

plane; but it wouldn't do to push the mating of air heroes much further.

What Is Chemistry to Us?

A DIRECT offspring of the well-known Williamstown political conference was the Institute of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society, held all through July at Pennsylvania State College.

It has become increasingly patent that there is more than an indirect connection between chemistry and world affairs. Oil, coal and its innumerable chemical by-products, chemical fertilizers, which to an ever-increasing extent are involved in the basic industry of agriculture, and chemical products much too numerous to mention—all these are now serious bidders in the world for international political attention. And so much attention has already been devoted at the Williamstown conference to a consideration of these important factors of modern life that it was deemed feasible to hold a separate conference at which the chemists themselves might be in the majority. The Institute of Chemistry became a success during its first week and a marked success within its allotted month.

In the world of science the chemists predominate in numbers over any other branch except medicine. It is quite common for five thousand chemists to attend the annual meetings of the American Chemical Society. This shows how important chemistry has become. It is a small manufacturing industry indeed these days which does not employ its corps of chemists, or else it is a backward one.

All these people are scattered far and wide. They seldom see one another. As the interchange of ideas is one of the chief means of scientific advance, the effect of this dispersion of chemical experts is felt in hindrance to world progress in those industries which depend, as most industries do, on chemistry. A conference among chemists is therefore of very specific value.

The World Will Benefit

IT is one thing to hold a large conference with a rigid formal program, and another to hold a gathering such as that of the Institute just mentioned. When several hundred scientists are brought together for a month at meal-time, at golf, in swimming, and on the veranda, the ice of formality is melted and innumerable scientific and industrial ideas are set free to go far and wide afterwards. That, in short, was the underlying purpose of the Institute of Chemistry, and not the reading of pre-

pared papers, although a few were read each day.

Attending the conference were many noted European scientists. They come here for the same reason—to give and to take.

One of the things these men noted was the unaccustomed freedom with which American scientists put ideas and discoveries at the disposal of all. In the Old World, especially in the industries, it has long been the tradition that an industry employs a corps of scientific researchers for the financial returns it will bring in, and that those discoveries, which are the employer's property, must be kept secret. In America to a much greater extent industries pool the findings of their respective research staffs. A gives to B and C, but C is also giving to B and A; and so on. In the last analysis, this free courtesy pays, and it pays financially. Each industry profits most through being free to dip into the common store of discovered fact, and the industry as a whole as well as the entire body politic profits in turn. There is wealth enough for all.

As this is read scientists have returned home from the Institute with a wider horizon than they knew before. From this to the benefit that will thereby accrue to the world is a long and not very directly traceable course, yet the effect will finally fall to each of us.

Trifling with Typhoid

THE most extensive epidemic of the twentieth century and one of the worst ever recorded anywhere," is the laconic editorial characterization applied by the "Journal of the American Medical Association" to the recent Montreal epidemic of typhoid fever, in which there were 4,755 cases and 453 deaths up to June 28. "Keep away from Montreal," is the advice of sanitary authorities in the United States, while the journal mentioned above states that "Montreal and its vicinity constitute for the present a dangerous locality."

For some reason very little publicity has been given to the great Montreal epidemic, while one American engineering journal states that some of our northern neighbor's civic authorities attempted to conceal it from the rest of Canada and her southern neighbor. Montreal and her environs are a long way from New York City, yet very large quantities of milk are shipped southwards. This milk supply was early cut off by United States health authorities.

An epidemic in Canada might be construed, on technical grounds at least, as none of our business. But the typhoid bacillus knows no political boundaries,

and, while we cannot exert any direct political influence over Montreal, we can shut off the purchase of milk from the neighborhood; and we can by avoiding Montreal to some extent help direct the individual officials who were responsible for the delay in striking the epidemic the full onus of blame. The san treatment might well be dealt out to any of our own cities which behaved as Montreal has behaved in these circumstances.

A Lesson to Other Communities

WITHOUT a shadow of *de jure* authority the United States Public Health Service has just made a careful survey of the Montreal situation, a detailed report of this survey having been made available. The epidemic was traced to a single dairy company and, according to the official statement, "the preponderance of evidence is that a very considerable proportion of the infected milk was passed through and distributed from the plant without being subjected to pasteurization treatment." The "Engineering News-Record" accuses the Montreal city Council of hindrance rather than support of the local health officer, who did his best to control the epidemic. The Council is said to have belittled the epidemic, and even denied its existence, and attempted to hush up all reports that might keep tourists away from Montreal. Because of inaction the epidemic, which had once died down to a relatively low point, again awoke and became as virulent as ever.

The chances are that the people of Montreal will know how to take care of the responsibility involved in the bursting of the epidemic. That, at any rate, is their business, not ours. In the meantime we need not be too smug on this side of the boundary-line, for there is no assurance that an epidemic of a similar nature will not be somewhat bungled in some of our own communities. American city governments will at least do well to ponder the financial losses that are now being suffered by Montreal through her city Council's short-sighted policy of closing its eyes and then saying "We see no epidemic."

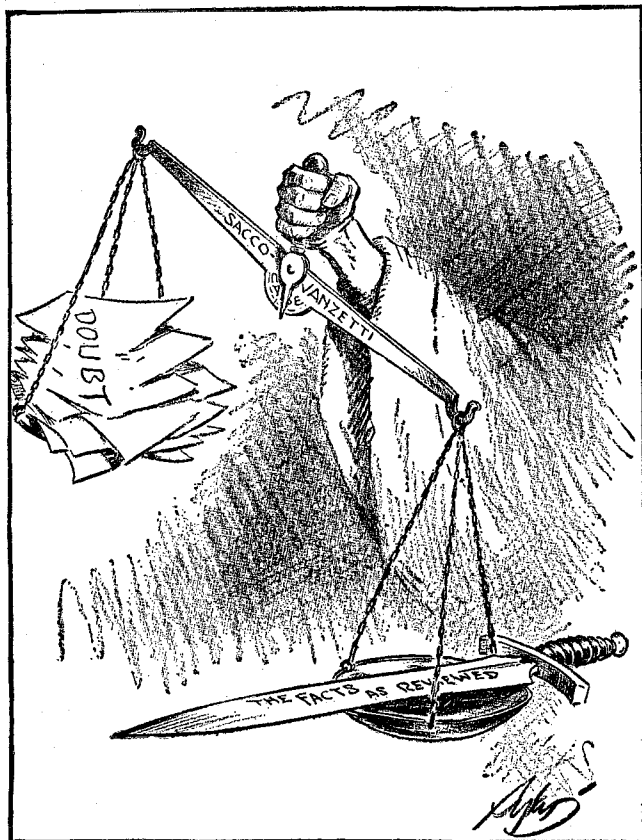
Pathos of Empire in Canada

FOR once the Prince of Wales has succeeded—much to his own satisfaction apparently—in taking second place in the newspapers and giving first place to another man. On his visit to Canada his companion is Stanley Baldwin, the Prime Minister. At first the Prince had to discourage newspaper interviewers and photographers and direct attention to Mr. Baldwin. But since the Prime

There must be conclusions

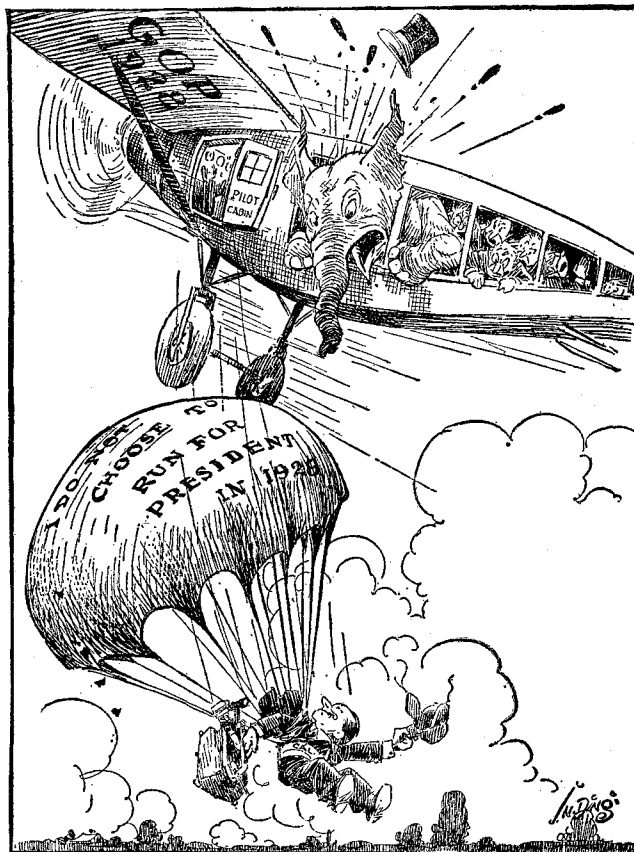
(Henry V, Act II, Scene 1)

Sykes in the New York Evening Post



Finis

Darling in the New York Herald Tribune



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Out of a clear sky

From J. A. MacArt, East Orange, N. J.

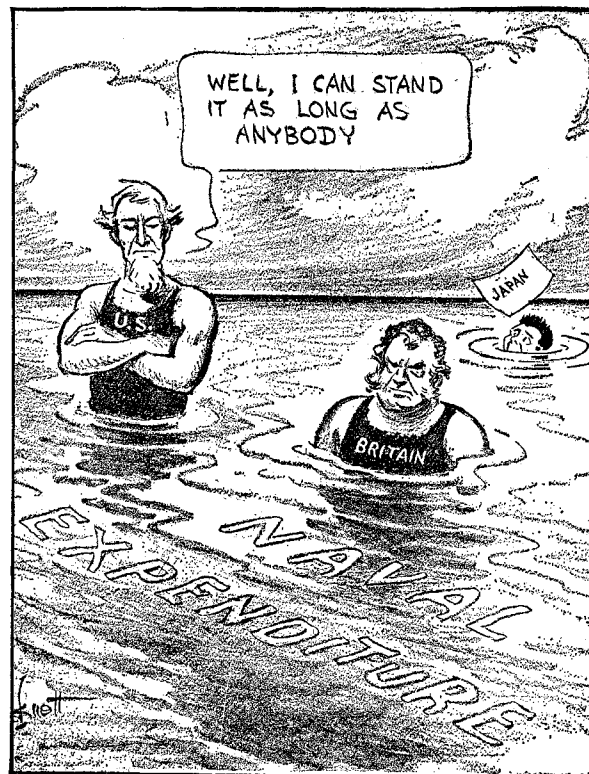
Enright in the New York World



With all due respect

From D. S. Imrie, New York, N. Y.

Knott in the Dallas News



The rising tide

From M. M. Kornfeld, Dallas, Texas