

Out of the Dark

-- "The Story of the Evolution of Communication -- That is History"

ONE of the most outstanding characteristics of modern society is the growth of industrial specialisation, based on a world-wide interchange of goods and services. A hundred years ago the term, "international relations," would arouse little interest in the minds of most people outside of the small group of diplomats whose business concerned the limited field of foreign policy.

People thought in terms of local politics and local interests. Their social and economic problems hardly extended beyond the boundaries of the county in which they lived. What happened in far distant parts of the world seemed of little importance to their daily lives. To-day all this is changed.

One of the most frequently-used words in modern economic literature is the term, "international." Hundreds of books are being published dealing specifically with international problems. Our daily newspapers stress the events that are taking place in other parts of the world, and this news is eagerly read by millions of people, because they know that these events have a real, practical bearing on their every-day lives. We have, as it were, stepped from a narrowly-limited national economy to a world economy, and our very existence is dependent on the smooth working of international institutions.

Few of us realise how revolutionary has been the economic change that has taken place during the past century. Fosdick, in his "Old Savage in the New Civilisation," describes the change in these words: "What was the world like in 1822? In all America, in all Europe, there was not a railroad, nor a telephone, nor a telegraph. The steamboat was just beginning to win its way. Travel was a painful and precarious undertaking with the result that most people stayed home, living

In the light of our past achievements we face the future with confidence, and reiterate our unshakable belief that out of the present clash and turmoil there will emerge a civilisation richer than any the world has ever seen; a civilisation based on the intelligent co-operation of free peoples who have risen superior to the prejudices of colour, race and creed.

A Broadcast Talk by
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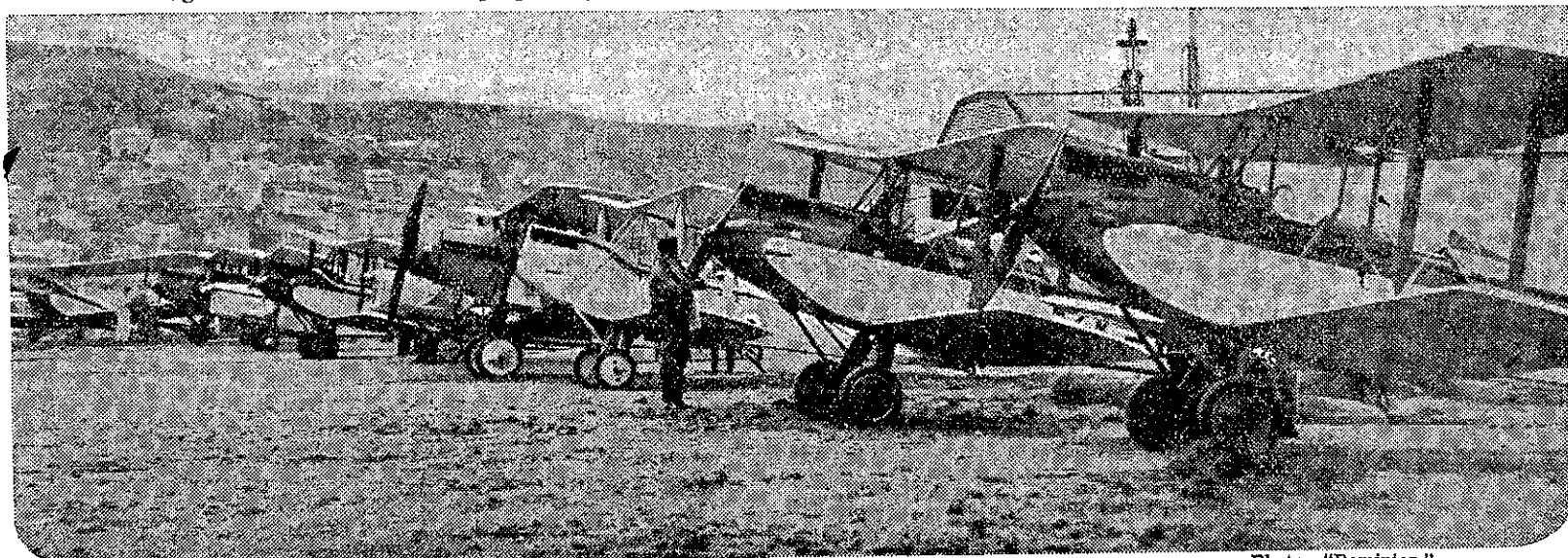
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no asphalt or macadam pavement, no plumbing, no sewer systems—in fact, none of the conveniences which have become an accepted part of our life to-day . . . a world without matches, gas or coal ranges, gramophones, refrigerators, canned food, rubber goods, parcels-post, money-orders, bicycles, cigarettes, typewriters, or alarm clocks.

"People lived for the most part simply and quietly, engaged in a routine of work from which, in generations, there had been but little variation. Indeed from the days of Rameses II and Moses down to the days of our grandfathers amazingly few fundamental changes occurred in the material existence of common people.

"TRANSPORT and communication were no more rapid a century ago than they were with the ancient Egyptians. Nothing swifter than a horse was known either to Nebuchadnezzar or Thomas Jefferson. A letter sent by Napoleon from Paris to Rome took as long to deliver as one sent by Julius Caesar from Rome to Paris. The farmers in the United States used largely the same methods and the same instruments that were used in the days of Augustus.

"And this was only a hundred years ago! Between that time and this has occurred the mightiest revolution in history. It has completely changed the whole complex of human life. It has fundamentally altered our daily habits; it has not only modified (Continued on page 22.)



--Photo, "Dominion."