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[Single copies, 3 cts.]

Vol. XXIV.

RICHMOND HILL, THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1902.

No 46

"The Liberal"

IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING AT THE LIBERAL PRINTING & PUBLISHING HOUSE RICHMOND HILL, ONT. T. F. McMAHON, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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TILLIE MAXWELL

Letter from Mr. Keffer

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL:

DEAR SIR,—Doubtless your readers would be interested in any information in regard to this part of His Majesty's dominion, and as many of my friends of York County have expressed a desire to hear from me, I will, by your permission, through the medium of your paper, briefly describe from time to time the main features of this section.

We left Thornhill station on Tuesday, March 4, by colonization train, having on board an agent in charge of the train as far as North Bay, who did all in his power to make us comfortable. From North Bay we had no agent, although it was advertised there would be one. For the first two divisions we averaged about eight miles an hour, and had to use language not "so soft and sweet" at the end of each division to procure lighting and water for use in the car. At White River we were detained 24 hours or account of a bridge being burned at Jack Fish Bay, and that night the pipes froze up in the car. However, we arrived in Winnipeg on Monday, the 10th March, at 5 o'clock p. m. Here myself and family stayed over for 24 hours, and took the Pacific Express. We got to Lethbridge on Wednesday night, and our two cars arrived on the morning of the 14th, being ten days en route. Our horses came through in first-class condition, and have done remarkably well since on prairie hay and oats.

We found that seeding had been going on for some days, but a sudden cold snap delayed operations for a few days. The thermometer registered 4° below zero on the mornings of the 15th and 16th, with about two inches of snow, but on Monday, 17th, the Chinook got in its work and the thermometer went up to 50°. Throughout Manitoba this storm was something unusual, the snow being six feet deep on the streets of Portage la Prairie and Winnipeg. Since then the weather here has been fine, and the nights cool.

We are living in town as yet, in the house of Lieut.-Col. Ross, who succeeded Gat. Howard in command of the Canadian Scouts in South Africa. Our ranch is about nine miles out, and consists of about 400 acres, 160 irrigable and the balance pasture. We have built a stable, granary and driving house, and have cellar dug for dwelling house.

Lethbridge is a town of 2,500 inhabitants, and a typical western town. Cosmopolitan to a degree, a sprinkling of all nations, from the Anglo-Saxon to the Chinaman, with as many languages. Common and High Schools there are, and churches of all kinds. Electric lights, telephones, everything but water works. The western method of distributing water by carts prevails, but water works are talked of in the near future. One very unique feature is the irrigation ditches on the streets. The water is used for gardens, lawns and the growing of trees which are being planted everywhere. The first trees were planted a year ago and have come through the winter in good condition. When I was here last October the trees were as green as ours in Ontario in June. There is a park of about 15 acres in the centre of the town, which will be very pretty when the trees are a few years older. Here can be seen games of all kinds at all seasons of the year, the mild winters being a most pleasant time for lacrosse and kindred games.

Until recently this was entirely a ranching country, and is undoubtedly the best for that purpose on the North American Continent, the buffalo and bunch grass cured into hay as it stands furnishing food for cattle running at large all winter. I saw a herd of 700 steers brought here for shipment last September that would average 1,600 lbs. (apparently as well finished as our Ontario stall fed), that never eat anything prepared by man. In "ye olden times" this was the winter home of the buffalo. They certainly have left "footprints in the sands of time," as one finds in driving over the prairie in the thousands of well-worn paths one finds everywhere. How many millions of feet it must have taken to wear all those old dead furrows.

If there is anything that would make a man realize his littleness, it would be to stand in the middle of this ocean of prairie with nothing in sight but grass and sky. The man from Ontario, with the trees and the old rail fences to guide him, is very apt to get a little lonesome out here, and one feels when you run up against a three wire fence as though you had met an old friend, and when you find one on both sides of a 66 ft. roadway one thinks he is right at home.

But this country is not without its charms. If you like variety you turn your eye westward and if it be a clear morning, as it generally is, you will see for a hundred miles the snow capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains. Although 60 miles away, they appear so near to you that you feel like taking a walk over to explore them.

Should you start on that journey, you would meet plenty of variety in a few miles, when you came to the banks of the Belly river with its almost precipitous banks 300 ft. deep, and should you take one of the numerous cooleys leading down to the river, you will find in the valley (or "bottom" as it is called here) lots of cotton wood and willow groves.

This is a great country for mirages. They are to be seen more or less almost every morning at this time of the year. As you drive across the prairie you will see what appears to be a lake dotted with islands with trees on them, apparently a mile or two away. Sometimes a small band of horses or cattle a couple of miles away appears to be a small village. I imagine that some of your readers will smile at this, as I did myself once at the mirage stories I heard. I don't attempt to explain it, but the truth remains.

This country is settling up very rapidly. To the south of us about 15 miles there is a sugar factory built, or being built next summer, and whole train loads of settlers are still coming, and a good deal of the irrigable land in this section has already been taken up.

I propose in my next letter to tell you something about irrigation, and other matters social and political that may be of interest to your readers.

Yours very truly,

A. E. KEFFER,
Lethbridge, Alberta, May 1, 1902.

Maple

A large audience was present in the Methodist Church on Monday evening to hear Rev. R. J. Treleven of Parkdale, deliver his interesting lecture entitled "Say So." The lecture contained good advice for all, and was thoroughly appreciated by everybody. A couple of solos were contributed by Miss Switzer of Richmond Hill, and a mixed quartette from Hope sang two selections. The proceeds were \$17.

After a lingering illness, Mrs. Isaac Snider passed away on Thursday morning last. The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon and was largely attended. The sorrowing husband and daughter, and other relatives, have the sympathy of all in their sad bereavement.

Mr. T. Keys has purchased the house and lot in the village owned by Mr. J. Stong.

Mr. Leeds Richardson had the misfortune to lose his driver last week. The animal died from inflammation.

Mr. M. Ball and family have moved into Mr. J. Coombs' house near the station.

Miss Edith Keffer sang in Toronto at the Guild Hall, on Monday evening, under the auspices of the Y. W. C. C.

Many of our citizens purpose spending the 24th of May at the Richmond Hill Fair. The principal attraction seems to be the Governor-General's Body Guard Band. Those noted musicians will play on the grounds during the afternoon, and at the concert in the evening.

A Great Roadster Stallion

The attention of farmers and horsemen is called to the great Wilkes Roadster Stallion, Vrowsky 8166, record 2.18, which travels through this section this season. This horse's breeding is of the royal purple order, his sire being the renowned Red Wilkes, 1749, and his dam Nelly, by Hambrino 820. Vrowsky stands nearly 16 hands high, a beautiful mahogany bay in color, of commanding appearance and one of the grandest knee actors that ever wore harness. As a sire he stands unequalled in his class in Canada to-day having several colts in the 30 list and more coming every year. In the show ring he has won prizes innumerable, including Sweepstakes Silver Medal at Toronto fair, and Sweepstakes at East York and Markham fair as best registered horse on the ground.

Vrowsky will stand at Hughes hotel, Thornhill, at noons on Mondays, and at the Palmer House same nights; Tuesdays he will be at Teston for noon and King for night; Wednesdays at Bond's Lake for noon and Queen's hotel, Aurora for night; Thursdays at Vandoni noon, and Victoria Square nights. The service fee has been put at the very low figure of \$12 to insure.

Mount Pleasant

Mr. J. J. Preston, the Conservative Candidate for East Durham, was interviewing his supporters along with Mr. John Boyd, one of the leading spirits of the Tory party here, who are wanting a change. Shaking hands and kissing the babies is the program of the day, in order to secure control of the money bags.

The smiling faces and swelled pocket-books of our farmers speak louder than all the missionaries that can be sent out in pamphlet form, that is filled with Fables; and only calculated, if possible to lead the un-

thinking class astray. Why should we make a change when farmers are receiving such generous prices for all they have to dispose of. The price of milk has advanced in the market lately, so that the farming community are reaping a rich harvest under the Liberal government. Everything that they have to purchase, such as necessaries for the wants in the home are furnished to them at fabulously low prices. Just think of a farmer receiving 25 lbs of first class sugar for the small sum of one dollar. Is there any just grounds for demanding a change when we in the Province of Ontario are in such a prosperous condition. We don't want to return again to Egypt to live on the leeks and onions.

Lost Hair

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Notice to Creditors

In the matter of the estate of **JANET McDOUGALL,** late of the Village of Richmond Hill, in the County of York, Spinster, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1897, Chapter 129, that all creditors and others having claims against the estate of the said Janet McDougall, who died on or about the 20th day of March, A. D. 1902, are required on or before the 30th day of May, A. D. 1902, to send by post prepaid or deliver to the undersigned, solicitors for the executor of the estate of the said deceased, their christian and surnames, addresses and descriptions, the full particulars of their claims, the statement of their accounts and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them. And further take notice that after such last mentioned date the executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice, and that the said executor will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof to any person or persons of whose claims notice shall not have been received by him at the time of such distribution.

Dated the 19th day of April, A. D. 1902.

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