

ICE PRESSURE AT NIAGARA

The Power of Expansion

Niagara has been frozen before, but seldom has it afforded such a demonstration of the crushing power of ice as in the last few weeks.

In severe winters most of the rivers in these high latitudes are frozen over. The Canadian St Lawrence is usually closed to navigation from December to April. Niagara itself is often so nearly frozen that the Falls are reduced to a trickle between monstrous icicles, both at the wide Canadian Falls and the American Horseshoe Fall.

This winter's experience is entirely out of the common, because enough ice in flocs has come over the Falls to pile itself high in the gorge below them. Every day added to its bulk, and it rose higher and higher till it reached the foundations of the bridge spanning the gorge between America and Canada.

Even then the bridge might have remained intact if it had not been for the expansive power of ice. When water freezes into ice the ice expands by about ten per cent of the volume of the water. The ice piling up in the Niagara gorge was continually receiving additions from the freezing water below. It grew from the bottom and so the mass continually expanded till by pressure it tore away the foundations of the bridge.

THE 24 PENNIES

How a Little Inspiration Counts

It was a memorable evening for the villagers of Guestling a few Sundays ago, but it was even more memorable for members of the Hastings Boys Brigade.

The Rector had sent them a special invitation, for the service was the first to be held in electric lighting for which these lads were unknowingly responsible.

This is the story. A group of boys rambling without an officer were attracted by the church and there saw a notice asking for subscriptions for an electric light installation. They collected 24 pence, which they placed in an envelope, writing on it the name of the Hastings Company.

It happened that the gifts toward the £40 needed had been so disappointing that the rector had made up his mind to drop the idea, but the finding of the envelope brought a new sparkle into his eye and into the hearts of his congregation also, with the result that all renewed their efforts, the money was raised, and the light installed.

Meanwhile the boys had forgotten all about their envelope, so that the invitation from the rector came as a real surprise. We congratulate them in showing the world once more how much a little inspiration counts.

A Wordsworth Passes On

It was only the other day that a charming old scholar was showing us the books he treasured in the famous library of Salisbury Cathedral, among them a copy of Magna Carta made for a man who saw it sealed by King John.

The librarian who showed us these treasures was Canon Christopher Wordsworth, a grand-nephew of the poet, and now he has passed on at 89.

His father was Bishop of Lincoln, his uncle was Bishop of St Andrews, and his brother John was Bishop of Salisbury. All were very distinguished scholars, yet it was Canon Christopher who was the greatest authority on the churches, their services, and what they have stood for down the ages. He wrote many books about life in earlier days, yet his work for foreign missions proved that he was as keen about the future as he was about the past. He was beloved by all, and will long be remembered at Salisbury.

THE WORLD CAN BREAK ITS SHACKLES

Van Zeeland's Way

If we really wish to avert war and bring mankind back to a more peaceful frame of mind we must have the courage to tackle the whole economic question and solve the great questions which menacingly confront humanity.

These momentous words are from a letter one young Belgian wrote to another last July, and they have been recalled by the findings of the man to whom the letter was addressed, M. van Zeeland, whose Report is now being discussed all over the world.

The writer of the letter was King Leopold of the Belgians, and he wrote it after the visit of his Prime Minister to America as the emissary of France and Great Britain to enquire into the possibility of obtaining a general reduction of quotas and of other obstacles to international trade.

The Root of the Problem

M. Zeeland's enquiries have not been restricted to America, but have ranged all over the world, and his findings and suggestions are now before us all.

In the beginning of his Report he at once gets down to the root of the problem by asking, Is it useful to develop international trade? His answer is emphatically Yes, for, though he admits that in a large national market dominated by a powerful central authority isolation is possible, it would inevitably mean, he says, a lower standard of living.

He found, in fact, that not a single word was uttered in opposition to the general principle that trade between nations should be developed and the economic warfare ended; but so complex are the weapons forged and used in this economic war that he admits that only by stages can the world become free from the shackles in which it has bound itself.

The Real Obstacle

Fear, which stands in the way of loyal cooperation, is the chief obstacle, the fear which prevents the nations from even coming together to discuss their demands, complaints, and suggestions.

It is time, declares M. Zeeland, to bring back to light the sanctity of pledged engagements and the necessity for respecting the rules of international law. It is only through mutual goodwill that the standards of living can be raised. He suggests that representatives of the principal economic Powers (including at least France, America, Germany, Italy, and Britain) should meet and discuss a simple series of questions, the first of which would be whether they agreed to take part in an attempt at international economic collaboration. He suggests that his Report might form a basis for an agenda which might then be drawn up.

Confidence Essential

The Report declares that tariffs, methods of indirect protection, trade quotas, sudden and excessive exchange variations, hindrances to capital movements, and restrictions on payments, all hinder international trade. Quotas are roundly denounced as evil. On the financial side the existing agreement between America, France, and this country is held up as an example of what can be done, while the Bank of International Settlements could be used for bridging the currency problems which would arise while nations were getting back to fuller trade relations. But as a preliminary the old debts, due to the war, must be liquidated so as not to injure the creditor country at the expense of the debtor country, and for this confidence in future peace is essential.

The Economic Committee of the League have been saying all these things for years and no notice has been taken of it: we hope more attention will be given to M. Zeeland's great work, which is a piece of public service for the whole world, and would lead to its economic salvation if it were carried out.

A SPELLING BEE ACROSS THE SEA

Wireless the Leveller

Last week a Spelling Bee was shared by England and America across the Atlantic.

Spelling bees, an American invention, are older than wireless, but only wireless, the leveller, could have made possible this exchange of spellings between eight competitors from Oxford University and eight from Harvard University and Radcliffe College.

It is said that the English eight, which included a grandson of an English Prime Minister and two lady undergraduates, just failed to hold their own against the Americans, and that the most successful spellers on our side were Miss Miranda Talents and Miss Penelope Knox.

No conclusions can be profitably drawn from the contest unless it is that good spellers are born, not made. The good speller is one who when a word is spoken sees it, in his mind's eye, as it is written, or printed, on the page, and is not to be diverted by any recollection of its sound or pronunciation.

Familiar Catches

An example occurred when the word *gamboge* was put to the test. Lord Oxford, for Oxford, who may have heard it pronounced *gambooge*, elected for that way of spelling it, and America, supported by Webster's Dictionary, spells it that way. But our great Oxford Dictionary, which in spite of all contradiction we shall uphold as the best Dictionary in any language, spells it *gamboge*. An Oxford competitor must be judged by his own dictionary, so Lord Oxford lost a point.

There were many familiar catches, like parallel and embarrassment, and a number of rather unfamiliar words like trachea, haemorrhage, and sesquipedalian, which trapped unwary competitors, who might have written them down correctly but could not give the right answer on the spur of the moment.

C N readers might try them on one another on the same terms. A last point to notice is that nearly all the puzzlers were words of Latin or Greek origin, few of Anglo-Saxon.

CRUEL SPORTS

Appeal to the BBC

The C N has been delighted to see an appeal made to the BBC asking for facilities to broadcast the case against cruel sports.

It is astounding that there should be any difficulty in this matter, seeing that the overwhelming feeling of the British people is one of shame and contempt where cruel blood sports are concerned.

The signatures to the appeal just sent to the BBC represent all classes, and it is hoped that the appeal will be effective.

Read Much and Read Fast

We like the speech of Canon Anthony Deane, made at the opening of a new library at Abbey School, Malvern Wells.

If he had been designing a school, the Canon said, he would have begun with a library and left bedrooms and dining-rooms and classrooms to take their chance. It was a very good thing to fall in love with books, he told the Abbey girls, and he advised them to learn to read quickly and even to skip a novel in an hour or two. Also—"Do not listen to those who tell you to finish one book before beginning another, for that is like telling a man he must eat nothing but meat one week and nothing but pudding the next."

The new library is known as the Florence Judson Library, it having been paid for largely by a gift from old Abbey girls who knew the late Miss Judson during her 46 years as headmistress. There have been few more capable headmistresses, and few more beloved.

LITTLE NEWS REEL

This country, the first to establish a public television service, is still the only country in which television can be received in the home.

Brazil has issued a special stamp for the jubilee of the international language, Esperanto.

There are now about 5000 privately owned television sets in this country.

Miss Jean Batten has been awarded the gold medal of the International Aeronautical Federation for the greatest flying achievement of 1937.

The Russian Government has issued over a hundred million copies of Lenin's works in the last 20 years.

The Underground Posters advertising the Food-for-Fitness Exhibition at Charing Cross give two interesting facts: that our bodies contain enough carbon to make 9000 lead pencils, and enough lime to whitewash a chicken coop!

There are over 700 new street names in the new Post Office London Directory.

New pithead baths for more than 41,400 miners were put up in this country last year at a cost of £629,440.

There are now more than 300,000 miles of airways in operation throughout the world.

The nurses at Enfield Hospital are to have a 48-hour working week.

Ten times more fresh vegetables are being grown now than before the war.

There were over 4000 false fire alarms in London last year, nearly half of them malicious.

In a determined effort to find out what is wrong with the way mathematics is being taught in Czechoslovakia, the Ministry of Education has sent out examination papers to 930 elementary schools.

Three minutes under the rays of a new lamp at a clinic at Islington are said to be equal to a day in the sun.

Until the village of Turners Hill in Sussex gets Halt traffic signs, a clergyman whose daughter was knocked down by a car is doing point duty for children.

THINGS SEEN

One stalk with 14 mushrooms on it in Hertfordshire.

A thrush's nest with an egg in it in Bedfordshire in January.

Five little scarlet-coated patients leaning out of the windows of a Children's Hospital, shouting "Goodbye Ernie!" to one being taken away in an ambulance.

Primroses in full bloom at Houghton, Sussex, in January.

A Kennington Road tram setting down passengers opposite a barrier rail.

THINGS SAID

We must have law and order, and force to enforce it. Mr C. R. Attlee, M P

The outcome of the war has been to destroy liberty, democracy, and Parliaments in the greater part of Europe.

Professor Trevelyan

I found the Afghans a mysterious, proud, brave, romantic, cruel, and often very beautiful people. Miss Audrey Harris

Keep people happy and there will be no talk of revolution in this or any other country. Member of the Showmen's Guild

Our adversaries are always wrong.

A Nazi paper

Don't let your money buy bombs.

American slogan on trading with Japan

Never before or since the Great War have the relations between Turkey and Britain reached the degree of sincerity existing today. Turkish Prime Minister

About 1860 an old sailor told me that as a youngster he had served under Nelson at Copenhagen.

Lord Shuttleworth, aged 93