

## Lands Are Nearing Saturation Point

Rowell Probe Told 80 Per Cent Under Cultivation Out West

Approximately 80 per cent. of the "so-called good agricultural land" of Western Canada is now under cultivation, with Saskatchewan already approaching the saturation point, Dr. E. S. Archibald, director of Experimental Farms, Dominion Agriculture Department, stated last week at Ottawa, before the Rowell Commission.

There was "no very accurate" statistical data available on the point except from the municipalities themselves, but it was estimated that 55,000,000 acres were under cultivation in the three prairie provinces, said Dr. Archibald.

A "Delusion" Chairman N. W. Rowell raised the question by asking officials of the Agricultural Department their opinion of a statement by Hon. J. G. Taggart, Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister, that practically all the good arable land in that province had been put under cultivation.

"The idea that the Western plains would some day have 20,000,000 to 30,000,000 people on them is based on a delusion?" asked Mr. Rowell.

"Yes, with present crops and precipitation," Dr. Archibald said. If new drought-resisting crops were developed, the scope of cash crops raisable there would be broadened and the population accordingly increased.

Normal Situation "For practical purposes then, this commission is to view the situation in Western Canada today as normal as far as population and taxpaying capacity of the people are concerned and the population will not materially increase in the near future," the chairman asked. "It is a very important point."

Dr. Archibald said that would apply only in small degree to Manitoba, as far as drought was concerned, but to a considerable area in Alberta south of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and up to the main line of the Canadian National Railways at the Saskatchewan boundary. Otherwise the population possibilities were much more elastic in Alberta.

Soil Survey Necessary Mr. Rowell wondered whether the trend in Saskatchewan farming would be towards more subsistence farming, smaller farms, or to larger farms.

Dr. Archibald felt that would depend on rainfall and type of soil. He explained at that point that considerable land there was not under cultivation, but was in a fair agricultural district and held for speculation, but was spoken of as being under cultivation.

He explained also that only a scientific soil survey could determine how much soil was suitable.

## What Are Causes Of School Fires?

Dominion Fire Commissioner Lists Reasons for Their Origin In Canadian Halls of Learning

The Dominion fire commissioner has issued a record of fires and losses in Canadian schools, colleges and convents for two comparative eight-year periods that is pertinent to this submission: From 1922 to 1929 inclusive, 2,274 fires occurred, entailing an aggressive property loss amounting to \$10,577,306. From 1930 to 1937 inclusive, 1,961 fires caused a total property loss of \$4,962,710. While some gratification may be felt at the improved loss experience in the second of these periods, the significant fact remains that there was little curtailment in the number of fires reported and practically no diminution of the hazards involved. Of the 4,235 outbreaks in both periods, the responsible causes were determined in 3,012 cases. As listed, there were as follows:

Most Happen In Winter

Fires	Number
Defective heating appliances, overheated stoves and furnaces, improperly installed equipment, careless storage and handling of fuel	1,962
Defective chimneys and flues	347
Electric wiring	316
Spark on shingle roofs	184
Matches and smoking	62
Miscellaneous known causes	141
Undiscovered causes	1,223

From this record it is apparent that 78 per cent. of the fires of determined origin arose from defective or carelessly installed and maintained heating equipment. Supporting this conclusion is the fact that 86 per cent. of school and college fires occur during the winter months. Many years of experience have convinced that the majority of these fires might be prevented by thorough and regular inspection and by rigid enforcement of reasonable maintenance regulations.

Sweden will shortly issue its stamp series commemorating the tenebrity of the founding of the Swedish colony in Delaware.

Russia's greatest parachutist, N. A. Yevdokimov, who recently died in Moscow, is credited with 324 jumps, including several records.

Horse-drawn traffic in London has dropped 66 per cent. in 10 years.

## THE NEWS INTERPRETED

A Commentary On the More Important Events of the Week.

By ELIZABETH EEDY

**AVIATION HISTORY:** 1938 should be a banner year for aviation in Canada, if we read the signs aright. The Trans-Canada Air Lines network will be completed west of Montreal to the Pacific Coast. Experimental mail flights over the Prairies and Rockies are being made this month. Schedules call for the 1,163-mile flight from Winnipeg to Vancouver, with stops at Regina and Lethbridge, to be made in 7 hours and 15 minutes. Transatlantic mail flights by the end of the year are also contemplated, according to Transport Minister C. D. Howe.

While such developments are taking place in Canada, Imperial Airways promises in London, England, this week, that new planes put into service within the next few months, by mid-summer in fact, will make the 205-mile air trip from London to Paris in exactly one hour.

**SABOTAGE:** A word of comparatively recent origin which is being used more and more frequently in the newspapers these days is "sabotage". Russian engineers are arrested on charges of sabotage; the blowing up of the Breda factories in Milan is laid to sabotage by Italian workers; mysterious fires in French ships are traced to sabotage; and now sabotage in Britain's Royal Air Force comes to light when it is discovered that two of the newest type bombing planes have been tampered with at the factory. "Sabotage" comes from the French noun "sabot", (wooden shoe), and was first used when a rebellious French factory-worker threw a hoot in the machinery to wreck it. We mean the same thing as "sabotage" when we say, "throw a monkey wrench in the works".

In countries such as Italy and Germany where workers have no voice in the Government, sabotage is frequently chosen as a method of protest, of getting back at the powers-that-be. It is an attempt to slow up a system which they believe to have the worst interests of the working people at heart.

**DIVORCES UP:** An increase of twenty per cent. over 1936 is shown in the number of divorces granted to Canadian couples during 1937. The total reached 1,870 altogether, 596 of which were taken out in Ontario. British Columbia ran a close second, while in proportion of population, Quebec scored the lowest, 43.

Interesting sidelight on the statistics; men must still be chivalrous since twice as many wives sued for divorce as husbands. Or is it that the man in the case is more often the guilty party? Food for thought, there.

**AMERICAN HOUR:** It is an amusing game these evenings to tune in on the short-wave set to the broadcasts in English that are coming out of Rome, Italy, and Zeelen, Germany, under the guise of news summaries. From 2 P.M. you hear an American girl's voice on the "American Hour," giving the news as Mussolini would like you to hear it and interpret it.

The game isn't so amusing, though, when you stop to figure how many people there are in the world, today who are being forced by a rigid press censorship to see events in just that distorted and untrue light. The same spirit which is attempting to smother all free thought in other countries is now moving to influence people on this Continent to accept the same biased outlook, narrow view of life and world affairs. It will be disastrous if that spirit continues to gain hold.

**BALKANS BOW:** The small nations of Central Europe feeling themselves left in the lurch by Great Britain and the League of Nations are scrambling (with the exception of

Austria, Czechoslovakia) under the "protective" wings of Germany and Italy, the nearest big powers. Last week the four Balkan entente countries (Greece, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Turkey) bowed to Italy, agreeing to recognize the conquest of Ethiopia and grant belligerent rights to the Spanish rebels.

When it's a case of every man for himself and devil take the hindmost, we could hardly expect the small Balkan powers to have acted otherwise.

**MAYORS THREATEN:** A representation of Ontario's mayors met last week in Toronto's City Hall to fight the announced opposition of Hon. Norman Rogers, Minister of Labor, to increased relief payments from the Dominion Government.

Declared Mayor H. R. Cory, of Trenton: "It has come to the point where either you are going to have a rebellion of the unemployed, or you are going to have a rebellion of the ratepayers because they can't pay more."

The small taxpayer indeed is not to be envied in these days of heavy relief expenditures. It comes to the point in some cases that a man with a tiny piece of property has to help keep his next-door neighbor who is almost as well off. A serious situation, and the Ontario mayors are right in becoming exercised about it.

## High Altitudes Proven Warmer

Air High Over Alaska Registers 74 Above Zero

It's summertime in the Arctic—If you go high enough.

The temperature was 23 below zero on the ground at Fairbanks, Alaska, Feb. 16—traditional wintering weather—but 46,260 feet up in the air it was 74 degrees above.

The delightful weather, where nobody can enjoy it, was discovered by a radio robot and revealed by special weathermen, W. B. Drawbaugh and L. A. Coffin. They were sent there from Washington, B.C., to conduct a high altitude survey.

**Reversed In Summertime** Here's the way temperatures looked to the robot as it came back to earth: 46,260 feet, 74 above; 5,400 ft., 18 above; 1,310 feet, 13 above; 702 feet, 9 above; ground level, 23 below.

Temperatures are reversed in summertime, commented Pilot Oscar Winchell. When it's warm on the ground the mercury is usually around zero at 9,000 to 12,000 feet.

His informal wintertime observations coincided with the robot's. On a flight from Anchorage he said he hopped off in zero weather and flew through temperatures of 40 above at 9,000 feet.

## Freezing Out Dirt

Manufacturers find that raw wool is one of the most difficult materials to clean thoroughly; burs, dirt and impurities cling to it and will not wash off with either soap and water or chemicals. But now dry ice, used in the manufacture of ice-cream, has come to their rescue.

The raw wool is passed through a room that by means of dry ice is kept at a temperature from 30 to 50 degrees Fah. below zero, and all burs, dirt and grease are solidified into separate parts. Then all one had to do is to shake the wool or tap it sharply and the impurities drop out like icicles!

In this way it is possible to clean four times the amount of wool as before and do it with a thoroughness that was formerly impossible.

## Why They Looked The Opposite Way

Nobody Stopped a Canadian Immigrant Entering the United States at Buffalo

A Canadian immigrant entered the United States one day last week without the formality of checking through the immigration offices. The new resident of the United States was accorded more attention—from a distance—than any border "tripper" ever has received since the Peace Bridge was opened in 1927.

The nervy Canadian resident scurried through a fence at the Canadian entrance to the bridge, and then strolled leisurely past the cordon of Customs and Immigration officers. Straight down the centre of the bridge highway he nonchalantly made his way. Automobiles on the bridge moved out of his path.

**Right of Entry, Undisputed** At the United States bridge-head the closely guarded portal was deserted for the first time on record. The immigrant made his way into the country without challenge.

No one was at all anxious to dispute the right of entry with a skunk.

## News In Review

**Billions On Arms** LONDON.—Great Britain indicated this week that the pace of the world arms race had forced her to revise upward the vast five-year program she set for herself last year to make the Empire strong on both sides of the globe.

A Government White Paper announced that the £1,500,000,000 (\$7,500,000,000) earmarked a year ago would not be enough to build "unavoidable" defenses in view of the international situation and higher costs resulting from "continuous development of modern armament."

Defence expenditure by air, sea and land for the financial year 1938-39 is estimated to total \$343,250,000, with \$8,500,000 in addition for air raid precautions. This exceeds the corresponding defence estimates for 1937-38 by \$83,250,000.

## Claim 50,000 Chinese Casualties

SHANGHAI.—Japanese declared this week that fleeing Chinese troops suffered at least 50,000 casualties in demoralized retreat, through Shansi Province. Slaughter continued unabated, Japanese communiques said, as they drove Chinese forces toward the Yellow River.

## Will Not Surrender Revenue

OTTAWA.—The Federal Government will not surrender revenue from income taxation to the provinces, Hon. Norman McLeod Rogers, Minister of Labor, plainly indicated to the House of Commons.

His statement on the income tax came at the conclusion of a long fight on the question of relief. "There has never been any question of the legal competence of the Dominion Parliament to impose an income tax," the Labor Minister declared.

## Restraints Austrian Nazis

GRAZ, Austria.—Stern orders to maintain discipline were imposed on Styria's turbulent Nazis this week by the Austrian Minister of the Interior, Arthur Seyss-Inquart.

After conferring throughout the day with one group of Austrian Nazis after another, the Minister, who is a friend of Chancellor Hitler of Germany, told interviewers he did not believe there would be a Nazi "putsch" or a march on Vienna.

## Want Anglo-Irish Agreement

LONDON.—Eamon de Valera, Prime Minister of Eire, returned to London this week to resume his talks with British ministers in search of an Anglo-Irish agreement. Informed sources believe a settlement of trade differences is possible, although De Valera's hopes of uniting Northern Ireland with Eire appear doomed to disappointment.

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## The Papers Say

EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE.

### CANADA

#### The Disappearing Salmon

People on the Pacific coast are at last getting an answer to that old question, "Where do the salmon go?" It seems that they go into a floating Japanese salmon cannery.—Toronto Star.

#### World's Worst Threat

This is the really most dangerous condition in the world today—namely, that the people ruled by dictators do not get either truth or common sense from their newspapers.—Ottawa Journal.

#### Rural Fire Protection

An English inventor has produced a "fireplace" which carries extinguishers, a motor pump, sectional ladder and gas "bombs" capable of suffocating flames. This may ultimately provide a solution to the problem of rural fire protection.—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

#### Financially Able to Drive

It seems to be a reasonable principle that no one should be allowed to take a car on the streets or highways unless he is in a financial position, through insurance or otherwise, to meet reasonable claims on account of any damage his machine may do, either through his own carelessness or indifference or through mechanical deficiency of his car.—Windsor Star.

#### If They Stood Together

Secretary Ickes of Washington has been telling the world that the democracies must stand together. They all know it. But the trouble is that large and possibly controlling influences in each of them are not yet convinced that the time has come for them to "stand" anywhere. They could have stopped Japan, without firing a shot, by making a "stand" in front of Manchuria—now Manchoukuo. They could have stopped Germany by making a "stand" on the Rhine and negotiating a just and orderly revision of the Versailles Treaty.

Once they had prestige enough to win without war. Whether they have today is doubtful. Whether they will have on some black tomorrow is not.—Montreal Star.

#### Canada's Lost Visions

The national vision of plenty has been so far lost, the national policy of abundance in Canadian homes has been so completely forgotten, the Government is no longer concerned with the ability of the Canadian fishing villages to buy Canadian apples. Almost the entire concern of party politics is with the exporting business to the British or some other distant market. The Conservative vision of national policy has been lost as completely as the Liberal vision of freer trade. There is no longer any real difference between the parties, as the Minister of Labour's admission about the key place of the protective tariff would show. Under straight party politics, the Liberals would lead along the path of freer trade; the Conservatives would take new steps in the national policy to see that the Canadian people have purchasing power in the home market to maintain economic security. Straight party politics has come to mean nothing more than the sham fight between Tweedledum and Tweedledee.—Ottawa Citizen.

#### Only "Me" Remains

In view of the Niemoeller trial, and the recent Nazi purge, one remarks that when Kaiser Bill resigned it was Me und Gott, but with Hitler now it is only Me.—Hamilton Spectator.

More than 60,000,000 worth of pineapples were grown in Hawaii last year.

Rising retail prices are causing increasing demands for higher wages in France.

### THE EMPIRE

#### Universal Vigilance

So long as two people are killed on Scottish roads almost every day of the year, the challenge of the road casualties remains unanswered. At the same time despair of further efforts to reduce the casualty list is not justified. These must continue to be among the first duties of every section of the community. Motorists, for example, must realize that they control, or are supposed to control, a potentially lethal weapon; pedestrians must realize that they can go safely only if they go warily; and cyclists, even if they are travelling on the special tracks they profess to dislike, must remember the dangers of unsteady and careless riding. The process of reducing the fearsome total of dead and injured cannot in the nature of things be other than slow; but it could be accelerated if courtesy, consideration and watchfulness were so strictly observed as to possess the quality of instinct.—Glasgow Herald.

#### Japan's Weaknesses

The British Empire and the United States combined take half of Japan's exports and supply 63 per cent. of her needs. Then, in so far as Japan's raw silk export is concerned, the United States takes 85 per cent. of it, this being the only Japanese export not dependent on imported supplies of raw materials. Japan's whole social structure, it will be seen, is dependent on the American silk market. Japan is vitally dependent on imports of oil from the United States and the Dutch East Indies, and of iron and scrap from India, Malaya and Australia. Amongst other things, Japan's coal consumption is only a fifth of Great Britain's and her heavy industry is not developed proportionately to her light industry. A vital weakness for Japan in war is her primitive system of land cultivation. The productivity per acre is high, but the productivity per man is exceedingly low. The transfer of large numbers of men to the fighting forces and of women to the munition factories is bound to cause a steep fall in production at the very time when tens of thousands of soldiers have to be provided with a more substantial diet than they exist on as peasants.—Hong Kong News.

## Whence Came Beefeaters?

Usual View Holds the Name Is a Corruption of "Buffetier"

In England, one of London's greatest draws is the Tower of London where a Beefeater, or Yeoman of the Guard, is always to be found on guard in his picturesque scarlet and gold uniform. But Beefeater is only his nickname, he is not really a Yeoman of the Guard, and although his uniform is the oldest in the British Army, he is not really a soldier.

The name Beefeater is a corruption of Buffetier, the name given to Yeomen of the Guard who served at royal dinners in days gone by. The present Beefeater does not descend from these Yeomen, but from the Warders who acted as assistants and were allowed to wear Yeomen's uniform.

**Distinguished Records** Another version of the origin of the name Beefeater was that a Grand Duke of Tuscany, visiting Britain in 1669, was so struck by the size and girth of the Tower Warders that he asked if they fed entirely on beef.

All the present Beefeaters are old soldiers with distinguished records, and they play an important part in the ceremonies that have been handed down from Norman times.

"I may be a member of the Three Score and Ten Club, but I won't attend any meetings until they wheel me in."—George Ade.

## 11,000 Volumes Shipped West

Lady Tweedmuir Tells Of How Her Prairie Library Scheme Is Working Out

In the 15 months that her prairie scheme has been operating, 11,000 books have been sent to the drought area and isolated parts of Western Canada; Lady Tweedmuir told a meeting of the library association at Ottawa.

It was during Their Excellencies' first tour of the West that Lady Tweedmuir felt a desire to assist the prairie people living in drought areas or remote districts and on her return to Ottawa she sent them some of her own books and some of Lord Tweedmuir's.

**Answers Many Appeals** Soon educational charitable organizations become interested in this scheme and contributed many books. Recently the Charitable Trust Association of Glasgow and the Carnegie trustees in the United States donated monetary grants.

Lady Tweedmuir selects and checks over every book sent to the prairies, trying to answer the many appeals. Books are bought wisely, not for the fancy wrapping and covers but for what they contain, she said.

**Study Art of Reading** Particularly appealing are the requests from youngsters such as a recent letter addressed plainly to—"Lady Tweedmuir, Canada,"—"Dear Sir: Please send me some books."

"Would it not be possible to publish and distribute pamphlets on how to read, best books to read and various other words of advice to readers?" asked Lady Tweedmuir. This was a suggestion that she felt should be given wide consideration. People today are losing the art of reading, they are either at sea as to what to read or are content with reading reviews rather than the books themselves.

## Foreign Tourist Trade Increases

Last Year Brought \$295,000,000 To Dominion, Report Shows

OTTAWA.—Foreign tourists spent \$295,000,000 in Canada during the 1937 season while Canadian tourists in other countries spent approximately \$193,000,000, it is estimated by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Corresponding estimates for 1936 were \$249,000,000 and \$107,000,000, respectively.

**They Spent More**

There were 3,127,352 automobiles entering Canada for a period not exceeding 48 hours against 2,880,265, in 1936 and 1,383,130 automobiles for a period not exceeding 60 days compared with 1,192,935. Expenditures of motor tourists were estimated at \$182,112,000 against \$153,508,000.

Tourists entering by rail numbered 894,956 and those by steamer 267,566. Expenditure of those who entered by rail was \$53,429,000 in 1937 against \$49,877,000 in 1936, and by steamer \$20,164,000 compared to \$14,967,000.

## Training Airmen On Windjammer

Pan American Airways Expect to Teach Pilots by Instruction in Old-Time Sailing Technique

By sending aeroplane pilots to sea in a sailing ship, Pan American Airways are proving that there is nothing new under the sun. These modern sky pilots hope, by a study of the old-time sailing ship technique, to be able to handle their aircraft more efficiently.

Captains of modern high-powered steamers are only concerned with weather conditions on the surface of the sea, but the old sailing ship men concentrated on the upper atmosphere as their guide to the weather ahead. This is also the most important factor for aeroplane pilots, and by going to sea under a windjammer captain they will learn the technique of the air.

**Learn Wind Stresses** But they will not only study weather conditions. They will have lessons in the art of handling a vessel under sail, and the experience gained is expected to prove of great benefit when applied to the management of aeroplanes, which are subject to wind stresses in almost the same way as a sailing ship.

The sailing ship used for training air pilots is the four-master "Trade Wind," and she has been completely re-conditioned. In addition to her mission as a training ship, she will act as a tender for carrying supplies to the various ocean-bases of Pan American Airways.

Patrol will be her chief cargo, but she is also carrying, among other things, complete sets of surgical instruments, and boxes of young trees and shrubs which will be replanted in some of the islands in the Pacific.

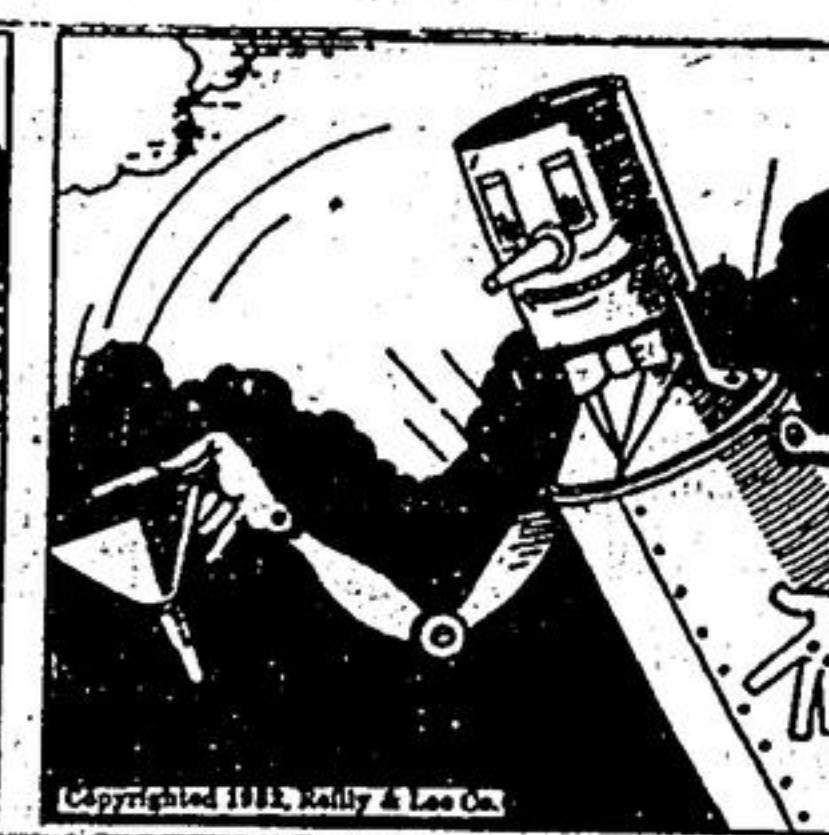
## THE WONDERLAND OF OZ



Billina laughed when she saw the peculiar whistle which Evring held in his hand. "No wonder I could not find the Tin Woodman," she said, "and no wonder the magic belt would not make him appear, or that the King couldn't find him either." "What do you mean," questioned Dorothy excitedly.



"Why the prince had him in his pocket all the time," cried Billina, cackling again. "I did not," protested Evring. "I only took a whistle that no one would ever want." "Well, then, watch me," replied Billina, laughing, and reaching out a claw she touched the whistle and said "Ev. Swish!"



"Good afternoon," said the Tin Woodman, taking off his funnel cap and bowing to Dorothy. "I think I must have been asleep for the first time, for I don't remember leaving the Gnome King." "You have been enchanted," answered the girl, throwing her arms around her old friend and hugging him tightly in her joy. "It's all right now!"



"I want my whistle," said the little prince, beginning to cry. "Hush," cautioned Billina. "The whistle is lost but you may have another when we get home." By this time the whole party was aware of the Tin Woodman's return. Ozma welcomed the Tin man, and as the army caught sight of him they set up cheers.