

WHAT THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS IS DOING ON ITS TENTH BIRTHDAY

CANADA. Experts have been sent to Geneva to confer on agricultural problems with representatives of other countries.

U.S.A. It is expected that America will join the League Court now that the Statute has been revised to meet its demands. The picture shows the seat of government at Washington.

GENEVA. A conference of European coal-producing countries is in session at the I.L.O. considering hours of work, conditions, and wages in preparation for the main conference to be held in May.

SWITZERLAND. A wireless station for the use of the League is being constructed at Geneva.

HOLLAND. Preparation is being made for the World Conference on the Codification of International Law called by the League for March.

LIBERIA. The alleged existence of slavery is being investigated, at Liberia's own request, by a League representative.

CAMERONS. The League is guarding the health of this British mandated territory by building hospitals at Bamenda, Mamfe, and Kumba. Several dispensaries are also being established.

BOLIVIA. At the request of the Government a League official is helping to reorganise the national health system.

BRAZIL. A League official is helping Brazil to fight leprosy.

RUANDA-URUNDI. This territory, which is under Belgian mandate, is having its first roads made. Schools and a women's college are also being built.

INDIA. The fight against the terrible scourge of malaria is being carried on with the aid of the League at the request of the Government.

SINGAPORE. A weekly bulletin sent to Geneva from Singapore describes the health conditions in 150 ports of the Far East.

PACIFIC ISLANDS. The report of a recent inquiry makes recommendations for preserving the native races of New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Solomon Islands, Fiji, and New Guinea.

CHINA. A League official with two other experts from Geneva is studying a scheme for improving the ports and quarantine regulations.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS. An inquiry into opium-smoking is being made which covers Straits Settlements, Java, Sumatra, Siam, British North Borneo, Philippine Islands, and Formosa.

Equator—the middle line round the globe

The headquarters of the League of Nations at Geneva, where the Secretariat is preparing for the 58th session of the Council on January 13.

THE ARCHBISHOP AND THE TAXI MAN

A few days ago Monseigneur Verdier, the new archbishop of Paris, hailed a taxi to take him for a drive in the capital. He was in his priest's garb without any sign of his new dignity.

The chauffeur was a native of Aveyron, in the South of France, and when the archbishop paid him he recognised in the few words that the prelate uttered the accent of the country.

You are from Aveyron, monsieur l'abbé?

You are right, I am from that part. Then you know Monseigneur Verdier. A little.

He is one of my old school chums. Ah! how funny.

We were great friends when we were kids.

And what's your name?

Pierre Durand.

Ah! well, my dear Pierre, I am glad to meet you.

What!

I am Jean Verdier. We have both grown a little older.

THE PORT OF LONDON'S TREASURE

On a river that Londoners see only by glimpses stands the Port of London, the greatest in the world.

Up that muddy River Thames, on which Londoners cannot afford to run a fleet of river steamboats, comes merchandise richer, heavier, more varied, than that of any other port in the world.

New York, the gate of the Western continent; Rotterdam, the portal of mid-Europe, are both outdistanced. Antwerp, Havre, and the ports of the East are nowhere.

In one year London's Port will have dealt with ships of 60,000,000 tons in the aggregate and merchandise to the value of £750,000,000.

A TRADESMAN OF COLCHESTER

There was once a flourishing tradesman of Colchester. His shop was well stocked with pottery and glass, but none of it was stamped British made.

Dear me, nothing so common! The grand lady who came shopping in a litter borne by slaves would not have looked at it. That Colchester tradesman was a Roman, and he shaped British clay into Roman wares. From his stock the Governor's lady replaced that broken wine jar, chose a bowl for little Balbo's bread-and-milk, and bought some glass vases to hold the violets of this nasty isle of Britain, so boggy and uncivilised.

One day the savages came out of the woods in their war paint, led by a chieftain called Boadicea, swept down upon the Roman colony of Colchester, and started looting and burning.

The tradesman fled. His shop went up in flames. Weeds grew over the black ruins, soil drifted higher as the centuries went by, and men speaking a new speech came to live on the site.

The other day, when rebuilding work was being carried out in Colchester, High Street, men unearthed the smoky ruins of the shop, still well stocked with its pottery and glass, just as its owner left it centuries ago.

THE LAST OF A WAR VETERAN

A sailor reminds us that the Frances Duncan, which sank off Land's End in the recent storms, was well beloved by the Battle Cruiser Squadrons of the war.

By day or night she gave coal to hungry vessels at the rate of 160 tons an hour. She and her brother, the John Duncan, were the two finest colliers in the Fleet, and men always welcomed the sight of her, because it meant they would be supplied in the quickest possible time.

Many an ex-Serviceman keeps a warm corner in his heart for her, and will grieve over her tragic end.

THE LEAGUE, THE FILM, AND THE FARM

The Kinema Institute of the League of Nations, working in Rome, has set itself to find out how films can be used for the benefit of farming.

It is suggested that the pictures might show methods of making the best use of land and of improving crops, and of preventing accidents.

A committee is now drawing up the draft of an international agreement for abolishing the duties that have to be paid at frontiers on educational films such as these. As they have little or no market value, it is thought they should be allowed to pass free, another idea that will help toward that much-needed international understanding.

THE BIRDS TRUST GLASGOW

It is evident that the adoption of an All-Inclusive Bird Protection Order by Glasgow is leading toward a better understanding between birds and man in the parks of that great city.

The keeper of the Dawsholm Park has recorded visits of 60 kinds of birds to the park, and 26 kinds nested there last year.

The visitors include the gold-crested wren, the long-tailed tit, the woodpecker, the oyster catcher, and the corn-crake; and among the nesters have been the grey wagtail, the kingfisher, the sandpiper, and the pheasant.

Sixty is a very good record for a city as far north as Glasgow, but there is a likelihood of a considerable increase as the habit of confidence grows.

THE JOURNALIST ABROAD

Denmark has enlightened views on other subjects besides disarmament.

For several years its Government has granted a sum of 10,000 crowns to enterprising journalists who wish to take a tour abroad for study. One of these scholarships provides specially for a stay in Geneva to study the League and its work.

MORE ROOM IN THE ETHER

Everyone interested in wireless knows that the ether is getting crowded. As there is only a limited number of available wave-lengths there must soon come a limit to the number of wireless communications. It is as if hundreds of people wanted each to sound a note of their own on one piano. There are only 88 notes on a full-scale piano, and therefore only 88 notes could be struck.

Dr. James Robinson showed to a number of scientists in London the other day a new device he has invented of tuning one wireless instrument to another with such wonderful delicacy that 5000 stations could broadcast on a band of wave-lengths on which at present only 25 stations could do so.

His remarkable invention will introduce a new era in wireless, doing away with one of the greatest of the difficulties that have come about through the world's use of the ether. Perhaps the greatest feature of Dr. Robinson's invention is that it will make the simultaneous sending of television, words, and music an easy matter. One of the great difficulties about television at the moment is that it requires an allotment of the ether which would be enough for ten broadcasting stations.

By Dr. Robinson's brilliant work there will be much more room in the ether for everybody, and not only will the way be paved for the needs of television, but many more broadcasting stations will be able to operate.

2504 GRAINS ON ONE STEM

Prizes offered by the editor of a French farming newspaper for the best tuft of ears of corn from a single seed, the best beetroot, and the best potato, have been given for a tuft producing 72 ears of corn with 2504 grains, weighing 4 ounces, a beetroot weighing slightly over 30 pounds, and a potato weighing well over two pounds.