

THE DAILY MAIL

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J. L. Neville, Managing Editor.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1935

POTATO BLIGHT IN BRITAIN

British farmers are threatened with a loss of £4,000,000 in 1935 from the ravages of a mysterious blight which has attacked potato crops.

Thousands of tons of potatoes grown last year may never reach the dinner table. Hundreds of tons of the 1934 crop, which were apparently sound when they left the farm, have already been discarded because they have turned black, soft and uneatable before reaching the consumer. These bad potatoes are being dumped into the sea or buried and burned in quicklime.

Kerr's Pink, Majestic and King Edward types of potatoes which appear on almost every dinner table in Britain, are the kinds chiefly affected.

The disease was first discovered in isolated patches in Cambridgeshire in 1932, but it has been working havoc in 1934 over the whole potato-growing area, from the Outer Hebrides and Aberdeen to Cornwall. The potato virus research station at Cambridge has issued a statement that the blight now assumed "epidemic form."

The effects of the disease on the 1934 crop are still incalculable. Grave fears are expressed by leading farmers in Perth, Angus, Haddington, Lincoln and elsewhere that a very great part of the four million tons of potatoes still in pits and clamps for winter and spring use will never reach the markets.

The origin of the epidemic in Britain is a mystery.

About 550,000 acres of potatoes are grown in Britain every year. The total crop is 5,500,000 tons, worth about 16,500,000 pounds sterling.

PLAGUE OF GREEN PARROTS THREATENS AUSTRALIA

Another pest is threatening farming areas on the west coast of Australia. Following close on the heels of a severe plague of grasshoppers, which has practically ended, millions of green parrots are reported to be moving eastward from the Western border, so thickly massed as to give the countryside a verdant appearance.

The parrots are at present concentrated chiefly on one sheep station 62 miles east of Eucla, on the border of Western and South Australia, and polluting the homestead and stock water. Men are working day and night endeavoring to keep the birds from dams and waterholes. At present the only damage is to water, but as the parrots approach the farming areas it is feared that they will strip the countryside of the fruit or grain the grasshoppers have left. The noise of the birds alighting on a roof is like heavy rain.

CHEMIST DEFENDS GAS WARFARE

The use of gas in war would cost fewer lives, not more, is the view of Dr. Herbert Levinstein, who became recognized during the last war as one of the greatest poison-gas experts on the Allied side.

Addressing the Institute of Chemists at Bristol, Dr. Levinstein pointed out that of the 75,000 gas casualties among American troops in the last war only one and one half per cent proved fatal.

"This is one instance of what has proved to be generally true—that toxic substances cause far fewer deaths than high explosives, but are more effective in military results," he said. "The application of chemical science to war has not made war more dangerous, either to soldiers or civilians. The destructive power of science in war is absurdly over-rated. We are now much better prepared for war than we were in 1914, because our chemical industry is much stronger."

The greatest mistake in the last war was in not letting Japan get a tummy full of it, also.

SNAPSHOTS

Those who listened in last evening were greatly impressed with the strong speech made by Premier Bennett.

Even on a pinch it is wise to put the best foot forward.

Truth is a hammer that is sure to nail a lie on the head.

Ignorance is not bliss if you are seeking to know more.

Any man shrinks from going home to trouble after he has had a hard business day.

Funny man! Every time he invents a new way to get killed, he calls it progress.

The final test of veracity is the effort to tell how little you slept last night.

Sometimes a man goes to a concert and enjoys every number his musically classical wife scoffs at.

Don't expect gratitude if you are too generous. People can't appreciate rain except in a drought country.

JEALOUS WIFE IS SENTENCED

Held in \$10,000; Gets Six Months For Having Gun

Haverhill, Jan. 3—Mrs. Florence V. Osgood of Garden Street, West Roxbury, who yesterday shot her husband's housekeeper, Mrs. Lenia Brogna, 32 of 136 White street to frighten her, was held in \$10,000 bail for the grand jury today by Judge Cavan on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and sentenced to six months for carrying a gun without a permit.

The condition of Mrs. Brogna, shot through the neck, was reported as very comfortable at the Gale hospital.

In court today sitting beside Mrs. Osgood, was her estranged husband. He has secured a lawyer for her and today was endeavoring to raise the \$10,000 bail.

Dumfries, N. B.

DUMFRIES, Jan. 1—The pupils of the Lower Dumfries School put on a very pleasing programme on Friday 21st, under the direction of their teacher, Miss Enid Ingraham. The programme consisted mainly of dialogues and songs. Prizes for perfect attendance were won by Pauline Ellegood, Helen Goodine, Edith McMullen, Jean McMullin, Carolyn Lawrence, Weldon Lawrence, Aulden Leslie, Arthur Ellegood, Harry Gunn, Eugene Scott, William Rae, Dorothy Fraser and Sadie Watson. Those making the highest average were: Grade 1, Sadie Watson; Grade 3, Arthur Ellegood; Grade 4, Weldon Lawrence; grade 6, Helen Goodine; Grade 7, Edith McMullen. Grade 8, Pauline Ellegood. Myrtle Carson was awarded a prize for best conduct. At the close of the programme Santa Claus appeared and unloaded the heavily-laden Christmas tree. After singing God Save the King, the visitors journeyed home, well pleased with the work the pupils accomplished during the year.

The following students are home from their different schools in Fredericton to spend the holidays with their parents: Norman V. Embleton from the Business College. Miss Mildred Ellegood from the Provincial Normal School; Byron Lawrence from High School.

Miss Hilda Carson has returned home, after spending a few weeks with relatives in Gagetown.

Harry Kelly, of Brockway, is spending the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bedford Kelly.

Miss Evelyn Burke spent a few days with her aunt, Mrs. Vincent Carlin.

Miss Vera Kelly spent Wednesday night with Mrs. C. D. Murray.

The Y.P.S. was held at the home of Mrs. James Burke on Tuesday last.

A few of the young people of this place held a concert in the Dumfries hall on Wednesday evening. At the close of the programme the rest of the evening was spent in dancing.

OUR MAIL BAG

Fredericton, Jan. 2, '35.

Editor Daily Mail,

Could you interpret the action of the Fredericton Board of School Trustees, in connection with the correspondence with General Hill.

The General is addressed as "esquire." Is that method in keeping with the best usage, or is it an effort to belittle?

If the aldermen who object to these Star Chamber methods for the School Board would have the courage of their convictions, and make an attempt to change the attitude of the Board, something might be done.

Absolute Monarchy is out of date.

Yours truly,

TAX PAYER.

GAS EXPLOSIONS INJURE ELEVEN

Ten in Hospital Four in Serious Condition, At Medicine Hat.

Medicine Hat, Alta. Jan. 3—Injured in two gas explosions bringing fire in their wake, 10 persons were in hospital here today while another had been released after receiving medical attention. Four of the injured are in serious condition.

While firemen battled flames resulting from an explosion in an unoccupied dwelling late last night, another explosion occurred across the street in a two-storey brick apartment block. Flames broke out immediately as the walls fell, and how death was avoided was a mystery. Flames sprouted from the ground where the gas was rising to the surface from the fractured pipes. Some of the injured were residents of the apartment block while others were in the crowd watching firemen extinguish the blaze.

The four most seriously injured were Miss Louise Isaacs, severe burns; Pat Halworth, six years old, fractured skull; F. P. Whitney, serious internal injuries, broken arm and scalp injuries; and A. N. Booth, serious internal injuries.

Others injured were: Isabel Isaacs, sister of Louise, burns and shock; Jack Haworth, younger brother of Pat, broken leg; Mrs. Whitney, wife of F. P. Whitney burns and shock; Mae Gillespie, 16; burns; Mrs. Anderson, arm scorched; and Fireman W. Buchanan, two broken ribs. Another brother of Pat and Jack Haworth received slight burns but was permitted to leave the hospital after medical attention.

MIRAMICHI USING POWER FROM THE N. B. COMMISSION

Newcastle, Jan. 3—The New Brunswick Electric Power Commission has taken over the electric lighting plants of both the towns of Newcastle and Chatham, the power from Minto has been officially turned on and certain employees of each town have been taken over by the commission.

The deed of transfer was signed by the mayor of Newcastle, R. Waldo Crocker, and the town clerk, W. Nicholson, on behalf of the town. The power agreement between the town and the commission with reference to the town's usage of power was signed by Mayor Crocker and Town Clerk Nicholson on behalf of the town and Hon. E. A. Reilly, K.C., chairman, and L. I. Glennie, secretary, on behalf of the commission. These documents were completed some days ago. The check of the commission in the amount of \$54,500 has been received by the town. Similar steps were taken in the case of Chatham and the towns are now being supplied with power generated at the commission's plant at Minto and carried over the transmission line recently constructed.

DIED

OSBORNE:—At Bristol, Conn., Mrs. Ernest Osborne, The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon with service from the home of Mrs. Alkern, Marysville at 2.30 o'clock to be conducted by Rev. M. H. Manuel. Interment will be made in the United Church cemetery at Marysville.

AMAZING CHANGES IN DIONNE BABIES

Expert Attention Brings Famous Quintuplets to Normal Stage

Collander, Que., Jan. 3—Looking at the Dionne quintuplets as they smiled their way through a day in their own hospital one who saw them four and a half months ago gaped in amazement at the change from the thin, under-developed babies of last August to the healthy, happy youngsters who were seven months and three days old today.

When a Canadian Press reporter saw them first they were frail-looking babies in the poor surroundings of their parents small home near here. Now they live in a modern hospital where everything that money or expert attention can give is lavished on them.

The change in the children is greater, even than that in their surroundings. At 80 days of age they whimpered when thin little bodies were moved in heated incubators. Now they laugh delightedly when they are taken from little beds and stretched out on a play table for an hour of exercise each day.

They are chubby little babies, with creases of fat around their ankles, knees and wrists, large blue gray eyes, and long, curly, black lashes that are the loveliest thing about these lovely little girls.

Fine nursing has brought them to a stage of development where they are completely normal and far healthier than most babies. They have as great chances to survive childhood now as average babies of their age—probably more because of the attention that can be given them.

Day Starts at 5 A.M.

Their expert care starts at five o'clock in the morning when they receive the first of five feedings and continues until 9 a.m. when they are tucked into their cots for the night. There is no midnight floor walking with the perfectly trained youngsters. They sleep most of the day and never let a cry escape them during the night.

Yvonne, Annette, Cecile, Emile and Marie have their baths between eight and nine in the morning and visitors who are admitted like to select this hour to glimpse them through the plate-glass window looking into their nursery.

They cry a bit sometimes but mostly they gurgle and laugh while Madame Louise de Kiriline, their head nurse, bathes them in soap and warm water and powders them. She pins them in their little diapers, drops the woollen shirts over their heads and then they are ready for their woollen booties, flannelette nightgowns and crocheted wool coats.

As Marie's bath was finished today she was wrapped in a blanket and brought to the window to see the Canadian Press reporter. Impatient in the nurse's arms, she struck out with her tiny legs and left a perfect baby footprint on the glass.

The smallest of the five sisters obviously thought this quite a trick for she proceeded to smear her fingerprints around and left a job of polishing for the orderly before she donned her woollen bonnet and rabbit coat and joined her sisters in their perambulators on the hospital verandah.

Perfectly Nourished

The babies look perfectly nourished and Dr. Allan Roy Dafoe, their physician is not considering any change in their diets. Every four hours from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. they have six ounces of a milk and cereal mixture. They have cod-liver oil twice a day, one ounce of orange juice in two feedings and one tea-spoonful of tomato juice twice a day, they like their tomato juice best of all and run their little tongues around in their mouths to make sure they have tasted every last drop of it.

Even in zero weather and colder they spend most of the time that isn't taken up with feeding and baths, outdoors. They usually are out three hours in the morning and as long in the afternoon, sleeping all the time with only little noses and eyes showing above warm robes.

Even though it will be many months before they start to speak, their nurses wonder which of the five will utter the first word and what she will say. Whatever it is it will be in French as they hear little English in their hospital. Both Madame de Kiriline and Miss Yvonne Leroux, their other nurse, always speak the language of

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SUSSEX BOY MET DEATH ON SLED

SUSSEX, Jan. 3—Steering his sled into the ditch to avoid striking a boy who was walking up the hill proved fatal to Willis Walker, 13-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Burpee Walker, Sussex, young Walker dying in the Frances Sproul Hospital here this afternoon at 5 o'clock. Young Walker's sled struck a wooden culvert at the foot of O'Connell Hill with such force that the planks in the culvert were displaced.

The boy, who was born at Sussex Corner, and was a popular pupil in Grade 6 in the Sussex school, left his home yesterday morning with his older brother Frederick, and younger brother Harry, for coasting. Following the accident, he was taken to the store of James Innis, at the foot of O'Connell Hill, where first aid was given by Miss Lena LeClair, R.N. He was then rushed to the hospital, but attempts to save his life were of no avail. It was stated tonight that an inquest was unlikely.

The boy's parents were having New Year's dinner at the home of Mr. Walker's mother, Mrs. Oliver Ritchie, Sussex Corner, at the time of the accident.

Besides the parents and two brothers, young Walker is survived by four sisters, Martha, Hazel, Mildred and Phyllis, at home; his grandmother, Mrs. Ritchie; an uncle, Leonard Walker, British Columbia; and two aunts, Mrs. Edgar Smith, Smithtown, and Mrs. Arthur Perkins, Jeffries Corner.

The body is resting at the Wallace Funeral Parlors, where funeral services will be conducted Thursday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock by Rev. B. C. Salter, pastor of St. Paul's United Church, of the Sunday School of which the boy had been a regular attendant. Interment will be made at Sussex Corner.

the Dionne parents and it is generally used in the hospital among the nurses, the orderly and housekeeper.

The first tooth is a more immediate matter for speculation although it is not expected for a month or two. The nurses are always hopeful it will appear soon and never stop searching for it. The babies are so well Dr. Dafoe does not think they will be subject to the ills many babies suffer at teething time.

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