

Around The North Land

Haileybury Red Cross recently made a shipment of fifteen large boxes of goods to Toronto headquarters.

W. G. Armstrong, of New Liskeard, was recently elected Grand Standard Bearer of the Royal Black Knights of Ireland, of Canada West.

According to word received in Cobalt recently, Capt. Stewart Thorne, formerly manager of the Trethewey Mine, has been personally decorated by General Neville with the Croix de Guerre.

A number of the settlers around Cochrane are asking that the Ontario Department of Agriculture ship a carload of cattle to Cochrane for sale by auction to the settlers, as was recently done at New Liskeard.

Cochrane Board of Trade has secured a list of the names of the owners of all vacant lots in town, and is negotiating with the owners and the townspeople to have all these lots cultivated for garden produce this year.

Over \$200 was realized at a euchre party recently in Iroquois Falls for the new Catholic church fund. Rev. Father Pelletier has rented one of the Abitibi Power & Paper Co's houses and has had it fitted for a chapel where mass will be read daily.

The Haileyburian says:—The Municipal and Railway Board has handed out its judgment re. the appeal of the Matabanick and Vendome hotels against the assessment which was upheld by the Court of Revision and the District Court Judge. The Board allowed both appeals, and the assessment of the Matabanick will be reduced from \$32,960 to \$20,000, and that of the Vendome from \$25,000 to \$15,000. The municipality will also have about \$30 costs to pay.

The Council, citizens and school-children gave a royal reception to Pte. Percy Bilow who recently returned to New Liskeard after being wounded at the front in France and spending several months in hospital in England.

Men in the Northland hereafter wearing long hair or whiskers may safely be set down as from Cobalt or Haileybury, the barbers in both those towns having recently raised their prices to 35 cents for a haircut, 15 cents for a shave and 10 cents for a neck shave.

The Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives is adding a new forty-bed pavilion to its equipment. The construction was done last fall, but owing to shortage of coal and help could not be utilized during the winter. The trustees expect, however, to have the addition in early use now.

According to the Ontario Public Service Bulletin, "the Inspector of the Children's Aid Society of Temiskaming District reports that there is very little poverty or distress in that district this winter owing largely to the Temperance Act of September 10th. Since that date to February 10th, only one person has been placed in the jail at Haileybury for drunkenness."

In Cochrane, Cobalt, New Liskeard and many other town of the North Land there are plans being made for the cultivation of vacant lands, similar to the proposal recently advocated at the Timmins Board of Trade by President T. F. King. The plans will work out to the general advantage,—for patriotism and production,—if the people only take up the idea enthusiastically.

Sporting News

WHERE ARE ALL THE SLOW BALL TWIRLING WONDERS?

A writer in Sporting Life wants to know what has become of all the slow-ball pitchers, and discourses as follows: "Nap Rucker, who pitched the slowest ball that ever crept up on a big league batsman, has retired from the service of the Brooklyn Club, while Jean Dubue, another rather famous slow-baller, is also through with the Detroit Tigers, after some six years of splendid service. To the layman it is often a mystery how these slow-ball pitchers could get by. Reporters, some of whom had played ball at college and elsewhere, would sit behind Jack Warhop's service, and their hands would itch for a bat, so that they could send one of Hop's benders into the Harlem River. But Warhop, though never a star, lasted in the big league seven years. And Jack never had any luck, or he would have been rated much higher as a pitcher than was the case. Then there is Al Demaree, with his dimple little slow curve, which has made monkeys out of the Giants for the last two years. Everybody always admitted Demaree had hardly a thing, but he gets by. While everybody was waving about Al the first year he was with the Giants, 1913, McGraw once said: "No; Demaree is not a great pitcher. He has nothing but a little curve and confidence." Al perhaps has less now than he had then, but that little curve and confidence won five games from the Giants sluggers last season." All of which reminds me that probably the best slow-ball pitcher than ever adorned the diamond was Chummy Gray, who for some years worked on the Buffalo Club in the old Eastern League, and was contemporary with Doc Amole. Fatty Diggins used to catch both of them. When Buffalo went into the Western League one fateful season under the Franklin regime, Gray was the star twirler. The opening series that year was with Indianapolis at Indianapolis, and Chummy let the Indians down with one hit, and did it with that exasperating slow ball. His delivery had all the motions and indications of great speed, but when he had it under control it was a mere lob, with barely enough legs to get up to the plate. The batsmen used to strike at it when it was ten feet in front of them, because Chummy had a fast one which he used with the same motion, and without more apparent effort. He used to slip that one over for a third strike while the batter was waiting for the supposedly slow one to come within striking dis-

tance. Chummy is now dead. But while he was alive his slow ball was a veritable ghost.

URGES ALL-ROUND DIVING

Arthur McMeenan, Jr., of the New York A.C., national A.A.U. fancy diving champion, who recently announced his retirement from the competitive field, has evoked a new plan for deciding title contests, which, he believes, will benefit the sport.

Under the present rules contestants in diving championships are required to execute four compulsory dives and six of their own selection. As the latter may be picked from the entire regulation table, which lists, feats ranging in value from 14 to 22 points, the candidates naturally take up a few of the most highly rewarded and use them to the exclusion of all others. As a result, a title event is generally confined to a small number of the most difficult dives, and the others are neither displayed nor practiced.

McMeenan contends that this is not to the best interest of the sport and he suggests that the compulsory dives be reduced to three, the optional to the same number, and that the other four be left to chance, the referee drawing them from a hat containing slips of paper marked with the names of every dive on the regulation table.

As McMeenan explains: "If a competitor does not know in advance what dives he may be called upon to perform he will have to train for each and every one, eventually gaining all-around proficiency. Also, the contests will be easier to judge, for seven of the ten dives will be performed in turn by every starter, offering better opportunity for comparison. And the method will be fair to all, because none can tell beforehand what dives will be drawn, and the advantage must rest with the men having versatility as well as skill."

McMeenan's plan has been discussed from every point of view by prominent divers of the East, and the great majority have pronounced themselves heartily in favor of it. The retired champion purposes to obtain their co-operation in having it adopted by the authorities.

The only objection to the change is that it may temporarily decrease the number of contestants in the title tests, for some of the men whose ability is confined to a few dives, which they can go through consistently in good form, are likely to decline the issue when facing the prospect of attempting feats beyond them.

CANADA HAS IMMENSE DEPOSITS OF LIGNITE TO REPLACE COAL

Some weeks ago The Advance made reference to the suggested source of a substitute for coal within Canada's own boundaries. The price of coal, the fact that Canada has to depend on a foreign country for practically all of its supply of anthracite coal, and the ever-recurring fears of discouragement of industry, to say nothing of convenience and comfort, consequent upon the fact that Canada has no real control over its fuel supply,—all suggest the importance of the question and the interest that will centre round any suggestion for a substitute. These things prompt The Advance to give space to a brief review of a very interesting and instructive address given recently to the Empire Club, Toronto, by Professor A. B. Macallum, chairman of the advisory committee of the Research Commission. In this address Prof. Macallum made reference to the hitherto hidden source of power available for Canada through the proper use of lignite.

In the previous article in The Advance it was stated that there were large deposits of lignite in Saskatchewan. Prof. Macallum says there are billions of tons and the production can be made to rival in quality and price the best hard coal.

Prof. Macallum described the work of the Research Commission to the Empire Club. He pointed out what was being done towards the producing of this new fuel. He stated that it so happened that in the districts where lignite deposits were found in the greater quantities there was very little water power available, which made it all the more valuable. Estimates had shown that there are a thousand billion tons of lignite below the earth's surface in Canada. In some places it was so near the surface that it could be produced at a

dollar a ton. It was hoped that it could be soon shown that the fuel could be placed on the market at Winnipeg and Regina, and demonstrated that here was a source of fuel better and cheaper than the imported coal.

It was also pointed out by the speaker that it was most important that lignite mines should be developed as the Pennsylvania coal fields had reached their maximum in output and were now on the decline.

Professor Macallum also referred briefly to the question of forestry. He said that in the eastern provinces the cutting of timber exceeded the growth, but fortunately that state had not yet been reached in British Columbia, and some action would shortly be taken to neutralize the wasteful destruction of timber. At present the conservation and development of water power was the greatest question.

Mr. Porter Emerson Browne, of Norfolk, Conn., writes as follows to The New York Sun:—If we must have (God help us!) an Americanism like that advocated by those human hookworms that are trying to make us a nation of dirt-eaters (I refer to Messrs. Bryan, Mann, Moore, Daniels, Villard and their sort) let us at least be consistent.

First, let us change the national emblem from an eagle to a skunk. Then let us drop the red, white and blue flag that now floats over us, and replace it with a nice white one having a wide yellow streak down the middle. Following which we will turn to the wall the pictures of Lincoln, Washington and Grant and the other poor roughnecks who were not too proud to fight, and after all joining in the well-known anthem, "My Country, 'Taint of Thee" we will extend a cordial invitation to Germany to some right in and murder our women and children on shore where it's drier.

For being a darned fool is just like anything else; if you've made up your mind to be one, why not try to be a good one?

If I knew you and you knew me, 'Tis seldom we would disagree; But never having yet clasped hands, Both often fail to understand. That each intends to do what's right, And treat each other "honour bright" How little to complain there'd be, If I knew you and you knew me.

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