News Parade

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

SPRING HATS—"Pancake crowns, bumper brims, bonnets with chin straps will lead in this year's parade of spring hats," the fashion papers tell us. And already we see on the streets of Ontario's small towns, large towns, our style-conscious womenfolk strutting about with the latest millinery confections atop their heads.

The impartial (?) observer cannot help but wish, however, that more women had chosen styles to suit them, had only realized that those chin-strap bonnets are meant to be worn by coy, sweet young things . . . As it is, there are altogether too many worldly-looking women peering out from under unsophisticated brims, who make us think too readily of Little Red Riding Hood's Grandmother . . .

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BIG NAME ROMANCE—Last year it was the Duke and Duchess of Windsor who had the world's tongues wagging—the love story of a century, so it seemed. This spring it is Greta Garbo and Leopold Stokowski, two of the biggest names in the news, who are providing us with first-class vicarious romance.

As in the case of the other two lovers, however, their fame and name would appear to stand in the way of uninterrupted happiness, since the hounds of publicity are forever on their trail.

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"CANADA SHIRKS"—Writing in the New York Commentator, an American political observer undertakes to criticize the foreign policy of Canada, who, with the other British Dominions, he claims, is not doing her duty. This country, he says, expects in the event of war to be defended by the British Navy but is doing nothing in the meantime to strengthen that navy.

"In Britain," our critic points out, "every person on the average is paying $45 a year for the defence of the Empire. In the Dominions, each white person pays less than a tenth of that sum. Why, the United States is spending more hard cash for the defence of the English-speaking world including Canada, than all the Dominions, ten times over."

Hard words, those. But cold, bitter facts nevertheless.

From our own point of view, the situation is rather bad, since if we continue to depend on Great Britain for the protection of our shores, we dare not speak for ourselves nor take independent action in world affairs. In spite of the Statute of Westminster (1931), then, we keep on hanging to Britain's apron strings, and allow London to make our major decisions for us.

SHANSI FALLS—With the virtual taking over last week of China's Shansi province by the Japanese, the Rising Sun armies are in position for a westward drive across the Yellow River into the heart of the Chinese Red territory, the mysterious North Shensi area, the country with a "question-mark."

(Few white people have succeeded in penetrating so far as the Communist strongholds there. Edgar Snow in his "Red Star Over China" tells the story of a sojourn in this stamping ground of the Chinese Red forces presents photographs of people and places never before caught by the camera; describes a visit to the capital of the "mobile Chinese Soviet" in the north central portion of the area.)

The outcome of a campaign in this territory is unpredictable, since Russia at any time might come to the help of the Chinese Communists. Nevertheless Japan now proposes to go ahead and make good her oft-repeated declaration that the real object of the present hostilities is to wipe out Red influences in North China.

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THE WORST DRIVERS—Addressing delegates to the Ontario Motor League's Annual Conference, George A. Hodgson, chief examiner of drivers of Ontario, declared last week that at least 80 percent. of the car accidents occurring in this province were caused by drivers whose experience amounted to five years or more. In other words, it is the experienced drivers who ought to know better who pile up the worst records.

"Furthermore", he said, "the colour-blind driver is safer than the man who is not colour blind. He can tell you immediately that the top light is red and the bottom green. Our differences are with those who have all their faculties."

Apparently, then, the more a man is aware of his deficiencies, the more alert and careful he will be.

—o—

TEETER-TOTTER — An Associated Press despatch reads: "Poland stepped into the diplomatic forefront this week as a possible balance between Great Britain and France on one side and Germany and Italy on the other, in proposed European agreements."

Behind this news lies a multitude of interrelated facts, chief of which are: following his conversations with Prime Minister Chamberlain of Great Britain, which he hopes to conclude successfully, Premier Mussolini of Italy is expected to propose an alliance of four great powers who will run Europe's affairs; France would be unenthusiastic about such a pact unless Poland, her ally, were invited to participate in the talks.

Foresees Ocean Mail Flights During 1938

Canadian Minister of Transport Predicts Trans-Canada Airlines Ocean Service Will Be In Force Within a Year—21 Pilots Now Ready Trained.

Ocean-to-ocean mail service will be in operation on the Trans-Canada Airlines within a year, the House of Commons was informed last week by Minister of Transport C. D. Howe.

Two Trips Per Week

He also made the announcement that it is "quite within the realm of possibility" that a regular air mail service across the Atlantic Ocean, consisting of two trips each way per week, will be in operation before the end of the present year.

Earlier in the day, the minister had secured first reading for a bill allowing Trans-Canada Airlines to purchase a certain allotment of stock in the company operating the ocean service, as provided for under terms of an agreement with Great Britain, the Irish Free State and Newfoundland.

The Trans-Canada now has 21 pilots. The minister boasted that they are equal to any in the world and are familiar with the British system of navigation.

The service from Vancouver to Winnipeg is "pretty well completed," he said, and the jump from Montreal to the Maritimes will be pushed ahead as soon as the weather permits in the spring.

Vancouver to Montreal

The trans-Canada, Mr. Howe said, will have a thorough service from Vancouver to Montreal with only one feeder, from Lethbridge to Edmonton. It was the government's intention to leave ordinary feeder services to private enterprise. Tenders for air mail services connecting the main cities of Saskatchewan, are being called now.

It was generally the government's intention, the minister said, to extend aviation to all part of Canada when air mail warranted it.

Photograph Speedy License Numbers

Camera Has Been Invented That Will Snap Numbers on Fast Automobiles at Night

A camera capable of photographing licences of speeding automobiles at night was brought forward last week by the Pennsylvania State police as a new weapon in the state's war on highway accidents.

Commissioner Percy W. Foote said that the camera would be installed soon in many of the patrol's white "ghost cars" that took to the road some time ago to combat highway law violations.

Pierces Brightest Rays

Infra-red cameras are being developed for police use by Capt. Lloyd Fisher M. Williams, retired naval officer and fog camera expert, who was drafted by the Pennsylvania force to carry on his researches.

The photographic marvel, Foote said, is expected to pierce the brightest headlight rays and clock the speed of the car at the same time.

Foote said that he planned to place the equipment in three or four cars operated by each of the 18 police troops in Pennsylvania.

Front or Back Plates

The camera would be set up close to the windshield of the "ghost" car, and could photograph through the glass of the windshield, getting the license plate of a car in front or of a vehicle coming in the opposite direction.

—o—

Nearly 320,000 decorative trees are to be planted in County Durham in England.

Paris Ratifies Trade Treaty

Canada to Gain — Dominion Quotas Higher on Several Products

OTTAWA. — The Franco-Canadian trade treaty, ratified last week by the French Chamber of Deputies, is an extension of the 1933 and 1935 commercial agreements. Most important concessions to Canada are larger quotas for lead and zinc in pigs and bars. The additional quota in lead is expected to amount to about $700,000 and zinc to about $200,000.

The following other Canadian commodities are given new or additional quotas: Cheese, tomato juice, mowing machines, electrical apparatus, elastic fabrics and manufactures of asbestos.

New arrangements also were made respecting administration of the quota on canned salmon.

Benefits of the French minimum tariff have also been extended to the following Canadian products: Sweetened condensed milk, artificial carbonate of magnesia, uranium oxide, tellurium, incandescent mantles, calf brains, gas and alcohol stoves, lamp and gas burners and parts.

News In Brief

Russo-Japanese Tension

TOKIO—A vigorous Soviet protest this week registered renewed tension in Japan's troubled relations with the Soviet. Moscow protested against the continued detention of two Russian steamships in northern Japan ports and of a Soviet airplane in northeastern Manchoukuo. The Japanese came back with charges that Soviet authorities were "illegally holding" 58 Japanese subjects in Russian Sakhalin and nine Japanese vessels.

Want to Probe Cures

TORONTO.—Legislative authority for a Government-appointed Commission to investigate secret cancer cures was sought last week in the Ontario House by Hon. Harold J. Kirby, Minister of Health.

Revelation of formula and details of treatment are required by the bill, according to the Minister. Sweeping powers to inquire into any type of "so-called cure" are provided.

Successful Guerilla Tactics

SHANGHAI.—Chinese reported over the week-end that guerilla bands had recaptured a dozen towns in conquered territory north of the Yellow River. Japanese artillery meanwhile bombarded strategic cities on the south bank.

Most of the reported Chinese successes were along the Honan-Hopeh border, forty to sixty miles behind the Japanese advance lines, which were held up by the broad river.

The Chinese also said a Chinese cavalry detachment repulsed a Japanese drive against Linl, in Southeastern Shantung, killing 500 Japanese.

Stock Exchange Setback

Stock markets on this continent last week took some hard knocks but after a few hours of slipping prices, they staged a practical comeback.

The recovery in the face of the failure of Richard Whitney & Co., a prominent New York stock exchange firm, was regarded as an excellent demonstration of the strength underlying the market.

Held On 38 Charges

TORONTO.—Thirty-eight charges of theft, robbery and shopbreaking were laid last week after hours of persistent questioning of four teenaged boys caught by an unarmed police chief after an eighty-mile-an-hour auto chase and a five-mile manhunt through the bush near Whitby.

To Open Empire Fair

LONDON.—The King and Queen will open the Empire exposition at Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, on May 3 and visit poor districts in Glasgow the following day, it was officially announced this week.

Civil Aviation To Go Ahead

LONDON.—Great Britain is to make a bolder bid for international air traffic.

Concurrently with the upbuilding of the Royal Air Force, the Government announced last week it will give increased stimulus to civil aviation. Measures are to be taken within the Air Ministry to strengthen the organization dealing with civil aviation.

Index to Predict Length of Life

Biologist Able to Tell If Men Likely to Reach Old Age

Discovery of a biological index that predicts the length of a person's life in average figures after he is adult was reported last week by Dr. Raymond Pearl, famous biologist of Johns Hopkins University.

He talked to the New York Academy of Medicine on "The Search of Longevity." He made the first public announcement of the "index" for foretelling length of life.

The indices are biological measurements, ranging from pulse rate to body shape. They show in effect who shall survive the attacks of disease sufficiently to expect a ripe old age. In the heart and blood vesse' class, two groups of white men, 193 in each, were compared. They were first seen at ages ranging from 20 to 60, an average of 40. They were followed until all died.

26 Years Difference

One group was long-lived; the other short-lived. The long-lived men averaged 26 years apiece more than the others.

These long-lived men had slower pulse rates. The differences, Dr. Pearl said, were quite small, around four beats a minute less. But this slight difference was statistically significant.

The long-lived men had different blood pressure than the short-lived. Dr. Pearl said he did not wish at this time to reveal the blood pressure differences. The men who lived long averaged six pounds each less weight, notwithstanding that all the men in both classes were average build and weight.

Long-Lived Small-Waisted

The men who lived long had smaller chest girths at expiration of breath, and smaller waists at the navel level.

It is not true, Dr. Pearl reported, that the "absolute" length of human life has lengthened. Actually, he said, fewer persons alive at 70 today survive until 90 than 40 years ago. The lengthened life span of today is due to caving the lives of more babies and children, he said.

The Great Lakes Fishing Industry

Commercial Catch Totals 120,000,000 Pounds Annually

American and Canadian commercial fishermen take some 120,000,000 lbs. of fish out of the Great Lakes annually, valued at approximately $8,000,000, says the Detroit Free Press.

And yet, as the result of lack of proper regulation, this important industry, conservation experts warn, faces extinction.

The outlook for it is so serious that representatives of the United States and Canadian governments, as well as the governments of Ontario and of the eight states bordering on the Great Lakes, met in Detroit in February to agree upon a uniform protection of small fish.

Decline In Whitefish

The decline of the whitefish catch from 3,500,000 to less than 500,000 pounds annually is only one measure of the fate in store for the Great Lakes fisheries if something effective is not promptly done to curb the ravages of cut-throat competition among the fishermen, who seem to act on the assumption that a fish in the net is worth two in the water.

The end of that sort of thing is bound to be the extinction of the stock of commercial fish in the lakes—and, with it, the destruction of the profitable business of supplying tables with piscatorial delicacies fresh from local waters.

Hats Off!

England is not the only country with antiquated laws. An ardent film-goer in Akron, Ohio, has recently discovered that a 41-year-old law, never repealed, forbids women to wear large hats in theatres.

He has now invoked the law, which has to be carried out by theatre managers, and can go to his favourite cinema with a guarantee that his view will not be obscured.

As the result of spare-time study more than 500 miners have left the mines of South Wales to enter professions in the last three years.

A—C

U. S. S. Memphis Pays Visit to Singapore

Sailing through Johore Straits, the U. S. S. Memphis is shown arriving at Great Britain's new naval base at Singapore.

VOICE of the PRESS

THE WORLD AT LARGE

CANADA

Extinct Species?

The Y.M.C.A. in Toronto is conducting a course to cure blushing and there will be a little mild speculation as to where they find folk nowadays that do blush.—Peterborough Examiner.

Humanitarian Feelings

We say "amen" to the indignation of Tavistock people, directed toward the unknown hit-and-run driver who killed a wire-hair terrier puppy in that village. The mean killer neither slowed down in an attempt to miss the wee dog, nor to make amends after running over it. Contrast this incident with one in Dubuque, Iowa, where 12 men worked for ten days to rescue a small terrier from a fox hole.—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Away From Strangulation

Modern machinery has enabled fewer people to produce more on the farms. This has inevitably been reflected on the villages. But there is a growing realization that urbanization can be carried too far. The huge city strangles itself. Everywhere we see suburban developments as men try to escape from the high taxes and crowded streets of the city. Industry is said to be following the same pathway. Hydro and rapid transportation cancel many of the advantages once possessed by the city. It will be interesting to see what succeeding years contribute to the problem.—London Free Press.

No "Saturated" West

There is a limiting factor holding down Western—and, for that matter, Canadian—population growth. But that factor decidedly is not "saturation" or overloading of the physical resources. The soil of Western Canada is neither overcrowded nor overloaded, nor anywhere near that condition. A look at Russia, with its 165 million people, challenges not only comparison but serious study. Naturally, we do not want to descend to the Russian standard of living, but "standard of living" is itself a shibboleth which might well be analyzed. Some of the ideas and habits by which we mould our lives in Canada might

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HAVE YOU HEARD

It is well to be a leader, but be careful what you lead.

—o—

The fellow who pulls on the oars doesn't have time to rock the boat.

—o—

Someone has probably told you that a masseuse lives off the fat of the land.

—o—

If she washes dishes for $5 a week that is servitude. If she does it for nothing, that is romance.

—o—

Wasted opportunities are usually found on a bench in the park or hanging around a pool room.

—o—

A few may begin at the bottom and rise but more people begin at the bottom and stick there.

—o—

Instead of more people per square mile, the world needs more square people per mile.

—o—

About all you can say for minding your neighbor's business is that you never run out of something to do.

—o—

Maybe we do get short weight for our money but the grocer has a long wait for it.

—o—

We've tried everything, even going to bed early, but ideas don't seem to come any easier.

—o—

Still, how'd you like to be so homely, that, whatever you did, people wouldn't talk about you?

—o—

Ceremonies may differ but true politeness is the same the world over.

—o—

Good salesmanship is selling goods which won't come back to customers that will.

—o—

One thing about a radio speaker, he stops when his time is up, not always true of some after-dinner speakers.

—o—

Today is no different from the day on which you began your record week.

—o—

Over the radio we hear classical music, jazzical music and jackassical music.

—o—

It's the easiest thing in the world for us to raise the devil with our children for raising the devil we used to raise ourselves when we were children.

—o—

Read It Or Not

No moving object can reverse its course without coming to a complete stop—such as a bullet meeting a cannonball.

—o—

My Work

Let me but do my work from day to day,
In field or forest, at the desk or loom,
In roaring market-place or tranquil room,
Let me find it in my heart to say
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,
"This is my work; my blessing, not my doom;
Of all who live, I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the right way."
Then shall I see it not too great, nor small,
To suit my spirit and to prove my powers;
Then shall I cheerful greet the laboring hours,
And cheerful turn, when the long shadows fall
At eventide, to play and love and rest,
Because I know for me my work is best.—Henry VanDyke.

From the Grave

"I am here from the grave, and I want to be heard immediately because, in earth-soiled clothes, to the judge at a small Hungarian court. He was a grave-digger.

The lifeboatmen of England saved 523 lives last year.

Handshaking Has Drawback

Originated As An Act to Bind Contracts, Not Salutation

Handshaking, once a gentle gesture of agreement, peace or friendship, continues in modern times to develop painful consequences — as the retiring Governor of New Jersey recently discovered when the ceremony raised a blister on his right hand. Presidents at their levees have often suffered a muscular lameness from taking this salute, says the New York Times. At an official reception, in Canada the Duke of Windsor, then Prince of Wales, felt a bone crack under the overhearty handclasp of a cowpuncher.

Part of Ancient Ceremony

The custom of handshaking did not originate as a salutation but as an act binding a contract. The grasping of hands was part of the ancient Hindu marriage ceremony. It passed into a mannerly courtesy in Rome. Giving the right hand of fellowship as mentioned in the Bible (Gal. 11:9), spread throughout Christendom and had become usual as a salutation in the Europe of the Middle Ages.

Extending the right, or sword, hand symbolized an unarmed approach. All through Byzantium the custom reached the Moslem communities, where it was adopted as a legal formality, but there the joining of hands meant the pressing of thumbs together. Some African tribes substituted the handclasp for their habit of showing defenselessness of disarming or partly uncovering in deference to a superior.

English Shake Least

Thus the handshake was at no period hitherto likely to give distress, but to be a reassuring, ingratiating greeting. The heavy grip began as a more or less clumsy attempt to emphasize one's inner feeling of hail-fellow cordiality. Even that is considered so of an ordeal than the greeting customs of certain aborigines — the embraces of Australian blacks, the nose rubbings of Polynesians, Malays, Eskimos and Laplanders. The Japanese obeisances and genuflections, accompanied by hissing, is supposed to have derived from the cowering or the crouching attitudes of humility in the ancient East.

Among modern Europeans the English are said to shake hands less frequently than others; the French do shake hands upon meeting and departing; and the Germans repeatedly, on the slightest occasion.

Cave Man's Words Still Used Today

Professor Says Phrases Are More Figurative Now

Figures of speech which were an integral part of the cave man's simple language now occupy a prominent place in the modern vocabulary, according to William Hawley Davis, professor of English at Stanford University and editor of the Stanford University Press, Palo Alto, California.

Davis said the cave men used such figures of speech as "back-biting," "back-scratching," "skinning alive," "girding up one's loins" and other expressions much in use today.

Existence Very Real Then

Davis said that existence on the cave man level was still very real to the average person. To the cave man, explained, a "bone of contention," an "eye for an eye" and "cut-throat competition" meant more than they do to us; but we can still use each freely. "Literally," he said, "the cave man 'wielded a big stick,' 'left no stone unturned,' 'kept an ear to the ground,' found a 'bird in the hand worth two in the bush' and 'killed two birds with one stone,' whereas now these expressions are used figuratively.

Derived From Horses

"In a similar way people still employ a large number of figures derived from horses. These include 'raring to go,' 'prick up his ears', 'bridle at,' and 'take the bit in his teeth'.

"These must be increasingly vague to the generations growing up since automobiles have displaced horses. We may expect them to be used less and less because fewer people find that they convey thought effectively."

Shooting Star's Tail

The reason why a shooting star appears to have a tail trailing behind is that an image remains in our eyes for about a sixteenth of a second. Since the falling meteorite (wrongly called "shooting star") is moving very quickly, it has covered quite a distance before than sixteenth of a second has passed; so there appears to be a tail. It is the same phenomenon that makes the spokes of a whirling wheel look solid; and it is also the basis for the apparent continuous action on the movie screen on which sixteen pictures are flashed every second.

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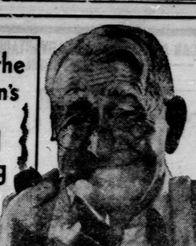

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GARDENING

PREPARATIONS

In few other things does a little preliminary planning yield such tangible returns as in gardening. It is possible to construct a house without a blue print, though the job will usually be regretted. Gardens, too, can be created in this fashion but the results are apt to be confused with the natural conglomeration of weeds, tin cans and abandoned motor cars which litter up the usual vacant lot. A little planning is most essential and it will enhance the interest in the hobby, pastime, work or whatever gardening is called, as well as add very materially to its real value. Now, while the earth is still dormant, or at least too wet or too cold to indulge in any but the hardiest kind of planting, is the time to begin these plans. All that is necessary is a pencil and paper, a seed catalogue, and possibly a Government bulletin or two.

SHRUBBERY

For the permanent sort of gardening, that is the kind using perennial flowers, shrubs, trees, grass and other things that grow for years, some preliminary planning is absolutely essential. True, most Canadian garden authorities advocate informal planting for the average home surroundings, but even in simple informality some previous notion of the final results is desirable. Otherwise, there are going to be tiny shrubs hidden by large ones, grass is going to be too shaded in one quarter and delicate flowers burnt up in another.

Even in the vegetable patch, it is a splendid idea, so the horticulturists state, to plot the whole patch roughly to scale, and then lay out the rows so that tall corn, staked tomatoes and similar things have plenty of room each way, but beans, carrots and beets do not get more than from 15 to 24 inches between the rows.

NURSERY STOCK

Early spring is generally considered the most favourable season for planting nursery stock. Under the latter heading comes a wide variety of plants, including rose bushes, shrubs, fruit and ornamental trees, perennial flower plants, vines, raspberry bushes, asparagus, strawberry plants and a host of other permanent things.

In purchasing such material authorities emphasize the importance of securing fresh stock from a reliable Canadian source. Roots and stems should be pliable and moist and if there is any upper growth, as in the case of shrubs and trees, there should be evidence of live green buds.

Tallest Human Stops Growing

ALTON, Ill.—Robert Wadlow, tallest human in medical history, who observed his twentieth birthday last week, is nearing the end of his phenomenal growth, according to physicians. Measurements revealed Wadlow is 8 feet 5¼ inches tall. He weighs 465 pounds. Records examined on his birthday showed the youth's rate of growth in the last four years has diminished one-half inch each year. He grew only one and one-half inches last year. Between the ages of 9 and 12 he averaged from four to five inches of growth each year.

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Crusade Brings Back Blushing

Beauty Expert Says Lack of Blood In Faces Is Making Girls Fade

The common blush, practically discarded since sorority sisters discovered Freud and found that the whole business was just an inferiority complex, is going to be revived in an effort to keep American women from becoming a race of gargoyles.

A crusade to restore the blush to good standing was announced last week by Miss Grace Donohue, Chicago redhead, who described herself as a "professor of beauty—within and without."

They've Forgotten How

Miss Donohue said that the trouble with American girls is that "most of them have forgotten how to blush. The result is that they never get any blood in their face, their skin fades and they become ugly."

So she is forming a national association of "blush of the month" clubs, the only requirement for which is a blush.

Ten Grades of Blushing

Miss Donohue will distribute membership cards to her blush clubs and is preparing a list of 10 guides to blushing. Among the slogans will be "How are your vaso-constrictors today?" and "Try an old-fashioned blush—it's gland." The vaso-constrictor, Miss Donohue explained, is the nerve that enables persons to blush and blushing is good for the glands.

To the best blushers Miss Donohue is considering awarding as prizes pictures of Sonja Henie, Helen Hayes and Robert Taylor. She described them as the best blushers of our time."

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