

Western People Grateful for Help From Presbytery

Temiskaming's Vegetable Car Relieved Sufferers at Marquis, Sask.

That the drought-suffering people of Western Canada are grateful for the help they have received from people in the East is made evident by a letter received recently by Rev. E. Gilmour Smith, Minister of the United Church, Cobalt, and chairman of Temiskaming Presbytery.

In October last an appeal was made to the people of Temiskaming for assistance for those who had lost their crops in the west, with the result that a car of vegetables was collected and forwarded to Marquis, Sask. It was transported free by the T. & N. O. and one of the other railways. The following is the acknowledgment received by Rev. Mr. Smith: Tuxford, Sask., Nov. 1st, 1933

To the Relief Committee of Temiskaming Preceptory
A car of vegetables was received at Marquis, Sask., from the Temiskaming Presbytery, and although I am not a member of the Relief Committee, Marquis is one of my preaching points, and consequently I am taking the liberty of writing a word of appreciation.

Marquis is one of the districts in Saskatchewan which has suffered five successive crop failures. In many cases the poverty is extreme. The people here are mostly from Ontario, some of them from Parry Sound. The prairie is flat, stretching to the horizon; the soil is "gumbo", wonderfully productive with a degree of moisture, and the stickiest mud in the world when wet.

Five years ago the district began to talk of "lack of rain." In some cases the soil began to drift. Rapidly lack of rain became drouth and soil drift developed into dust storms. The manner in which the terrific winds lashed the prairie into a veritable Sahara beggars description. The seed was blown out of the ground; clouds of dust filled the air to such an extent that approaching autos with lights aglow at mid-day had difficulty in avoiding collision. Great drifts of blow-dirt piled themselves everywhere. In many places all that is visible of wire fences is the top six inches of the posts. We ate dust, drank dust, slept in it, leaving an outline of dust on the pillow cases where our heads had been, and made footprints in it when we walked across our floors.

The spring of 1933 opened with great promise. It is seldom that one sees such a beautiful start as was made by field crops and gardens. People pointed with pride to the pumpkins, citrons, squash, etc., growing from seeds saved from vegetables which came from Ontario in relief cars the previous years. For years to come the gardens of the West will bear tribute to the goodness of the Ontario people to their brethren on the prairie. The farmers remember places from which help has been received, and I can assure you that in the Marquis district, not only in the affections of the people, but in their gardens also, Temiskaming has won an abiding place.

On through June the prospects for a crop were ideal. Regular showers supplied the necessary moisture. Towards the end of June the showers fell off, and a period of intense heat set in. Storms gathered, the lightning flashed and the thunder echoed across the sky, but it simply could not rain. Then came the grasshoppers. They came in billions, devouring everything before them. Fields of oats and barley for which they had a special taste faded away like a morning mist. Such dirty things, these hoppers were, darting up in clouds at every step. Striking the running autos they burst, splashed and stuck like glue, and in the radiators they roasted with a particularly nauseating odor.

It was tragic, indeed, to watch the devouring scourge; but more tragic were the vanishing hopes of the people as they realized another failure. Large numbers are moving into the northern part of the province; but on the whole a fine spirit is manifest. The West is a great "next year" country, and there is an abundance of faith that "our land shall yield her increase."

It is to a people sorely tried and in need that your car of vegetables has come. At that car all distinctions, racial and denominational, were swept away; "whosoever will may come", and "without money and without price." In many prairie homes the people of Temiskaming district will be blest for their generous sense of stewardship. And this good thing that they have done "shall be told for a memorial of them." The people of Marquis are exceedingly grateful, and we wanted you to know it.

W. H. BLACK,

THE RHYMING OPTIMIST

By Aline Michaelis

UPLAND PICTURE

That summer day the air was amber wine,
Each rocky hill stood drenched in ardent heat;
I, stumbling, saw a drowsy snake untwine
Its mottled coil and slither past my feet.
Half heard and half surmised, an elfin sound
Of sheep bells tinkled all the afternoon.
And, while the sun went blazing on his round,
From heaven there peered the wan ghost of the moon.
There was so little breeze it scarcely stirred
Grotesque mesquites' dust-covered, feathery grace;
There came no breath of flower, no song of bird
To break the strange enchantment of that place.
Far, far below the tawny river lay
Asleep, like all the land, that summer day.

NO WORDS

I have lived for words as a gambler for cards,
Words heavy with hints of doom,
Words that fell from the lips of the ancient bards,
Words that carol and dance and bloom.
There are words as gay as a butterfly's wings,
There are words as dark as hate,
And I love the lilt of a word that sings
Like a robin that seeks his mate!
But I vainly search for the words I need
When I glimpse in the sky at night
A star that races with eerie speed,
The lamp of a plane in flight.
Oh, I grope in vain for a word that gives
The power and faith of man,
The courage that deep in his being lives,
Unquenched since the world began.
And that plane which soars through the velvet dark
On the wind-swept seas of space
Tells more than all words of the mystic spark
Of man's soul in the night's embrace!

Royal Arch Chapters Honor Head of Order at Banquet

Dr. C. W. Haentschel, Grand First Principal of the Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons of Canada, was the guest of honor at a banquet held in the Masonic Temple, Haileybury, on Friday evening last, when the Temiskaming and Cobalt Chapters combined forces for the entertainment. There were about 60 present in the Temple at 6.30, and following the dinner a program of addresses music and specialties made a very pleasant evening. Dr. Haentschel was toasted and given the very best wishes of the gathering and all present thoroughly enjoyed the event.

Exports of Canadian butter and eggs to the British market have increased during first nine months of this year.

DAM AT TEMISKAMING TO B REBUILT, SAYS REPORT OF LAST WEEK

A report published last week in the Ottawa Journal says that the dam at the foot of Lake Temiskaming will be rebuilt by the Federal Department of Public Works. This dam was partly washed out about three years ago with the result that the waters of the lake have stood at the lowest level for a long period. Navigation on the upper part of the lake has been interfered with and the low water has affected power projects further down, it is said. The rebuilding of the dam would employ a large number of men and would be welcomed by many in the districts on both sides of the lake. A definite announcement may be expected soon it is believed.

Ancient Agricultural Lore

Pliny, the Roman writer of the first century, dealing with the popular agricultural lore of his times, says "Many persons, for the effectual protection of millet, recommend that a bramble-frog should be carried at night round the

field before the hoeing is done, and then buried in an earthen vessel in the middle of the field. If this is done, they say, neither sparrows nor worms will attack the crop. The frog, however, must be disinterred before the millet is cut; for if this is neglected, the produce will be bitter. It is pretended too, that all seeds which have been touched by the shoulders of a mole are remarkably productive."

Knights of Columbus Were Omitted in List of Wreaths

In our report of the Remembrance Day ceremonies held in Haileybury on November 11th, published in last week's issue of The Haileyburian, we inadvertently omitted mention of the Knights of Columbus in the list of those who provided wreaths to be placed on the Memorial. The Haileybury Council of that Society provided a beautiful wreath, which was placed at the foot of the Memorial with those from other organizations, a custom that is followed each year when Remembrance Day comes.

Soft, flabby bacon is, in the majority of cases, the product of unfinished hogs.

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