

NORTHERN ONTARIO HAS GREAT FUTURE

Uninhabited Wilderness of Forests and Lakes Being Transformed Into Peopled Region

Without attracting much notice from the older and more settled parts of Canada, the northern portion of Ontario is being gradually transformed from an uninhabited wilderness of forests and lakes into a civilized region dotted with small towns and homesteads with a strong individuality of its own.

A traveller who recently visited Northern Ontario expressed himself enthusiastically with regard to the prospects of that portion of the Dominion.

"In ten years that country will be like a new Province," he said. "It will not be like old Ontario—not in the least. Neither will it be like the Western plains or like British Columbia. I am not speaking in a partisan way when I say that the future administration of old Ontario will have to stretch their powers and their imaginations in order to do justice to this new region. In fact, it is going to be hard to treat it as part of old Ontario. That clay belt will support an enormous population. There will be great cities up there and whole counties that know not Toronto, except as a far-off report."

The speaker went on to point out that when New Ontario is once developed it will have a strong set of characteristics of its own. He pointed out that the very toil which is necessary in order to clear the land will call for the best kind of settlers and will bring out rugged qualities in the children of these settlers. The population of New Ontario is still small. It is getting a splendid type of settler, chiefly from Old Ontario, but many are men from Europe, who have been employed in the mines to the south, and who have reverted to the soil. The farmers of this region are producing excellent foodstuffs and finding ready markets in the mining camps to the south. They pay little attention to wheat growing except on a small scale. Practically every farm, no matter how small the clearing, is going in for mixed farming.

MAINTAIN THE WOODLANDS

Too Little Attention to the Subject by the General Public

Prof. E. J. Zavitz, Provincial forester, in speaking of the results of co-operative work in forestry in Ontario, said two hundred thousand trees had been planted last year in 29 counties of the province. The department had a plantation in every county, and the trees put out have been planted in waste types of soil, in blow sand, steep hillsides, etc. They prove a big factor in the protection of roads from the drift sand and landslides. There is only nine per cent. of woodlands in southern Ontario, less even than in closely populated Great Britain, the speaker said. The quality of our forests also is not improving, as the best trees are being cut down and not replaced. Labor, or the want of it is partly to blame for the fact that we do not keep up our woodlands, but the professor hinted that indifference, and the fact that there was no immediate return, was the chief factor. In Norfolk County there are one million trees in the nurseries and sixteen thousand acres in connection for experimental planting. Prof. Zavitz, however, is quite frank about the fact that but little encouragement, much too little, is given by farmers and the general public on the subject of reforestation. Especially is this pronounced when we consider that trees can be had for the asking.

Discovery in Potatoes

Three French scientists, Dr. Sartory, M. M. Gradist, and M. Thiebert, announced successful results of their experiments to restore the constitution of the potato. They discovered that edible tubers can be obtained from potato seeds with the aid of a certain microscopic ground mushroom, which fastens to the roots and causes tuberization desired.

Experiments produced potatoes free from disease, and savants assert the regeneration of the potato is now assured. Important economic results are expected.

EYE STRAIN ON TRAINS

Antiquated Lighting Makes Reading Very Harmful

Many people believe that it is injurious to the eyes to read on a train, but few seem to know why. The reason is the added strain on the delicate muscles of the eyes, says the Medical Bulletin. The motion of the train shakes the paper or book constantly, thus continually changing its position and its distance from the eyes, keeping the delicate muscles of the eye in constant action to readjust the focus. Extra work is thus thrown on these tiny muscles, as the changing of focus occurs sometimes 100 times a minute. Another case of eye straining on trains is the poor lighting usually encountered. Often people try to read their evening papers on a train or street car when the daylight is fading and before the car lights are turned on. Even with the lights on the situation is not greatly improved. The cars are frequently crowded and the strap-hangers sway back and forth between the paper and the source of light. Usually the light is high up in the centre of the car ceiling, and is badly placed for reading, the light being too far from the paper and the light rays being reflected into the eyes from the book or magazine. Some trains now carry library cars, which have the source of light behind and at the side of the readers.

A FORTUNE IN RADIUM



The radium in this tube is worth \$150,000. The little tube held between the thumb and forefinger contains seven milligrams of radium.

FORESTRY FACTS

Surveys of Timber Lands Have Disclosed Valuable Areas

In Southern Nigeria, on the west coast of Africa, the British Government has done much to encourage the practice of forestry, and eight hundred villages now have communal plantations of rubber trees. The natives supply the labor, the native chiefs supply the land and the Forestry Department supplies the seeds, technical knowledge and tapping appliances. The profits are divided equally among the three co-operating parties.

The largest lake on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains lies at the head waters of the Maligne river, a tributary of the Athabaska. It is twenty-two miles long and from one to three miles wide, and is surrounded by lofty mountains which make it one of the most beautiful spots in the Rocky Mountain region. Yet this lake was practically unknown until a forest survey was made of this region by the Dominion Forestry Branch. Unfortunately, there are no fish in this lake, owing probably to the fact that the Maligne river flows underground for several miles, after leaving the lake.

The revenue from the forests of British India administered by the Indian Forest Service last year amounted to over \$14,000,000. The total cost of fire-protection, tree-planting and administration generally, was \$8,000,000, leaving a net annual revenue of \$6,000,000, which the forests are able to produce continuously, without depletion.

The "Great Divide" is sometimes a very small affair in the Rocky Mountains of Alberta and British Columbia. A forest survey party sent out by the Dominion Forestry Branch, found that the head waters of the Athabaska river in Alberta were separated only by a narrow strip of low-lying land from the waters of a lake in British Columbia which drains into the Columbia river. Were the outlet of this lake blocked and a shallow trench dug for a couple of hundred yards, its waters could be made to flow east instead of west.

A somewhat similar case is seen where the head waters of the Smoky and Fraser rivers, though flowing in opposite directions, have their common source at the base of a great glacier on Mount Robson, which guards the boundary between Alberta and British Columbia.

Rabbits damaged or killed thousands of young forest trees in the West by eating the bark around the base of the stems.

Circular saws of paper are being increasingly used in England for the cutting of thin plates of wood. Veneers made in this way are so smooth that cabinet-makers can use them without further planing.

It is a common superstition among the woodsmen of eastern Canada that many of the "dead" larch trees have come to life again. The trees noticed were not really dead, however, but had appeared so because they had been entirely stripped of their leaves by the larvae of the larch sawfly. The tamarack is a valuable tree because of its ability to grow in swamps and its wood is highly esteemed for fuel, ties, fence-posts and constructive work generally. Yet through the continued ravages of the larch sawfly over one-half the tamarack in eastern Canada has already been destroyed.

Mr. W. N. Millar, District Inspector of Dominion Forest Reserves in Alberta, says: "Along the north fork of the Sheep River is found the largest body of non-licensed merchantable timber which I have yet seen in the Rocky Mountains. It is rather remarkable that this timber consists almost entirely of lodgepole pine—there was in sight at least ten sections (10 square miles) of this timber."

Australian gum-trees have attained the enormous height of 480 feet, which is 140 feet higher than the most gigantic sequoias in California, and twice as high as the great firs of British Columbia. How trees supply their foliage with water at such a height is still a matter of scientific controversy.

Princess Mary's Handwriting

Although burdened with the cares and anxieties of a throne, the King and Queen, "Sunday at Home," states, always find true delight in being with their children, in guiding them in what they do, and in cultivating their devoted love. It is said that on Princess Mary's birthday she has to acknowledge every congratulation from friends with her own hand, the letters being handed to the Queen for inspection before being sent. The typewriter is appreciated for general use in the household, but is not requisitioned for private correspondence. Princess Mary's handwriting is like that of other members of her family, clear as print, and, though not yet quite formed, shows plenty of indication of what experts in handwriting call "character."

EDUCATE THE PEOPLE

Mr. Caskey Thinks Canada Should do More For the Immigrant

H. K. Caskey of the Layman's Missionary Movement, said that if the country could spend twelve million dollars annually on its military establishment of fifty thousand men to prepare for a possible armed defence, the Dominion should provide any sum necessary to properly equip mentally 400,000 immigrants who came here annually. Every armory in the country might well be a centre for supervised playgrounds and community work, with moving-pictures as an educational feature, musical events and pageants by the people themselves, addresses on sanitation, health, citizenship, laws and history.

"Canada," he said, "seeks immigration by advertising in the British Isles, the United States and at least ten continental countries, and has spent for that purpose in six years \$6,849,598, and received fully 1,600,000 immigrants. Surely Canada should spend in special educational work for these honest people at least what she spent in educational work in getting them here. Chinese immigrants paid last year in head taxes \$3,523,500, about \$750,000 more than all the churches in Canada combined contributed to mission work at home and abroad. By a careful distribution of the work Canada is responsible for a population in the foreign field of forty millions."

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Wheat, fall, 80 to 85
Wheat, spring, 75 to 80
Barley, per bushel, 50 to 60
Oats, per bushel, 35 to 37
Pease, per bushel, 75 to 1.00
Buckwheat, 65c. to 75
Potatoes bush. 60 to 65
butter, per pound, 27 to 28
Eggs, per dozen, 28 to 30
Hay, per ton, \$15 to \$18
Hides, \$10. to \$12
Hogs, live, \$7.50 to \$9.00
Beef, \$10 to \$11
Sheepskins, 50 to 80
Wool, 15 to 23
Flour, Samson, \$2.80 to \$3.00
Flour, W. niipeg \$2.70 to \$2.90
Flour, Silver Leaf, \$2.50 to \$2.70
Flour, Victoria, \$2.45 to \$2.65
Flour, new process, \$2.40 to \$2.60
Flour, family, clipper, \$2.35 to \$2.55
Bran, per 100 pounds, \$1.15 to \$1.80
Shorts, do., \$1.25 to \$1.35
Mixed Chop, do., \$1.50 to \$1.60
Corn Chop, do., \$1.65 to \$1.70
Barley Chop, 1.40 to 1.45
Oat Chop, \$1.50 to \$1.80
Crushed Oats, \$1.55 to \$1.65

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