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FREDERICTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1936

Harnessing the Floods

Discussing the floods that have spread with some damage over wide areas of Southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba, the Winnipeg Tribune, does not explore their coming. Rather, it regards them as a welcome gift to these drought-stricken prairie farmlands, if men were shrewd enough to harness them and put them to use. The schemes it advocates for controlling these floods are not extravagant, they are not impossible, and their value as aids to future agricultural production is inestimable.

"Any damage these flood waters can do at Lumsden or Regina or Brandon or Winnipeg is infinitesimal when compared to the loss the country suffers by reason of the fact that this water is passing out of the country in a mad race to the sea," the Tribune states.

The Qu'Appelle River, which runs through Southern Saskatchewan, is carrying off enough water, it declares, to make Buffalo Pound Lake—"bone-dry in recent years"—a permanent lake a mile wide and twenty-four miles long. The fact is that this river, with the Souris River in Manitoba, passes through a vast area of 30,000 square miles and containing nearly 20,000,000 acres of the best farming area in Western Canada before the drought. It is a district where wells went dry, "where lakes and streams dried up, and where for three years hardly a blade of grass was seen."

What the Tribune proposes is that these rivers be diverted at floodtime into lakes throughout the area through which they pass. Much of that country, as in the Qu'Appelle Valley, provides natural basins for these lakes to an extent that very little constructional work would be required, and what money was spent could be devoted to the irrigation systems that would serve during the dry spells. Those lakes would open up the prospects for reforestation schemes, something the West is badly in need of, and, as the Tribune suggests, this whole southern area could be transformed into a "stabilized farming" community.

There is much in such a scheme that commands public attention, not only in the area for which it has been planned, but throughout Canada. It is true Eastern Canada has not had the drought conditions now common in the West. At the same time the East can remember dry years. The present spring has made many parts of Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes flood-conscious, and for a very good reason. The considerable damage inflicted on wide areas has emphasized the need for flood control.

Art and Its Market

Art, it appears, is in a bad way in England as it is here—or rather, the market for it is. And the future holds no hope of better days. Sir William Llewellyn, president of the Royal Academy, dwelt rather mournfully upon the subject recently at a meeting of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution. He pointed out, as reported in the London Times, that conditions are changed from what they were years ago. People who once bought paintings are now selling them. Besides, artists are now compelled to compete not only with the art of the past to a greater extent than ever before, but with amateurs and even children hardly out of the cradle, whose naive efforts are exploited to beguile the public in one charitable cause or another. On top of that, fashions in art have changed, and on the whole the fraternity is having a hard time to make a living.

As Sir William saw it the trouble was largely due to the fact that art training was made too easy; there were too many free art schools; too many scholarships which enabled the student to study abroad, and then "have no means to live on" when he came back home. He was for putting up the bars, making the study of art more difficult, limiting it, his context would seem to imply, to those financially able to indulge in the experiment. This is all very well if the general run-of-the-mill type of artist is what he desires. But it takes no account of the geniuses—the only ones with whom we should really be concerned. Genius, as is well known, has a way of appearing in the most unexpected places, as likely among the "under-privileged" as among the well-to-do. So putting up the financial bars in training might defeat the only purpose that justifies any training at all.

Of course, Sir William's remarks attracted attention, and one correspondent, firmly grasping his main point—the rehabilitation of the market—advanced a novel plan. He was for having an annual picture house-cleaning. His test for deciding what could be eliminated to make room for something new was engagingly simple. He would have the householder set one day aside in every year and conscientiously go over the pictures on his walls, asking himself before each painting how often he had bothered to look at it during the twelve months he had had it, and whether it gave him any pleasure now. In case it left him cold, he would have him ruthlessly destroy it, with "whatever rites or manifestations of glee that may seem fitting."

As a wall-cleaning expedient nothing could be neater. But unfortunately it assumes that the person who buys the creative work of another obtains absolute ownership of it to do with it as he pleases. Whistler by word and deed showed his contempt for such an assumption, and the fact that it remains a highly debatable point will be realized by all who recall the uproar created by the destruction of the Rivera murals in Rockefeller Center.—New York Sun.

SNAPSHOTS

Dr. Robertson has been "notified" by his devoted wife that he is "not going down any more mines." This sounds final, and after the Moose River adventure the doctor may be inclined to obey.

Enter the Draegerman as a new Canadian hero. And yet, until the Moose River tragedy, who many people ever heard of him?

Wonder what the Continental European nations would do if John Bull notified them that he had a five-year plan to let them settle their own troubles.

Town Council of Staveland, Alta., has decreed that all cats in the municipality must wear bells. This should jazz up the nocturnal backyard entertainment.

The Beaverbrook chimera about which East enders complain would sound mild in comparison.

Promising to free the slaves in Ethiopia, Mussolini is making slaves of Italians in his effort to win the war. And it remains to be seen how much freedom will be accorded Ethiopia.

Present Quebec Legislature is said to be well disposed toward granting the Provincial franchise to women. There does seem something anomalous about women in the old Province having the vote Federally but not Provincially.

Eight hundred parcels of property were offered at a tax sale in Calgary recently and only two were sold, the gross receipts for the treasury being \$100, while the expense of conducting the sale was much higher. Calgary is just a sample. What does a municipality gain by loading itself by property because taxes are not paid.

Those cellophane folk, remarks the Brandon Daily Sun, are missing a chance in not reviving the old celluloid collar and cuffs. Still, we may discover one of these days that they have provided covers for the cuffs.

French courts decide the limits to which free speech can go: Louis Mouillet, Frenchman, who shouted "Hurrah for Hitler," when a policeman reprimanded him for illegal parking, was sentenced today to a week in jail for "shocking remarks."

A Canadian fire marshal has issued a warning not to stroke a cat in the neighborhood of gasoline. Anybody with so highly developed a pump of caution ought not to stroke a cat anywhere, for the cat might scratch.

Small Microphone Was Invented by Prof. Chisholm

(Continued from Page One)

our Canadian colleges, to wit: Mount Allison, Halifax and Edmonton.

Why have we never heard of this before? Well, this is a long story and a most lamentable one. However, I believe I understand the whole matter perhaps better than any living person. In brief: His ideas were so advanced, that none of the then experts, engineers, etc., in acoustics anywhere cared to put his theories into practice, for instance, inasmuch as all established telephone systems would have to junk many millions worth of equipment; because his system required but a fraction of dynamic (electric) energy as standardized, he was unable to seriously interest them. Secondly, his contemporaries, La Forest, Marconi, Tesla, etc., having the financial backing of far seeing men, did not do more than politely "ignore" this man's dangerous—to their—inventions, and for these reasons, chiefly, his progress was skillfully blocked at every turn, until in exasperation, in attempt to convert some of his inventions into cash, he disclosed to the engineers of one of the greatest talking machine companies, feeling secure in that he had same patented—just how to make records, by eliminating all non-essential sound elements created and amplified and recorded in the wax, by using his own microphone which possesses no non-functioning parts, and inasmuch as each separate part within the usual microphone, under electric stimulus, i.e., on lifting the receiver adds its fundamental tone, or what is called advantageous interferences, and there being about fifty such within the old Bell—or any modification of the Bell, it was only natural that this whole transmitter's contents under such stimulus added these extraneous sounds known as "megaphonic" to that of the voice, sometimes almost drowning the human voice and making reception very difficult or impossible, things now known to be true and these very advanced ideas are wholly, solely, and entirely the product of this remarkable genius' creation.

His experience with the financial monopolists, I have full reason to believe broke his heart, for after that he seemed to doubt the loyalty or veracity of his best friends, even extending to those whose sympathetic co-operation went to the extreme. His life's work was to him quite futile, he left a splendid family, and died away from his home years ago, and in like manner of many pioneers, a martyr to science.

He thought he had a loyal friend—one Bliss—who was attached to the Edison company, and told me that he often wondered if he had made a mistake in disclosing his theories to him—personally I thought he did. However it was so, and shortly after Chisholm died, the Edison Talking Machine Company, sent through the country, including Fredericton, "The New Edison Talking Machine," and along with a gentleman and lady vocalist, they demonstrated the excellence of this machine's reproduction. This lady would sing and a recorded disk of her same singing showed that it was quite impossible to differentiate the natural from the recorded voice. After these renditions this gentleman's description of this machine was practically a repetition of Chisholm's specifications, which I helped prepare, about the only difference being the substitution of the name Edison for that of Chisholm.

The first recorded telephonic conversation ever made was made in my home, which I still have, and in the presence of some members of the U. N. B. faculty, especially do I remember Professor Kierstead, Sr., being one of them.

This microphone played an outstanding service to the British Empire during the world war, but for reason cannot be disclosed.

This same microphone is an essential of the "Electric Pickup" as used in talking moving pictures broadcasted from records, one type of reproduction, that is the microphone's diaphragm is herein insulated and thrown into vibrations through a stylus, similar to the functioning of the usual talking machine's stylus, but the sound reproduction is reflected from a larger diaphragm by electromagnetic energy, one side an induction coil and on the other a magnet.

Now, this is the same functioning essentials of the Chisholm microphone, but housed in a lady's fine gold watch, and you will note that as the watch case forms the housing chamber, it weighs but a few grains.

Does that watch go? Of course it does, this is a watch and telephone as well, and was years ago disclosed in the Scientific American, many American papers and perhaps in Canada.

What a pity these things were not realized on by his family and friends who supported him! Why was it?

Unfortunately Mr. Chisholm made premature disclosures of what should have remained unknown to these expert engineers who had unlimited skill and finances at their command, with every conceivable laboratory aid. He made many many approaches but never seemed to accomplish, and later in his annoyed state of mind he wrote most unusual letters to most of the very people whom I tried to do business with after his demise, and found it did not facilitate matters.

His patents covered the world, some \$170,000 or more had been expended. I had a holding company organized, by a banking house in U.S.A., reimbursed all investors by stock equity near as could be figured out by actuaries and lawyers versed in such matters, and consolidated everything into one title holding company; then the war absorbed the very men—all experts, and officers in the U.S.A. army and as all patents but one, a posthumous, had about expired by time and non-attention I was not either a director or officer of any of his companies prior, to his death, but was made president of this holding or title company, which was organized with the aid of his wife, and others interested, so am not able to say much about some stages of his career otherwise.

The first speech transmitted from Washington by President Hoover and reproduced in multiple by amplifiers, was made by the utilization of his principles, which had been infringed and which knowledge was provided me at that time, which proof I still possess.

What he later built most on was his electromagnetic talking machine, operated on the principle above described, and which model in New York, he never even saw, likewise never matured for the reason that none but myself possessed the detailed knowledge necessary and the financial load was further unbearable.

Regrets accomplish nothing, but the trying experiences consequent to this man's career, was the most destructive and disappointing, and not to even mention the large personal money losses as well as that of my best friends, for whilst every effort was made to accomplish matters circumstances continuously arose to paralyze all accomplishment, culminating in the loss of our men by going to the war as officers, and of whom no word has ever been heard since.

It may, too, interest you to know that the Valley Road used these Chisholm-Dunn telephones, that a factory was operated in London, Ontario, but Chisholm here too failed to get along with the gentlemen interested, later suffered a stroke and had a most distressing experience.

Also that for years I used one of these phones, which I show you, for

all long distance work always, i.e., to Mil. N.Y., Chicago, etc., at the courteous consent of the N. B. Tel. Company when under the capable management of Stanley B. Ebbett, who outside the writer had a fuller knowledge of Professor Chisholm's accomplishments than any living person.

The great advances in these sciences were to a most extensive degree only possible through the utilization of the theories of this man, which have proven to be true, and so far advanced of the ordinary mind that he, in common with all other discoverers of scientific advances, suffered the usual fate, such seems so often the way of "progress," irrespective of the Arts concerned.

This man possessed most remarkable ability, a keen reasoner, mathematician, outstanding musician, and when relaxed a most affable gentleman, and knew more about the science of acoustics, I think I am competent to now assert, than any man.

It may too, interest you to know, that Graham Bell, and Elisha Grey filed their applications for telephone patents within a few hours of each other. Bell however, had priority and in all the 500 suits for infringements, etc., he won in 100 per cent of the cases, and when Bell got the Nobel prize, he and Grey, personal friends, visited the Smithsonian Institute and desired to develop some "abandoned experiment," they found Edison's model of the talking machine, and it did grunt out some noise and one of these men said why not dip this in wax, make a record, and they did so, and established the proof, they went up to New York, to say that inasmuch as this was his baby that they welcomed him into the projected company. Edison whereupon declared that it was not an "abandoned experiment," and here too Edison tried to commercialize other men's ideas, but Edison had to pay royalty for every cylindrical record ever made during the life of these patents, and perhaps anybody having possessed such a machine, will recall that around the edge of these cylinders made and sold by Edison, was found "Made under Bell's patents," or similar words meaning the same.

It has been claimed that Edison was not an inventor, he did not even invent the electric light, credit is due Professor Hammer, whom I personally knew well and got the whole story from him. He was then a professor of engineering at some of the New York universities and we had a number of very interesting interviews when he too was greatly interested in these matters, after he disassociated himself however, from the Edison Co. Edison's name was commercialized, and still is, anything done in his laboratories is patented "Edison." Chisholm had as a personal friend Dr. Graham Bell, who was born very near the birthplace of Prof. Chisholm in Nova Scotia, where the latter died. I too have the manuscripts of several remarkable ideas entertained by this man which are not connected with acoustics but very intriguing and may be worthy along other scientific ways.

The services rendered the British Empire were of such stupendous importance and of such military value that it would be hard to evaluate, and are carefully guarded military significance and indeed may be again soon required, for which thus far no reimbursement has been made, and which negotiations could only be made by personal interview with the British Admiralty, which if spared, it is my intention to endeavour accomplishment, but such will entail considerable time, effort, and expense, as the knowledge now in my possession was only secured by the rarest accident, and directly from the lips of an officer in the secret service who knew all about this matter, and disclosed same to me as a military secret, and given me as one officer to another, and must be carefully guarded, as such matters cannot safely be committed to the mails, and violation of such would be a grievous military offence, and against the Oath of Allegiance.

The most recent application of this microphone's use in our spectacular accomplishment at Moose River gold mines, has been my inspiration for this narrative which heretofore may have been misunderstood by some of my friends interested to whom explanation has not been attempted.

"These look just like the rock cakes my mother used to make when I was a small boy," said hubby, helping himself.

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Hungerford Veteran Railway Man Slated as C.N.R. Chairman

(Continued from Page One)

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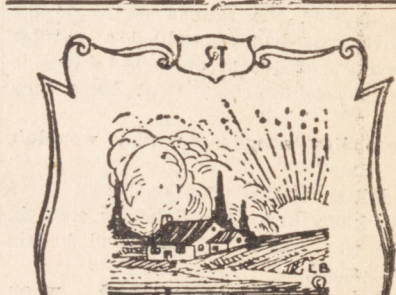
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