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## POSSIBILITIES IN THE PEAT BOGS OF THE NORTH

Bulletin Issued by Dominion Department of Mines Gives Interesting Information re Peat.

The widespread and general interest in the possibility of utilizing the extensive peat deposits of Canada as a source of fuel for domestic and other purposes has led to the publication by the Mines Branch of the Federal Department of Mines of a Bulletin entitled "Facts about Peat."

The present publication, which is comprised within 48 pages and written in non-technical language, aims, as its size and title indicate, to present in "Tabloid" form the outstanding facts in relation to the peat resources of Canada and their possibilities as a source of fuel.

The Bulletin indicates briefly the nature of peat, the difficulties invol-

ved in the production of fuel from it, and the underlying principles upon which any successful attempt at manufacturing must be based. A short account is given of unsuccessful efforts made in the past in Canada and of the methods which were experimented with. The possibilities of removal of water from peat by pressure, evaporation by artificial drying, briquetting, carbonization and recovery of by-products are discussed. The Air-Dried-Machine Peat process, the only process which has so far been employed successfully on a large scale, is described, and the character and value of the fuel manufactured according to this process are discussed, and a number of opinions of users quoted. Other uses of peat are briefly dealt with. Detailed information relating to Canadian peat bogs so far investigated is summarized in tabular form. Tables relating to the production of peat fuel in Canada and other countries are appended and a short bibliography is included indicating the principal sources of information on which the bulletin is based.

Some special notice is given to the great muskegs of Northern Ontario. In a quotation from another bulletin the Bulletin under review says:—"The extent of these peat bogs is enormous. They cover thousands of square miles and in fact clothe practically the entire region of the coastal plain, except on the near borders of the river." Continuing, the Bulletin says:—"Investigations have been made of several large bogs in Northern Ontario, details of which will be found in the accompanying tables." These tables show the following North Land peat beds, with their approximate area, depth and estimated tonnage.

Nellie Lake, 3000 acres, 3 to 11 ft. deep, estimated fuel production 3,220,000 tons.

Drinkwater, 250 acres, 3 ft to 12 ft. deep, 267,000 tons.

Cochrane, 890 acres, 5 to 14 feet, 1,416,000 tons.

Brower, 2220 acres, 5 to 8 ft., 1,544,000 tons.

St. John, 2050 acres, 4 to 8 ft., 1,339,000 tons.

Drinkwater is near Drinkwater Pit station on the T. & N.O. Porcupine Branch. The other beds are described as near Cochrane.

Since it is probable that the peat resources of Ontario and Quebec may

in the near future assist materially in coping with the fuel problem in the acute fuel area of these provinces, the appearance of this bulletin is timely and should prove of wide interest.

Copies of this Bulletin (Mines Branch Report No. 615) may be obtained on application to the Director, Mines Branch, Department of Mines, Ottawa.

### NEARLY 50 p.c. INCREASE IN CROWN LIFE BUSINESS IN 1923

The Annual Meeting of the Crown Life Insurance Company was held on Monday, February 4th, at the Company's Head Office at 59 Yonge St. The President, Mr. G. T. Somers, presided and the Financial Statement was read by the General Manager, Mr. H. R. Stephenson.

Applications for new policies during 1923 totalled \$15,123,290, an increase of nearly 50% over the previous year. Policies were issued to the amount of \$13,840,920 and the total insurance in force at December 31st last was \$42,175,180, being an increase of \$7,715,136 (more than 22%) during the twelve months.

The Assets totalled \$5,472,666.94, of which first mortgages on real estate amounted to \$2,527,695.21 and on this large amount only \$7,311.94 of interest was outstanding. Government and Municipal Bonds amounted to \$1,337,253.07.

The Cash Premium Income was \$1,362,378.31 and the Cash Interest Income \$337,462.02. The average rate of interest earned was 7.02%.

The sum of \$554,098.00 was added to the Policyholders Reserve Fund which now amounts to \$4,697,973 in addition to \$76,381.20 of Allotted Surplus. Unallocated Surplus stands at \$470,277.43. Dividends paid to Policyholders were \$70,452.52.

The scale of Policyholders Dividends has again been raised, the same advance being made as was made a year ago. Profits paid in 1924 will accordingly be 28% greater than were paid on corresponding policies in 1922.

In moving the adoption of the Report, President G. T. Somers said in part: "Our Company is growing very rapidly, the net increase of insurance placed on our books during the past five years exceeds by almost 50% that of the years 1901 to 1918 combined. Lest you should fear that this large amount of new business has been obtained at an excessive cost, I hasten to assure you that our expense ratio, which in recent years has been quite low, has again declined and is in fact one of the lowest. Our Assets are well distributed and in excellent condition and our interest yield is certainly most satisfactory. The ever-increasing returns to Policyholders by way of Dividends cannot fail to be gratifying to them and helpful to our Field Force. We are confident of continuing during 1924 the splendid progress reflected in this report."

### REGULAR MEETING A.S.D. CARDS AND DANCING TONIGHT

Though the Minstrel Show, held by the Kiwanis at the New Empire Theatre last Wednesday evening interfered with the attendance at the regular meeting and dance of the A. S. D. Club, and made a late start necessary, an enjoyable evening was had by all the members present.

The regular orchestra were not present, Scotty Wilson at the piano provided the music for the evening. Mr. E. Conn and another talented friend played a couple of selections on the guitar early in the evening. Refreshments served by the lady members of the Club were much enjoyed. The meeting this evening will be the regular cards and dancing.

### LIVELY COMEDY PLOT AT OLD EMPIRE THIS WEEK

Charles Ray has contributed another brilliant comedy to the screen. It is "Alias Julius Caesar," which will be shown at the Old Empire Theatre, Friday and Saturday of this week, Feb. 22nd and 23rd. The comedy is presented capably by Charles Ray and a talented cast. The "plot" is one that lends itself to humor and amusing situations. Billy Barnes, suburban golfer, is taken up by the police as an escaped lunatic. By convincing the colored attendant that he is really giving his cellmate the third degree he makes his escape, the cellmate going with him. Congratulating himself on his good fortune in being on time, Ray turns up at the ball at the Country club that evening only to find his cellmate, a society crook, there before him. Before the story can wind to a climax in a call for the police, the star has undergone the torments of gandom in becoming an enforced accomplice to the crook. The situation paves the way to numberless events which, highly laughable in their own manner of depiction would be spoiled by the telling.

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## KINDLY NOTICE

My Photographic Studio having now been taken over by Mr. A. Tomkinson, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the people of Timmins and District for their generous support during my several years in business here, and ask that the same consideration be given to A. Tomkinson, my successor, who I can confidently state will give excellent service as photographer of your town.

All owing me accounts are asked to please pay same to my credit at Imperial Bank or to me personally not later than Feb. 29th, after which date my attorney will take care of these collections.

With many thanks.

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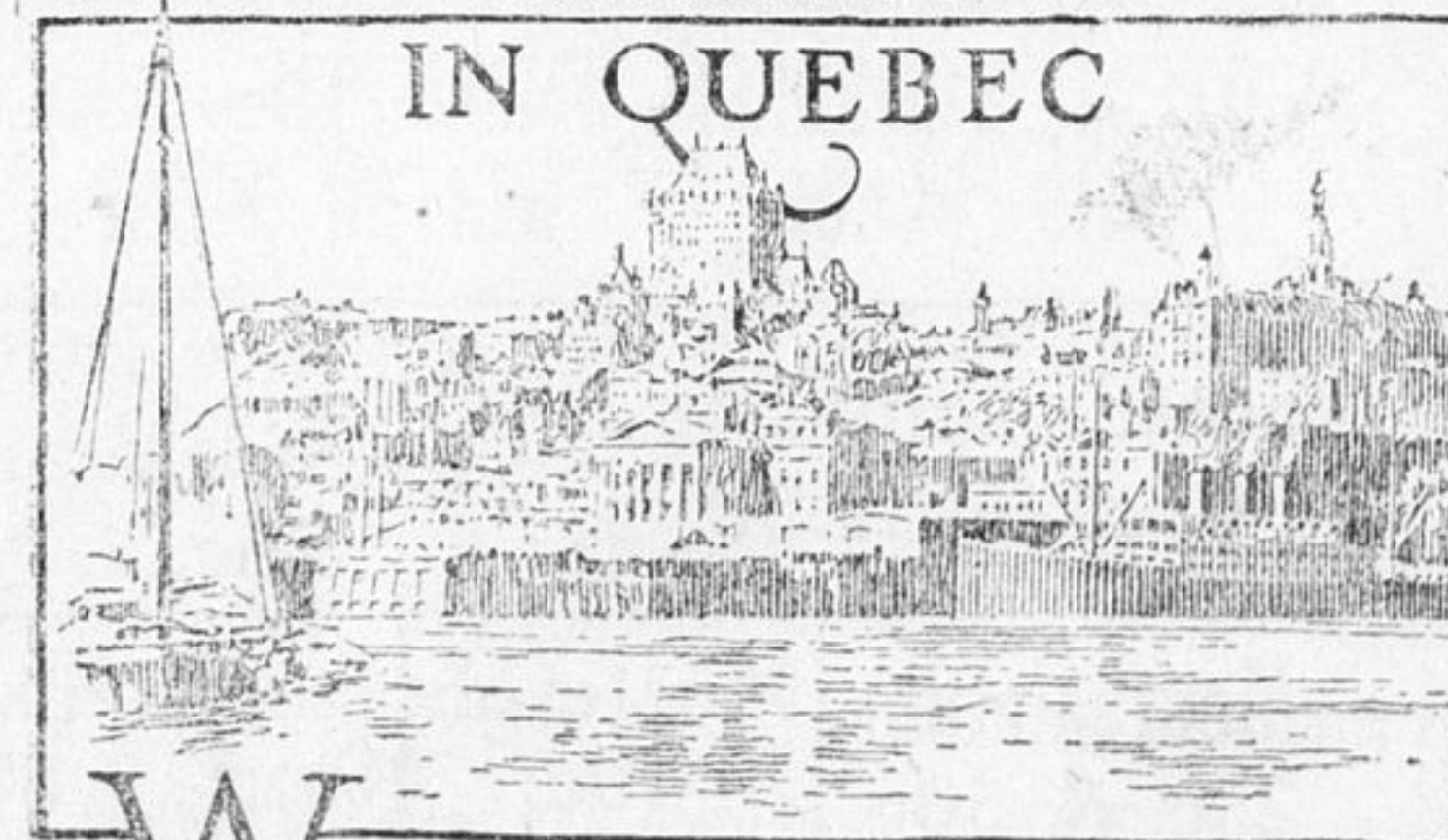
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