

# HUMOR IN THE LAND OF THE FREE

## A Leading Script Writer is Glad That He Lives Where Censors are Lenient

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.—A sense of humor is a wonderful thing and when that attribute runs through a nation and is combined with freedom of speech, the situation is an ideal one for radio script writers.

Ken Englund, who has supplied comedy material for many radio artists, including Ken Murray, pictured the fortunate condition of American scribblers in an interview recently.

"Writers for American radio comedians," he said, "get by with subtle or broadly satirical sketches that would not be tolerated in other countries. In looking over a series of scripts which I have written for Ken Murray I realize that in fifteen countries I could mention I would now be languishing in durance vile, with a perhaps worse fate in the offing. But this is a land of free speech and lampooning is not a criminal offense.

"Recently I wrote a burlesque sketch titled 'The Charge of the Light Brigade,' for use by Murray and company on one of their Tuesday night broadcasts. During the sketch I poked fun at the absurdities of war, including the reluctance of colonels and generals to leave their swivel chairs to get within proximity of the actual fighting.

"I can picture what would happen to me if I had written a similar sketch for radio consumption in a foreign country!

"Let me offer a few of the 'gags' and situations from this script to illustrate my point. Ken Murray has been given the title of 'Major Murray' and he is talking to his orderly.

Major Murray—Sergeant, on your way out instruct the new Chief of the Intelligence Corps to report here."

Orderly—Yes, sir, but the new chief will be a little late."

Major Murray—Why?"

Orderly—He stopped to transfer his medals from his pajamas to his uniform!"

What would happen if this same 'gag' situation had been broadcast in Germany? Hal Fimberg, who is production head of the Murray program, passes on scripts before they are used. As Hal Fimberg, production head, U.S.A., he approved it. As Hal Fimberg, production head, Germany, he would shout in horror-stricken tones: 'Das ist verboten!'—even if he didn't particularly feel that way about it. You see, it is no secret that Herr Gen. Goering is particularly fond of his medals. If by hook or crook this joke managed to reach the air waves in Germany it would be sufficient to provoke the arrest and probable concentration of all concerned, with extra forms of torture allotted to me for thinking and writing it in the first place.

"In the same sketch I poked fun at the secret service branch of the military. Oswald, sleepy-voiced 'Oh yeah' stooge, was cast in the role of Chief of the Intelligence Corps, and he has just returned from India with a lot of silly information such as that the natives had been given yeast and there was a general uprising.

"In England all of the above would have been censored with a warning to the author not to be so flippant about an important branch of the military service. One character was identified as Capt. Fender of the Royal Mudguards. The same British censor would eliminate that reference, I am sure, for it is considered sacrilege to spoof the names of British regiments. Or suppose this gag had been broadcast in Italy and the name of a royal Italian company used.

Any dictator, fuhrer or other form of supreme ruler knows that an aura of almost holy dignity and seriousness must be preserved about his right arm, the military. The slightest jest is rewarded with severe punishment. I can picture myself peacefully typing away in a Naples villa overlooking the blue Mediterranean just as that peace is rudely disturbed by a visit from a dozen black-shirted gentlemen, one of them bearing a huge bottle of castor oil.

Another situation concerned itself with the 'surge' of higher military leaders. Once again it ended on the usual comic and disparaging note. I can readily imagine myself as a Muscovite wag, and the punishment that would be meted out to me for daring to poke fun or to question the 'bravery, dignity and sobriety of the Stalin army.

"In the six years I have been writing for radio I have poked fun at many of the famous wars in history. Titles like 'Roses and Bums,' 'Bismarck, His Life and his Herring,' 'The Russian Revolution—or What This Country Needs is a good Five-Cent Czar' should give you a rough idea. Not only did all of these sketches receive the approval of production heads like Hal Fimberg, but they passed the American radio censors, who do have a sense of humor.

"Appealing to a nationwide sense of humor is subtle propaganda against war. We all know that a war and the conditions that foster it need glamour and dignity to arouse public fervor and enthusiasm. Poke fun at these things and you are helping to knock the props from under the forces that agitate for war. If I were President, one contribution I would make to war-torn nations would be a batch of radio comedians, script writers and supporting casts."

# MEETING

## FORESHADOWS AGREEMENT

### De Valera Has Long Conference With Malcolm MacDonald in London.

DUBLIN, Jan. 18.—The discussion in London between Eamon de Valera and Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald have provoked here the same keen interest as in Whitehall. It is learned that there is every likelihood of a 'new deal' affecting tariffs and other outstanding problems, being reached. Such an agreement was, indeed, foreshadowed by government speeches here during the last week-end. Thos. Dedrig, Minister of Education, and Sean Lemass, Minister of Industry and Commerce, both envisaged settlement of the main difficulties with Great Britain.

In official quarters it was stated that Britain had again advanced a suggestion for the establishment of a Federal union of the Free State and Northern Ireland, under which each section of the country would control its own home affairs on the lines of the Government of Ireland Act of 1920.

A joint body sitting in Dublin would control affairs relating to the army, foreign problems and other matters which are now controlled so far as Northern Ireland is concerned, by the British government. This joint committee would have equal representation from Northern Ireland and the Free State and would act as a single unit. The committee probably would be elected by the respective Parliaments on a proportional basis.

The balance of trade between the two countries, it was pointed out now slightly favors the Free State. Renewal of agreements on a pound-for-pound quota basis, with additional big reductions in tariffs on both sides is anticipated here.

It is also thought that the United Kingdom will approve changes in the Constitution of the Irish Free State and recognize the actuality of the Free State's external association.

# FARMERS' RETURNS SHOW IMPROVEMENT

One of the most encouraging features of the recovery witnessed during 1936 was the narrowing of the spread between prices of farm produce and prices of the things farmers buy. At the low point of the depression it is estimated that farmers were receiving only 35 per cent of the 1926 level of prices for their produce, while the prices of things farmers buy had fallen to only 82 per cent of the 1926 average. By the end of 1936 farm prices had risen to 65 per cent of the 1926 average, while the index of prices paid by farmers had not yet advanced over the 1932 level. The farmers' price disadvantage has thus been reduced materially, but there is still sufficient difference to make profitable farming difficult. It is probable that price increases will occur in such items as food, clothing, feed, fertilizer and building materials during 1937. These facts are pointed out in the Agricultural Situation and Outlook for 1937, prepared jointly by the Dominion Departments of Agriculture and Trade and Commerce.

The market for Canadian farm produce at home depends to a very large extent on the activity in other industries. Material recovery was recorded by most of these industries during 1936. Preliminary estimates show that the average level of production in 1936 was at least 8 per cent above 1935. The manufacturing industries showed an improvement of 11 per cent for the first ten months of 1936, while newsprint production and the output of electrical power reached new all time high levels during 1936. Construction has lagged behind other industries, but the increase in private building rather than public enterprise is an encouraging sign. Employment has shown a material advancement in the numbers actually employed, but at the same time relief lists remain long and consequently the purchasing power of a large group of consumers has been retarded.

Consumption during 1936 was higher than in 1935. This is indicated by a 4 per cent. rise in retail sales as well as by slight increases in merchandise car loadings. The tourist trade of Canada continues to be an important factor in the domestic market for farm produce. In 1932 the excess of expenditures of tourists in Canada over those of Canadian tourists in other countries amounted to 86 million dollars, while in 1935 the corresponding difference was 123 million dollars.

The income received by farmers in 1936 was above that of the preceding year and indications are that for the first six months of 1937 a further increase will be recorded. Little change is anticipated in farm taxes for 1937 and rates of farm wages still remain low compared to pre-depression levels.

# King Cole TEA

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## PAPER ON WALLS CHINESE IDEA

### Development of Industry, However, Largely Took Place in France

The most popular forms of decorative art is the covering of walls of rooms with paper, a material capable alike of adorning the abodes of the wealthy, and making more cheerful the humblest dwelling.

The Chinese are reported to have been the inventors of paper hanging. Many centuries ago those ingenious people covered their walls with paper and painted thereon figures and landscapes.

Some of the early British travellers to the East brought home specimens of the painted paper. These were imitated and came into use to some extent among the wealthier class, who valued the painted paper as a cheap and tolerable substitute for the costly tapestries and hangings which were then fashionable.

Notwithstanding England's early connection with the art, development belongs to France. In the middle of the sixteenth century paper-staining was an established branch of industry in France and in 1620 a manufac-

turer of Rouen invented blocks for producing the patterns, which had previously been done partly by painting and partly by the stencilling process. The French set themselves to make paper that would resemble in some degree the tapestry which it was intended to stand substitute for, and consequently their earlier efforts were of a pictorial kind.

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# MEISNER ASKS LABATT DAMAGES

### Freed of Kidnapping Charge, Claims Malicious Prosecution By Brewer.

TORONTO, Jan. 18.—Writ was issued at Osgoode Hall today by David Meisner of Covington, Ky., against John Labatt, London, Ont., seeking unstated damages for alleged "malicious prosecution and negligence in identification."

Meisner, who spent more than a year in Portsmouth Penitentiary for the kidnapping of Labatt, was acquitted at a second trial in London, March 20, 1936.

The jury deliberated seven hours before freeing the frail, well-dressed Meisner, who at his first trial had been convicted and sentenced to 15 years in Portsmouth Penitentiary at Kingston.

Minister of Justice Ernest Lapointe had ordered a new trial after Michael McCardell had made what he said was a full confession of the kidnapping. McCardell absolved Meisner of all blame, said the kidnapping was carried out in August, 1934 by himself, John Bannon, Russell Knowles and Albert Pegram. McCardell was given 12 years, Bannon and Knowles were each sentenced to 15 years. Pegram has not yet been captured.

At the first trial Labatt identified Meisner as one of his kidnappers who acted as his guard when he was held captive in a Muskoka cottage three days. At the second trial the London brewer said he had been mistaken, was convinced he had mistaken Meisner for McCardell.

# BIG SHAKE-UP OCCURS IN QUEBEC DEPARTMENTS

### Important Positions Are Changed in Move For Reorganization

QUEBEC, Jan. 18.—Changes in several Provincial Government departments, some of them involving high officials, were officially announced from Premier Duplessis' office. The retirements of deputy minister, secretaries and assistant secretaries of various departments were announced, and a number of appointments and promotions are also given out.

Stanislas Begin, Montreal, has been appointed secretary to H. L. Auger, Colonization Minister, and Alexandre Hebert, Montreal, former draughtsman at the cadastral offices in that city, has been promoted to take over full charge of that bureau.

Other appointments are:

Romeo Cantin, St. Hyacinthe, to be jailer of the prison there; Dr. Rene Millette, St. Germain de Grantham, to be joint coroner of Athabaska County; Dr. J. Comtois, St. Barthelemy, to be coroner for the district of Joliette; Hertel O'Bready, Sherbrooke, to be clerk of the Circuit Court and Magistrate's Court and of the Crown and Peace for the judicial district of St. Francis; Gerard Gauthier, Sherbrooke, to be deputy clerk in above courts; Marcel Delorme, Sherbrooke, ordinary clerk in above courts.

Alphonse Hardy is named in charge of the back-to-the-land movement, Department of Colonization; Louis P. Legendre and Emilien Michaud, Ste. Croix, Lotbiniere, are appointed joint registrars for Lotbiniere County, and Albini Brunet, St. Jerome, is appointed jailer of the Terrebonne jail.

# Do This For a Cold



1. Take 2 "ASPIRIN" tablets and drink a full glass of water. Repeat treatment in 2 hours.

2. If throat is sore, crush and stir 3 "ASPIRIN" tablets in 1/2 glass of water. Gargle twice.

## The Modern-Day Way to Ease Cold and Sore Throat Quickly

The modern way to curb a cold is: Two "Aspirin" tablets the moment you feel a cold coming on. Repeat, if needed, according to directions in box.

At the same time, if you have a sore throat, crush and dissolve three "Aspirin" tablets in one-third glass of water. And gargle with this mixture twice.

The "Aspirin" you take internally will act to combat fever, cold pains and the cold itself. The gargle will provide almost instant relief from rawness and pain, acting like a local anesthetic on the irritated throat membrane.

•Try this way. Your doctor will endorse it. It is quick, effective and ends the taking of strong medicines for a cold.

•"Aspirin" tablets are made in Canada. "Aspirin" is the registered trade-mark of the Bayer Company, Limited, of Windsor, Ontario. Look for the name Bayer in the form of a cross on every tablet.

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SOONER or later this moment comes in every parent's life. Your little baby, your rollicking tomboy, grows into a sweet young woman. And what a tug at your heart strings when the break in the family circle comes. But at least you're happy to know she will have the protection and support of strong young arms.

So you're glad Tom has a job; glad that industry has been able to provide a place for this eager, intelligent young man, and give him the opportunity to make a home of his own and carve out a path to success.

Many a Canadian family gets its start in just this way with the automotive industry. Thousands are employed in automotive plants and distributing and selling organizations. Thousands more earn their livings in plants that make the materials used in building motor cars, and in the making and handling of food products, clothing, furniture, purchased by automotive workers.

The money put in circulation reaches the farmer, fisherman, miner, lumberman, railway worker. So the true value of the automotive industry to Canada is measured by the number of Canadians it puts to work. That is why we need a strong, prosperous automotive industry in Canada.

## For Instance, take Our Own Industry

Over \$22,000,000.00 was paid by the Automobile Manufacturers in salaries and wages during 1936. Yet this huge sum is dwarfed by the wages paid in the factories that produce the materials and parts that go into a completed car, which wages are built in large part on our purchases. Other Canadian industries — glass, steel, rubber, textile, paint, chemical; to name a few — are stimulated by the manufacture and sale of Canadian-built cars. The prosperity of their employees is likewise affected as is that of those who supply their individual living needs.

For statistical and further information about this industry, write to Automotive Industries, 1006 Lumsden Building, Toronto.

## AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES OF CANADA

