

250,000 Farmers Still On Relief

But Brighter Prospects Are Seen As Trade Conditions Improve

OTTAWA—Time was when the Ontario farmer made a good living from the land. The husbandman raised his own wheat, his wife baked the bread, they had their own beef and their own sheep and wore their own wool, writes William Marchington, Staff Writer of the Globe and Mail.

Cicero probably was speaking the truth about his own day when he wrote: "Of all occupations from which gain is secured there is none better than agriculture." But that day is past. Certain it is that in the last five or six years thousands of Canadian farmers have gone from plenty to poverty, and whether because of depression or drought, it is a fact that more than a quarter of a million-odd Canadians who are presently on relief are farmers and their dependents, the vast majority of them in Western Canada.

Optimistic Survey. 'Tis the farmer's care that makes the field bear! But the ultimate outcome—whether there is a profit or a loss—depends not only upon winds and weather, but largely upon world conditions. For the latter reason Ontario farmers may be encouraged by an optimistic survey of prospects which has just been prepared by economists of the Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Commerce, in co-operation with the Provincial authorities.

They see an improvement not only in the domestic demand situation, but also in international trade conditions. The outlook for higher farm prices, they say, is better. This conclusion is based upon increased industrial production,

greater tourist trade, policies which are expanding Canadian markets abroad, the prospect of more assured stability of exchange rates, the increased demand of food importing countries for primary products of which Canada has such an abundance to export.

It is estimated that actual farm prices have risen since 1932 from about 35 per cent to about 65 per cent of the 1926 level, which was regarded as normal, while prices of goods which the farmer must buy have not yet risen above the 1932 level.

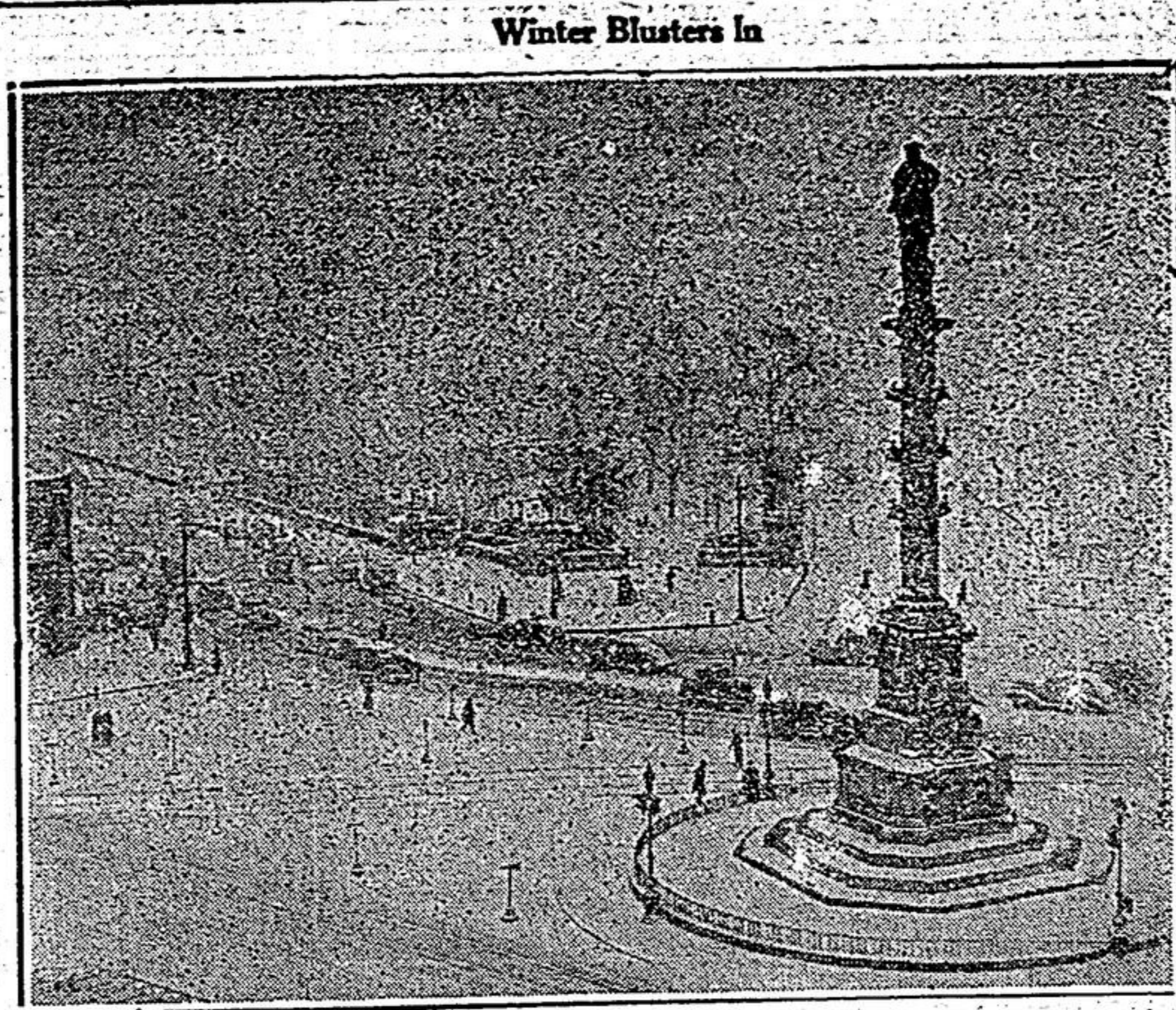
The farmer, who is struggling to pay his taxes may find a little comfort in this reflection, but it is claimed that although his price disadvantage has been reduced materially, the ratio still remains an obstacle in the road of normal agricultural consumption.

The survey indicates that considering the probable level of farm prices, and the volume of farm products to be marketed, exclusive of the drought areas, Canadian farmers are likely to obtain an income during the early part of 1937, which will be somewhat higher than that obtained during the corresponding period of 1936.

Average land values rose slightly in the last two years, according to this review, and are now about 65 per cent of their pre-depression level. The average value per acre of occupied farm lands in Canada declined 40 per cent from 1928 to 1934, while the decline in the net returns from farming was even greater than that.

As a result of drought and depression 16,000 Canadian farmers who found themselves unable to pay their debts made an assignment under the Farmers' Creditors Arrangement Act and important debt adjustments totalling \$75,000,000 were made in the Province of Saskatchewan alone.

Federal and Provincial Depart-



Scene in Columbus Circle, New York City, as winter's first heavy snowfall blanketed the Circle and Central Park (background). Rain, mingling with the snow, turned the white blanket into a slippery mass of slush.

Winter Blusters In

ments are now seeking to assist the hard-pressed farmers to rehabilitate themselves by concentrating upon the marketing of agricultural products. The Federal Parliament will appropriate \$650,000 this year for the purpose of advertising and marketing the produce of Canadian farms. Good weather, good crops and good markets alone will put money in the farmers' purse.

Levees Hold — Floods Checked Victory Caps Frantic Fight 1,000,000 Are Homeless

Lower Mississippi Valley Likely to be Saved; Disease and Famine Battled; Scene Grimmiest at Louisville.

\$5,000,000 Capitalization Air Service Proposed

OTTAWA—A \$5,000,000 capitalization is being discussed for the corporation to be incorporated this session to own and operate the trans-Canada air service.

A very enlivened controversy has been going on for weeks as to the set up, the proposed preponderant interest of the railways having brought objections from private companies. The latest word is that agreement is being approached if not concluded, but the Cabinet has to pass upon the required legislation. As soon as it does, it will be introduced in the House, and the Minister of Transport, is reserving any statement about it. Government control is certain to be extensive.

The equipment contemplated is of the most modern and most speedy type.

100,000 Maxim guns, 5,500 aero planes, and a large number of rifles, small guns and other materials of war. The war business certainly runs up big profits for those who depend on human sacrifices for their orders. — Windsor Star.

Air Mail Service Pays.
Air mail service in Canada has proved cheaper than other kinds. Air mail costs in the last fiscal year were \$375,971, and the revenue amounted to \$533,048. If the entire service could operate on that basis we would have 2-cent postage in a hurry. — Peterborough Examiner.

THE EMPIRE

Careers for Youth

There has in the past been no official machinery by which boys have been able to join the British Army or Air Force. Unofficially some 50 young men have gone over to find successfully military careers. Although it is the Navy that invites youth "to see the world," the sister same invitation, and South Africans service could really extend much the who have returned after service in the British Army come home with tales of strange places. But judging from the inquiries we have received, the offer of commissions in the Royal Air Force to university graduates under the age of 25 is likely to find most response in the Union. Even with clouds on the European horizon, these careers hold much to attract youth. And to judge of the value to the Union of this training, abroad it may be remarked that Air Force pilots were the pioneers of civil aviation in this country. — The Cape Argus.

No Excuse for Slaughter
Crossings and speed limits are of no avail if the drivers, riders, and walkers will not be constantly vigilant. There is no excuse for road slaughter. It must be stopped. By taking thought and taking care it can be stopped. — London Sunday Dispatch.

A swarm of bees that has left a hive continues to be the owner's property as long as he can keep it in sight, according to the laws of Blackstone.

The Papers Say

EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

CANADA

One View of Speed

Surely, it requires no argument to prove that risk increases proportionately to speed. With all the modern mechanical improvements and technical safeguards, it is, after all, the human factor which counts most in ensuring safety. A car bounding along at 70 or 80 miles an hour is not under proper control and it is a peril to itself and to other vehicles. Experts agree that to drive above 60 miles an hour is to invite disaster.

While something might be said for stepping up the speed limit to some extent, in view of recent developments in the automobile industry, to abolish it altogether would be to surrender to the demands of the reckless, the selfish, and inconsiderate. — Hamilton Spectator.

Days of Youth

"We are only young once," you often hear some person remark as an excuse for "hitting the pace." True, we can be young but once, and the pleasures of youth must be crowded into that space of time. But how long are we young? Some men are old at 40, while others are still young at 60. It depends upon the pace they hit and the manner in which they hit it. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

Country's Backbone

Blessed is the nation that can boast of a sturdy "farm aristocracy," families that have farmed for two or three generations and would no more think of going off the land and migrating to the cities than they would of becoming sailors. Such families have character. They sink their roots into the soil, and one generation is proud to succeed another. It would be interesting to know how many families on Canadian farms could trace their ownership back to pioneer days. Such people are the backbone of the country and make the first type of citizens. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Woods Going, Too

Optimists say that Canada is now out of the woods. But if the destructions of her forests continues, the woods will soon be out of Canada. — Toronto Star.

Scenic Highways

Everybody knows that the provincial highways are all too drab at many points and everyone will agree that the placing of pretty flowers here and there would do much to improve them. It seems to us that the government itself should give some attention to this phase of the highway situation, doing a good deal more than it has in the past toward making Ontario's main routes the scenic attractions they should be. It should be needless to point out the enormous revenue that we secure from these routes and the desirability of making

them look better than at present. — Windsor Star.

Modern Convenience

Dr. Arthur Pillsbury, naturalist, scientist and inventor, states that housewives soon may be growing their own vegetables in the kitchen sink by the use of chemicals. With coal in the tub and vegetables growing in the sink, the folks in the house will have to resort to the old tin basin for washing hands and face and to the tub in the kitchen floor for the Saturday night soapy plunges. — Montreal Gazette.

School Buildings

There are those who say and believe that no municipality can afford to be niggardly in regard to such an important matter as education of the young. But they can be, nevertheless, sensible about it and "invest themselves" in expenses which are other than reasonable and justifiable or above the ability of the ratepayers to meet over a period of years. More than one municipality has found itself financially embarrassed during the past few years because of unwise capital expenditures which it previously made in respect of education, with town veining with town as to which should equate itself most lavishly in this regard.

There is danger that in this country we have made rather a fetish of school buildings without as much attention being paid to the teaching given in them. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

Candid

"There is nothing connected with the Press that has ever got me into such great trouble as the accuracy of the reports of what I have said," confides Lord Derby. And such admirable honesty and candor is worthy of a place in the records. — St. Catharines Standard.

Too Much Talking

Some day, we are going to wake up and tumble to the fact that there is too much talking. Every time you turn on your radio somebody is starting (that's as far as he gets) to give you an earful of words. Politicians spend their lives talking. Wives (not your or mine of course) are always at it. Preachers do their share. Editors do their with a typewriter or fountain pen. What a lot of ink there must be! One of these days when we wake up and cease the incessant clatter for a moment, somebody is bound to take advantage of the lull — and do a little thinking. — St. Mary's Journal-Argus.

Fat Profits from War

During 1914-1918 one British munitions company is reputed to have made net profits of some £34,000,000. The firm supplied four battleships, three armored cruisers, fifty-three submarines, sixty-two light ships, three auxiliary cruisers, 2,328 heavy naval guns, field guns, etc.,

questions generally found favor among Provincial Government heads.

Premier W. J. Patterson of Saskatchewan said he believed it might be better handled by a commission than by the proposed conference.

Acting Premier Harry Nixon of Ontario had no comment to make on Mr. Bennett's suggestions.

Hon. A. P. Paterson, Minister of Federal and Municipal Relations of New Brunswick: "We shall never get it right until all get around a table and talk it over quietly and dispassionately."

Premier Angus L. Macdonald of Nova Scotia: "It is generally agreed certain amendments are necessary. The only point of difficulty is deciding on a method of amendment that will be satisfactory to both the Dominion Parliament and Provincial Legislatures."

Premier J. D. Pattullo of British Columbia: "Such action had been advocated by British Columbia for years."

Premier William Abernethy of Alberta: "Alberta is ready to discuss any necessary changes in Canada's Constitution."

Premier John Bracken of Manitoba: "We have been agitating for modernization of the Canadian Government set-up for ten years."

Lethbridge Boast

LETHBRIDGE Alberta challenges the Galt, Ontario record of not one fatal motor accident within its boundaries during 1936, with a two-year record. Not one automobile fatality occurred there in 1936 or 1935.

Laments High Mortality Rate

Toronto.—One-half the 1,200 mothers who die in childbirth in this country every year, and one-half the 23,000 who are permanently disabled or injured could be saved by segregation of the feeble-minded and eradication of social diseases. This was the declaration of Dr. Walter Chipman, outstanding Montreal obstetrician, addressing an audience in Eaton Auditorium on "Reducing the Risks of Motherhood," the first of a series of five lectures sponsored by the Toronto branch of the Health League of Canada.

"One-half our terrific yearly toll of mothers could be cured at the beginning," said Dr. Chipman. "This must be done, and it will be done when we have enough common sense to call a spade a spade."

Dr. Chipman saw ignorance as a chief offender in the high maternal death rate, and quoted statistics to show that 36 per cent of fatalities was due to faulty technique or mistaken judgment on the part of the doctor or nurse; another 36 per cent was due to poor ante-natal care; 18 per cent to the patient's ignorance, and 10 per cent to lack of nursing and hospital facilities.

MORE EDUCATION.

In the case of the doctor, the speaker said the trouble lay in insufficient training. He demanded that more education be given in medical and nursing schools, especially in the way of practical training.

"I think it most important, too," Dr. Chipman mentioned "that plenty of refresher courses be given to keep medical men posted on the latest changes in technique.

Dealing next with poor ante-natal care, the speaker stressed the importance of "healthy motherhood" propaganda.

"The speaker outlined an idea which he thought should make for healthy Canadian mothers. It would be the responsibility of the municipal and provincial departments of public health, and voluntary associations would be placed under these departments to prevent overlapping.

He suggested that in all towns and cities the hospital be organized as the working centre of a better motherhood movement and that under this centre there should be as many clinics as necessary to give free and careful examinations to expectant mothers.

CANADA'S POOR RECORD.

"This would do wonders to protect the patient against infection," he said. "The crown of sorrow is that fully 50 per cent of our mothers could be saved from death if septic infection, toxemia and such were prevented. We have five deaths for every 1,000 births and Canada ranks from fifth to twelfth high among 29 countries in maternal death rate statistics. The saddest part of the unnecessary fatalities is that these mothers are cut off in the very fullness of their lives for the average age of Canadian mothers is only 31 years."

Referring again to his working plan, the speaker thought that community clinics and outposts—as many as are necessary—placed at advantageous points, would bring enlightenment to farm women. These clinics, he said, should be fully equipped with cars and airplanes.

"The government could serve the entire country from coast to coast," he said. "We must have enough money and a little to spare. Can you tell me why a government will spend millions importing hogs to raise the standard of the country's prize pigs, yet the prize mother remains neglected?"

The prize mother, Dr. Chipman described as "not too intellectual."

Blue Uniforms for Ottawa Waitresses

Ottawa.—A touch of color this year for the first time brightens uniforms of waitresses in the parliamentary restaurant where members, their wives and friends will eat about 50,000 meals during the next 3½ months.

The uniform, consisting of turquoise blue dress with white apron, are effective in the big, sunny cream and brown room, with its walnut and dull red leather chairs, snow-white cloths and shining silver. Here, with a fine view of the river below and beyond Gatineau hills in the distance, the members' wives entertain at luncheon, teas and dinners.

After the official opening, and subsequent government functions are over, one woman starts the social "cycle," with perhaps a luncheon, covers laid 'til 30. This, says, Henri Le Bec, head waiter of the dining room for 16 years, automatically means "30 luncheons for 30," or now each one present at the first luncheon must entertain. The hostess consults Mr. Le Bec before hand, and "wee then" they concoct a pleasant color scheme with green, yellow, mauve or blue linens and harmonizing flowers.

Mr. Le Bec has been with the Parliamentary dining room staff longer than any other member and finds the Senators and members the "most congenial, the easiest to please" of any group, he has served in the capacity of head waiter. Although it is the ruling of the committee that no "tips" are allowed, "the members overcome this by generosity in their own individual manner."

News in Brief

Fears Jews Leak

TORONTO—At the Liberal Party caucus held this week, Attorney-General Roesbeck refused to talk on the reported pending purchase of more Quebec power from the Ottawa Valley Company, or fear, the news would "leak" to the newspapers.

"Traitors"?

A lot of caucus argument was centered on the possibility that "traitors" were providing the press with caucus "leak" matter that could not be obtained except through "leaks." Major James Clark (Windsor-Sandwich) was strong in his denunciation of such alleged tactics, and had the caucus adopt a resolution providing that all speeches therein be regarded as "secret." Tom Murray, veteran legislator and famed humorist from North Renfrew, suggested that the best way to get around the situation was to trip up the press by having the best liar among the Liberals invent inaccurate stories to feed out systematically to the reporters.

Good Speech

At Ottawa this week when A. A. Lepp, (C.C.F., Winnipeg North) presented his motion asking the Government to request President Roosevelt to call a world peace conference, he read at length from what he thought was an address delivered by Mr. Roosevelt at Rio de Janeiro. Prime Minister Mackenzie King interrupted him: "It is my honorable friend quoting the President of the United States. I think that is what I said."

"That may be the case," replied Mr. Lepp. "But I think it is a very good statement to make and I am fully in accord with what the Prime Minister said and I hope I have done him no injustice by crediting his remarks to the President of the United States."

Veto Peace Conference

The World Peace Conference to be held at Washington suggested by A. A. Heaps, was sternly opposed by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Declared Prime Minister Mackenzie King: "I am not sure that a world conference would achieve any good. And it might make things a great deal worse."

"Our generation is gone a little mad on the question of conferences, it seems to me. A conference is a very convenient way of appearing to be doing something, while in reality very little is being achieved. The more I see of conferences, the less patience I am coming to have with them."

Observed the Conservative Leader, R. B. Bennett: "I have not forgotten that a great World Economic Conference was called in 1933. I know one man, two men, three men, who were urged by the President of the United States to expedite in every possible way the work of that conference. Yet the conference had hardly met and organized before the President of the United States torpedoed it for reasons which have never yet been made public."

Provincial Parley Favored

Right Hon. R. B. Bennett's proposal for a conference on constitutional