

THE DAILY MAIL

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J. L. Neville, Managing Editor.
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TELEPHONE 67.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1935

FOR NORTH SHORE

—OO—

Last year over thirty thousand nets used on the North Shore in this province, was brought from the United States and from Holland. Some few nets were brought from Ontario. The Leckie Manufacturing Company, an Ontario concern, is willing to open a subsidiary branch in the North Shore district. Flax might be used in this connection and thus help raise industry further. The whole question at a time when the North Shore seems to be after, and needs industries.

ITALY AND ABYSSINIA

—OO—

That both Italy and Abyssinia are bluffing is a reasonable conclusion from a survey of the facts. The situation has given Mussolini an excuse for seeing how quickly he can mobilize a small army, a demonstration that may some day be useful to him in Europe. But that he seriously intends to waste Italian lives in an Ethiopian expedition is outside his character as the smartest prime minister on the Continent.

Abyssinia is a natural fortress. From the coastal plains, the only possible Italian entrance, hills suddenly rise in a vast escarpment, above which is the main portion of the country, an immense plateau. There are no roads up these hills, only mule tracks, useless for motors. The only successful expeditions against the Abyssinian highlands have been conducted from the west, save one; and that one was added by quarrels among the Ethiopians themselves. Mussolini certainly remembers what Abdel-Krim did to the Spaniards in the Rif. Warfare in Abyssinia would be very like that in the Rif, with the attacking power very much farther from its base.

But Italy has a fine air force, and it was the French air force that finally turned the tables against Krim. True; but Abyssinia has but one town, the capital, Addis Ababa, that would be worth bombing. Ethiopian soldiers, hiding among the rocks, would offer poor targets; and unless followed by infantry, airplanes are not much good except to injure morale. And the Abyssinians remember Adowa, where in 1896 they defeated an Italian expedition not far within the borders of their country.

On the other hand, any claim on the part of Haile Selassie that he can put 1,000,000 armed men in the field can be written off as an idle boast. At the most Abyssinia has a population of about 10,000,000. In its greatest war it never had an army larger than 90,000. The people are not well-provided with weapons of any kind; they would have to depend largely on the rifle and the spear.

It boils down to this—that any attempt on the part of Italy to conquer Abyssinia would be long, and immensely costly; while the Abyssinians, poorly armed as they are, could maintain guerilla warfare for years. This is not to say that our old friend Marshall Balbo will not make an air demonstration, and blow up a lot of rocks and perhaps a few Ethiopians; but Haile Selassie is not the man to be scared by that. He is an intelligent man, and he knows the strength of his country. He also knows that Great Britain will pull every wire to have the peace kept, for she does not want Italy to control the sources of important tributaries to the Nile.

NATIONS BACK TO BARTER

—OO—

In the present upheaval in world trade, recourse is being had to the ancient system of barter. Great Britain has made an arrangement with France whereby Welsh coal is bartered for pitwood. Portugal and Newfoundland entered into similar arrangements. During 1935 it is estimated Newfoundland will supply some 73,000 tons of pitwood, according to the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railways.

SNAPSHOTS

Gasoline is imported into Canada for thirteen or fourteen cents per gallon. It sells for thirty-five and thirty cents per gallon. Who gets the difference?

Some of those who are snubbed deserve it.

The date when your ship comes in is uncertain when it is your rich aunt that owns the ship.

Living is cheaper in some ways. People used to pay \$1.50 to see the gals dressed as they are now.

Next to having a doornob come off in the hand, the tmtptiest feeling is that long-drawn out squealing of brakes and no crash.

New novel, "No Quarter Given," is going to be extremely unpopular with Pullman porters and hotel help.

One of the triumphs is to get a bashful child to talk. Some will work at it as diligently as in doing a crossword puzzle.

Publishers of "Anthony Adverse" appear to have overlooked something in not bringing out an edition with handles for the travel trade.

Militiamen arrested in Rockford, Ill. told the court they did nothing worse than sing "Sweet Adeline." In the circumstances the charge might be reduced to second degree murder.

What's the use? By the time you know just how to run the world, you begin to get old and learn better.

A hick town is a place where school teachers get married the second year or give up and try another place.

BATHURST NOTES

The Y. P. C. C. are holding their first annual banquet at the Carleton Hotel on Wednesday night, February the twenty-seventh. Covers will be laid for seventy-five.

The C. G. I. T. recently held a driving party to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Loane, Basin Road, where an enjoyable time was spent in dancing and other amusements.

Miss Alberta Veniot, daughter of Mayor and Mrs. C. J. Veniot, spent the week-end with friends in Moncton and Amherst.

The Nicolas Denys Chapter of the I. O. D. E. are holding a telephone bridge on Tuesday to raise funds for the work of the order. Twenty tables are expected to be at play.

Miss Martha Fenwick, who was called home by the recent illness and subsequent death of her father, W. G. Fenwick, left on Saturday for Montreal, where she will resume her studies at the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Many friends are glad to know that Mrs. James P. Whelan has returned from Boston, where she underwent surgical treatment at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

The C. G. I. T. of the Anglican church held a skating party recently. Refreshments were served in the Church Hall, the guests of honor being the Boy Scouts.

His Worship Mayor C. J. Veniot left yesterday for Moncton and Saint John to be absent a few days.

Next Friday night a carnival is to be held at the rink, for which some attractive costumes are being prepared.

A penny sale, held under the auspices of the K. C.'s in their hall for the benefit of the parish was the most successful yet held, over one hundred dollars being realized.

CLEVELAND, February 26—Three women were gassed yesterday as fighting broke out in the Ohio Rubber Co. strike in the nearby town of Willoughby. Union pickets said a tear gas bomb was thrown by a guard at the plant. The women were gassed, while they occupied a commissary on wheels which had been set up to feed the pickets.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—A southern hemisphere wheat crop more than 14 per cent below the average was predicted yesterday for 1935 by the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

OUR MAIL BAG

ELECTRIC LIGHT

Editor, Daily Mail, City.

Dear Sir:

With the electric light question settled, at a cost to the city of several thousand dollars, it would seem to be quite right and proper to ascertain what benefits, if any, the City of Fredericton has received from securing current from the New Brunswick Electric Power Plant at Grand Lake.

When the matter was before the City Council in 1931 the Electric Light Committee, who had charge of the matter assured the City Council that very much better rates could be secured by the Maritime Electric Company purchasing current from the Power Plant at Grand Lake instead of manufacturing at Fredericton as heretofore done.

Upon the strength of this assurance the City Council succeeded in the accomplishment of this arrangement. Now let us examine carefully and consider in what way the City has benefited by this change. For the past three years the City did not receive any benefit whatever as the rates remained as they were.

Under the new rates which came into effect February 1st, 1935 certain benefits are received but it is very doubtful if this is from the fact that the current is purchased from the Grand Lake Plant or because of the fact that in the year 1933 3,600,000 k.m.h.s were used in comparison to 1,500,000 k.m.h.s in 1927, when the rates previous to February 1st, 1935, were established.

There should be no question but that the city would be entitled to better rates with double the amount of current used.

Now what are the losses sustained by the City under this arrangement. In the first place the Maritime Electric Company were purchasing water from the City to the extent of about \$2,000.00 per year.

The services of about ten or twelve employees of the Company were dispensed with and their income taxes lost to the City.

The valuation of the Maritime Electric Company in the City was materially reduced thus making a direct loss to the City in taxes. It is claimed that the new rates will save the citizens of Fredericton about \$13,500.00. In the domestic service it will no doubt be an average saving of twenty cents per month to each consumer.

In the 1933 Report of the N. B. Electric Power Commission the Fredericton District had 2,077 domestic customers but this includes the town of Devon and other places which would mean about 277 off and leave for the City about 1,800 customers which at \$2.40 per year per customer would mean a saving in the domestic service of \$4,320.00 per year.

The commercial light and power users of the City claim that there will be very slight improvement under the new rates unless a very large amount of current is used under these conditions it does seem that we are not getting much better rates at a cost of about \$5,000.00 in legal expenses than we secured in 1927 without any expense and when only about one half the amount of current was used as is now consumed.

To remedy this matter the City Council should insist that the N. B. Electric Power Commission give to the City though the Maritime Electric Company the same rate for current that is paid by Marysville viz one cent per k.m.h. instead of about two cents as at present.

This would mean a saving to the citizens of Fredericton of about \$30,000.00 per year if the same was posted on to the consumers as it should be done.

Thanking you for space in your valuable paper.

I remain,
Yours truly,
C. N. GOODSPEED.

BODKIN-SHERMAN

To the Editor,
The Daily Mail,
City.

Dear Sir:

In the columns of yesterday's Daily Mail appeared a letter written by one who himself "Interested", in which mention is made of the poetry of Francis Sherman. In the letter it was claimed that, in representing the poem

"O little city by the blue Saint John" in my recent recital to be the work of Sherman. I was in error. According to the writer a John Bodkin wrote the poem.

I have made several inquiries regarding Mr. Bodkin and I am quite satisfied that such a gentleman did exist. But I am not satisfied as yet, that our friend Bodkin actually wrote the poem referred to previously.

This particular poem is, I believe, sometimes referred to as the Bodkin sonnet' but it has been included in Sherman's work by at least one worthy critic. The reason that this gentleman placed the poem amongst Sherman's work was due probably to these reasons—firstly, because he, as I, had never heard of Mr. Bodkin; because he, as I, had conceived the appellation 'the Bodkin sonnet' as indicating nothing more than an indirect association (or which we had no knowledge) with the poem, and lastly, because he, as I, had been struck with the marked degree of Shermanlike perfection of sonnet form, the masterly style and verbal felicity exhibited by the poem.

Does it not seem curious that no other poems of our friend Bodkin have come down to us? He surely must have written more than one? If he wrote but one would it be possible to achieve with one flourish of the pen, as it were, such mastery of poetical craftsmanship? It is all very interesting.

If, however, it can be definitely established that our Bodkin actually wrote the poem, my feelings in the matter will not be hurt in the least. But rather shall I rejoice and be glad and consider myself happily fortunate in the new knowledge gained thereby.

Allow me, Mr. Editor, through the columns of your estimable paper, to thank the writer of the letter for her kind words in approbation of my small effort of recent date in which I endeavored to present the poetry of Fredericton's most distinctive poet, Francis Sherman.

Yours sincerely,
R. C. BAYLEY.

289 Westmorland St.,
City.

Feb. 25th, 1935.

(NOTE Re Above.

The Editor of the Daily Mail agrees with "Interested" and thinks that Mr. Bayley is wrong. The last time that this poem was published as Mr. Bodkin's was in the Daily Mail. Previous to our publishing Dr. Theodore Roberts, who was a friend of Mr. Sherman and of Mr. Bodkin, and also of the Editor of The Daily Mail, published the poem in the Saint John Telegraph, and credited it to Mr. Bodkin. Dr. Roberts will probably read this comment and we hope that he will set us on the right track. Mr. Bayley might write to Dr. Roberts. We will be pleased to give him the address. — Editor, Daily Mail.

Saint Basil Convent
Burned to Ground

(Continued from Page One)

Basil a distance of five miles, had been opened for the convenience of doctors travelling to and from the hospital, and this permitted prompt and efficient help from Edmundston.

For a time, the boys' quarters were threatened with destruction as flames reached the walls, and only the courageous efforts of the firemen saved it from being gutted. As the hose could not be available in that part, buckets and soaked sheets were used effectively. Considerable damage was suffered in that area, however, and the boys had to be sent home temporarily pending reorganization and repairs. The chapel, part of the girls' dormitories and classrooms adjoining were considerably damaged by fire and water. The fire was still burning late yesterday but further damage was prevented.

C. N. R. EARNINGS INCREASED

The gross revenue of the all-inclusive Canadian National Railways system for the week ending February 21st, 1935 was \$3,083,173 as compared with \$2,875,099 for the corresponding period of 1934, an increase of \$185,074.

HALIFAX, N. S., Feb. 26—Constable Richard Tufts of the Halifax Harbor Commissioner's police force, died in hospital yesterday more than 48 hours after he had been found unconscious in a locked commission freight shed.

GAIETY

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Pop-Eye Influence Seen

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island, Feb. 26—Spinach—chock full of vitamins and wry faces—is the most popular dish among Brown University students. Next in favor in the vegetable line are carrots and string beans. Milk leads as the favorite beverage. Vegetable salad consumption is heavy, and fruit is the major dessert.

CAPITOL

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NOTICE

Office will be open as usual FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8th.

Dr. B. R. Ross

404 Queen Street
Hours 9-6, or by appointment.