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STARTED

The Imperial Economic Conference got off to a good start yesterday. There was the opening ceremony performed by the Governor General, His Excellency Lord Bessborough, representing his Majesty, and in addition there were religious services throughout the Empire praying for the blessing of Providence on its proceedings. The great banquet last evening, presided over by Premier R. B. Bennett, was a fitting conclusion to the ceremonies of the day. The Conference will now get down to routine work. Its proceedings will be conducted in private but a report each day will be supplied officially to the press. This is in the interests of all concerned, and has been found to work satisfactorily in connection with previous Imperial Conferences in London. It is not definitely known what Canada is prepared to offer in the way of an inducement to participate in preferential treatment, but a writer in the Financial Post says it is widely rumored that the Prime Minister has decided to take the tariff bull by the horns and is prepared to offer a very definite and substantial preference to the Empire and particularly Great Britain, in return for wider opportunities in the marketing of Canadian lumber, bacon, cattle, agricultural and other primary products. It is also indicated, says the same informant, that nothing will be attempted in the way of a wheat quota as no plan has been found which would prove of any practical value in assisting Canada and Australia in the marketing of this key crop. In the realm of currency opinion crystallizes, says the writer that some sort of Empire Bank will emerge from the Conference and that prospects for the successful introduction of a stabilized Empire currency are very bright. These opinions, though not official or authenticated, are interesting whether or not they hit the mark.

THEIR POLICIES

The respective policies of the different governments were outlined in the opening speeches at the Conference yesterday. That of Canada is to continue the free lists as at present, continue existing preferences, and to extend them. To ask for free lists or special preferences for agricultural and natural products, and in return to give preference on certain classes of manufactures. The British policy is to seek to lower the tariffs and to endeavor to get as many items on the free list as possible. Australia and New Zealand policy corresponds with Canada's. South Africa approves of the British ideals, while Ireland is just feeling her way, anxious to build up her own industries by protection but at the same time not prepared to have the door shut on her exports by countervailing tariffs. The other speakers struck similar notes, and thus when the delegates get behind closed doors to discuss details there should be no insurmountable difficulties in reaching agreements.

SHORTAGE OF CLOVER

It is reported generally throughout the Province, with the exception of the Western part of the Island, that crop prospects for both red and white clover are poor. This, however, does not apply only to this province, as reports from the Mainland indicate that there will be a short crop of seed clovers all over. Insufficient snow covering is the reason given for the fact that clover did not winter well. For those who may have a fairly good crop price prospects are good in respect to both domestic and export demands.

AERIAL DISARMAMENT

Interest in the disarmament question has been temporarily suspended as a result of the spotlight being thrown on an international police force.

being turned on war debts and reparations, and latterly, on the Imperial Economic Conference. The last disarmament conference met at a time when hostilities between Japan and China were at their height, and the atmosphere was too tense for any calm consideration of the subject. In the last analysis, however, there can be no permanent settlement of the world economic situation until some solution has been found for the problem of armaments. In this connection it is interesting to note the opinion of Viscount Cecil, who contributes an article in a recent issue of the New Statesman and Nation, emphasizing the menace of military aircraft to any scheme of world disarmament. The writer sees a strong argument for the abolition of military aircraft altogether, based upon the fact that Germany, Austria, Hungary and Bulgaria are forbidden by treaties to keep any. There is also the definite proposal of the Italian Government that all military aeroplanes should be abolished except a limited number of single-seater fighting machines and some training machines. Lastly there is the conviction, strongly expressed by the French Government, that even were military air forces disbanded, civilian aircraft would be adapted for bombing purposes, and the sweeping plan which they have in consequence put forward for the internationalisation of civil aviation—the control of civil aircraft the organized international community—and the monopoly by that community of the most formidable bombing aircraft. Behind these schemes and several others are the terrible memories of aerial bombardment, the knowledge that the power of aircraft to destroy dense centres of population has immensely increased and that there can be no adequate protection of a great city against aerial attack. If the League of Nations were to eliminate certain weapons of land and sea warfare and even reduce the armies and navies considerably, and yet leave untouched the national air forces, "security" would not be adequately provided for. On the contrary, air armaments would acquire proportionately an even greater and more sinister importance, and the people would continue to be obsessed with the nightmare of destruction from the air, to the detriment of international sanity.

Viscount Cecil suggests a satisfactory advance towards air security and air disarmament could be made by scrapping all military planes exceeding certain agreed limits, including all bombers and "big gun fighters." Provision against the conversion of civil machines, at least as precise and stringent as those forbidding the use of Red Cross ships, ambulances and hospitals for military purposes, should then be embodied in a treaty enforced by the League of Nations and the vigilance of pacific parliamentary forces within each State. Much could also be done, both in the interests of commerce and for the convenience of travellers, and in the cause of preventing this particular danger, by developing the fellowship of the air. There is already a very high degree of comradeship among airmen, and Lord Cecil sees no great obstacle to making the personnel, landing grounds and machines used for the transport of passengers and goods subject to an International Board of Control, on which the principal governments and the Council of the League of Nations would be represented.

A third safeguard suggested is the creation of an international air force. A powerful international force of fighting machines which could be rushed more swiftly than any army or navy to the assistance of any country attacked, and even of bombers to punish the aggressor on his own territory—this would be a formidable deterrent. Such a force might also be valuable in the establishment and patrolling of perhaps for the general purposes of the brink of war, and ultimately perhaps for the general purposes of the world.

Tariffs, says the Sunday Province, Vancouver, will be very much to the front at the Conference. They are very much to the front in all the world. The world has gone tariff mad of late, and is beginning to doubt the efficacy of barriers that are so high and exclusive. The world is waiting for a lead in the direction of a saner, more liberal tariff policy, and a lead might very well come from the Ottawa Conference. But it will not come if Canada holds out for the last bit of advantage to her secondary industries in her bargaining with the Mother Land and the other Dominions.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Mr. J. H. Thomas has made it clear that Anglo-Irish differences over the Free State's non payment of the land annuities are a dispute between two parties to an agreement, and entirely outside the scope of the Imperial Economic Conference. Said Mr. Thomas: "The one thing we have to avoid is dragging the Dominions into a dispute in which they are not affected." This, says the Ottawa Journal, is a sensible view, should have been obvious from the first. For if all of the Dominions are to jump into every dispute that arises between other members of the Empire, taking sides, and making the argument general, then it is a bad outlook for the Empire. Too many people have been assuming that this was to be what would happen in the case of the difference between Britain and the Free State. There were even those who believed, or seemed to believe, that the Government of Canada should cancel its invitation to the Free State to come to Ottawa. Fortunately, Mr. Bennett has handled this situation with good manners and good sense.

At the last Conference Canada had the support of all the Dominions, but met with opposition from Great Britain. It is fair to assume that on this occasion also Canada will play the premier role among her sister nations and we trust she will play it with honour. Great Britain, having already left it to be understood that she is in agreement with us on the principal questions that have to be threshed out, the Conference at Ottawa can hardly fail to be a great success.

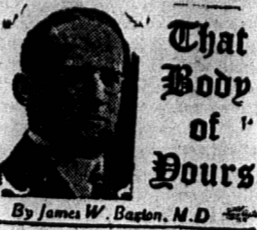
There are thousands of cases, says La Presse, Montreal, where employment being lacking, it is necessary to subsist by the charity of the community; but how many people refuse to try and help themselves, and instead of persisting in looking for work or in organizing their lives so as to emerge from their misery, resign themselves to complete inaction and are ready to live like parasites on their fellow citizens, abandoning all their pride and dignity. People of this character are surely holding back the return of the world to normal activity and are helping to prolong the crisis.

Russia continues to "go individual." The Soviet government's latest move is to reduce grain collections from the peasants and the "collectives" 20 per cent. This means that individuals will have more food for their own use and, likewise, grain which they can barter in the open market. Before the Soviet regime came into power great quantities of articles of necessity were manufactured in a small way by individuals and petty manufacturers. Cloth, utensils of tin, boots, shoes, all found ready exchange in the market place. Production of these commodities has almost ceased. Boots, for instance, simply cannot be had. The government hopes that the private barter of grain will stimulate the manufacture of these much needed commodities. Restrictions have also been removed from the purchase of milk, eggs, tea, candles, soap, cigarettes and knitted goods. This followed the lifting of restrictions in the matter of disposing of cattle. Until the year closes, farmers may dispose of their cattle in the retail markets instead of selling to the government. All of which looks suspiciously like an orderly retreat from uncompromising communism and other principles.

The Persians have a proverb which says: "The whole of truth is not found in any one nutshell." Apparently, Mr. Stalin's government is learning this lesson. "Here's a nice, clean looking town." How often have you heard this expression when on a trip you pass through a bright, clean, good looking town. There are many aspects a town might have, that do not give so quickly an insight into the character of the town and the people as the fact that it is neat and clean and well kept. The houses may or may not be all new, or of the latest design of architecture, but if they are well taken care of, the streets are clean, the vacant lots are clear from weeds, we at once set it down as a good town in which to live. Such a town invites business and attracts trade. Property in such a town is usually worth more. The secret of such a town is what is known as town pride. No town can get along without it and no town can have too much of it.—Forest Standard.

Ever on this stage is acted God's calm annual drama: Gorgeous processions, songs of birds, Sunrise that fullest feeds and freshens most the soul; The heaving sea, the waves upon the shore, the musical, strong waves, The woods, the starwart trees, the slender, tapering trees; The liliput countless armies of the grass; The heat, the showers, the measureless pastures, The scenery of the snows, the winds' free orchestra; The stretching light-hung roof of clouds, the clear cerulean and the silvery fringes, The high dialing stars, the placid beckoning stars, The moving flocks and herds, the plains and emerald meadows— The shows of all the varied lands and all the growths and products. —Walt Whitman.

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By James W. Baglan, M.D.

YOUR BODY NEEDS LIME

When you think of the solid bones of the body how they support your entire weight, and give attachment to the muscles, it may never occur to you that although they look so hard and solid nevertheless they contain 99 per cent of the lime in the body and they are giving up lime to the body all the time.

I have often spoken about lime and its great value in helping to build up the cells of the body, how it helps to ward off infection, increases the healing power of the tissues, and helps coagulate the blood.

As far as the mineral needs of the body are concerned, lime stands first; thus your health depends to a great extent upon getting a sufficient amount of lime into the body every day.

It is just here that these hard solid bones are so helpful. Should you be without the foods containing lime for any time, the bones will give up some of their lime, thus preventing the body to waste or become "run down."

In other words, the bones are a store house for lime, and the blood can go there for its supply when the need arises.

Where the individual is without foods containing lime, for a long time, so much lime can be withdrawn from the bones, especially the teeth, that serious results may follow.

Now lime is found in many of the every day foods we eat, but unfortunately there is a fondness with a great many people for foods poor in lime such as cereals, fish, root vegetables and meats. These are good foods, and all of them necessary foods, but other foods are richer in lime and must be eaten.

As you have been taught now for many years, milk is very rich in lime, and you can readily see how important it is that young children and growing children should drink a pint or a quart of milk daily. Hence during the war, all the nations did their best to see that an adequate supply of milk was available for children and mothers.

However you may not like milk, or you'd like a change from it. Can you get lime in other foods besides milk? Yes, lime is found in cheese, vegetables, especially leafy vegetables and egg yolk.

Lime is sometimes given in its natural form—the lactate in 1/2 teaspoonful doses, and the gluconate in teaspoonful doses, before meals, or 4 hours after meals.

Those little islands which so beautifully adorn the Pacific were reared up from the bed of the ocean by the little coral insect, which deposits one grain of sand at a time; so with human exertion, the greatest results of the mind are produced by small but continuous exertions. —O. F. Muller.



FROM 'LEAVES OF GRASS'

Ever on this stage is acted God's calm annual drama: Gorgeous processions, songs of birds, Sunrise that fullest feeds and freshens most the soul; The heaving sea, the waves upon the shore, the musical, strong waves, The woods, the starwart trees, the slender, tapering trees; The liliput countless armies of the grass; The heat, the showers, the measureless pastures, The scenery of the snows, the winds' free orchestra; The stretching light-hung roof of clouds, the clear cerulean and the silvery fringes, The high dialing stars, the placid beckoning stars, The moving flocks and herds, the plains and emerald meadows— The shows of all the varied lands and all the growths and products. —Walt Whitman.

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Myth And Jimmie Valentine

(Winnipeg Free Press)

In common with most people locksmiths have their troubles. One of them is Jimmie Valentine. It is surprising how that dead and gone crackman of fiction and the movies still retains his hold on the public mind, and affections. Unless a locksmith has heard of Jimmie Valentine's exploits in opening safes by merely placing his sensitive finger ends to the region of the combination many people consider him a mere dud at the business.

They stand aghast when he brings out matter of fact drills to open a safe, and ask him if he isn't going to discover the combination first by listening to the tumbler fall. And when he does not sandpaper his finger ends, the better to detect the vibrations of the combination tumblers, they back away in sheer disgust.

No amount of talk can explain away Jimmie Valentine, local locksmiths report. If it isn't Jimmie Valentine it's a French-Canadian German in Vancouver, or an old, old German back in Montreal, that opens safes almost by magic. But no locksmith has ever run the fellow to earth or seen him in the flesh.

A good safe will take even a seasoned locksmith four or five hours to open. Burglar proof vaults might take days. So-called safe-crackers that commence operations by smashing the head of the combination lock mark themselves by that very action as crude amateurs. Smashing the head locks the safe even more firmly than it was locked before. Very few high class crackmen operate in Winnipeg. Two attempted safe-crackings of recent occurrence were done by topnotchers.

The biggest boom in locks and bolts Winnipeg has had in recent years was during the few days that the Strangler was loose. One locksmith sold out in no time a consignment of chain bolts that he had been unable almost to give away for a couple of years.

The modern Yale lock is among the oldest there is known. It is based on a lock principle used by the Egyptians. Inside the lock there are a number of little round pillars of metal. Each one is of a different height. These pillars have to be level before the lock can be opened. The little notches in the key you carry correspond with the differing heights of the little pillar. The proper key raises each one to the necessary level.

The little key you carry in your pocket has twenty-eight thousand variations; that is, it can be made to fit twenty-eight thousand different locks. You would hardly believe there could be so many changes rung on a bare inch length of metal.

You might think it would be a lucrative business for a locksmith to start in safe-cracking, but it isn't. In the first place, there is no impulse among them to do so; and in the second place, each locksmith leaves on his work his own peculiar imprint; the bouquet of his technique. At about the third job he would be spotted. There's more money and prestige in opening safes legally for other people.

A good locksmith has to know all the types of locks made in the past hundred years or so. Some of them are still in use.

Quite often, people want the combination of a safe changed. The locksmith hasn't got the combination-conscious ones hand over the new combination and promptly forget what it is. As a matter of principle they refuse to put it on paper for their own information. If the owner wants the combination changed again in a month or so he sometimes becomes indignant because the locksmith doesn't know what the old one was. He usually cools down when told why the locksmith hasn't got the combination on file. It's for the owner's own protection.

Another curious feature of the modern lock is that it has a "key," a "master key" and a "grand master key." The grand master key is in the possession of the superintendent of a building and will open any door. The master key is used by cleaners on one floor and will open any door on that floor. The plain key will only open one lock.

Modern Speed

(W. H. T. in Montreal Gazette)

It has been said that the alphabet, the printing press, and swift transport, are the three great inventions which have done most for the civilization of the human race. There are however, some other factors such as telephone, radio, and the electric bulb, which have changed the face of continents and brought about an amazing revolution in the mutual relations and converse of peoples to the uttermost parts of the earth. There are some links of connection between these agencies which seem so far apart. For had it not been for an alphabet the printing press would never have appeared; and how far the rapid diffusion of news has speeded travel, and travel in turn speeded the broadcast of news, let the ingenious decide if they can.

But "apeed" aptly summarizes the difference between times ancient and modern. Three weeks ago they celebrated in England a new record in railroad speed, which took the form of a train travelling eighty odd miles per hour for first stop; and a passenger gave notice that boarding three separate trains that had travelled 232 miles at an average pace of seventy-seven miles per hour. It was pointed out that a century ago the swiftest way across Europe was by horseback and by best relays it took nine days to travel from London to Rome, this being considered good going and a feat accomplished by the most expert of riders. At that comment was made upon the fact that the speed of travel had not much improved since the time when the Roman legions traversed the roads. By way of contrast, it was shown that a modern express train can compass this journey in a day and a half. And although for some years after the railway locomotive came into vogue the trains did not travel much faster than the "tally-ho" coaches and in some instances were timed at a slower rate than ten miles per hour, eighty miles per hour betokens a pace George Stephenson might have deemed incredible had he lived to see it; and it is reported that once Queen Victoria was whirled along from Easton to Tuing at the rate of 34 miles in 53 minutes, she requested that the engineer slow down the speed.

But the early Victorian traditions of travel are as far behind the more up-to-date methods in vogue as a farm wagon was behind the pace of the highway coach when coaching was in its heyday of repute; and like the young bloods of this day and generation read the ancient fable about the tortoise and the hare with a supercilious smile. They probably would never see either tortoise or hare, when at the wheel of a modern car capable of going round the race track at three miles per minute. The day-and-a-half express train run to Rome would be fairly easy going for an airplane in crossing the Atlantic; and the nine days considered the best of going to Rome a century ago, is the figure that would well befit in our day a spin by airplane around the entire globe. Gatty and

wiley in the "Winnie Mae" circled the world in 8 days, 15 hours, and 54 minutes. Besides this record the romance of Jules Verne drops into prosaic measure; and Messrs. Mastern and Griffin who Tuesday "hopped off" from Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, en route to Ireland and so on through Europe to Siberia and thence back across the Pacific and the United States to New York, the starting-point, hoped to beat the "Winnie Mae" record and to belt the globe within a single week. The rush of modern speed is bewildering and jumbles up the vista of seas and continents in a blur. But we may muse upon the time when it took six months for a vessel to sail from London to Australia, or the old story of how ancient mariners creeping a-sail along the coasts of Africa packed up corn to sow and reap ashore in order to make another lap of their journey. And what a difference! Whether our civilization has improved itself amid these swift cycles of ex-

perience like the "crowding of centuries into an afternoon" is another question altogether. True happiness consists not in the multitude of friends but in their worth and choice.—Johnson.

It is by limitation, far more than by precept that we learn everything; and what we learn thus, we acquire not only more effectually but more pleasantly. This forms our manners, our opinions, our lives.—Burke.

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