

## THE DAILY MAIL

NEW BRUNSWICK'S ONLY HOME COMMUNITY PAPER

FREDERICTON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1937

## Who Originates Slang?

Increasing years have not dulled George Ade's sense of humor. On the eve of his seventieth birthday, being observed in Florida, he denied solemnly any responsibility for American slang. And yet this genial, lanky Hoosier writer did more, perhaps, than any one else to make the popular jargon of the street as it developed during the years. He revelled in the vernacular, and his writing sparkled with queer words and queer expressions that were finding their way into the dictionaries.

Ade's "Fables in Slang" brought him immense popularity. Following Aesop's method, he poked fun at public characters with a subtle directness that made his subjects easily discernible. The fables hit off situations in the same effective way as did Peter Finley Dunne's famous conversations between Mr. Dooley and his friend Hennessy. George Ade also achieved wide publicity as a playwright, but the fables in slang will remain as his chief contribution to literature. He not only created slang words and expressions, but he established the slang of his country in the reading matter of his time. His phrases were always striking and to the point. "In New York," he used to say, "I am known as a country gentleman; in Indiana as a playwright." But everywhere he became known as the master manipulator of slang words and phrases expressing homely and humorous philosophy. For example, his assurance that it was "no time for mirth or laughter in the cold grey dawn of the morning after."

Slang proved profitable to George Ade, and enabled him to buy a 400-acre estate in his beloved Indiana and have his own golf course. And now, at 70 years of age, he says, with the solemn expression that is a gift to most humorists, that he accepts no responsibility for slang.

Perhaps he is right. Who will fix the responsibility for slang? The philologist who seeks the root of a slang word is beaten before he starts. In a general sense the London Cockney must accept a lot of responsibility for perhaps the brightest and most expressive jargon in the world—made brighter and more expressive by his inimitable accent. The Yankee "drawl" also has popularized the peculiar slang of the United States. The Scots vernacular is more easily traced, generally having its roots in old sayings that have come down through the years. This is in conformity with the Scot's well-known ability to give a reason for anything he does or says. Anyway, with the unlimited supply of new slang adorning or disfiguring speech, according to the point of view, it will be some time before English takes its place among the dead languages. Slang will refuse to be "done in" by the literary purists.

## Work Insurance Note the End

The Unemployment Assistance Board is a comparatively new name in the list of British Government Departments. It came into being through the Unemployment Assistance Act, which Lord Rushcliffe, its Chairman, introduced in the House of Commons in 1934. As its name implies, its work is to supervise the general welfare and provide relief for the unemployed, but for those unemployed not entitled to insurance benefits.

That such a Department, having unrestricted control over \$250,000,000 of the public revenue, should exist in a country where unemployment insurance has been in force for twenty-six years is of more than passing interest to this country, just beginning to shape its insurance plans.

Any insurance scheme that is to be something more than a charity must stand upon a contributory financial base. The basic principle of all work insurance is that it will provide a subsistence protection to the great body of workers during temporary interruptions in their regular employment. It was on this principle that the British scheme was enlarged, between 1911 and 1920, to include all manual workers, except those employed in agriculture and domestic service, and all non-manual workers earning less than \$1,250 a year.

During the decade or more that unemployment there has been chronic, leaving thousands out of work for two, three and five year periods, the insurance scheme all but floundered. Trying to see the disaster as temporary, Governments arranged "overdraft" benefits, and continued to pay the "dole" long after the workers' claims had expired. By 1931 the fund was behind \$575,000,000, and going further into debt at the rate of \$5,000,000 a week.

In the criticism made of the scheme's operation it was claimed that insufficient time had been allowed for the accumulation of resources. The size and proportions of the contributions, the "too wide" extension of the scheme were other points of the fault-finders. Actually none of these had any great bearing on the problem. Simply, the number of unemployed and the duration of their unemployment overtaxed the capabilities of the fund.

The stabilizing influence of jobless insurance cannot be debated. Britain is the proof positive. But at the same time it must be recognized as a limited field. The Unemployment Assistance Board, consequently, exists and spends a quarter of a billion dollars because insurance is not, as so many seem to think, the end of all unemployment troubles.

More than their contractual restrictions, insurance schemes are not only an economic agency. Subsistence benefits do not compensate for the losses in self-respect, the degeneration—physical and mental—the misshapen development of youth raised in unemployed homes, which, a depression shows us, are the greatest injury. Insurance against these losses must come from somewhere, perhaps some other agency; but the well-considered insurance plan will in some way make provision for it.

## Even the Quints Sneeze

Nobody who has suffered this season from a cold in the head need waste time speculating as to how he "caught it." Most of us feel that the common cold, with its unpleasant consequences, is the outcome of some indiscretion—exposure to drafts, carelessness in suiting clothing to weather conditions, frequenting of stuffy rooms or contact with other sufferers who injudiciously distribute germs. Perhaps all these and others are easy ways of contracting colds, but they do not account for the fact that the Dionne quintuplets are sniffing.

Here are five youngsters living carefully shielded lives. They are isolated from indiscriminate contacts with the outside world. They are under constant medical supervision. Their food, exercise, sleep and clothing are prescribed and regulated. As near as may be they have a sterilized existence. And they have all caught head colds.

To be just to science, it should be conceded that these babes are probably freer of bodily ills than most other children, and capable of stouter resistance. But if they "catch cold," even once in a season, there does not seem to be much chance for the rest of us to escape. That is no reason why we shouldn't take precautionary measures as are feasible in the case of gregarious people, but if we still find ourselves overtaken by the common enemy any lawyers will tell us that it must be "an act of God."

## SNAPSHOTS

The man conscious of things accomplished does not need to say, "I did this and not you."

You can't fool the public.

Leaders cannot expect their followers to heed the modern edict: "Don't do as I do, do as I say."

Hick Town people know when a man's sins have found him out. He starts going to church again.

How silly to say there is no opportunity when there isn't a single thing in the world that can't be made better.

The failing memory of the old is a merciful provision of nature. There is less suffering when the old jokes pop up again.

It isn't beauty alone that makes a girl seem desirable. Being a beauty makes her act independent and hard to get.

## Irregularities

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revelations of alleged unsanitary conditions and irregularities.

Governor Hurley made the recommendation in his inaugural message. Praising Dr. William A. Bryant, superintendent of Worcester state hospital, Buckley said his policy was to discharge as many patients from his institution as was possible. That policy, he said, did much to decrease the overcrowded situation at the hospital.

"The policy of the Boston state hospital, on the other hand, was to make as few discharges as possible," said Buckley. "There are 300 patients at the Boston institution who could be released at the present time, according to Dr. Harold Norton, superintendent of the hospital."

Representative F. X. Coyne, a member of the committee, declared there were more than 3,000 patients at Tewksbury state hospital, far more than the hospital could adequately handle.

Favoring abolishment of all the boards of trustees of the hospitals Representative Thomas P. Dillon Cambridge, declared "the trustees are much the same as barnacles on a ship. They are all politically minded it seems to me therein lies the fault with our system of caring for the mentally ill."

Norman McDonald, representing the Massachusetts federation of taxpayers' associations, said Governor Hurley acted with "forethought, vigorous and courageous vision in organizing the reconstruction of conditions at the Boston state hospital."



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## TODAY IN HISTORY

February 12, 1809

Birth of Abraham Lincoln.

## SON GOVERNOR-GENERAL FINED COLLEGE PRANK

WINDSOR, England, Feb. 12.—Alastair Buchanan, son of the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Tweedsmuir and Alastair Campbell, both 18, yesterday pleaded guilty in a Windsor police court to stealing and damaging two hurricane lamps belonging to the Windsor Corporation. A constable testified he saw the accused standing in the centre of Windsor High Street in evening dress, the lamps in their hands, pretending to direct traffic. They smashed the lamps against the railings of a club, the constable said, and took to their heels when they saw him approach. The constable caught them after a run. The chief constable of Windsor testified both were old Etonians and Oxford undergraduates and had the intention of stealing the lamps for a joke. He therefore withdrew the theft charge; on the remaining charge each was fined \$5 and costs.

## Auto Horns

(Continued from Page One)

true veterans of the prolonged strike. Many of the men clean shaven when the strike began, wore heavy beards as symbols of their self-imposed 44-day incarceration.

Members of a "bearded band" played furiously on their instruments, but their effect were nearly lost in the automobile horns and the cheers. Fifty men, as exuberant as college boys, weaved about deliriously in a snake dance.

At the head of the procession that formed rapidly was a huge United States flag. Just before the men emerged a sign 100 feet long and five feet deep was lowered from the roof. In mammoth red letters it proclaimed that "victory is ours."

**Hurried Family Reunions**

There were hurried reunions with wives and children, a brief parade, and then the men clambered into automobiles and drove to Fisher plant No. 2, next in order of evacuation, for a re-enactment of the scene.

The Fisher No. 2 plant also had been occupied for 44 days. The strike in the Chevrolet plant began Feb. 1. Both plants were the scenes of riots.

The Associated Press summed up the strike settlement as follows:

**Sole Recognition to Union**

Union accorded conditional sole bargaining recognition for six months in 20 plants; recognition for its members in all plants.

Negotiations on remaining strike issues, including wage and hour, production "speed-up" and other demands, open February 16.

General Motors announces five-cent hourly wage increase effective Feb. 15. Corporation consents to dismissal of injunctions against union, its officers and members; union pledges no strikes during negotiations.

John L. Lewis hails agreement as "milestone on labor's march;" William Green, A.F. of L. head, says Lewis "surrendered."

President Roosevelt congratulates Governor Frank Murphy of Michigan on "splendid work" on settlement.

## Trotzky Blames

(Continued from Page One)

"Technicians who are supposed to know all about it seemed even to be ignorant of how to reach New York in an ordinary call."

## OUR MAIL BAG

VICTORIA MILLS P. O.

Ottawa, Feb. 10, 1937.

The Editor, The Daily Mail, Fredericton, N. B.

Dear Sir:

My attention has been called to two articles in your issue of February 2nd referring to the Post Office at Victoria Mills, to the effect that your suggestion for the establishment of this office has been acted upon by Ottawa, the editorial article stating that a couple of months ago the Daily Mail pointed out to the postal authorities the need of a better postal accommodation for the large number of people residing in the extreme end of the City.

It is fair to say that a petition from some eighty-four residents of Victoria Mills was handed to the Postmaster, Mr. Cameron, in April, and he forwarded it to Ottawa recommending that the office be established.

In June the Postmaster spoke to me about it. I had considerable correspondence in regard to it, and on August 26th I was advised that the post office might be established, provided arrangements be made for the service from Fredericton to the new office. This was planned, so that on January 13th the Postmaster General advised that they were prepared to authorize the establishment of the Victoria Mills Post Office.

It will be seen therefore that the credit for the new post office should go to the petitioners and the Postmaster, Mr. Cameron.

Yours truly,

W. G. CLARK, M. P. York-Sunbury.

(Note—While everyone appreciates the efforts of Mr. Clark, M.P. and of the postal authorities in their endeavour to get the Post Office at Victoria Mills, the fact remains that the postal authorities from Saint John came up here as a result of the petition mentioned and after making a survey of the situation decided to let the matter drop. That was nearly a year ago. Mr. Cameron's recommendations to Ottawa were apparently not given much consideration. Then several residents of the Victoria Mill, of Doak Settlement and of the Wilsey Road waited upon The Daily Mail and requested that paper to take the matter up editorially. We were pleased to do so. After we had done so in two articles, the post office came to the Victoria Mills. We thank Mr. Clark for his aid. Will he now please see that an improved service is given to the residents of Doak and Wilsey.—Editor The Daily Mail.)

## EXPRESSES APPRECIATION

Editor Daily Mail, Fredericton, N. B.

Dear Sir:

Floods, fire, foreclosures—destroy peace and sanity of homes. It's amazing to me and no lavish words can express the high esteem I have for the Premier, Attorney-General, Mayor, Minister of Health and Minister of Mines, and other members of the legislature, Canadian Legion and citizens, business men and professionals of Fredericton, North and South Devon, and elsewhere for the generous and sympathetic response of the appeal sent out for funds to save "our veteran's home" from foreclosure. With the countless appeals that are sent out by Red Cross and other organizations, yet this appeal was generously and sympathetically taken care of by our people. I wish to thank The Daily Mail, also, for the contributions made through their advertising and publicity it gave.

The gratitude expressed by the family is very sincere.

With many thanks to you personally, I am most sincerely,

ALWILDA BONNER.

## One Room

(Continued from Page One)

41 families living in one room for each family; Fort William 23; Hamilton 109; Kitchener 20; London 74; Ottawa 390; Windsor 116; Montreal 2,208; Winnipeg 992; Regina 224; Calgary 341; Edmonton 434 and Vancouver 787.

The same census reveals that there were in November 76,231 persons on direct relief in Toronto; 20,927 in Windsor; 17,049 in Ottawa; 16,549 in Hamilton; 4,916 in Brantford; 4,815 in London; 2,417 in Kitchener, and 2,228 in Fort William. Strange as it may seem, there are 27,272 Ontario farmers on direct relief, and the only Provinces in Canada in which there are no farmers receiving relief are Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

## DIED

TITUS—At South Devon, February 11 Charles Titus, aged 53 years.

Funeral from his late home on Myles Avenue at 2.30 Saturday afternoon under the auspices of Rossmore Lodge L.O.L. and P.A.P., B. No. 37. Service will be conducted at the home by Rev. D. L. Kennedy and Rev. D. C. Kaine. Interment at the Rural Cemetery in Fredericton.

## CAPITOL

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Here's the picture every hockey fan in the country has been waiting for! See behind all those headlines about the rough, tough sport that put the whole nation on ice!

... And "Gabby" Dugan, the flashiest goal-scorer who ever drew on skates, will go to town in the screen's first story of professional hockey! See it—tonight.

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## 'DOWN THE STRETCH'

— with —

PATRICIA ELLIS

MICKEY ROONEY

DENNIS MOORE

Here Monday —

'LAST OF THE MOHICANS'

## CANADA PLANS HOSPITALITY

OTTAWA, Feb. 12.—With the Coronation and Imperial Conference taking place in London this year, Canada anticipates more distinguished visitors than customary and the vote for hospitality has been increased to \$15,000, as compared with \$5,000 last year, Prime Minister Mackenzie King told the House of Commons today.

He mentioned particularly the desire to extend courtesies to the brother of the Emperor of Japan who will cross Canada en route to London for the Coronation.

Conservative Leader Bennett approved the vote and said that Canada spent considerably less than most countries for this purpose. When he had recently visited other parts of the Empire he had been embarrassed by the courtesies and hospitality accorded him.

## General Motors

(Continued from Page One)

In a letter to Governor Frank Murphy this morning, William S. Knudsen, executive vice-president of General Motors, agreed not to negotiate with any employee representation group in 20 struck plants other than the United Automobile Workers for six months without first consulting the Governor.

The General Motors conferees during eight days of negotiations that ended in agreement early today, and two of the three labor representatives signed the peace treaty in a crowded court room.

Then the pact was rushed to the hotel suite where John L. Lewis, aggressive chieftain of the committee for industrial organization, lay ill with a cold.

Lewis asserted that the agreement represents "another mile-stone on labor's march."

He declared that the agreement "establishes for the first time a rational relationship in the automobile industry"

## Creator Vimy Ridge

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in Whitehall, the Arc de Triomphe in Paris or the beautiful Scottish War Memorial in Edinburgh, whose architects were honored by their respective countries.

The Toronto sculptor is one of the most modest of men and would be the last one to seek recognition. But Canadian architects who recognize in the Vimy Ridge Memorial one of the finest works in all Europe, are chagrined to think that some honor has not been paid him. Unfortunately knighthood no longer is in flower in the Dominion and the nation apparently has been too preoccupied with other problems like unemployment relief and western debts to pay tribute to the man who put Canada on the map artistically in Europe.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, whose President is W. L. Somerville of Toronto, will honor Mr. Allward at a dinner on Saturday night, when honorary membership in the institute will be conferred upon him.

## GAIETY

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Too Ill to Leave Home  
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Mr. A. E. Archer of Chelsea, writes: "As a boy I was accustomed to take Nerviline for pains in my stomach but never realized its true value until this summer. I had an attack of diarrhoea and was so bad I couldn't leave the house. I sent for a bottle of Nerviline and took a dose every hour during the morning. It restored me quickly. I use Nerviline now as a preventive of summer complaint and it works satisfactorily. My wife also has derived very special results in stomach trouble from Nerviline which I recommended highly."

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