

ASSAILS THE VOLSTEAD ACT

RACE SUICIDE
IN ENGLAND
AND WALESFalling Off in the Birth
Rate During
1925.NOW LOWEST
IN THE WORLDWas 24.1 Per Thousand
Before the War;
Now 18.3.(Special cable to The Daily Mail by the
British United Press.)London, Feb. 4—"Race suicide" is
appearing in England and Wales.
Official statistics for the birth rate
place last year show 18.3 births per
thousand compared with 18.7 in
France and 46.2 in Russia.Thus England and Wales now have
the lowest birth rate in the world, a
rate which has steadily decreased
since 1913 when it stood at 24.1 per
thousand.PREMIER KING
IS RETURNING
TO OTTAWAShellbrook, Sask., Feb. 3—Premier
Mackenzie King last night, closed his
personal campaign in the Federal by
election of Prince Albert. This morning
he left again for Ottawa, by way of
Saskatoon and Regina. At the point
at which he has spoken in
Prince Albert, Mr. King has been
accompanied and supported by Premier
Dunning of Saskatchewan.Premier King continued his argu-
ment for Liberal Progressive co-
operation. He said he had always
looked upon Progressivism as an ad-
vanced form of Liberalism. For that
reason, he had never wanted to see
that force divided. For that reason,
he had always wished to bring about
closer relations between Liberals
and Progressives."It has been said at Ottawa," added
Mr. King, "that in the last cam-
paign I took knocks at the Progress-
ives. I don't think I ever did except
in that I said it was a pity to have
a separate party and if I have given
one knock, I have received a thou-
sand. The whole brunt of the Con-
servative attack on me is that I
catered to the Progressives."Mr. King added that he would be
happy until he saw united the
men and women opposed to Toryism.LEGALITY OF
CEREMONY IS
QUESTIONEDRiverside, Cal., Feb. 4—Dist. Atty.
Albert Ford is investigating the valid-
ity of the marriage here last Satur-
day of Alma Rubens, moving picture
actress, to Ricardo Cortez, also a film
player.Court records in Los Angeles show
that the actress obtained an interlocu-
tory decree of divorce last year from
Dr. Daniel C. Goodman, but that the
divorce does not become final until
February 6.Cortez, in Hollywood, declared both
he and his bride believed that she
was legally free to marry as she
waited a year and two days after the
divorce case had been heard. The ac-
tress was on her way today to loca-
tion in Idaho."What must have happened," said
Cortez, "is that her attorney did not
take the papers down and have them
entered until February 6, 1925."WIZARD PONZI
PLANS TO BUILD
A BIG CANALPuts Proposal Up to the
Governor For Ap-
proval.IT WILL COST
ABOUT \$25,000,000Plans to Repay All Who
Invested With
Him.Tampa, Fla., Feb. 4—Though denied
space within the enclosure of the
South Florida fair grounds, Charles
Ponzi of Boston, to whom, his own
statement said, "nothing is impossible"
and whose financial operations in the
past have attracted world-wide atten-
tion, today planned to launch his cam-
paign here for clemency in Massachu-
setts.Coincidental with his long-distance
plea for mercy, the postal certificate
and real estate "wizard" opened the
Tampa market for his Columbia coun-
ty lots. At the same time he was en-
tertaining a plan to dig a canal from
the St. John's River on the east coast
across the peninsula to the Gulf of
Mexico. His plan for financing this
venture, which will cost, he said, in
the neighborhood of \$25,000,000, he
confided to Mayor Wall and said last
night that it had been forwarded to
Gov. Martin for his approval.How Ponzi planned to stage his fair
grounds "show" he had not revealed,
but it was understood he intends to
conduct a soap-box drive just outside
the grounds.Since his arrival here from Jackson-
ville, Ponzi has been the centre of an
interesting throng. He has been feted
by the Italian colony and was elected
to an honorary membership in the
Tampa Italian Club. Recognition of
him on the streets has been the signal
for the gathering of a crowd at his
heels. At his favorite restaurant,
which he has made informal head-
quarters, he holds court during his
odd moments, telling of his plans to
repay all who have invested with him
in the past. "There is more than one
way of taking the skin off a cow's
back," he informed an open-mouthed
assemblage yesterday.OVER-NIGHT
AIR MAIL SETS
SPEED RECORDWashington, Feb. 4—With the aid
of the high winds, the Chicago-New
York over-night air mail established
a speed record.Postmaster General New was in-
formed today the trip was made in
six hours and four minutes, including
a stop for change of planes and
pilots at Cleveland and the heavy
mail was landed in New York two
and a half hours ahead of schedule.
The distance is 726 miles.WILL PROBE
DEATH OF A
FORMER M. P.Toronto, Feb. 4—The inquest into
the death of J. A. M. Armstrong,
former M. P. for North York, stands
adjourned and will not be resumed
until the provincial analyst has com-
pleted his report on the deceased's
stomach.Certain organic abnormalities were
discovered during the autopsy. Dr. J.
W. Williams of Aurora, testified at
the opening of the inquest last even-
ing. Mr. Armstrong's physician, Dr.
M. K. Dillaine, testified that to the
best of his belief Armstrong had
succumbed to a pneumonia infection.The Women of Russia
Favorable to More
Freedom of LoveWould Liberalize the Marriage Regulations
While the Men Want the Present Form Main-
tained—Government Anxious for the Voice
of the People and Has Postponed its Decision.

(SPECIAL TO THE DAILY MAIL)

MOSCOW, Feb. 4—Surveys taken in Russia
on the question of whether marriages henceforth
may be concluded without registration show that
the women and the city are in favor of liberalizing
the regulations while the men and the country
want the present form maintained.The question is causing wide discussion as the
government has postponed its decision, awaiting
the voice of the people, as to whether more "Free
Love" shall prevail. Many women say that the un-
registered marriage would be preferred because
then the unmarried mother can claim the sole
rights of support of herself and child as the mar-
ried mother who has her wedding registered.MEIGHEN AND BOIVIN TO CONFER
ON CUSTOMS IRREGULARITIES;
PROGRESSIVES NOT IN UNITY

(Special to the Daily Mail)

Ottawa, Feb. 4—The Rt. Hon. Ar-
thur Meighen and the Hon. Geo. Boivin
in are to confer regarding the scope
of the investigation into customs ir-
regularities. The Liberals want the
terms of reference to extend a period
of twenty years, but it is unlikely that
the Conservatives will agree to this.
As they have the evidence on the re-
cent charges and they say a long en-
quiry would only be one way of shelv-
ing the matters of pressing interest.When a division will come will de-
pend on the progress which Messrs.
Meighen and Boivin make.The Conservatives are not willing
to adjourn with the charges "up in the
air" or until definite steps have been
taken to begin the enquiry.

All Not Harmony

The return of the five Progressives
to the Tory bandwagon which they de-
serted after their short stay in the
first amendment came as a surprise
to the House and is evidence that all
is not so harmonious in the Progress-
ive camp as it appeared. If a vote is
taken this afternoon or tomorrow and
the Government wins it is likely that
the Conservatives will agree to someWINTER PLAYS
JOKE ON THE
SHERIFF IN OHIOMarion, O., Feb. 4—King Winter
played a mean trick on Sheriff James
A. Deal and the people of Caledonia
early the other morning."The Caledonia bank is being rob-
bed, come quick," cried the Caledonia
operator when she finally aroused the
Sheriff from slumber.Deal summoned two deputies and
two policemen. They armed them-
selves with five Winchesters, strapped
on their revolvers, jumped into the
Sheriff's auto and speeded to Caledonia,
ten miles east, over a snow
covered road.The Sheriff threw a guard around
the bank. But no burglars appeared.
Investigation showed the cold had
contracted a metal bar attached to the
burglar alarm, causing it to be
sounded and arousing practically the
entire village.adjournment possibly three weeks.
They have however, the right to con-
tinue discussion of the address for the
motion to adjourn says that the House
will adjourn after the debate on the
address is finished. The farce has been
going on for three weeks now and
both the members and the public are
growing a little weary of the eternal
fight.A CARLOAD
OF ALCOHOL
WAS SEIZEDDerby, Me., Feb. 3—A carload of
denatured alcohol in steel drums is
stored in the yard here by the Bang-
or and Aroostook Railroad, whose
officials are undecided what to do
with it. It was billed from Boston to
Edmundston, N. B. and held at Fort
Kent by Customs officers until an-
alyzed. Meanwhile the Edmundston
consignees say they did not order
the alcohol and the Boston shippers
have filed no claims.The alcohol is supposed to be the
commercial denatured kind known
as No. Six. Customs officers believe
that it was intended to be sent to
Edmundston or some nearby place
for redistilling to make moonshine
whiskey. Bangor and Aroostook of-
ficials are trying to locate the Bos-
ton shippers and have the car under
guard in the railway shop yards at
Derby awaiting farther develop-
ments.

EXHIBITION GRANT

Delegation From Fredericton Exhi-
bition Limited Appeared Before
Minister of Agriculture.The directors of Fredericton Exhi-
bition Limited appeared as a delegation
before Hon. Lewis Smith, Minister of
Agriculture, and Hon. C. D. Richards,
Minister of Lands and Mines, at the
Barker House Wednesday night. The
delegation presented the claims of the
local exhibition for Provincial assist-
ance and suggested an annual grant of
\$2,000 instead of \$3,500 every two
years. Hon. Mr. Smith promised con-
sideration to the request.A FURNACE
MURDER AT
SIOUX CITY, IA.Body of Woman Found
in Basement of
Home.MOTHER OF
NINE CHILDRENWoman's Husband Said
That She Was Out
Visiting.(Special to The Daily Mail by the
British United Press.)Sioux City, Iowa, Feb. 4—Another
"furnace murder" occupied the atten-
tion of local authorities today. The
body of Mrs. George Solomon, forty-
seven, mother of nine children was
found covered with ashes after hav-
ing been dragged from the furnace in
the basement of her home. Solomon
was taken into custody at the request
of two of his sons. Three children
playing in the basement after school
yesterday discovered the badly char-
red body after Solomon had told them
"Mother's out visiting."HUNTING FOR
AN ANONYMOUS
LETTER WRITEROttawa, Feb. 3—The police are
searching for a letter writer or writ-
ers who have been keeping up a
stream of anonymous epistles to cer-
tain Conservative members of the
Commons and the Senate as well as
the civil servants.These abusive letters have evidently
arrived at the rate of three each week
come from the same source and have
The authorities think they have all
been sent by one person. All but three
have borne Ottawa postmarks, those
three having been mailed in Montreal.The object of this letter writer
seems to be to blame officials of Par-
liament with having something to do
with the passing of the Conscription
Act. The letters are said to be of the
The police with the aid of writing ex-
perts have narrowed down the sus-
pects until they expect to be success-
ful in solving the mystery. The let-
ters are typewritten, but it is claimed
that an expert can trace the writer of
the communication by the
individualism in the touch of the writ-
ter quite as accurately as they can
trace hand writing. It is said they
have examined great numbers of ex-
amples in the process of elimination.VOYAGING TO
FLORIDA IN A
LITTLE CATBOATSan Pedro, Cal., Feb. 4—Two
men and a girl have set sail from
this port in a twenty-six foot catboat
bound for New York by way of Miami
Florida.The voyagers are W. Fred Kohler,
44 years old author and veteran mar-
iner, John Wallace, 25 years old
cameraman, and Miss Virginia Kohler
20 years old, daughter of the
novelist.The catboat is the Iris, famed in
Atlantic coast racing annals. The
voyage is said to be the most haza-
rous of all cruises in small craft.The Iris carries but a single sail
and afloat has a freeboard of but six
teen inches. She is powered with a
tiny marine engine.Equipment includes Kohler's type-
writer, Wallace's camera and Miss
Kohler's radio set. There are pro-
visions and water enough aboard to
last several months.What is Ponzi doing down in the
orange country His specialty has been
mostly in lemons.HAS SET BACK
TEMPERANCE
MOVEMENTA N. Y. Church Temper-
ance Society Knocks
Prohibition.FAVORS SALE OF
BEER AND WINEThe Act Has Increased
Drinking Among
Young People.(Special cable to The Daily Mail by the
British United Press.)New York, N. Y., Feb. 4—The
Church Temperance Society of the
Protestant Episcopal church, feeling
that prohibition has undone the work
of fifty years of the temperance
movement, will work for modifica-
tion of the Volstead act to permit the
sale of light wines and beer.This decision as announced by Dr.
James Emphringham, national secre-
tary is the result of answers received
during the last year to twenty thous-
and members of the society, includ-
ing both clergy and laity.Among the reasons given for the
desired modification of prohibition
were the complaints that the Volstead
act has "resulted in increased drink-
ing among young people, in class
legislation," "Discriminating in favor
of the rich" and "has brought about
disrespect for all laws."EDUCATIONISTS
OF NOTE WILL
VISIT CANADAMontreal, Feb. 4—Word was receiv-
ed here today by the secretary of the
National Council of Education that
Sir John Adams, the famous educa-
tionist, will be present at the third
triennial national conference on edu-
cation to be held in Montreal April 5
to 9 next.Sir John who was late professor of
Education at the University of London
is at present finishing a course of lec-
tures at the University of California,
and proceeds thence to Harvard this
month. Among numerous publications
of which he is the author, one of the
most interesting to people of this
province is Sir John's report on the
Protestant schools of the Province of
Quebec made for Sir William Mac-
Donald on which the plan for the
training of teachers at MacDonald
College was based.A final and definite cable was also
received today from Sir Henry Wal-
ford Davies, world-famous exponent
of the educational and national value
of music advising that he would sail
on the Leviathan to attend the con-
ference here next April.LOS ANGELES
BIGGEST CITY IN
POINT OF AREALos Angeles, Feb. 4—Los Angeles is
the world's largest city in point of
area, according to the annual report
of City Engineer John C. Shaw.The California metropolis has a to-
tal area of 416.68 miles, including re-
cent annexations of adjoining cities. It
is now larger than the city of Berlin,
which is the second large municipa-
lity in the world, with an area of 387
square miles.Compared with other American cit-
ies, Los Angeles has an area equal to
the combined areas of Chicago, Pitts-
burg, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Jos-
eph and Portland.