

GOOD PROGRAMME AT LAKE SUNDAY'S BAND CONCERT

Owing to the severe weather and other attractions, the attendance was not as large as usual at the Band Concert in the New Empire Theatre last Sunday evening after the church services. In view of the circumstances, however, the attendance was good, and all present found the programme enjoyable. The Timmins Citizens' Band, under Bandmaster Wolno, rendered a number of selections in very effective way. The band selections included—March, "Festibel"; selection, H.M.S. Pinafore; overture, "Impetua." A feature of the evening's programme was the singing of Mrs. Stonehouse. Her sympathetic rendition of "My Ain Folk," delighted the audience who showed their appreciation of her fine voice and talented singing by the very insistent encore given. Bandsman Perrault showed outstanding talent as a violinist, the audience expressing their approval by an encore, and showing a disposition to encore the responding number. Miss Perrault very effectively played the piano accompaniments for her brother. There was the usual motion picture show at the opening of the concert. The next band concert—on Sunday, Dec. 21st—will be the last for this year, the following event to be in January, 1925.

Here and There

Of the 20,000 harvesters who went west this summer over Canadian Pacific lines, 14,000 are known to have returned east, according to C. B. Foster, Passenger Traffic Manager, Canadian Pacific Railway, and it is thought that many others have returned, while several thousand are believed to have accepted positions in the west for the winter.

An indication of the increase in the value of effects being brought into Canada by settlers from the United States is shown in the latest report to the Department of Trade and Commerce. From April 1 to September 30, effects so classified were valued at \$3,129,333, as compared with \$2,666,467 in the same period last year, an increase of \$462,872.

A feature which will add greatly to the attractions of Vancouver, B.C., as a winter resort, to say nothing of increasing its summer allurements, will be the new golf course to be laid out there at a cost of \$120,000, exclusive of land. Work on the course will commence next spring. Fees will be merely nominal, fifty cents being charged for an 18-hole round, \$2.50 for a month's play and \$20 for a year. Play will be open to any member of the public.

Immigrants entering Canada during the 12 months ending October 31, 1924, totalled 134,189, as compared with 126,744 in the corresponding period of 1922-1923, according to the Department of Immigration and Colonization. These figures are more encouraging in view of the fact that the number of Canadians emigrating to the United States has to some extent decreased, while the number returning from the United States is on the increase, according to the department.

On November 29th, Hon. Marguerite Shaughnessy, daughter of the late Lord Shaughnessy, chairman of the Canadian Pacific Railway, performed the launching and christening ceremony at the Clydebank yards of John Brown and Co. when the new Canadian Pacific S.S. Princess Marguerite, named in her honor, was slipped into the water. The Princess Marguerite is the second of the two vessels recently ordered by the Canadian Pacific for the company's British Columbia coastal service.

An entirely new service between Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg, operating on the fastest schedule yet established for these cities, was instituted by the Canadian Pacific Railway on December 4. The new train, leaving Montreal at 6.15 p.m. daily, and Toronto at 9.45 p.m. daily, reaches Winnipeg at 9 a.m., 39 hours, 45 minutes after leaving Montreal and 36 hours 15 minutes after leaving Toronto. Express shippers are especially benefited, as shipments reach the terminal cities in time for delivery on the second day after leaving, instead of on the third as formerly. Passengers gain a business day and earlier connections for more distant points, on reaching their destinations. As the eastbound train of this service connects direct with the Frontenac for Quebec city, passengers and express bound for that point also gain greatly by reduced time.

MAN HAS LARGE PART OF HIS NOSE BITTEN OFF

Other Man Badly Stabbed in the Arm. Both Men Under Arrest as a Result of This Sort of Fight.

Sam Maruka and Mike Biancafore, of Moneta, are both under the care of the doctors and also in the care of the police, as the result of what appears to be a sort of fight on Saturday evening. Maruka came to the police station late Saturday evening seeking a doctor. The fleshy part of one side of his nose was completely gone. He told the police it had been bitten off by a man who was a stranger to him. The police got medical attention for Maruka and started on a hunt for the stranger who would take a bite like this. Later Biancafore came along, also in need of a doctor. In reality, he was in more dire need of medical aid than Maruka. Biancafore was suffering from several stabs in the arm and he was in danger of bleeding to death. Medical aid was secured for him and he was fixed up. His story was to the effect that there had been a fight and he did some biting to save himself from being stabbed to death. The police locked up both men after their injuries had been attended, and Maruka and Biancafore will both be required to answer to charges of wounding, before Magistrate Atkinson to-morrow.

Other cases to come before the Magistrate this week will include four drunks, a couple of vagrancy charges, two charges of having liquor in a public place, as well as the cases remanded from last week.

SCOTCH WOOLLEN CO. TO DELIVER BY PARCEL POST.

Mr. Gideon Miller, of the Scotch Woollen Co., writes The Advance this week from Toronto to the effect that being unable to make satisfactory arrangements here the firm has suspended operations in Timmins for the present, but hopes to be established permanently on Third Avenue in the near future. Mr. Miller adds that all customers have been notified of the moving and all orders are being delivered direct by parcel post.

NECESSITY TO PROTECT BEAVER FROM EXTINCTION.

The North Bay Nugget last week takes up the question of protection for the beaver. The Nugget says:—"The arrest and conviction of a trapper in Sudbury police court recently for setting out beaver traps before the open season, which commences December 15th, raises a question that is becoming more and more acute. The wisdom of the department in maintaining an open season yearly for beaver is being criticized. With each year beaver have become more scarce until now in many sections of the North they are almost extinct. It is no secret among those who have the best interests of the future of the fur industry at heart that most of the beaver are caught long before December 15th. Trappers go in with their traps before the streams are frozen over and reap their harvest in October and November. It is on record that last year one trapper sold over \$2,000 worth of beaver pelts on the 17th of December. The inference that they were all caught in one day can scarcely be credited.

"It developed at the trial in Sudbury that the offending trapper went into the woods in October to prepare to catch nothing else but beaver, the most valuable fur. He had set his traps at every beaver house on one stream. Hundreds of trappers are now in the woods. They have been there for weeks. Is it therefore reasonable to assume that the majority, or as a matter of fact practically all trappers are now in the bush for the very purpose which attracted the convicted man.

"Hundreds of streams in Northern Ontario which once abounded with beaver no longer provide even fair trapping ground. They have been trapped out and word comes that the beaver face extinction unless prompt action is taken.

"It is suggested that too much favor is being shown the fur buyer and the fur industry in general. The remedy suggested is an alternate open and closed season, or better still, two closed to one open. It is emphasized that this regulation cannot be put into effect too soon. In fact, it is long overdue.

"If the worst comes to the worst the human race can get along nicely for a few years with the old fashioned shawl and the woolen mitts, but let us save the beaver from extinction."

The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—"Miss Ruby Sullivan spent the week-end at Timmins, the guest of Mrs. W. A. Lucas."

MR. A. G. CARSON HAS FOOT CUT WITH AXE

Mr. A. G. Carson met with a nasty accident on Friday evening last. While splitting a stick of wood, the axe slipped striking him on the foot, and going through boot and sock inflicted a bad cut. Six stitches were required to close the wound. Mr. Carson will be laid up for some days as a result of the accident, but all will wish him a speedy and complete recovery from the injury.

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

At the last regular meeting of the Northern Lights Royal Arch Chapter, No. 213, Timmins, the following officers were duly elected for the ensuing term:—
I.P.Z.—H. J. Laidlaw.
Z.—G. C. Murphy.
H.—J. Morrison.
J.—C. P. Ramsay.
Scribe E.—J. E. Whaley.
Scribe N.—H. J. Cain.
P.S.—W. Dalzell.
S.S.—Godfrey Johnson.
J.S.—Arch. Gillies.
M. of 3rd V.—A. Jackson.
M. of 2nd V.—J. Riley.
M. of 1st V.—A. Boyd.
M.C.—W. F. Richardson.

Here and There

Agricultural products harvested in British Columbia during 1923 were nearly \$4,000,000 in excess of the 1922 total, according to the annual report of the provincial department of agriculture. Total production for 1923 was \$59,159,798.

The ninth winter carnival at Banff, Alta., will be held from February 7 to 14, 1925. The curling bonspiel in connection with the carnival will run concurrently from February 9 to 14. Revelstoke has fixed its carnival dates for February 3, 4 and 5, 1925.

Tourists to the number of 100,000 are estimated to have entered the Province of Nova Scotia during the past season. These people have left approximately \$7,500,000 in the province, an increase of 25 per cent. over the previous year. The number of motor cars entering the province during the tourist season exceeded 11,000.

Canada Book Week was held from December 1 to 6 this year. Addresses, radio broadcasting and special displays in stores throughout the country drew attention to the objects of the week, which are to promote the reading of good books generally and to foster Canadian literature. The week was, as usual, a distinct success.

The foolhardy recklessness of certain motorists was recently strikingly illustrated at a public crossing on the Canadian Pacific Railway line at Blind River, Ontario, when a speeding auto approached the crossing so rapidly that the driver was unable to pull up, and ran his car into the side of a train which was passing at the time. Fortunately, no one was injured.

In recognition of its excellent exhibits at the 1924 exhibition at Toronto, the Canadian Pacific Railway has been awarded one of the medals specially struck off for presentation to the Dominion and Provincial governments, and to a limited number of other exhibits whose high class entries in the live stock and agricultural departments won them championship prizes.

The plans for the construction of an immense amusement centre at Victoria, B.C., to be called the Crystal Gardens, have just been announced by the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is responsible for the scheme. The gardens will include a salt water swimming pool 150 feet long, and a series of dancing floors, with tea rooms and gymnasium. Great quantities of plants, vines and shrubs will be grown in the structure, which is on the lines of a vast conservatory, containing 36,000 square feet of glazed glass roof surface.

A considerable increase in the sheep population of Canada, which has declined since 1920 from 2,255,020 to 1,575,000, is expected as a result of the recent importation by Alberta ranchers of 400 Rambouillet rams. These animals are merinos, with fine wool, bred in France from Spanish merino stock. Louis XVI obtained the first flock as a gift from the King of Spain. A harem of 20,000 western range ewes will be provided for the Alberta purchase. The enterprise is important, on account of the prevailing world shortage of wool.

A Thousand Stories in Lake District of Manitoba Says Canadian Authoress

Martha Ostenso Gave Best First Novel of Year that Setting

Miss Martha Ostenso, who was awarded the \$13,500 prize and royalties on the book for the best first novel submitted during the past year in a contest organized jointly by Dodd, Mead & Company, Pictorial Review and Famous Players-Lasky Corporation, is a twenty-four-year-old school teacher from Manitoba. Miss Ostenso's novel will be serialized, filmed and published in book form in 1925. The story, which is called "The Passionate Flight," deals with the farmers of the Western Prairies and portrays the romance of one whose ambition to soar beyond the black loam led to dramatic consequences.

More than 1,500 manuscripts were submitted. The judges state that Miss Ostenso's was so far superior that no other story seriously rivaled it.

A brief sketch of her life and the circumstances which inspired her novel, as related by Miss Ostenso, follows:

"Where the long arm of the Hardangerfjord penetrates farthest into the rugged mountains of the coast of Norway, the Ostenso family has lived in the township that bears its name since the days of the Vikings. The name means 'Eastern Sea,' and was assumed centuries ago by an adventurous forerunner who dreamed of extending his holdings over the mountains and through the lowlands of Sweden eastward to the very shores of the Baltic. Although his dreams never came true, the family name recalls it and the family tradition of land-holding has persisted unbroken; the part of the land that borders the lovely fjord is still in its possession, handed down from eldest son to eldest son.

"My father, a young son, was free to indulge his roving disposition. A few years after his marriage to my mother he decided to emigrate to America.

"My mother's parents lived high up in the mountains, remote from the softening influence of the coast towns. At their home it was, near the little village of Haukeland, that I was born. This, the first of many small towns in which I have lived, is known to me only through hearsay, for when I was two years old we came to America.

"The story of my childhood is a tale of seven little towns in Minnesota and South Dakota. Towns of

the field and prairie all, redolent of the soil from which they had sprung and eloquent of that struggle common to the farmer the world over, a struggle but transferred from the Ostensos and Haukelands of the Old World to the richer loam of the new. They should have a story written about them—those seven mean, yet glorious little towns of my childhood! In one of them, on the dun prairies of South Dakota, I learned to speak English. What a lovely



Martha Ostenso

language I found it to be, with words in it like pail and funeral and alone, and ugly words, too, like laughter and cake and scratch! What strange sounds the new words made to me.

"Later, in another of the little towns, I learned that it was fun to make things with words. It was while living in a little town in Minnesota that I became a regular contributor to the Junior Page of the Minneapolis Journal, and was rewarded for my literary trial-balloons at the rate of eighty cents a column. In the public school of that little town there still hangs, perhaps, a large print of a rural scene in a resplendent frame, with a neat name-plate at the bottom of it. That also came from the Journal, in recognition of an essay which, in my eleven-year-old opinion, placed me abreast of Emerson.

"When I was fifteen years old, I bade good-bye to the Seven Little

Towns. My father's restless spirit drove him north to the newer country. The family settled in Manitoba.

"It was during a summer vacation from my university work that I went into the lake district of Manitoba, well towards the frontiers of that northern civilization. The story that I have written lay there, waiting to be put into words. Here was the raw material out of which Little Towns were made. Here was human nature stark, unattired in the convention of a smoother, softer life. A thousand stories are there still, to be written.

"My novel lay back of my mind for several years before I began to write it. In the intervals of those years, spent as a social worker in a great city, I often compared the creaking machinery of skyscraper civilization with the cruder, direct society of the frontier. Slowly, as my work among the needy brought me nearer and nearer to the heart of the city, the border life began to be limned clearly against the murkier background of my work-a-day scene.

"A year ago last summer I returned to Manitoba. The approach to remembered scenes renewed my interest in my story; the character stood out clear-cut at last, and I made the first draft of the novel.

"I was not satisfied with the result and laid the manuscript aside, with no definite purpose regarding it. It was not until spring that I returned to the city and learned of the Curtis Brown contest. It was with diffidence and reluctance that I was persuaded by friends, who thought well of the early draft and its possibilities, to rewrite it in time to submit it for consideration. At best, I felt, if it were as good as my friends said, it might not be wholly ignored.

"I leave it to the scientists and pseudo-scientists who argue interminably about the relative influence on men of heredity and environment to decide the responsibility for what ever merit my story may have. The blood of the Norsemen! The Seven Little Towns? Perhaps—I do not know. No—but I have my own very unscientific opinion. It won't bear stating, but this much may be said of it: It has something to do with magic and fairies and all the other impossible, beautiful things that I believe in."

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