THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded 1887)

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
$5.00 per year (in advance) delivered to City
$4.00 per year (in advance) mailed to P. E. Island
$5.00 per year (in advance) mailed to Canada and U.S.
Members Audit Bureau of Circulations

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink".

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1938

Whither Democracy?

Canadian democracy faces no greater problem today than the vanishing independence of the private member of Parliament and the accompanying growth of party discipline within the Commons chamber", said Mr. Norman MacLeod, retiring president of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, in addressing a Toronto service club last week. He added:

"If the trend is to continue, it means that Canada is to have but the empty forms of democracy with all the disadvantages that any system of popular government necessarily entails, and an actual dictatorship without any of the advantages—inadequate though they may be—of totalitarian government.

Mr. MacLeod could not have summed up the danger better if he had sat through a session of our all-Liberal Legislature in this Province, where even the empty forms are showing signs of cracking under the strain.

At Ottawa, says Mr. MacLeod, a growing number of M.P.'s are selling their birthright of independence for a mess of pottage consisting of prospective appointment to the Senate, the bench and civil service posts. He suggests withdrawal of the Government's power to appoint Senators, reduction of the parliamentary indemnity to its old level of $2,500 per annum, and barring M.P.'s from civil service jobs for five years after leaving the House. Mr. Dunning, we fancy, wouldn't like that last suggestion to be made retroactive.

Saskatchewan Election Soon

An early general provincial election — perhaps in June — is anticipated in Saskatchewan, says the Montreal Gazette. Unusual attention attaches to the campaign because of the determination of the Social Credit Party to place a candidate in every riding. In Alberta, the home of Social Credit, there is eagerness to spread the theory into the neighboring province to the East. Pamphlets setting forth the Social Credit aims and ideals are being sent into Saskatchewan, while Premier Aberhart is willing to help on the spot if he is invited, although he explains that he has worries aplenty in his own province. At the very moment when circumstances seem propitious for the Social Credit body in Saskatchewan, there comes a split in the ranks. The Saskatoon division announces that it will refuse to recognize certain directors added to the provincial executive of the association at a recent meeting in Regina, the capital. Nor will recognition be extended to T. A. McInnis, the provincial organizer.

The present Liberal Government was elected June 19, 1934, when fifty of its candidates were victorious, together with five Farmer-Labor members. These latter are now regarded as C.C.F. followers. Hon. W. J. Patterson, Premier, President of the Council, Provincial Treasurer and Minister of Telephones and Telegraphs, has a thumping majority, but the Administration has been falling from grace in the public estimation.

Four main parties preparing for the contest —Liberal, Conservative, Social Credit and C.C.F. The Government that Premier Patterson's Liberals defeated in 1934 was a coalition of Conservatives, C.C.F. and a few Independents, led by Dr. Anderson. The impression now is that the C.C.F. will work with the Conservatives in an attempt to oust the Liberals and prevent the Social Credit Party from making an entry into the Saskatchewan Legislature, Already candidates have been named with joint Conservative and C.C.F. support. In its struggle to retain office, the Government will be helped by Hon. J. G. Gardiner, who was very active, though unsuccessful, in fighting the Liberal battle in recent Alberta by-elections. All eyes will be on Sskatchewan when the campaign begins, because of the attack being made by the Social Credit Party.

Ministerial Caution

A Minister of Trade and Commerce is expected to know his geography, but Hon. W. D. Euler was caught napping the other day in Parliament. Speaking of Canada's treaty with Gautemala, he said the other Central American republics are excluded from the operations of the most favoured nation clause. "What countries would that be?" asked Mr. Bennett. "I am not sure," Mr. Euler confessed, "that I can enumerate them." He had to send to his office for the information. The names that stumped the Minister were Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Asked if the treaties were likely to increase greatly our trade with these countries, Mr. Euler said he "would not care to make any prediction with regard to that." Asked about the transportation facilities for the exchange of trade between Canada and Guatemala, the cautious Mr. Euler again replied. "I am not sure that I can give an answer to that question."

Gaelic In Canada

There are over 32,000 people in Canada who speak Gaelic as their monther tongue, says "Canada's Weekly." Almost 29,000 of these were born in the Dominion. There are 31,000 who speak Scottish Gaelic and the other thousand speak Irish and Welsh.

The proportion of the Scots of Canada who have Gaelic as a mother tongue, without counting those who acquired it since childhood, is 2.30 per cent. In Scotland the Gaelic speaking proportion is 2.82. Of course, there has been a tremendous expatriation of Highlanders from Scotland in the last 200 or more years, and it is still going on. A great many have come to Canada and in Nova Scotia there are still over 24,000 Gaelic speakers. That tongue is a family language for some people in every portion of British North America, from Newfoundland to the Yukon.

The migration from the Scottish Highlands was often in large companies of settlers after the Jacobite Rising, many of them disbanded soldiers. There were large settlements of them in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario. In Quebec there are many Scots who speak only Gaelic and French.

In Ontario, most Gaelic is spoke in Glengarry and Stormont, and it is interesting to recall that many of the present day speakers of the language there are descended from United Empire Loyalists who had been Scottish Jacobites but who preferred to remain British.

Relief Figures

Giving to the House figures showing the per capita monthly cost of food, fuel, clothing and shelter in the past nine months of the calendar year 1937, Hon. Mr. Rogers said they showed as follows: For the whole Dominion $6.43; Prince Edward Island $2.24; Nova Scotia $4.49; New Brunswick, no report because direct relief was not administered in that province; Quebec $6.10; Ontario $7.77; Manitoba $6.50; Saskatchewan $5.45; Alberta $6.78; British Columbia $7.67. The monthly per capita cost of relief materials in the principal cities, as given by the Minister, were as follows for the same period: Charlottetown $3.22; Halifax $4.28; Sydney $4.46; Hull $5.04; Montreal $7.65; Quebec $5.34; Hamilton $8.61; London $8.75; Ottawa $9.41; Toronto $8.45; Greater Windsor $9.47; Winnipeg $9.96; Regina $10.37; Saskatoon $9.59; Calgary $10.24; Edmonton $9.41; Vancouver $9.03; and Victoria $8.81. The full cost of unemployment relief in 1937 was $110,000,000, only 40 per cent of which was paid by Ottawa, the other 60 per cent being handed out by the provinces and cities. That is a substantial increase on the peak year of depression, 1933, when Ottawa spent $41,000,000 and the provinces and cities $59,000,000.

Editorial Notes

It seems that Japan has the dairy cow with the highest production yet reported. This, suggests an exchange, may inspire a Japanese playwright to produce a sequel to "Madame Butterfly" and entitle it "Madame Butterfat."

* * * *

"We are beginning to wonder," says the Ottawa Journal, "just how the Rowell Royal Commission carries around all the briefs that are presented to it." If it survives the process of digesting them it will be still more wonderful.

* * * *

The Federal Government is considering a proposal whereby the head and shoulders of a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman will take the place of the Dominion's Coat of Arms on Canada's best products designated "Canada Standard" goods.

* * * *

The Montreal Gazette has come out openly opposed to Dr. Manion as Conservative leader. Discussing the forthcoming convention and its business, it says if the delegates attempt to compare their views on the railway question with those of Mr. Bennett and Dr. Manion, they are not likely to get very far.

* * * *

New ordinary life insurance sales in Canada, for the first quarter of the year, totalled nearly $100,000,000, an increase of more than 7 1-2% over the first three months of 1937. Ontario, which did over 45% of the business, showed an increase of nearly 8%, and Quebec, with over 25% of the business, an increase of 3%. Other provinces, with the exception of Saskatchewan, showed gains ranging from 7% in Manitoba to as high as 24% in Alberta. In Saskatchewan business was down nearly 20%.

* * * *

Walking for health is catching on in the city of Montreal. Certain big business executives have been giving the lead for years, and, gradually, subordinates are following suit. A survey shows a surprising number of leaders in the financial districts who are ardent advocates of the principle of starting the day well by walking to their offices instead of driving downtown in their automobiles. Some of these prominent men walk distances of upwards of four miles every morning. Most of them are driven home in the evening; but some there are who get the exercise both ways.

* * * *

The New York Times laments editorially the enormous decline of Greek in American university and high school curriculums. It began long before the advent of dictators. Those anxious about democracy might dwell on that decline. "Not only is this a poor time for popular government but also for the beautiful language in which democracy was cradled. Government by the people was born in Greece and the name is Greek. A fine gesture of defiance against the dictators now running loose in the world would be for American students to go in for the study of Greek."

* * * *

According to Mr. R. S. Lea, the famous hydraulic engineer of Montreal, brother of the late Premier Lea, Mr. Chamberlain is pursuing the right and most commendable policy in both the European and world interests. Mr. Lea has just returned from Vienna of which Mrs. Lea is a native. Far from subscribing to the view held in some quarters that Britain has lost prestige because she has seemed weak in the face of aggression by dictators, Mr. Lea exclaimed, "Britain has gained prestige in recent years. The people who say that England should have fought in connection with the taking over of Austria and who would like to see her embroiled in regard to Czechoslovakia are the very ones who preached disarmament."

NOTES BY THE WAY

The study of German in New York high schools has fallen off thirty per cent, since the Nazis came into power. Our kids fear that if they are heard speaking the language. Hitler will come over and liberate them.—New Yorker.

Amarillo, Texas, had a Mother-in-law Day. Some other town, Buffalo, for instance, could make the front page nicely with a Father-in-law Night.—Buffalo Evening News.

Fashionable ladies, why not have your little dog tinted to match your dress for special occasions? Lady has discovered process guaranteed harmless to the most delicate animals, prettiest pastel shades imaginable.—Advt. London Telegraph.

A movement is on foot in Natal, South Africa, to preserve for all time a small herd of red hartebeest antelope which lives on a Natal farm. It is the only remaining herd of this species in the world, and it would not exist today but for the efforts of the farmer in protecting it from hunters. There are only 70 animals in the herd.—Montreal Gazette.

"Nine upright planes and a baby grand" were recently stolen from the premises of a haulage contractor in London and a member of the firm is reported as having said, "We think it was the work of somebody familiar with the business.—Fredericton Gleaner

It seems to us they are drawing these anti-gas measures a little too fine. Pictures are shown of people doing all sorts of tasks while wearing gas masks. One propaganda stunt is to show boys and girls sitting at their school desks and wearing gas masks. How many pupils would be at their desks, if enemy airplanes were overhead dropping gas bombs?—W. L. Clark in Windsor Star.

Every effort must be put forth by the authorities at Queen's Park to conserve and increase the game fish and wild life in general in this province. That the great Northern Ontario play-grounds and fishermen's paradise are the main attractions to American tourists who left something like $295,000,000 in this province in 1937, is evidenced in the constant stream of inquiries flowing into the Canadian travel bureau each spring.—Guelph Mercury.

New Japanese-edited textbooks introduced in Chinese schools overlook China's frequent "humiliations," which got so much space in the old Chinese-edited histories. Nothing is said about the Japanese seizure of Formosa in 1895, the loss of Korea in 1910, the famous 21 demands of 1915, or the invasion of Manchuria in 1931. The last 10 years of Chinese history seems to be a dark unmentionable secret. Teachers are forbidden to speak of Sun Yat-Sen and his Nationalist Party, or the Nanking Government set up in 1928, or Chiang Kai-Shek's armies and new-life movement. After all if the Chinese are to be yanked out of the dark ages into the sunlight of "co-operation" with Japan, one of the best means is to wipe the historical slate clean and start all over again. Facts won't be altered thereby, but public consciousness of them will be. And that's half the battle.—Harrison in Windsor Star.

Dr. Edward S. Godfrey Jr., State Health Commissioner, said today that the new sanitary code regulation prohibiting importation, breeding or sale of birds of the psittacine or parrot family would become effective June 1. It was approved by the Public Health Council in an effort to prevent spread of psittacosis, or "parrot fever" in humans. The disease kills from 20 to 40 per cent of those who contract it. In New York City a similar regulation will become effective July 1.

State libraries in Austria will segerate those books with anti-Nazi tendencies or written by prominent "non-Aryans," which will be placed in special rooms, together with Socialist works eliminated previously by the Schuschnigg regime. There is no question of burning them. They will be retained for purposes of research but will not be available to the general public. The Nazi authorities have visited the homes of persons known to possess many books and to hold Left opinions. A number of books have been removed in most instances.

Blood corpuscles of a lizard, which still show their structure under the microscope, have been found by scientists at Halle University, working on masses of animal remains excavated from the great lignite pits in the near-by Geisel valley. The geologic age is middle eocene, approximately 50,000,000 years ago.

City planners meeting in Chicago have predicted that the skyscraper's supremacy in metropolitan architecture is a thing of the past. H. G. Wells' megalopolis of fantastically tall buildings and scaffoldings of aerial roads may prove only a celluloid prospect for Cecil De Mille unless riveters and steeplejacks get busy and refute these planners.—Christian Science Monitor

A judge in Hollywood has announced that before he will approve any theatrical, radio or motion picture contract of a minor, the parents or guardian must agree to establish a trust fund into which at least half of the salary of the child must be deposited by the employer. The accumulated money will be paid to the child when he attains his majority, or in installments after that age as the parents direct. The announcement was inspired by the court action brought by Jackie Coogan for a share of his earnings as a minor, and it seems to be a sensible way of handling the problem.—Boston Post.

There is a very old custom with respect to knocking at the doors of houses in London which has been strictly adhered to, in some places, for more than 100 years. By the manner of knocking the visitor informs the household of his station. A servent belonging to the house rings the bell only; a strange servant knocks once; a messenger knocks once and rings twice; the postman always knocks twice; a gentleman or a lady gives half a dozen quick knocks; a nobelman generally eight or ten very loud knocks. — Henry Ashbery in Maclean's

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

THE MEETING OF UNEMPLOYED

Sir,—The meeting called by the unemployed work people of Charlottetown, held in the City Hall last Monday evening, had a number of features that were alike satisfactory and disappointing. To its credit there were a very capable chairmanship, excellent order on the part of all present, a strong declaration by the men's leaders that they intend to follow law-abiding tactics, a keen and sincere desire on the part of those representing the City and Province to do everything possible to provide work during the coming summer months, and an avowed intention on all sides to bar party politics from the question of employment.

All of the above were decidedly to the good. On the other hand, it was generally conceded that the amount of work forthcoming will be insufficient to provide steady employment for all those requiring it until the next snow falls, thus rendering it impossible for the men to lay aside money to carry them through the winter months.

On top of this fact was the disappointing feature, that, while the proposed undertakings are all desirable from the point of view of comfort and appearance, none of them is insistent and, in view of the financial positions of the Province and City, might well be deferred, particularly as they will all have to be paid for from borrowed money, which means further additions to the present heavy debts, with a corresponding increase in the annual interest charges which will have to be paid from tax levies.

Even these features, however, were not the most serious; rather was the fact that it was admitted that all these so-called improvements can at best be but a temporary providing of work, and, in the very nature of things, they much come to an early end.

No suggestion or promise was made by those who spoke for the Province and City to give early consideration to the evolving of plans that will solve in the near future this very serious question of unemployment, and here let it be remembered that the idle workers of Charlottetown, composed probably of 800 or 900 families, represent but a fraction of those suffering similarly in other districts of the Province. Moreover, the number of those seeking work throughout the Island is bound to increase from year to year, for our schools are annually releasing two thousand or more pupils.

So long as the young people of this Island were able to obtain satisfactory employment on the mainland it was perhaps natural for those in control of affairs to follow what might be termed the lines of least resistence and allow the Island to be deprived of its youth, carrying with them its future hope and enterprise, after having gone to the heavy cost of raising them to years of maturity. But that day is past and over and judging from statistics collated in Ottawa and Washington, there is no reason to suppose that our people, young or old, will in the near future be allowed to compete with those seeking work either in the United States or in the other Canadian Provinces.

Facing, then, a situation such as this, is it not high time that all serious minded people who have any interest at all in the welfare of the Province should not merely give their best thoughts to the question, but should meet together for practical discussion.

As the whole Province is involved, the chief obligation would seem to rest with the Government, but, unfortunately, under the extreme party feeling existing in this Province, accompanied as it is with the habit of bitter criticism, it is difficult for any Government to formulate plans of a strongly initiative nature. That obstacle, however, could be overcome by the naming of a committee or commission composed of men and women of both political leanings, including representatives of the Women's Institute, whose duty it would be to investigate the whole matter and report back to the Government. Beyond the payment of a secretary, such a commission should call for no outlay, and its very existence would awaken a general interest in all parts of the Province.

While it is quite in order for a community to specialize in certain vocations, it is generally admitted that no country or district can prosper without a reasonable variety of occupations. It has been because of the close working together of argiculture in its many aspects with all classes of industries that Ontario has made such remarkable progress, far greater that that of any other of Canada's Provinces; and while, because of our geographical position and lack of natural resources, we cannot hope to rival Ontario, there are I am satisfied many ways in which living conditions can be improved in Prince Edward Island, sufficient at least to absorb all our unemployed. May I suggest that you open your columns to a discussion of this important matter.

I am, Sir, etc.,
H. K. S. HEMMING

Charlottetown,
May 2, 1938.

SUGGESTION RE UNEMPLOYMENT

Sir,—The writer, noting with a great deal of interest the outcome of the meeting of the unemployed together with a number of publicly spirited citizens held at the City Building on Friday evening last, has been hoping that something of an immediate and local nature might be suggested that while not attempting to fill the need of public undertakings of a larger nature on the part of both Federal and Provincial governments, still might be a welcome adjunct to the larger proposals which we all fervently hope will be undertaken in the near future, providing a summer's work at decent wages for the unemployed of our city so urgently needed.

It is only the acute distress of some of our fellow citizens that was so plainly evidenced at the meeting on Friday last that suggests the proposal of ideas below and the fact that they are ideas that have been put into practice in other places whose needs were no greater than those of our own people, that causes one to go into print in order to pass them along.

During the war years, one of our mainland towns through its Town Council listed each and every idle plot of ground or vacant field within its limits, set up a voluntary working committee with a small fund from the city coffers for the purchase of seed of many kinds, small tools, rakes, spades and wheelbarrows. The produce grown in season sold at good prices and formed a splendid addition to what was then a somewhat restricted diet.

Twenty years later in this same mainland town, unemployment became so acute that exceptional measures had to be turned to in a rather desperate situation. It was not only with the idea of gain from what could be grown that prompted this repeating of the former idea of providing the towns unemployed with tools, seed, small implements to set to work with but that they might be employed at work which would be interesting and keep up the morale of a large number of people to whom the present looks indeed bleak and hopeless.

The net result of last summer's return by the community cited above was that nearly every idle man was decently employed, his temporary relief from the town was no higher than if in idleness, his fall and winter needs as far as vegetables like potatoes, turnips, cabbage, onions, cauliflower, beets, peas and beans were assured from the community supply and the surplus raised sold on the open market for nearly $6,000 (this being only an estimate).

Now there are fully as many idle gardens and tracts of fertile land in our corporation limits to allow of a similar undertaking in Charlottetown, right now is the ideal time to set about the listing of these and the appointment of some capable persons who can give the time gratis for supervision of such a project and without doubt the burden on city relief, churches and other charitable organizations will be lightened next fall and winter as well as many worthy fellows cheered by the doing of an honest day's work toward helping themselves.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A. L. WRIGHT

Charlottetown.

CIVIC RELIEF

Sir,—Would you kindly allow me space in your paper to make some comments in regard to some civic matters. At the unemployed meeting on Thursday night last the Mayor among other projects proposed the placing of a paved road around the Government Pond. Now, Sir, when the Mayor spends money on unemployed why not spend it where the results will benefit our citizens? I think that he can find some streets that are badly in need of paving and when they are paved the taxpayers living on those streets would be benefited and not think that they are living in the backwoods or in a devastated village behind the lines in France. Would it not be a good idea to pave Douglas St., Villa St., and Brighton Avenue before spending any further money on beautifying the now historic Government Pond.

At the Canadian Legion meeting last week a member made a complaint about the way relief work was handled. This man got a few days' work on the pond. Before he started he had to purchase a new pair of hip rubber boots, but the rub came when he went to get his money after a few day's work. Our hard pressed civic authorities stopped $2.00 to apply on his Poll Tax. It is only a small sum but to a man with a large family it was a big item. Who gave the order to stop this money? Did our Messrs. Prowse and Trainor know that the money granted for relief was to pay part of the civic tax arrears? Could our tax collectors not get after some of our tax defaulters who are in a much better position to pay up than a poor unemployed workman who gets a few days of relief work to help put a stitch of clothing on small children?

It has been the custom for some time past for our civic heads to give contractors all the paving projects. I do not think that any of the contractors lost any money but made considerable profit. Could not any future paving work be done by the city themselves? We have a very capable and efficient Engineer and there are now many well trained key men, so let us do the work ourselves. The streets laid by the late Mr. Nicholson and by Mr. Messervey are just as good if not better than those laid by contractors. The profit would stay in this city.

Direct relief is costing a lot of money and the citizens would like to know how the supplies are purchased, what prices are paid and are tenders called. What is the price per ton for delivered coal?

We have had in Charlottetown during the past few months fourteen cases of breaking and entering. Have any arrests been made? There was on the police force during the winter of 1936 and 37 a special officer by the name of Peter J. Morrison an ex-service man. When Mr. Morrison tried to get a permanent appointment I understand that a delegation from the Canadian Legion was told that he was too aggressive, so our Police Committee could not hire him. Would it not be well in view of the many unsolved breaks and many speeding cars that the aggressive Mr. Morrison be now given a trial on our police force.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A. G. K.

Charlottetown.

NO CAPS FOR GIRLS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — (CP) — Because the United States warship Louisville was a long way from base of supplies when it visited this port the ship's company was specially warned they must not give away their "pork pie" hats as souvenirs.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

SIMPLE REMEDY TO PREVENT SEA, TRAIN AND AIR SICKNESS

At a large industrial exhibition some years ago I was interested in hearing a demonstrator explain the merits of an abdominal belt in preventing sea, train or air sickness. He stated that this particular belt prevented the liver and stomach from moving or "flopping" around in the abdomen, which was the cause of sea, train and air sickness.

I asked him if any tight belt would answer the purpose, aside from this particular one, and he admitted that any tight belt would be effective. Shortly after this encounter, I read of a traveller who had to cross the ocean frequently who stated that by drawing his abdomen in tightly, away from the table, when eating, he was able to prevent sea sickness. This drawing in of the abdomen tightened the abdominal wall and so would have the same effect as a tight belt in holding the stomach and liver from being moved about too much.

Just a few months ago Dr. W. Tobler in the Swiss Medical Journal, Basel, directed attention to the theory of sea, air and train sickness presented previously by Dr. Lenggenhager, who showed that the disturbances in sea sickness were due to fluctuation or changes in the pressure and traction (drawing and pulling away from spinal column) on the large group or plexus of nerves lying in region of the stomach. This group of nerves controls body processes—digestion, breathing—which are not under control of the will.

Dr Tobler reported the case of a girl aged 10 who suffered with automobile sickness when travelling through the mountains, and the usual remedies gave no relief. The child was then placed on an unholstered board, lying down, to avoid pressure and traction. During two hours of travel over mountain roads the child remained free from automobile sickness. However as soon as the child sat or stood up there was nausea and vomiting. When she laid down again the child was able to continue the trip with no symptoms of sickness. Similar observations were made on a boy, aged 13.

Thus the advice of ship captains and physicians that passengers likely to be seasick should find a place about the centre of the vessel and lie down quietly, is founded on the fact that at this central point of the ship less motion will be felt and si less pressure and pulling on the abdominal organs.

While no one has suggested it, as far as I know, a cleansing of the lower bowel before going on the ship, plane or train, would mean less weight pulling on the nerves and organs in the upper part of the abdomen

The Poets' Corner

THESE ARE THE BEAUTIES

These are the beauties
My heart holds dear:
Broken buds
In the Spring o' the year;

The wan beauty
Of western skies,
When morning wakes
With tears in her eyes;

Young love
That knows the smart,
The beauty of
An aching heart.

Broken buds
In the Spring o' the year:
These are the beauties
My heart holds dear.

—Thomas Saunders.

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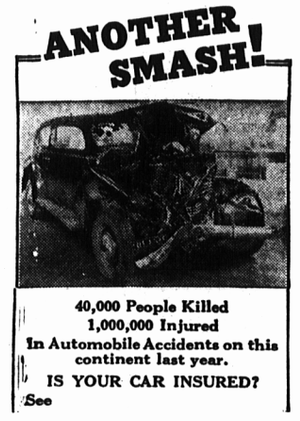

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