

ESKIMOS SEEK HIGHEST PRICES

The Northern Huskies are No Longer Giving Things Away, and Demand Top Money

A lady tourist who was making a collection of native curios at Fort McPherson, the most northerly fur-trading post in Canada, had provided herself before leaving civilization with a small outfit of beads, needles, etc., in the hope of bartering them to good advantage with the aboriginals. Seeing some ivory carvings in a "husky" tent this lady intimated that she wished to acquire them, and offered in exchange first a few packages of needles, and then some beads, both of which were inspected and decorously handed back to her with a shake of the head.

After some talking the Esquimaux said her would sell for a pipe and some tobacco. This looked easy, as the curios were cheap at \$6 to \$7, and the lady went to the Hudson Bay Company's store and bought \$1 worth of tobacco and a 50 cent pipe. These were handed to the "husky," who courteously looked them over, and then handing the pipe back remarked: "Tobacco good, pipe no good." The upshot was that the lady had to invest \$5 in a pipe to obtain the coveted curios.

The most sought for articles of Esquimaux manufacture is the ivory cribbage board, made out of a walrus tusk. These make both useful articles and handsome ornaments. The sides and ends are usually covered with carvings of wild animals, such as walrus, whales, foxes, wolves, etc., and this work is in many cases extremely well executed.

A few years ago these cribbage boards could be bought for a comparatively trivial sum, but now, owing to a number of tourists having paid absurd figures for them, the price has mounted to an almost prohibitive figure, from \$50 to \$100 being asked for, almost any specimen, while for an unusually well-carved board an Esquimaux will not accept less than \$125.

Other sought-after articles produced by the "huskies" are bead and shell earrings, soapstone candlesticks, sealing spears, ivory fishhooks and sinkers, and patchwork mats manufactured from a mixture of splices of wild goat, seal and deerskins sewn together in a regular and not unbecomingly pattern.

The trade with the Eskimo is conducted on somewhat different lines to that with the Indians. For a number of years past whaling schooners hailing from San Francisco have made their winter quarters at Herschel Island, so as to be ready to commence hunting these valuable mammals as soon as open water appears. Their crews have dealt largely with the Eskimos in furs and curios, paying small prices and in return selling them flour, bacon, tea, etc., for considerably less than the mere cost of transporting such articles into the country by the McKenzie River route. However, the schooner owners, finding that but little of the profit accruing from the transactions found its way into their pockets, have largely put a stop to the carrying of goods for trading purposes.

As a result a considerable number of the Eskimo make their way by first open water from Herschel Island and the country east of the McKenzie River delta to the trading posts on the lower river. On arrival they barter their furs for whatever pleases them, and then something special—a sewing machine, steam tug, or what not—catches a husky's eye, and he at once wishes to purchase it. If it is not for sale he at once orders one like it to be brought in next year. This the trader interested agrees to accomplish, and the question of price then comes up. Now the price is not put to the native in dollars, as that would not involve a sufficiently remunerative transaction. Instead the trader says—in taking an order for a phonograph, for instance, "You must bring me five lynx skins, twenty white foxes, and two mink. "Very good," replies the husky, and the deal is closed. He arrives at the post the following summer with the pelts called for, and he is an angry man if his phonograph has not turned up.

A short time ago an Eskimo purchased a steam tug, which he is now an adept in operating, and was charged therefor 100 white foxes, two No. 1 silver foxes, thirty lynx and fifty mink. As the vessel cost but \$1,200 at the point where sold, the transaction was by no means unprofitable.

Famous Cricketer

This is the ninth season in succession, and the twelfth in all, that the famous cricketer Hirst has taken a hundred wickets and scored a thousand runs.

The Czar's Insurance

Life policies to the amount of \$5,000,000 are carried by the Czar of Russia, while King George and the Kaiser are covered for about five million dollars.

Your one-balance in the whole year—save money. Buy one's big annual sale.

RICH ADORNMENTS

Toronto Women Are Said to Wear About \$3,000,000 Worth

The Trader and Canadian Jeweller says that \$3,000,000 represents the investment of Torontonians in gold and jewelled adornments. There is a lady in Toronto, the paper says, who owns a necklace worth \$25,000. It is not astonishingly gorgeous to look at. The same lady has the finest collection of gems in Toronto, but it is the most valuable ornament in the city, the total value of which is estimated at between \$125,000 and \$150,000. It includes various sets of ornaments and one ring, set with a ruby and two diamonds, worth \$2,000. Not half a dozen pieces in the collection are of diamonds only. The husband of this lady has a rare collection of jewels himself, including a pearl tie-pin and a set of diamond-studded cuff-links worth \$8,000. At least half a dozen Toronto ladies have jewellery worth from \$50,000 to \$60,000. Continuing with the pearl necklaces, we find that few are owned between the range of the two already mentioned and those worth \$5,000—not more than half a dozen. These are valued at about \$10,000 apiece. Five thousand dollar pearl necklaces are owned by from twenty to twenty-five society women, and \$1,000 necklets of the same gems are quite numerous. With the latter we come to the younger set of Toronto's Four Hundred. Wealthy men here apparently think nothing of presenting their daughters with ornaments of this price, for the \$1,000 pearl necklace number fully fifty, as many of these being owned by maids as matrons. Below this price these ornaments are not popular with the fastidious wealthy. However, about one hundred pearl necklaces worth between \$1,000 and \$500—most of them costing nearer the latter figure.

Most Toronto women who buy necklaces—the most popular of all ornaments—that are worth less than \$1,000, go in for diamonds. The diamond necklaces are nearly all of the festoon pattern, and they are very brilliant, their settings adding materially to their display. About two hundred and fifty of these, ranging in cost from \$750 to \$3,500, are worn in Toronto, most of them being worth something nearer the former sum than the latter. One lady has a diamond necklace which cost \$8,000. It is not a festoon, but a single string of stones, and is the most valuable necklace of the fascinating, sparkling gems in the city. The most costly all-diamond ornament of any kind worn in Toronto is owned by the wife of a millionaire prominent in society. It is a magnificent corsage piece, and is reputed to be worth \$12,000.

Women's Institute.

The regular meeting of the Women's Institute will be held at the home of Mrs. T. Poulson on Friday, March 15th. The Pleasant Valley branch will furnish the programme.

BORN.

AKISTER.—In the township of Verulam, on Friday, Feb. 2nd, 1912, the wife of Mr. E. Akister a daughter.

POULSON.—In the township of Fenelon, on Saturday, Feb. 24th, 1912, the wife of Mr. Henry Poulson, a daughter.

DIED.

HERRON.—In the Township of Eldon, on Sunday, March 3rd, 1912, Martha Eyres, beloved wife of Thomas Herron, aged 62 years and 9 months.

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Sold in Fenelon Falls by A. J. Gould, Druggist.

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OR

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