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O'Loughlin & McIntyre

Cash and One Price - LINDSAY

THERE IS A BOOM ON OUT WEST; A BREAK IS LIKELY TO FOLLOW

Land Values Have Risen Rapidly, but Much is held on Speculation Says Mr W.A. Gillis of Fenelon

"If a man has a good farm in Ontario I would not advise him to go to the Northwest," said Mr. W. A. Gillis of Fenelon, who was in town on Friday last on his way home from a month's trip to the Northwest.

Mr. Gillis went up on a visit to his son and daughter, Mr. Roy Gillis, and Mrs. J. English, who live near Carleton Place, Assiniboia. "I had heard a good deal about the country and I went up with the idea of seeing for myself what it was like," said Mr. Gillis. "I got there on the 18th of June, and there was some sowing of barley and oats going on then. We were through here a month before that; but up there they have so much to put in that they keep at it as long as there is any chance at all of getting a crop. Of course a lot of the late stuff is not expected to mature, but to be cut green and stacked for feed. There are no meadows; they trust to the slugs for hay; I saw only one field of timothy, but it looked first-class, and I think it will do well in the West, although it is usually supposed it will not."

"While these slugs are useful to supply hay, they are a great nuisance, especially in a wet spring like this was. They are thick in Assiniboia, and this spring mostly full of water. They are shallow ponds, and often 2 or 3 of them are in a 5 or 6-acre field. One man had one between his house and barn, and two more not far away. In a dry spring most of the slugs can be driven through with implements but this spring they blocked the way entirely and were a great inconvenience. They are one of the biggest drawbacks of the country."

"How these depressions in the prairie got there nobody seems to know. Some men think it is a good job they are there to take the water off the land; others say they have disappeared in Manitoba, and will in the Territories. I think it is possible to drain a good many of them into creeks. When they are drying up they must be very unwholesome."

"The remark of Mr. Stewart M.P., of Lisgar, quoted in your last issue that there is a much larger acreage under crop this year than last does not hold good with regard to the part of Assiniboia I visited. The wet spring prevented sowing a good deal of land that was under a crop last year; and on the way home I noticed along the railway a very large acreage killed out by wet. Of course the railway runs through the low sections."

"The land of the Northwest is heavily mortgaged. The storekeepers give the farmers all they want without money. 'We have to get after them once a year,' said one merchant to me. 'That is when they are selling their wheat.' The credit system results in the farmers buying more than they would for cash, and in their paying about a third higher price for it."

IMPLEMENT'S STAND OUT

"Besides what men pay for land, they have very heavy outlays for implements. They get these on time too, at high prices. Hence the heavy debts that most of them owe. And worse than that, they take no care of their implements. I saw only one driving shed. Every house has a yard of about two acres and there you will find the implements out all the year round—if they hap-

pen to have been moved from where they were last used. Three wagons, as many binders and seed drills, hay rakes, mowers, cultivators, harrows, carriages—they all stand out. As a result an implement is no use after 3 or 4 years, and the minute it won't work they throw it away, and get a new one. There is enough waste in that line to put drive farmers to the wall anywhere."

"Another waste they will have to cut off there is in their fertilizer. Trusting to the richness of the soil, they draw the manures out of the stable on a stoneboat, and pile it on the prairie any place out of the way. The land will not stand that sort of thing very long."

LITTLE MONEY IN WHEAT!

"Some Americans come in and hire their breaking and seeding done. It costs \$2.50 an acre for the former, and as much for the latter. One man I met, put in 320 acres that way. There you have an outlay of \$1600 to start with. Then there is the seed, and the cutting and stooking. Next comes the threshing, which costs 7 cents a bushel. That takes it from the stook and finds all the help, but is twice what it costs here. By the time you get that grain to the elevator it has cost you something; IN FACT, I DO NOT THINK THERE IS MUCH MONEY TO BE MADE IN GROWING GRAIN IN THE WEST. A good deal has been made by getting land and holding it for higher prices. That can be done I guess in some places yet; but that, very thing is going to burst the boom that is now on. Everybody is into it, and there are thousands of acres being held that way—a good deal more than there will likely be demand for; and when the time comes for setting up there is going to be a lot of it sacrificed under forced sale and then you'll see the scramble to get out, and the burst of the boom, as it has been seen before. Then will be the time to buy land there. Already farmers realize that the top has been reached, and everyone of them wants to sell. Of course, as yet, big prices are being asked."

FEW STEAM PLOWS

"There is very little plowing done by steam. They say they don't like it as well as that done with horses. I saw one field that had been plowed by steam power, and could see no difference. The popular way to break sod is with four horses on a 16-inch plow. The plow runs only about two inches deep, and the work does not look well when done. The frost heaves the earth and cracks the sod. Then when it is plowed it is in broken pieces that buckle up in the furrow and give the finished work a very rough appearance. It is not tough like our sod, but when dry, is quite brittle."

"The next ploughing is what they call back-setting. That goes a few inches deeper, and the brittle sod above gives hardly any bother. Some fields that there has not been time to plow are sowed right on the stubble with a shoe drill. Often half a crop is got that way, but often less than that. The binders are 7 and 8 feet cut, and the seeders have 20 to 23 drills."

"Among those who went from Fenelon, besides my son and daughter, are Jos. and Lewis Robe, Marshall and David Day and Robt. Dancy. Mr. Dancy went west six years ago. He got his land at \$3.50 per acre, and now it is worth \$13 or \$14. He has made money in that way, but not in grain-growing. The others have been there a shorter time, but are getting along very well. There is no doubt, though, that a bad crop or two would give the West a bad shaking."

THE WEATHER WE'VE HAD

Elias Powell is Going to Explain What Caused it

"I've got my invention pretty near completed now," said Elias Powell, of Perpetual Motion fame, the other day, breaking a long silence that stands for a lot of strenuous work. "But I don't want to say anything about it for publication just now."

"I'll write you an article on the weather we've been having, and the cause of it," went on Elias. "To the suggestion that he tell about the weather we were going to have, Elias said 'No.' He didn't take any stock in that sort of thing. Elias is wise. He wants an easy thing. He's up against one hard proposition in that Perpetual Motion scheme of his, and has two impossibilities on hand at once don't give a man much chance to distinguish himself. Elias will stick to the weather we've had. Not likely what's coming will be any worse, but it's more apt to make a monkey of a man that talks on it just now. Anyway prophesying the weather isn't a big enough job for both Elias and Irl Hicks."

"No, it's the weather we've had I'm going to talk about," said Elias. "To the remark that anybody could tell that weather, the man of Perpetual Motion replied, 'Yes, but I'm going to give the causes, and everybody can't do that. It's a scientific job. I'll write on that for you.'"

"Would you mind just indicating the lines the article will be on?" was asked. "Take for instance the past cold winter. How do you account for that?"

"Well," said Elias, "that is easy enough. According to my theory the heat from the sun comes from its equatorial region. Lately the earth has been getting nearer the sun's pole and doesn't get as much heat from the sun. That's where radium comes in. Now gold is radium with silic mixed with it. Silic is on the quartz; I have worked among quartz; I have quartz at home. (The suggestion that he means quartz, brought an emphatic denial from Elias.) There is a brown stuff that washes off the rocks, and it's from that they get the radium."

"The earth has a wobble—" went on Elias. "That was the same theory as the sporting editor of our column advanced when we met him going home late one night, and is very likely true, although we have never

noticed it. "Yes the earth doesn't run true, and that's the reason it can't get past the northwest point. It gets up a certain distance and then works back again."

"Robinson made a machine that ran three years," said Elias, reverting to his hobby, "and then it stopped. It was the earth's wobble that stopped it. For that long it was kept going by centrifugal motion and central force, and if the earth had been running true, the machine would have kept going."

"I hope your invention won't get up against anything of that sort," was remarked.

"Oh gee no, mine knocks the tar out of all of them. I'll have it ready about Monday, and then I'll tell you about it."

BEXLEY

Some of the farmers here started haying. Owing to the fine weather of late they report this a good year for hay.

Our church has been re-opened and we hope to see a goodly number attend our week-night services.

On Monday July 4th the good people of Bexley gave a tea in connection with our church opening. Tea was served on Mr. Hoskin's lawn, where ample justice was done to the good things. The proceeds amounted to \$31, which goes toward erecting a new church shed that is badly needed.

Quite a number from around here took advantage of the cheap fares to Lindsay on July 1st, and report a very good time.

Our teacher, Miss Franklin has left us to spend her holidays with friends in the far West. She will be greatly missed as she took an active part in Sunday school work.

Miss Viola Staples, accompanied by her brother Fletcher, has gone to spend some time in Dorset. Some of our young people thought they would rather spend the first of July in fishing than go to Lindsay, but they seemed quite disappointed with the number of fish they brought home.

A trackman named George Miller, aged about 26 years was struck by a Grand Trunk express opposite his home two miles west of Mallorytown below Kingston, on Thursday. He was driving from Mallorytown with medicine for his sick and only child, and in attempting to cross in front of the express was hurled into the ditch, and died half an hour later. The wife of the deceased witnessed the accident from her doorway.

CATTLE LIVED OUT IN WOODS THROUGH THE YUKON WINTER

Mr Chris. Corniel Talks of the Land on Which the Sun at Times Refuses to Shine —He will go Back

Mr. Chris. Corniel who is home from the Yukon after 15 years residence there, says he has made no money out of his gold-seeking operations, but has done very well in other occupations, and likes the country well enough, and has enough faith in it to go back after a short visit at home. Mr. Corniel looks well after undergoing the hardships of the prospector and pioneer in a new mining country—and one that is in the Arctic at that.

"There has been a good deal of gold taken out of the Yukon," said Mr. Corniel. "For a few years 20 millions a year was cleaned up, but that got down to 10 millions last year. The known valuable claims have been pretty well exhausted, and now old ground is being re-worked. If nothing new is struck, or if some good quartz veins are not found, the Yukon is not going to be a record-breaker as a gold-producer. But in lots of fragments of quartz. Now these must have been broken off from a ledge of quartz somewhere, and if that is found there will be lots of mining and gold too."

Mr. Corniel wears a watch fob which is two spheres of glass as big as coppers. These are set face to face in a gold band. Between them is a half-a-thimbleful of gold dust of the coarser sort—about like saw-dust. He also has a number of nuggets of different shapes, and in sizes from that of a small pea to a white bean. A few of these are the mixture of gold and quartz of which he spoke. He had seen a dish-panful of these after a season's wash-up.

"We have some very hot days in the Yukon," said Mr. Corniel, "but the nights are always cool. Then in winter of course, we have the severe Arctic cold. We grow garden truck but the season is not long enough to mature grains, unless some oats."

"In the winter a man never sets out on a journey alone. It is not safe; a chief danger is that of getting into a water hole. It is a strange thing, but in very cold weather water flows down from the glaciers and out of the mountain springs and floods the trail or fills holes beside it that a man is apt to get into. Of course once into them getting out is not an easy matter, or, on a very cold day, keeping from freezing after you are out. Quite a few people lose their lives on the trails, every winter. An accident

happens or they get lost and tired out or starve. I have slept out in the wilds on bad nights, but never without companions."

"One time I went with a little party on a trip. We did not get along as we expected, and saw that our provisions were not going to last to get back. We made for the Stewar River that flows through Dawson City. When we reached it we found the slush ice running pretty thick, but we made a raft and got into the stream. By that means we reached Dawson 3 or 4 days earlier than we could have, and before our supplies gave out. It was in November. We floated all day, and at night went ashore, built a brush shack—a common abode for over night—and slept very well. Not everybody whose provisions ran short has been so fortunate as to be near the river. And even if we had got to the river later on it would have been of no use to us for the ice was forming rapidly."

"That ice forms peculiarly. You never see ice on a river smooth like you have it here. The ice forms in a sort of slush like the anchor ice you are accustomed to. This flows along in the water getting thicker all the time in the getting cold. At last it begins to block here and there and then a bar forms, and the slush floating down against this piles up, and by the time the river is frozen over solidly its surface is all 'hummocky' so that travel on it is very difficult."

"Until recently there has been no attempt to winter any cattle, but a few milk cows. Cattle used to be brought in every spring and killed when fall came on. One fall, though, not long ago, a scow with a load of cattle on board was wrecked on the river. The cattle got to shore. Some of them could not be found. These were given up for lost; but next spring they were found in the woods, and in good condition. They had actually survived the winter. That gave the people the idea of wintering stock there."

"Yes we have the sunless days. There are practically two months of them. As winter progresses the sun daily dips nearer the horizon, and makes a shorter journey across it. At last it travels along the sky line for a few days, a full rayless ball that does not hurt the naked eye, and at last appears no more, and as last appears by a bright moon, low in the sky. The moon, though, keeps right on the same path, and is reflected from the snow down here. It shines very brightly, and reflected from the snow does much to make up for the sun's absence. There are some brilliant and extensive displays of Northern Lights but these do not occur much during mid-winter."

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JACK CAMERON TIRES OF LIFE

An Oakwood Man Married 10 Days Attempts Suicide

A despatch from Port Huron dated July 8th, says: John H. Cameron, a recent arrival from Canada, yesterday attempted suicide at the Arthur House by taking morphine. Timely discovery of his condition and the administration of an emetic saved his life. Cameron is a cripple and a pensioner of his father, a wealthy citizen of Oakwood, Ont. Ten days ago he married Miss Maud Harnden of North Port Huron greatly against the wishes of the young woman's mother.

FRANKLIN

We are once more reminded in the death of Mr. William Jones, one of our oldest and most respected neighbors on Thursday, June 28th, that this is not our abiding place. He had reached the ripe age of 76 years yet he was hale and hearty up to the time of his death, never scarcely knowing what it was to be sick. He was a man of very even temperament, and beloved by all who knew him. He was a consistent member of the Methodist church and died with the happy assurance of a glorious resurrection. He leaves five sons and one daughter and his aged widow to mourn the loss of a kind father and loving husband. His remains were laid in their last resting place in Shields' cemetery on Saturday, followed by a large number of sorrowing friends and neighbors.

The new pastor of the Bethany circuit, Rev. Dr. Marvin, preached his first sermon on the circuit in the Franklin church on Sunday morning. (Crowded out last week)

ELDON COUNCIL

Township will take Advantage of new Act re Borrowing

Eldon council met at Lorneville on Friday, June 24th. The members were all present.

Communications were read from C. E. Weeks on behalf of C. N. McDonald regarding 'backwater' opposite lot 15, con. 3, A. D. Campbell resigning his office of poundkeeper. G. A. Abraham re fence across the 5th con. line, W. J. Moore, re a culvert on the 4th con. line, Solicitor McSweyn re Farrell's drainage.

The following resolutions were adopted: Ross-Steele—That the commissioners of ward 4 notify persons who built a fence across con. 5, opposite lot 23, to remove it and see that they do it.

WANTED THE 12th A HOLIDAY

Col. Hughes Asked Mr. Laurier to so Declare it

On Friday Col. Hughes reminded the premier that Tuesday would be the 12th of July, an anniversary honored by a great many people throughout Canada, and by many members of parliament. He recommended the government to give the House a holiday on that day.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier—I have no doubt my honorable friend will have to divide his attention on that occasion. There is no precedent, however, for the request he makes.

Col. Hughes advised the premier to make his own precedent, but the question was not further pursued.

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