

Beds Are Really Of Recent Origin

Egyptians Were First to Sleep on Elevated Bedsteads—Ancients Slept on Ground

It has been estimated that the average person spends one-third to one-half of his entire life sleeping, says the Kitchener Record.

Sir Robert Borden once said to a newspaper correspondent that he only required four hours of sleep a day, during the earlier, hardest working days of his career. Using that as a yardstick, most of us are sleepy heads. Doctors tell us we should sleep eight hours a day. The custom of sleeping is as ancient as time, yet beds, as we know them, are of comparatively recent vintage. Originally, a bed consisted of merely a hollowed out place in the earth. With the development of civilization came the inevitable desire for greater comfort. Egyptians were probably the first to sleep in elevated bedsteads. They even had mattresses made from dried rushes sewn into cloth coverings. The Romans copied their bed styles from the Greeks who had open couches, with mattresses of feathers or wool. In turn the Romans introduced the first real beds into England.

So, in step with the slow progress of mankind have come improvements in sleeping accommodations. Today the manufacture of beds and mattresses comprises one of Canada's major industries.

His Father Directs Pacific Coast Defence



Son of Major-General R. O. Alexander, who is assuming command of Canada's new Pacific coast defences. Flight-Lieutenant J. O. Alexander, above, is following the fighting traditions of his family. He is with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Niagara Grape Crop Lighter

Heavy Yield Last Year Big Reason For Season's Drop

Grapes in the Niagara district this year will be about a 55 per cent crop only, T. J. Mahony of Hamilton stated last week. Nevertheless the quality of the grapes is excellent.

LIGHT CROP FOLLOWS
Mr. Mahony stated that the reason the crop is light this year is that the yield of the vineyards last year was more than average. Usually a light crop follows a heavy crop. It is better for the vines not to have two heavy crops in succession.

The wet season also contributed to the light crop. But although the season has been late all year the crop is now coming in very swiftly. When there is a light crop the grapes mature more quickly than if the vines re-loaded down.

NO BARGAINS
Mr. Mahony said that buyers will get no bargains this year. Last year some of the crop was not picked up until the prices were depressed. But this year the shortness of the yield will assure the farmers of a market for all their grapes, he believed.

Boy Liked Dog's Face The Best

This is the reaction of an eight-year-old London (England) boy evacuated from London to a country home, 150 miles away.—"I like the man's face. I don't like the woman's face but maybe it will look better in the morning. I like the dog's face best of all."

The boy's impression was contained in a letter read by F. W. Ogilvie, director-general of the British Broadcasting Corporation in a broadcast last week.

Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

NO. 13
LARGE MOUTH BASS

While the small mouth black bass is the fish that most anglers want to catch there is another bass in our waters that is sought by many. In fact, some anglers prefer the large mouth black bass and others do not distinguish between the two, lumping them all as bass. However, there are two kinds, each living in its own habitat and each readily recognized once the identifying features are known.

The large mouth bass likes marshy lakes and slow-flowing rivers. It prefers warmer waters than does the small mouth, being found through to Florida and Louisiana, it is typically a fish of the lakes, frequenting the soft-bottomed portions where there is a large amount of aquatic vegetation, stumps, logs and brush. I have taken them in numbers in the Rideau canal above Kingston, where the old stumps of the drowned lands stick above the water, and I have taken them in the shore swamps and the little lily-pond lakes of the Georgian Bay region.

THEY EAT SMALL FISH
This bass clears a spawning bed over the roots of the vegetation and here the female deposits her eggs when she is driven over the nest by the male. He guards the bed and keeps the water in circulation with his fins, sweeping away the sediment until the eggs are hatched. Then he accompanies the swarm of tiny bass for several weeks, protecting them against the ravages of larger fish.

For the first few weeks of life these bass live on the minute water fleas but when they reach a length of an inch they turn to other tiny fish for their food. The adult large mouth eats fishes almost exclusively, though they have been known to take frogs, snakes and other water creatures. In the Rideau waters I have observed this species considerably, they feed on sunfish to a great extent. I have taken a bluegill as large as the palm of my hand from an old timer that I caught near Washburn.

We can best conserve these fish by protecting the adults until after July 1st in our waters. I have often thought that we should not fish at all before this date, for even if we put back the bass we may catch when we are after sunfish and crappies we are disturbing the nests, allowing hungry enemies to make away with the young fry. When this happens many times in a season the future supply of bass may be endangered.

SCOUTING . . .

The Boy Scouts of Canada have been given a new wartime service job. This is the collecting of used medicine bottles to augment the supplies at military hospitals. The collection being made at the request of Lt.-Col. J. S. Jenkins of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, at Ottawa. Many thousands of bottles already have been collected at Saint John, N.B., London, Ont., Calgary, and Victoria, B.C.

When a train was wrecked near Blue River, B.C., and a number of soldiers and others injured, two Boy Scout passengers were promptly on the job rendering first aid. The boys, Scouts Jerry Asmusen and "Scotty" Buchanan of North Battleford, Sask., were themselves slightly injured, but this did not prevent them going at once to the aid of their fellow travelers.

That the Boy Scout Association does a bigger work at less expense than that of any other organization was the declaration of Mayor Morrison of Hamilton, Ont., at a meeting of the Hamilton Board of Control at which the co-ordination of all local social services was discussed. Said the Mayor, "In my opinion the Boy Scouts are doing a bigger and better work than any other organization, and at less expense."

In connection with the news of fighting and air raids along the borders of Kenya Colony in East Africa there has been some concern regarding the safety of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the World Chief Scout and Chief Guide, in retirement on their ranch near Nairobi. Answering this question in a recent issue, the magazine "The Scout" states: "Kenya is an enormous stretch of territory, and as the Chief is residing in the south of the Colony he is hundreds of miles from the scene of fighting. The Chief is in good health, and we are receiving copy and sketches for his page regularly."

Greece owns the largest fleet of tramp steamers, after Great Britain.

30,000 Young Canadians Called Up for Military Training



As 30,000 young Canadians answered the call to military training under the government's compulsory military training scheme, this group of musically-inclined trainees were pictured en route to their new camp in the Toronto area.

THE WAR-WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

Will Russian Moves Stop Hitler's Drive To East?

Large concentrations of German and Russian troops faced each other across the Danube last week near the Rumanian port of Galatz as one of the tensest situations yet to develop during the war neared its crisis. Germany feared bombing by Britons, or Russians, of Rumanian oil fields; Moscow felt increasing alarm over reported German plans for a Near East drive across the Dardanelles; Turkey and the other Balkan States, Bulgaria, Greece and Yugoslavia, trembled at the fate that would be theirs when next Germany and Italy decided to march.

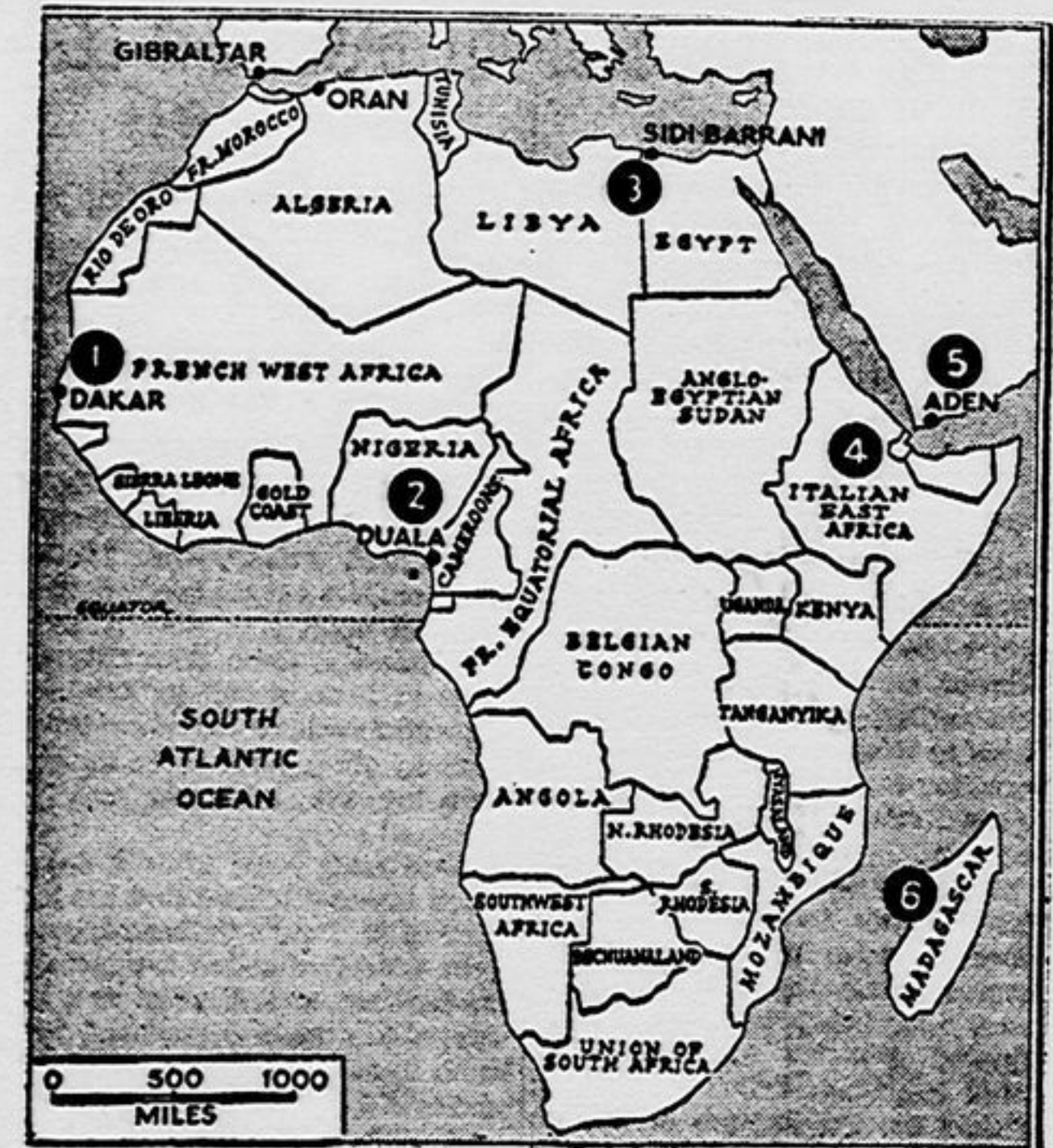
Hitler Flouts Stalin?
It was difficult to gauge from this distance exactly what was happening in the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean. Rumors flew thick and fast: that Russia was quietly seizing the Danube ports; that Britain, Russia, Turkey and Greece were joining together to stop further German penetration eastward;

that Bulgaria was rapidly going Nazi; that Turkey and Russia were near agreement on a military alliance to oppose the Axis in the Near East.

Whether these reports were to be given credence or not, one thing was becoming increasingly obvious—that the non-aggression pact between Germany and the Soviet Union soon might not be worth the paper it was written on, now that Hitler had, in his march to the Black Sea, openly flouted Stalin.

Germany Takes Risks
Would it come to war between the two countries? In the opinion of this column it would not. Germany on the one hand, could not afford to take on another major power at such a moment in the Battle of Britain. (Associated Press' Kirke L. Simpson expressed the opinion that "while any doubt of Russia's attitude exists, the Axis mates dare risk no aggressive push eastward from the Balkans to threaten Britain's hold on the eastern Mediterranean.")

Major Warfare Looms in Africa



The clouds of major warfare which have been hovering over Africa for several weeks are quickly lowering as General Maxime Weygand (1) is busily engaged in attempting to solidify the French colonies on the side of the Vichy government. General Charles de Gaulle who has landed at Douala (2) and taken over Cameroons for Free France is likewise engaged. With the Italians stalled at Sidi Barrani (3) the British have bombed the Italian base at Tobruk. They also bombed the Assab and Djibuti-Addis Ababa railway (4). The Italians retaliated by raiding Aden (5). The island of Madagascar, which has thrown in its lot with the Vichy government, is being blockaded by the British navy (6).

REG'LAR FELLERS — One Side, Please



can . . . Germany cannot overlook the fact that the Russian Air Force would be in a position to batter at the Rumanian oilfields from many close-up bases if present tension results in Russo-Rumanian hostilities. Even an anti-Axis attitude of watchful waiting on Russia's part would free Turkey to invite British help in repelling a German invasion").

Russia's Alternatives
Russia, on the other hand, had three alternatives: she could encourage Turkey to resist and offer her all aid short of war; she could divide Turkey and the other Balkan states with Germany taking the half she wanted; or she could counter-invade Rumania at the risk of war with Germany. (The Soviet Army publication Red Star declared that Russia's armies must be kept in "constant mobilized preparedness" because of the "tense international situation").

New Nazi Strategy
Authoritative circles in London last week said that Hitler's latest plan seemed to be to deliver the main punch into Mussolini's faltering invasion of Egypt (a telling blow had been dealt the Italian fleet in the Mediterranean by the British cruiser, Ajax, which sank three destroyers in a victorious naval engagement); to harass the British Isles with raiders as often and as powerfully as the weather and British defenses permitted; to attempt to weaken the flood of war materials from the United States to Britain by getting the United States embroiled in war with Japan.

"Time" News magazine, October 14, said: "It seemed certain last week that the war's centre of gravity was tending south; that Germany would soon play some taking cards in the Mediterranean area. The everything that could happen would be everything at once: invasion of Gibraltar, a German-supported Blitzkrieg across Egypt to the Suez Canal, an Italian drive down the Nile, turbulence in the Balkans and a diversion through Turkey, blasts here and there at Berlin, Dakar, perhaps at Singapore with the help of the eager little Japanese."

To End War This Year?
It was by no means certain that Adolf Hitler had abandoned his plans to invade the British Isles. Total air war against the British people had already begun, and if Hitler were, as most experts believed, making one grand effort to win the war this year, the invasion attempt would have to come before winter closed down.

Roosevelt Defies Axis
Was Hitler not afraid of the entrance into the war of Britain's non-belligerent ally, the United States? He might have decided, as the Kaiser did, that America's participation, owing to lack of preparedness, would have small effect. But what would he make of the transfer of U. S. "flying fortresses" to Britain, plus torpedo boats plus financial aid for London? Did he think the elections would hold the U. S. back? Perhaps it was a question of "now or never" with Hitler.

In a momentous speech at Dayton, Ohio, last week, President Roosevelt defied the three powers, Germany, Italy and Japan. He pledged a total defense for the Americas, and announced in the boldest terms continued support for Great Britain.

Far East Naval Bases
As part of its "stop Hitler" program the Administration at Washington was working to secure naval and air base facilities in South America . . . as part of a "stop Japan" program, U. S. diplomats were believed to be negotiating with Britain for a string of Far Eastern naval bases from New Zealand to Singapore, in exchange for further war aid.

Playing Politics?
A three-day sensation was created in Canada by the Charlottetown speech of Conservative House Leader R. B. Hanson who let slip the secret information that 10,000 more R. A. F. men (aside from the Commonwealth Air Training Plan) were on their way to Canada. Premier King was outraged and quite a storm blew up over the incident.

Canada's Week

During the week the Prime Minister announced that the House of Commons when it reconvened November 5 would be allowed a debate on international affairs . . . the Government created a Pacific Coast Command under Major-General Alexander to co-ordinate west coast defenses in the face of the greater Japanese menace . . . It was announced that immediate steps were being taken jointly by Canada and the United States toward construction of the international section of the St. Lawrence seaway, to assure adequate power for defense production in both countries . . . Government circles expressed confidence that there would be a big increase, perhaps of forty per cent, in the amount of bacon purchased here by Great Britain, although the price might fall thereby . . . representatives from every province came to Ottawa to co-ordinate Canada's drive for more tourists . . .

Goes to Washington



COL. H. S. G. LETSON, M.C., Who has been appointed Military Attache to the Canadian Legation in Washington. Before his appointment to the new post, Col. Letson was Commandant of the Vancouver Area.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

FARMERS' INCOME
It is reported that 1,000 farmers in Canada pay income tax. Well, things are better than most of us thought.

—Fort Erie Times-Review.

DATE FOR A PLOT
Premier King announces that Parliament, called to assemble on November 5, will at once adjourn until January. We trust recent indications of renewed activity by the Conservative party have not inspired suspicion of a Guy Fawkes plot.

—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

HAUGHTY JUDGES
A prominent Toronto citizen complains that he was refused entry into an elevator in the City Hall there because it happened to be occupied by a justice of the Supreme Court of Ontario and his escort. It may have been the same Nile, turbulence in the Balkans and a diversion through Turkey, blasts here and there at Berlin, Dakar, perhaps at Singapore with the help of the eager little Japanese.

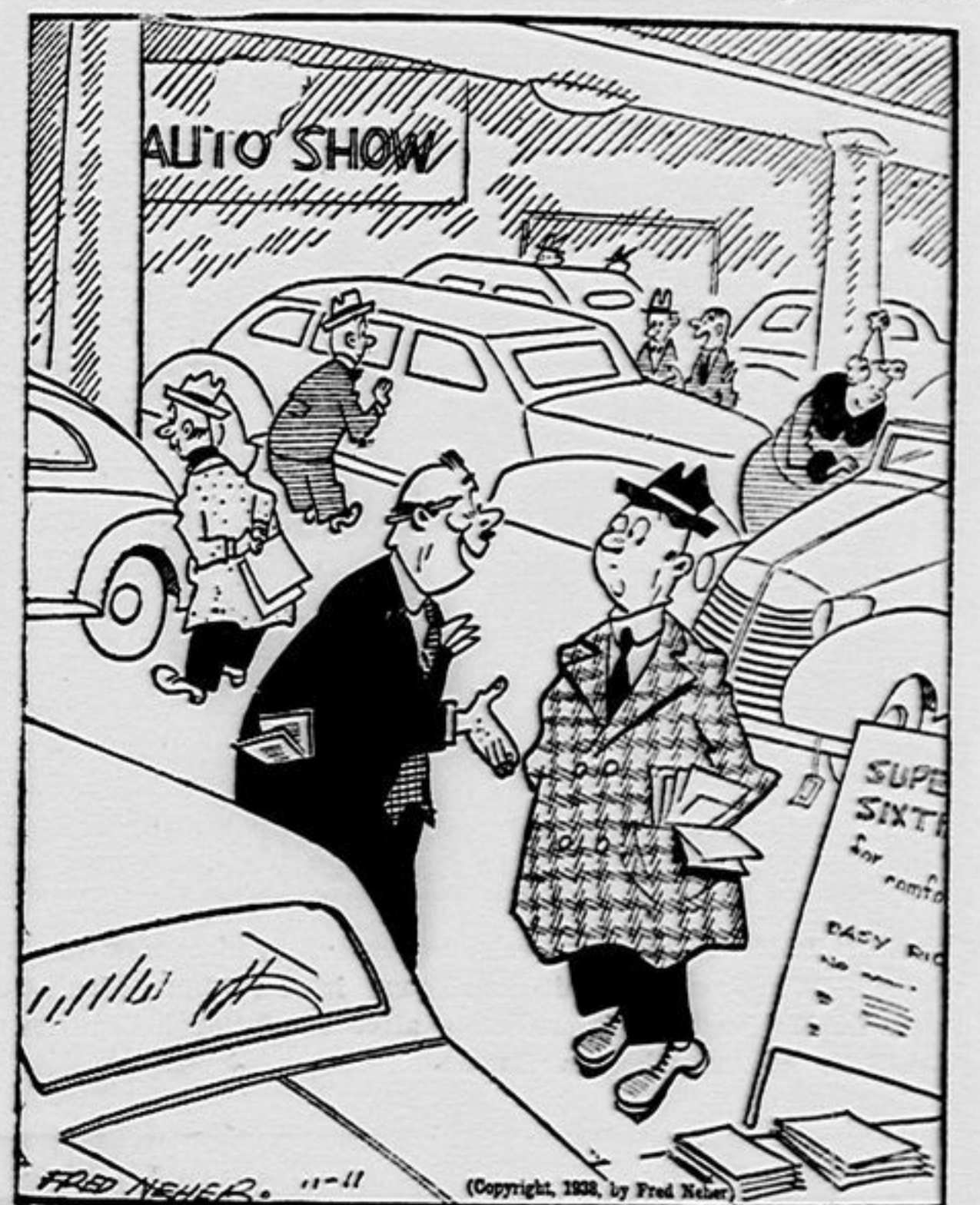
—Brockville Recorder and Times.

WOMEN ON THE JURY
Admission of women to jury duty in Ontario is favored by the Attorney General and in this Mr. Conant will likely find general support. They are not many valid reasons why women should not perform this duty and there are many good reasons for their doing so. Serving on juries is one of the responsibilities that goes with the franchise, and since women in Ontario secured the right to vote in 1917 it is time that the question of jury duty was favorably settled.

—Toronto Star.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By Fred Neher



"We'll take your old car and you pay the rest just like alimony!"

By GENE BYRNES