Canadian Scientists Seek Magnetic Pole

Not long ago a group of natural scientists flew from Ottawa and headed for the Arctic Archipelago. Their purpose was to chart the exact position of the Magnetic North Pole.

During the past decade the position of this pole, at which the needle of a magnetic compass always points, has been elusive.

Before that, its site appeared to be as definitely determined as that of the geographic pole itself. It was on the west side of Boothia Peninsula, the neck of land that juts into the archipelago from the Arctic mainland to the northwest of Hudson Bay.

* * *

It would now appear that the magnetic pole has shifted in some incomprehensible way by itself or that early calculations were out, for it is no longer there.

Last summer an expedition from Ottawa — "Operation Polco" — located the pole in the north-western part of Prince of Wales Island. The general area in which experts have now placed it is about 200 miles from its former location on Boothia Peninsula. In recent years at least three different positions have been suggested for it, and an idea was advanced that there might be more than one center of magnetic attraction.

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The object of the present survey is "to determine with greater exactness the position of the North Magnetic Pole." It will also, it is stated, complete the first reliable magnetic charts of Canada's Arctic regions.

Magnetic observations will be taken from several islands lying between 70 and 80 degrees north latitude and between the 100 and 125 meridians of west longitude. Instruments designed by the leader of the magnetic party Paul H. Serson, who took part in the expedition last year, will be used to assist in the charting of the pole's position.

Magnetic compasses never have proved an infallible guide to the pole. Anywhere near it, magnetic compasses are erratic and unreliable. The gyroscope is the only really satisfactory compass for navigation in Hudson Bay.

Awful Toll Taken By Modern Warfare

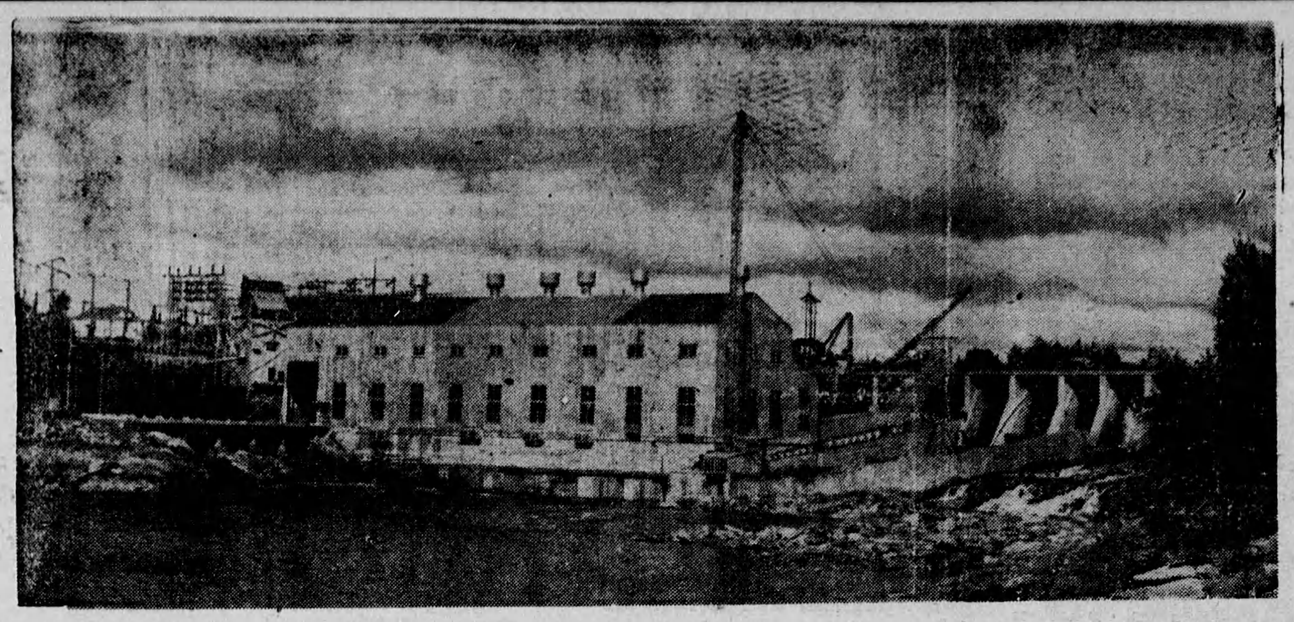
If anything can possibly bring home to the people of this continent the full horrors of modern warfare, it is the report on the cost of the Second World War by the Revue Du Droit, of Geneva. According to the estimates of the Swiss journal, human loss was 78,000,000 lives—more than six times the population of Canada. Some 32,000,000 men were killed on the battlefields; 26,000,000 men, women and children were murdered in concentration camps and 20,000,000 persons were killed by air bombings.

As for material loss, the figure is beyond the imagination of most people. It is estimated at $375,000,000,000—about ten times the value of all gold extracted from the Earth since the days of the Pharaohs.

Add to these costs the misery occasioned to millions during the war, the 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 rendered destitute, and the countless moral and physical wrecks left over as a legacy, and it is night-marish to think about the possibility of another outbreak.

"The figures of the cost of the Second World War should be broadcast to every corner of the globe and should be impressed on every child old enough to understand them," avers the Winnipeg paper.

Richard Strauss was taught by his father to read notes before letters, and to play the piano at the age of four.



Ontario Hydro Supplies Additional Power for Mining Camps—This is a general view of the power house at Ear Falls where a fourth unit has been brought into production, boosting total capacity to 25,000 h.p. Ear Falls serves mining camps, Sioux Lookout, Dryden and other communities in Northwestern Ontario.

THE FARM FRONT

by John Russell

Last week, in this column, I had something to say about cobalt deficiency in the soil, and about what it could mean in its effect on the health and well-being of your cattle and sheep. However, the importance of this common mineral is so vital—and of such recent wide recognition—that a little more on the same line might not be out of the way.

* * *

It was more than half a century ago that agricultural scientists began the investigations which finally resulted in the great discovery. It all started "Down Under" where huge areas in Australia and New Zealand were found to be turning cattle and sheep—put out to graze on them—slowly but surely sick.

* * *

This illness was variously called bush sickness, coastal disease, and "the skinnies". After considerable investigation the root of the trouble was diagnosed as lack of iron in the soil, causing anemia. But then it was found that—while an added supply of pure iron did no good—impure iron turned the trick. After many experiments it was discovered that this miracle-working "impurity" was cobalt.

* * *

It is only within the past ten years or so, however, that a great deal has been done along the lines of mineral deficiency on this continent; but already it is being hailed as one of the most revolutionary discoveries in the entire history of agriculture.

* * *

One of the most striking of many cases reported comes from a section of Wisconsin where sheep owners had been having terrible luck with their flocks. Losses of 20 to 50 per cent of lambs were not uncommon. One man saw his flock—which numbered 1300 after the lambing season in the spring of 1944—dwindle to less than 200 by the fall.

* * *

At first parasites were blamed, but careful tests and treatment proved that it wasn't those parasites which made the sheep so anemic-looking. They just hadn't any appetite—wouldn't eat—and so became weakened to such an extent that they were easy prey for pneumonia, parasites, or anything that came along.

* * *

But as soon as the animals were supplied with cobalt, the difference was really amazing. Death losses in the same farmer's flock during the next pasture season—1945—were reduced to nothing, and all but three of that crop of lambs brought top market price. And similar results have been reported from sixteen different Wisconsin counties.

* * *

The value of sufficient cobalt to cattle has been proven just as conclusively, even if not quite so extensively, as it has been with sheep. And the best part of it is that supplying this vital necessity is both easy and cheap, as mineralized salt is becoming available to farmers at little more than the price of regular stock salt. And as one widely known animal-nutritionist puts it—"It's the best insurance I know!"

* * *

Of course there are many areas where the necessary minerals, including cobalt, are supplied by the natural pasturage. In such places, of course, no additional amounts would be required. But farmers—no matter where they live—who are not fully satisfied with the way their cattle and sheep are doing, might be well advised to look into this matter of cobalt really thoroughly.

* * *

And mentioning the word "insurance" a couple of paragraphs ago reminded me of something else it would be well for all farmers—and all other home-owners too—to give some thought to. It's the matter of fire insurance—and No, I'm not trying to sell you a policy.

* * *

But the fact is that there are thousands who imagine that they are amply covered with fire insurance yet who—should fire wipe them out—would discover, to their surprise and sorrow, that their protection wasn't large enough by half.

* * *

It's all a question of the rising costs of building and construction. A man might value his property at —say—five thousand dollars a few years ago, and take out fire insurance on the basis of that valuation. But today, if he had to replace those buildings, it would cost him at least double that amount to do so. In our opinion it's something well worth thinking over, if you haven't already done so.

★

His car and her car met head-on. Both drivers got out and, with that fine courtesy so characteristic of motorists nowadays, both began to apologize profusely.

"I'm sorry," said the woman; "It was all my fault."

"Not at all, madam," the man responded with a gallant gesture; "I was to blame myself."

"But I insist the fault was mine. I was on your side of the road."

"That may be true; but, my dear madam, I am responsible for the collision. I saw you coming blocks away, and I had ample opportunity

★

Ambition

There was once a little animal no bigger than a fox,
And on five toes he scampered over Tertiary rocks.
They called him Eohippus, and they called him very small,
And they thought him of no value—when they thought of him at all.
For the lumpish old Dinoceras and Coryphodon so slow
Were the heavy aristocracy in days of long ago.

Said the little Eohippus "I'm going to be a horse!
And on my middle finger nails to run my earthly course!
I'm going to have a flowing tail! I'm going to have a mane!
I'm going to stand fourteen hands high on the psychozoic plain!"

The Coryphodon was horrified, the Dinoceras was shocked;
And they chased young Eohippus but he skipped away and mocked.
And they laughed enormous laughter and they groaned enormous groans,
And they bade young Eohippus go view his father's bones.
Said they, "You always were as small and mean as now we see,
And that's conclusive evidence that you're always going to be.
What! Be a great, tall handsome beast with hoofs to gallop on?
Why! You'd have to change your nature!" said the Loxolophodon.
They considered him disposed of and retired with gait serene;
That was the way they argued in the "early Eocene".

From "Similar Cases" by Charlotte Perkins Stetson Gilman

TEST YOUR I. Q.

SONG QUIZ

Here are some questions all based on well-known songs — so well-known that you shouldn't have any trouble answering them. After you've finished you can check with the correct answers which will be found upside down below.

1. What is the title of the song whose chorus begins, "Just a song at twilight"?
2. In what famous waltz do you "hear sweet music softly saying 'I love you'"?
3. Who was taken home from Aunt Dinah's quilting party?
4. On what river do the old folk stay?
5. What song begins, "Seated one day at the organ, I was weary and ill at ease"?
6. How is the last rose of summer left?
7. In what song does the second verse begin "I sent thee late a rosy wreath"?
8. What well known Christmas hymn was composed because an organ broke down and a simple tune had to be composed for guitar accompaniment?
9. What do the herald angels sing?
10. How does the song LONG LONG AGO begin?
11. In the song JINGLE BELLS one person is mentioned by name. Who is he—or she?
12. What time of day was it when a youth bearing a banner passed through an Alpine village?
13. What was the occupation of "darling Clementine's" father?
14. What song begins—in English—with "Some think the world is made for fun and frolic—and so do I"?

Answers

1. Love's Sweet Song: 2. Merry Widow: 3. Nellie: 4. Suwanee: 5. The Lost Chord: 6. Blooming alone: 7. Drink To Me Only With Thine Eyes: 8. Silent Night: 9. "Glory To the Newborn King": 10. "Tell Me the Tales That To Me Were So Dear:" 1. Miss Fannie Bright: 12. Almost dark—"the shades of night were falling fast": 1. Miner—a forty-niner: 14. Funiculi, Funicula.

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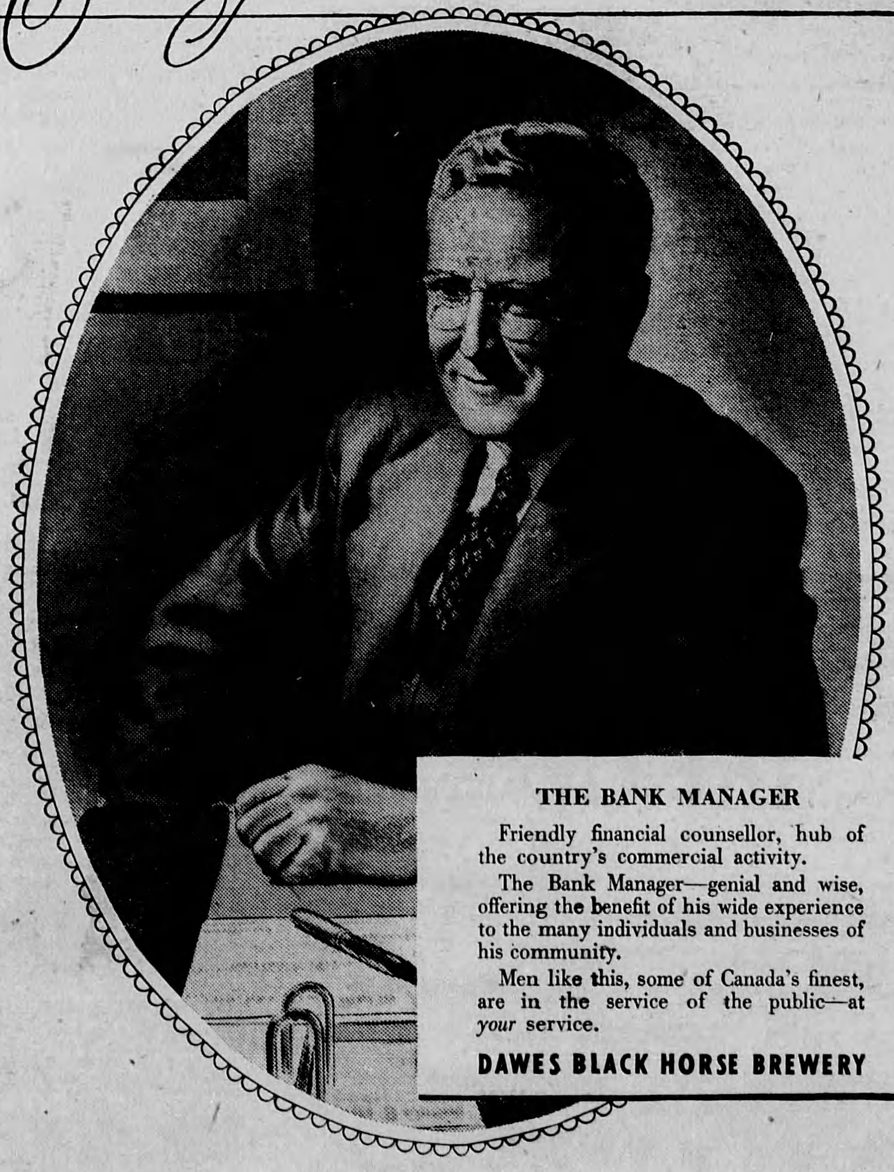

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