

Thomas Edison, Greatest Inventor, Succumbs at Age of 84

Passes Quietly—World Joins in Tribute to Man Who Revolutionized Industry—Ontario Recalls Boyhood

West Orange, N.J., Oct. 18.—Thomas A. Edison died at his home in Llewellyn Park at 3:24 a.m. Sunday. He was 84 years old. His wife, six children, his personal physician and two nurses were at the bedside when the end came.

The pronouncement of death was made by Dr. Hubert S. Howe, Mr. Edison's personal physician, at 3:21 a.m. and transmitted by Arthur Walsh at 3:27.

The announcement of death, given to the press by Mr. Walsh, Vice-President of the Thomas A. Edison Industries, said:

"Thomas Alva Edison quietly passed away, at twenty-four minutes after three a.m., Oct. 18, 1931. (Signed) Dr. Hubert S. Howe."

The end came after a day and night during which Mr. Edison sank deeper and deeper into a state of coma, while his heart, which during weeks of illness had stood up wonderfully, began to falter.

As soon as the sad tidings were broadcast men of world-wide prominence joined in paying tribute to the character and genius of Thomas Alva Edison. Some of the more significant statements follow:

By Herbert Hoover—"It is given to few men of any age or nation or calling to become the benefactor of all humanity. That distinction came abundantly to Thomas Alva Edison, whose death in his 84th year has ended a life of courage and outstanding achievement. His life-long search for truth fructifying in more than 1,000 inventions made him the greatest inventor our nation has produced, and revolutionized civilization itself.

"He multiplied light and dissolved darkness. He added to the whole wealth of nations. He was great, not only in his scientific creative instinct and insight, but did more than any other American to place invention on an organized basis of the utilization of raw materials of pure science and discovery. He was a rare genius. He has been a precious asset to the whole world. Every American owes a personal debt to him."

By Henry Ford—"Mr. Edison was a truly great man. He changed the face of the world in his lifetime and everything he achieved was beneficial to mankind. The epoch created by his work will influence all the future. His fame is independent of the fluctuating judgments of history; it is etched in light and sound on the daily and hourly life of the world. I knew him for nearly 40 years. He was the chief hero of my boyhood and he became my friend in manhood. That experience must be rare—to have one's first hero for one's later friend. The first encouraging word I ever had from any informed person on the making of a gasoline automobile was given me by Mr. Edison."

By Harvey Firestone—"One of the great privileges of my life has been to have had the friendship of Mr. Edison and to have enjoyed close association with him. Mr. Edison, we all know, had the greatest mind of any man in our generation. There was no subject you could take up with him on which he could not discourse brilliantly. His unselfishness, his willingness to sacrifice himself for others, his concentration and his natural genius all combined to drive him at top speed in his determination to increase the comfort and the welfare of the people and to lift human happiness to its highest standard.

Ontario Recalls Boyhood

St. Thomas.—The death of Thomas Edison, famed inventor, is of particular moment to a number of his relatives in this district.

Edison's boyhood home still stands as a landmark on the banks of the Otter River, 25 miles east of St. Thomas in the little village of Vienna.

It was to this thriving little lumbering town that Edison's family fled when their lands, on Manhattan Island, were confiscated along with those of other United Empire Loyalists. The Edisons owned 800 acres of rich valley soil in East Elgin, and it was here that Thomas Edison as a boy roamed the picturesque countryside, had his boyhood dreams, learned to swim and built up a rugged constitution that death has taken so long to wear down.

Edison's chief companion in those days was Oscar Edison, his uncle, head of the present Vienna family which still occupies the ancient homestead. Oscar Edison was the youngest of a large family, and was not so much older in years than Thomas.

The future inventor was delicate in health in those days. He did not go to school early, but his mother, who undertook to teach the young Thomas.

Many stories are told of Thomas Edison's early life in this district. He was always tinkering, experimenting with something. One of his first jobs was that of a train news agent, but one day the water dried off a bottle of phosphorus he had in the car with him, and it set the car on fire, costing him that job.

In Port Huron, it is said, he joined his father's printing house, but some man became offended at an article he wrote and threw him into the river, ending his career as a reporter.

While still in Port Huron he and a companion are said to have experimented in the generation of electricity,

making use of two cats which were rubbed vigorously together, but the cats objected so strenuously that the experiment had to be abandoned. At Fort Gratiot, Mich., where he was visiting relatives, he became incensed at one of the men who told ghost stories, so he wired the chair and succeeded in giving the story-teller a real shock as he approached the climax of a story.

His relatives at Vienna have many keepsakes by which they treasure the memory of the old inventor.

German Auto Exports 170 P.C. Ahead of 1930

Berlin.—In the first half of this year Germany exported 5,236 motor vehicles, as against 6,182 for the whole of last year, and at this rate the exports for 1931 would exceed those of the preceding year 170 per cent.

Trucks lagged behind passenger cars in foreign sales as the latter were nearly doubled. This is largely attributed to the pinch of hard times everywhere, making the small car—especially featured by the German auto industry—more attractive abroad than it used to be.

While it is a good thing for the Reich, which badly needs a favorable trade balance, this growth in exports affords a consideration relief to German auto manufacturers, who, with improved facilities for production, found domestic consumption steadily shrinking.

In the half year foreign sales absorbed 13 per cent. of the total German auto production as against 8 per cent. last year. At the same time auto exports from other countries went down considerably, so that Germany's improved share of the world auto trade is greater than the foregoing figures would indicate.

Motorcycles, not included in the tabulation, show an increase in foreign sales amounting to 15.3 per cent. of production as against 9.9 per cent. last year, but production this year was sharply reduced.

Japan Adopts Motor Tricycles

Tourists in Japan are interested in the strange vehicles that the sons of Nippon have evolved as their answer to the motor age. In that country many of the streets and roads are still so narrow and full of turns as to handicap full-sized automobiles. Consequently merchandising is often transported by motor tricycles, which have one wheel in front and two in the rear, called a "rear car." The vehicles are efficient and economical, can travel at a speed of thirty-five miles an hour and can climb steep grades.

The motor tricycles are products of evolution. Several years ago small merchants began to use trailers and sidecars attached to ordinary motorcycles. Later, enterprising dealers cut off the rear sections of motorcycles and substituted therefor specially constructed frames, with a steel box for merchandise carried on the rear axle. From this converted motorcycle it was just a step to the tricycle. The first machines of this type produced in Osaka were noisy, hard-riding and inclined to break down. Those manufactured today are a great improvement and, in spite of the depression, their production has increased rapidly in the past year.

Japan's highways are being widened and equipped with stronger bridges as quickly as funds permit, but it is a lengthy task to improve 590,000 miles of roads and streets, especially with land priced so high. The use of small vehicles that move fast is therefore an imperative need of delivery men.—The N.Y. Times.

Auto Deaths in U.S. Average 90 Daily

New York.—In the first nine months of this year more than 24,000 persons were killed in automobile accidents in the United States, making the toll the largest ever recorded in a similar period, according to a compilation made by the Travelers Insurance Company from State reports. This loss of life brings the fatalities up to an average of nearly ninety daily for the country. August was the first month to show a decline from the corresponding month last year.

New York, with 1,961 deaths, a gain of 4.36 per cent. over the similar period of 1930, reports the greatest loss of life from automobile accidents of any State during the nine months. California, with the second largest toll of 1,630, shows a gain of 13.67 per cent. Pennsylvania and Ohio were next on the list.

Eats 37 Corn Within 2 Hours

By downing thirty-seven ears of corn in one hour and forty-five minutes, Edward Kottwitz, thirty-seven-year-old Ortonville, Minn., farmer, lays claim to being the champion sweet corn eater of the world.

When Horseshoes Were First Used

The practice of nailing iron plates or rim-shoes to the hoofs apparently originated about the second century, B.C., in the countries bordering on the Mediterranean. It was not commonly known till about the fifth century, and iron horseshoes were not regularly used until the middle ages.—Animal Life.

Air Tour Started By British Airmen

London.—Determination to obtain wider markets overseas for British aircraft is evident in a high speed demonstration tour of Europe begun recently with a display at Brussels by three Blackburn aircraft flown in formation from an airdrome in Yorkshire.

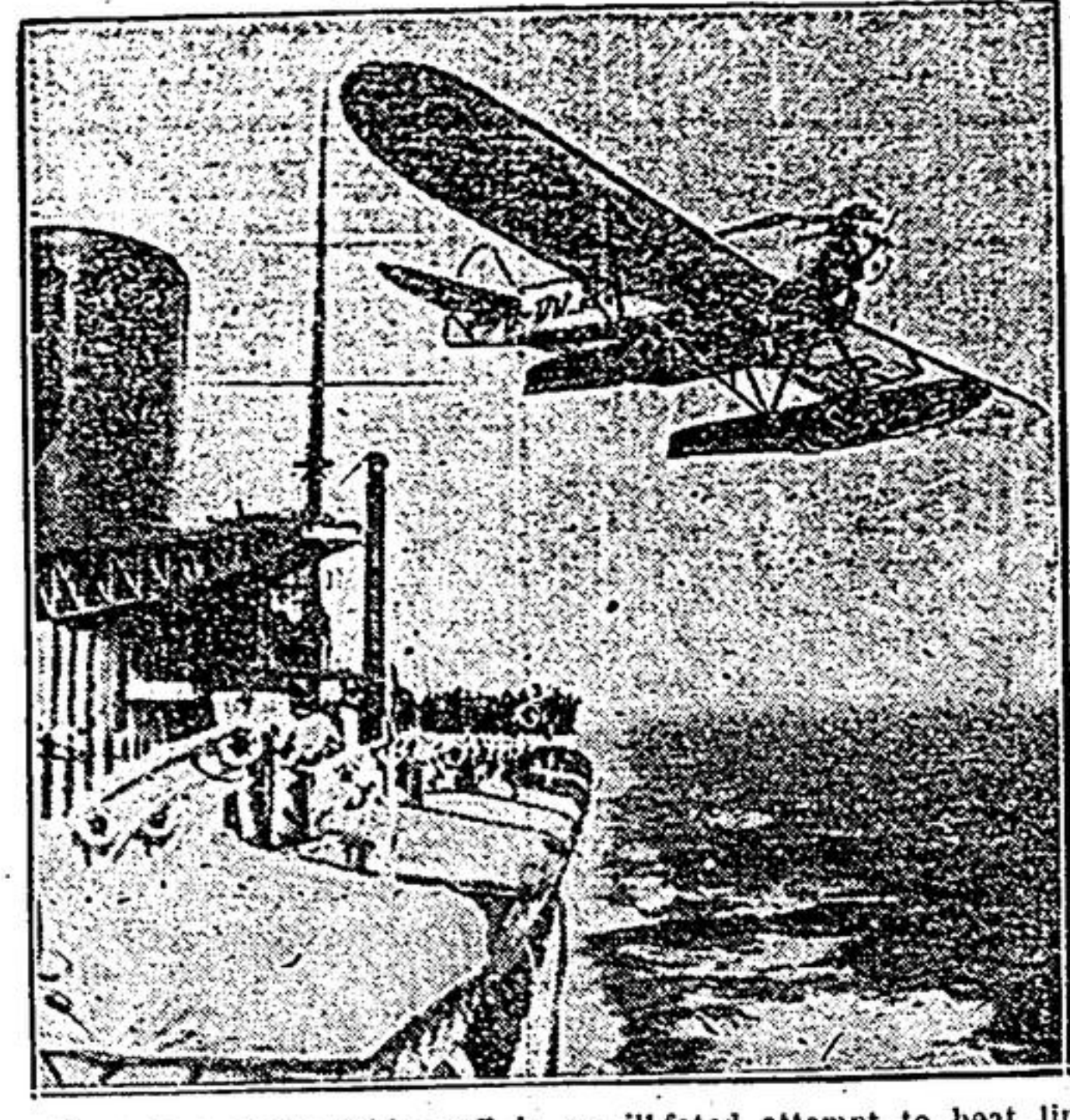
Inspired by Robert Blackburn, one of the pioneers of British airplane construction the tour is to last twenty days and cover 5,700 miles. Demonstrations will be given at Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Athens, Istanbul, Bucharest, Warsaw and Amsterdam.

Proposes One Currency for Nations of Empire

London.—As the first step toward an international currency conference, The Observer suggested that nations within the British Empire should endeavor to elaborate a common currency policy.

The newspaper said no more important step in the direction of Empire unity could be conceived than an agreement bringing into existence a common currency with a single standard throughout the Empire. The British Empire, the newspaper adds, would then stand solid as a rock in the midst of a world struggling with diverse currencies.

Ship-to-Shore Attempt Ends Disastrously



Here is a plane taking off in an ill-fated attempt to beat liner Bremen to New York. Plane carried two men and 3,000 pieces of mail.

British Women Lead As Pilots

Larger Proportion of Feminine Flyers Laid to Sport Phase

New York.—By adopting aviation as a sport women of Great Britain have won a larger proportional representation among pilots than have their sisters in the United States, Charles S. ("Casey") Jones, vice-president of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation said when the British Aircraft Constructors, Ltd., made public a report on feminine flyers. It is more a difference of geography than temperament that has given Britain's women pilots a relatively larger place, Mr. Jones declared after a comparison of feminine participation in flying here and there.

In the United States according to the latest figures of the Department of Commerce only 445 of the 16,268 licensed pilots were women. In Britain of 3,349 pilots' certificates, 112 Air Ministry "A" licenses are now held by feminine flyers, as are five of the rare "B" permits, which can be gained only with much flying and wide technical and mechanical knowledge.

"In England and elsewhere in the British Isles aviation has attracted a large following as a sport or diversion," said Mr. Jones. "The government there sponsors and aids flying clubs, while here the person who flies for fun gets no subsidy."

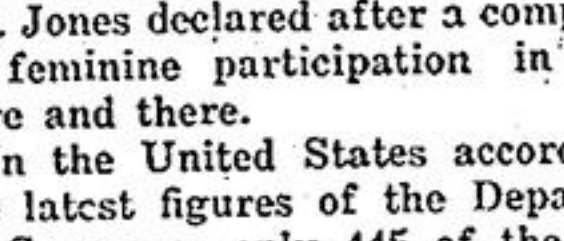
French Farmers Covet Agricultural Medal

Paris.—The Agricultural Order of Merit is prized by French farmers, according to a correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor. To obtain it, one must have been actively engaged in agriculture for at least fifteen years. When it was founded by Jules Meime Minister of Agriculture in 1884, it met with a great deal of ridicule. But its present popularity may be judged by this year's "promotion," which comprises 406 officers and 2,436 knights in France and twenty-eight officers and 196 knights in Algeria and the colonies. The recognition which membership in the order accords is eagerly sought after, and many a farmer is proud to wear the green ribbon in his buttonhole.

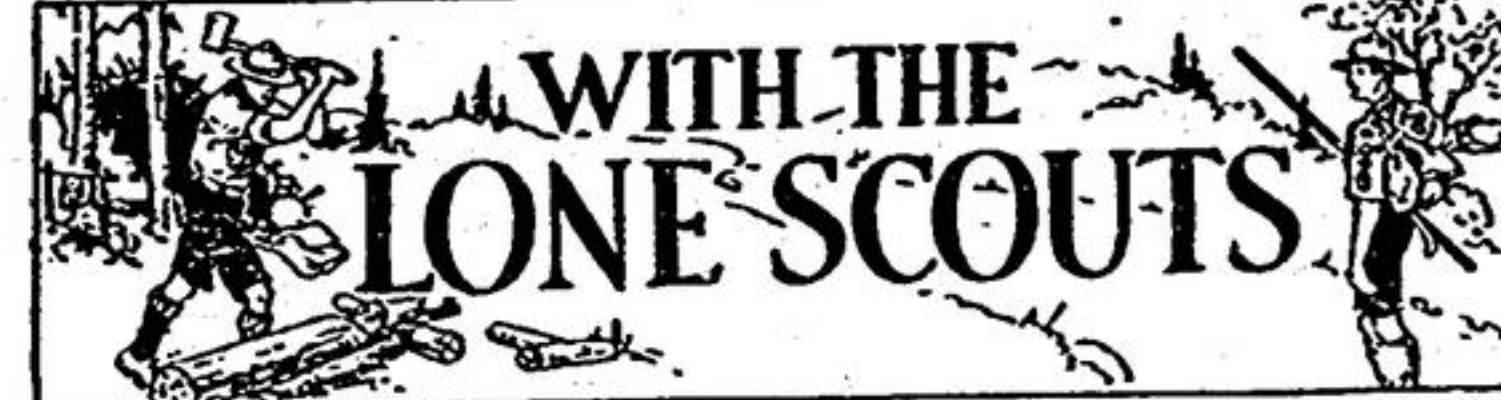
Jobless in France Now Number 650,000

Paris.—Record compiled by the Federation of Labor place the total number of unemployed in France at 650,000, and the Ministry of Labor reported that plants with payrolls of more than 100 men are employing 218,500 fewer workers than at the same time last year. The Socialist Party figured that 2,500,000 workers are on part time employment.

Results of a Hail Storm



Showing house with front cut to shreds by hail stones, which terrific gale swept through village of Rayville, Mo., recently.



Lone Scouting continues to grow apace in Ontario, and during the past month some thirty new members were registered at Lone Scout Headquarters.

It is gratifying also to note that this month two new Troops of Regular Scout Troops which have been formed as a direct result of Lone Scout activity. These are at Maple and at Unionville. The others are located at Paris, Killaloe, Cobalt, Sault Ste. Marie, and Beausville.

On October 2nd, the Lone Scout Commissioner, with Commissioner Irwin and Scoutmaster Don Hutchison, of the 1st Ont. Lone Scout Troop, journeyed to Maple to attend the special meeting and present the Charter to the new Maple Troop.

There was a splendid turnout of Scouts, and the Lones from King also attended to add their good wishes, and after a number of interesting Scout activities, the Charter was presented in the presence of a nice gathering of interested citizens of Maple.

We wish the new Maple Troop, and their Scoutmaster, Mr. Bryan, the very best of Good Scouting.

Ontario Lone Scouts will be interested to learn that a new Shoulder Tape Badge has now been issued.

This reads as follows: "Ontario Lone Scouts," and is to be worn on the right shoulder by all Lone Scouts in this province. These can be obtained from Lone Scout Headquarters for 5c each.

Fire Prevention Week
Lone Scouts are urged to put aside

one week during October for special work under this heading. All over Canada this Fire Prevention Week is being observed by Scouts, and the idea is to clean up and destroy all rubbish and inflammable material around your houses, barns and in the vicinity of your premises, and in the case of Patrols, in the Villages in which they are located.

Thus before the winter sets in, everything will be cleaned up and snug, and there will be no danger of fires starting as a result of rubbish left around, or of undred rubbish adding to the seriousness of any fire which might occur.

Bear this in mind, Lones! You can do lots of "Good Turns" in this way.

Lone Scout Question Box
Is there a Special Badge for Lone Scouts?—(M.L.J., Moscow).

No special badge has yet been issued to Lone Scouts in Canada, although Imperial Headquarters in London, England, have approved of a special badge for overseas Lone Scouts, which consists of a scroll bearing the words "Lone Scout" superimposed on the Fleur de Lys. Arrangements are being made to obtain a supply of these for the use of the Lone Scouts of Ontario.

Ontario Lone Scouts may be distinguished, however, by their Mauve Neckerchief and by the special shoulder tape which is mentioned in this column.

Lones are invited to address questions on Scouting subjects to "Lone E" at Lone Scout Headquarters, 330 Bay Street, Toronto 2.

Noted Educationist Taken By Death

Mrs. Edith Groves Only Woman Chairman of Toronto Education Board

Toronto.—Mrs. Edith Lelean Groves, internationally known educationist, friend of underprivileged children and first and only woman chairman of Toronto's Board of Education, died on Saturday night following an operation.

A woman of versatile talents, a teacher, lecturer, poet, educationist, philanthropist, and a good friend to all, Mrs. Groves filled a large place in Canadian life, and was a favorite in the United States, where she often addressed educational gatherings and where she did much research work in educational fields at her own expense. She was twice a delegate to the Imperial Conference on Education, held in the University of London in 1924, and in the Sorbonne in 1926.

Educationists of all ranks mourned with the announcement of her death.

Henry Pays Tribute

The Minister of Education, Hon. George S. Henry, spoke in glowing terms of her work and achievements. Members of the Department of Education expressed their regrets. Members of the Board of Education who had worked side by side with her, told of her accomplishments. Teachers, too, felt they had lost a real friend. And little children, who had pulled at her skirts, and always won affectionate attention, talked of the "nice lady."

Mrs. Groves has been the main spring of a great deal of the development in the Board of Education during the past decade. Her work in connection with the handicapped will always be a monument to her," Premier Henry said. "Certainly the Board of Education, the city and all the activities in which she was engaged, have lost greatly by her passing. Her place will be hard to fill."

Not only the Board of Education and the school children but the entire city has lost an unselfish and generous public servant. And not only the city but the whole North American continent will mourn the death of Mrs. Groves, the chairman of the Board of Education, Zeph. Hilton, said.

Born in England

Mrs. Groves was born in Cornwall, England, of ancient Huguenot stock. Her family, the Leseans, was a seafaring one. Persecution of the Huguenots drove it to seek a home in England and her family settled in the Cornish village of Trovagsissy.

Prior to becoming a trustee, she had been vice-president of the Local Council of Women, and of the Home and School Council, president of the Toronto Girl Guides, and president of the Sir Douglas Haig War Auxiliary during the war.

Trustee F. B. Edmunds has been a member of the board for 15 years. As the member who had served longest and throughout the whole of Mrs. Groves' term of service, he said: "It is a terrible shock. We have lost one of the most active and interested members of the board, a woman who devoted all her time to educational work. Her whole educational outlook was enlightened, and she stood for every reasonable advance in education."

Two brothers and one sister survive. They are Leo Lelean, mayor of Redlands, Cal.; C. S. Lelean of Berkeley, Cal., and Mrs. C. S. Warren, Shrewsbury, Mass.

Mrs. Groves' profound devotion to

10 Gaspe Boats Lost, is Report

Ottawa.—Some eight or ten fishing vessels have been lost in a storm off the Gaspe coast, according to advice officially received here over the weekend.

Wireless messages are being rushed by the Dominion Government to departmental vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence to proceed to the scene in an endeavor to locate the missing fishing boats.

World's Grain Exhibit Regina in July, 1933

Regina.—The world's Grain Exhibition and conference will be held in Regina, July 24 to August 5, 1933. At a meeting of the executive and finance committees of the forthcoming international show, held here recently, these dates were decided on. The committee will at once proceed with plans for the carrying out of the exhibition and conference, originally to have been held next year.

Electric Light Anniversary Date of Edison's Funeral

New York.—By a strange coincidence, Thomas Alva Edison will be buried on the 52nd anniversary of what he considered his greatest invention, the incandescent light. Although he did not give his famous Menlo Park demonstration until Dec. 31, 1879, he perfected it on Oct. 21 of that year.

Birth-Death Rates Low in Great Britain

London.—The 1930 death rate in Great Britain equalled the low of 1929, statistics recently published showed. The death rate was 11.4 per 1,000 of population, and the birth rate 16.3, also equaling the 1929 low.

Robot to Play Tennis Match

To permit a tennis player to practice alone a Frenchman has invented a mechanical "partner" for the courts:

Expenditure for Pavements

An expenditure of about \$92,500 for pavements will be made by London, Ont.

I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude.—Henry David Thoreau.

Do not affront the morning's freshness with a catalogue of ailments.—R. W. Emerson.

All happy families resemble one another; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.—Count Leo Tolstoy.

So They Say:

"All that is distinctive in man, marking him off from the clay he walks upon or the potatoes he eats, occurs in his thoughts and emotions."—John Dewey.

"We cannot go on buying our daily bread and butter with paper unless there is something behind it."—George Bernard Shaw.

"I don't know what they mean by music without emotion. It sounds contradictory to me."—Walter Damrosch.

"In general, marriage is easiest where people are less differentiated."—Bertrand Russell.

"All the money systems of the world may be represented as an upside down pyramid of paper notes resting on a point of gold."—Joseph Caillaux.

"I'm afraid there's no charter which could be devised by the wit of man which would prevent a fool and his money from being parted."

"The mask of greatness is far too often worn either by notoriety or by popularity."—Nicholas Murray Butler.

"The times are so grave today that every one's task is to cheer up his neighbor."—Albert Einstein.

"You do not give to relieve the beggar; you give to relieve yourself."—Clarence Darrow.

"Every important life story has two aspects: the things a man has energy enough to do and the things a man has stability enough to stand."—Harry Emerson Fosdick.

"The total number of stars in the universe is probably something like the total number of grains of sand on all the seashores of the world."—Sir James Jeans.

"America has turned the civilization of quality into a civilization of quantity."—Andre Maurois.

"Politics nowadays is apparently overwhelmed by economics."—Benito Mussolini.

"If I were to give any advice, I would say to young people: 'Fall in love.'"—Sir J. Arthur Thomson.

"The world does not need more knowledge as much as it needs more humor."—Bruce Barton.

"Nothing recedes like success."—Walter Winchell.

"Every man's heart is his pulpit and believe me the pulpit needs just as much cleansing as do some people's hearts."—Texas Guinan.

"Wealth has enabled women to forget and set aside the virtue of usefulness."—Mahatma Gandhi.

Wealth of Queen Sheba Still a Mystery

The gems and treasure recently found in a hidden cavern in a remote region of Abyssinia, by Frank Payer, a big game hunter, have aroused fresh speculation about the supposedly rich mines in that area. The theory is now advanced that these gems were taken from the same cavern that was the source of the jewels of the Queen of Sheba.

This queen is perhaps best remembered by the biblical story of her visit to King Solomon in which she is reputed to have "come from the uttermost parts of the earth" to hear his wisdom.

As the Hebrew kingdom grew in riches and power, an increasing commerce was established with the Kingdom of the Sabaeans—whose capital was Sheba—in South Arabia Felix, by means of far-flung trade routes. The Bible, as well as classical writers and Assyrian inscriptions, attest the wealth and trading importance of Sheba or Saba as it is more generally known, from the days of King Solomon to those of Cyrus, King of Persia.

The trade routes from India to Egypt and Northern Syria passed the Sabean capital, giving a tremendous advantage to the people of that country in the marketing of their goods.

Many legends about the mysterious Queen have sprung up. Her prominence was partly due to the fact that she was head of an important empire when queens were scarce. The modern Ethiopians hold the tradition that their Emperor Haile Selassie is a lineal descendant of David, son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

Flowers

The meanest flower that blows can give thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.—Wordsworth.

Thanks

There is a kind of gratitude in thanks, though it be barren, and bring forth words.—Southern.

Manners

Manners are what vex or soothe, corrupt or purify, exalt or debase, barbarize or refine us, but a constant, steady, uniform, insensible operation, like that of the air we breathe.—Edmund Burke.