditions has been substantial although current rains are needed in other areas. Increased planting of Thatcher wheat gives a more effective insurance against frost than we have ever had before.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Australia Boasts Underground P.O.

ADELAIDE, Australia.—Philatelists (stamp collectors) are just beginning to take a marked interest in Coober Pedy, the remote South Australian opal field, because it possesses the only underground post office in the world. The prospectors live in "rooms" dug into the soft earth of the low sandstone hills. Here, too, is their bank and their post office.

Recent issues of stamp journals carry articles dealing with the unique interest of covers bearing the postmark of Coober Pedy, which is the aboriginal name for white man's burrow. It has been suggested that specially decorated covers should be made available for use on Coober Pedy's international air mail.

New Zealand plans to abolish its unemployment tax on wages.



A. N. MITCHELL
Chosen as the new President of the Canada Life Assurance Company, Mr. A. N. Mitchell, of Toronto, still in his early fifties, is one of the most brilliant of the younger insurance men in America. Only last month he was elected President of the Life Insurance Officers of Canada.

Mr. Mitchell has had a diversified career, starting out as a school teacher, branching out into newspaper work, then joining the staff of the Manufacturers' Life as advertising manager in 1921. He remained with the Manufacturers for ten years, rising to the position of Assistant Secretary of the company. In 1911 he joined the Federal Life in Hamilton, was appointed General Manager the following year.

When the Federal was absorbed by the Sun Life in 1915, Mr. Mitchell joined the Canada Life as an Assistant Superintendent. In 1926 he became Assistant General Manager; General Manager, 1930; Vice-President, 1935.

In the period during which he has been General Manager of Canada Life, the country has passed through very difficult times. Mr. Mitchell had a tough job, but he has done it well. His sound conservatism, his great energy and capacity for work have been invaluable assets, will continue to aid him in a distinguished career.



"That's the way to talk," cried the gnome King. "What is your name, general?" "I am called Guph, your Majesty." "Well, Guph," said the King, "come with me to my private cave and we'll talk it over." Then he turned to the army. "You are to obey the commands of General Guph until he becomes dog feed," he said. "Any man who fails to obey will be thrown away. You are now dismissed."

Guph went to the King's private cave and sat down upon the King's chair. Then he lit his pipe and threw the live coal he had taken from his pocket upon the King's left foot and puffed smoke into the King's eyes, making him very uncomfortable. For he was a wise old gnome and he knew that the best way to get along with the King was to show him that he was not afraid of him.

"I am ready to talk," he said. The King looked at his new general fiercely. "Do you not tremble to take such liberties with your monarch?" he asked. "Oh, no," said Guph. "You want to conquer the Emerald City and I am the only gnome in all your dominions who can do it, so you will be very careful not to hurt me until I have carried out your wishes."

"But suppose you fail?" asked the King. "Then it's the slicing machine. I agree to that," announced Guph. "But if you do as I tell you there will be no failure. The trouble with you, King, is that you don't think enough. You would go ahead and march your army through the tunnel into Oz and get defeated. I won't. And the reason I won't is because when I march I will have a host of allies to assist us."