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Still Urging the Cause Natives of James Bay Area

Rev. W. G. Walton Points Out the Plight of Natives. Endeavouring to Persuade the Dominion to Come to Their Rescue by Establishing Herds of Domestic Reindeer in North.

In past issues of The Advance reference has been made to the campaign carried on by Rev. W. G. Walton, English Church missionary in regard to saving the natives of the far North. Rev. Mr. Walton has shown a rare persistence and energy in presenting his case and the ease of his people. Last week he was given a full column on the editorial page of The Mail & Empire. The Mail & Empire said:—

In the vast region along the coast of James and Hudson's Bays from East Main River in the south to Hudson's Straits in the north dwell at the present time some 800 Eskimos and 1,000 Coastal Cree Indians, the Eskimos to the north of Great White River, which is the dividing line of the territory, marking the boundary between the wooded and the unwooded area, and the Indians to the south. Many of these people at the present time are in danger of starvation. In the past years many of them have starved to death. Their weakened condition has made them easy victims for disease, and they have been reduced in several well authenticated cases of cannibalism. Their only spokesman is the Rev. W. G. Walton, who has spent thirty-two years of missionary work among them, and who since his return from the north yet keeps in touch with those whom he calls "my people." He is endeavouring to persuade the Dominion Government to come to their rescue by establishing herds of domestic reindeer. Only by this means, in his opinion, can their condition be permanently improved and the terror of starvation removed.

The plight of the Indians is not as grave as that of the Eskimos farther north for they live in a region that is fairly well-wooded and can generally support themselves by hunting the smaller fur-bearing animals. Prior to 1889 the unfailing source of food and clothing for the Eskimos was the caribou, which once frequented this district in vast herds almost comparable to the buffalo herds farther south. But in 1883 the caribou migrated as a result, it is supposed of the fires that raged through Ungava. Since then the Eskimo has been driven to rely upon the common Arctic seal. But this is a diminishing source of supply, and for many years has not been adequate. The Eskimos find it difficult to get food and also to provide themselves with the fur clothing that the climate demands. It is true that those of them who reside near a trading post are not permitted to starve, but if they are to be made self-supporting it is necessary that there should be a supply of food native to the country provided for them. It is believed that the reindeer would suit the condition admirably.

The following is an extract from a report of the Royal Commission on the establishment of a reindeer and musk ox industry in the region:—
"The whole of Ungava would appear to be well suited for reindeer. There is ample supply of suitable

vegetation, and in the northern and western parts of the peninsula there are very few caribou. This latter condition has existed since 1883, when, as a result of forest fires, they disappeared from that part of the country. As a consequence probably of this disappearance, the number of wolves is also insignificant. The natives, both Indians and Eskimos, on the eastern shores of Hudson's Bay suffer perhaps to a greater extent than any others, from the periodical scarcity of food, as also from lack of deer skins with which to make suitable clothing. It would therefore seem highly desirable that one or more herds of reindeer should be established on the coast. Attention is called to the evidence of the Rev. W. G. Walton, missionary of the Church of England, stationed on James Bay, as also to the special statement which he has prepared at the request of the commission, and which is attached to Appendix VIII. It will be noted that he has no hesitation in stating that any tame reindeer located there would be quite safe from attack by either Indians or Eskimos."

Rev. Mr. Walton has accumulated evidence of the tragedy which has already overwhelmed many of these people, and he says that never were conditions worse than to-day. In the Winter of 1892-3, 150 Indians starved to death south of Fort Chimo. In the same Winter eight Indians started on a hunting expedition to seek fur that they could not get on the coast and only one of them survived. It was currently believed that he subsisted by eating the bodies of his companions. In the Winter of 1911-12 an Eskimo woman and two young daughters perished 80 miles north of the Great White River trading post, and the condition of the bodies showed only too plainly that the desperate mother had lived on the flesh of her children, and that she herself succumbed later, when part of her body was eaten by foxes. In the Autumn of 1902 measles broke out at Fort George and about forty per cent. of the coast Indians died because they were too sick to hunt for their daily food. In 1916 twenty-three Indians starved to death. There were other cases of starvation which came to the knowledge of Rev. Mr. Walton and there were deaths through ptomaine poisoning through eating putrid meat.

The missionary reports that in the past twenty years tuberculosis has greatly increased, and this, he believes is the result of the natives taking to marquee tents and English clothing. More and more they are forced to depend upon the food supplied at the trading posts, and they cannot obtain by hunting anywhere nearly enough to pay for their necessities. The introduction of reindeer would furnish a reserve of food that would always be available in case of distress and ultimately would become the staple article of diet when the supply became sufficiently abundant. The food that once nourished the caribou remains and would sustain the reindeer. The natives are intelligent and ambitious and would soon be taught to herd and develop the reindeer. The feeding grounds for deer are removed from the vicinity of native dogs and poachers, a menace which was the great cause of loss in the Grenfell experiment. Though there are no wolves there now, it is only reasonable to expect that they would return when assured of a food supply, but the Eskimos and Indians might be counted on to keep their numbers reduced to a minimum. The experiment is a most hopeful one, and it seems reasonable to expect that the Dominion Government will give it a trial.

HOLLINGER RECREATION CLUB SMOKER MAY 7TH

A Smoker and Entertainment will be given in aid of the Hollinger Rugby Football Team on Thursday (tomorrow) evening, May 7th, in the Hollinger Recreation Hall. The entertainments will commence at 9 p.m. The programme will be a very pleasing one, and it will be one of the biggest half-dollar's worth of a good time yet. No one interested should miss this event. It's a good cause and it's sure to be a first-class pleasant evening.

ONE OF HEIRS TO IMMENSE ESTATE WELL-KNOWN HERE

A couple of weeks ago there was a paragraph in The Advance in regard to Mrs. E. Russell, of Charlton, who is one of the heirs to an estate variously estimated as totalling from \$100,000,000.00 to \$800,000,000.00. It will be interesting to note that Mrs. Russell is well-known and highly regarded in Timmins, having spent the winters here for some years past, being the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Jas. Morrison. Mrs. Russell, and her sister, Mrs. Ed. Layng, of Denfield, Ontario, are the two oldest living heirs of the estate referred to—the Edwards Estate. For some years past the heirs to the Edwards Estate have been attempting to secure the inheritance through the ordinary legal channels. There have been many difficulties in the way, one of them being the matter of proving the descent of all the many heirs concerned. The two sisters, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Layng, are the two nearest descendants now living of the founder of the Edwards Estate, and their claim is said to be practically beyond dispute. There are close to two thousand other heirs to share the immense fortune involved. One of these has spent a small fortune in pressing the case for the heirs in general, and he hopes now that there will be a comparatively early settlement of the matter. The Edwards Estate involves an estate of immense proportions. It includes valuable acreage in New York city and also a tract of land in North Carolina. The latter is said to have a value now of around \$400,000,000.00. The land in New York includes a section from Trinity church to the Hudson River. This strip has many important buildings and properties and so is of great value. The claim is based on a grant to Robert E. Edwards, made by King George II of England, for aid in fighting the French. Robert E. Edwards according to the information gathered by the heirs, did not sell the land, but leased it for a long term of years. When the lease expired the occupiers of the land continued on the premises as if the land were owned outright. The descendants of Robt. E. Edwards

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are now ready to have the matter decided by the courts. In case the Short-sighted lady (in a grocery store: "Is that the head cheese over the proceeds and is successful, there?" Clerk: "No, ma'am; that's one of various heirs will each receive a good sum in settlement of their claims. his assistants."

AT THE THEATRES

THE GOLDFIELDS THEATRE
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 7th, 8th, and 9th.
"LOVE WILDERNESS"
News-Review Red Pepper
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11th, 12th & 13th.
"MANHATTAN"
Lots of Knots Step Lightly

NEW EMPIRE THEATRE
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 7th, 8th, and 9th.
"TWO SHALL BE BORN"
Comedy—Wide Awake Hodge-Podge
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, May 11th, 12th & 13th.
"HER HUSBANDS SECRET"
Comedy—Dragon Aley Movie Daredevil

THE OLD EMPIRE THEATRE
Wednesday and Thursday, May 6th and May 7th, 1925
"NO WOMAN KNOWS"
Checking Out Wolves of the North, No. 7.
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 8-9. MONDAY & TUESDAY, MAY 11-12
"Huck Stirs 'Em Up" "The Love Bandit"
Blanket Stiff Hot Sparks The Go-Getters, No. 3 Detained.

HOUSES AND LOTS FOR SALE

CASH or TERMS	FOR SALE	CASH or TERMS
4 Room Shack, Fogg Street	\$450.00
3 Room Shack, Kirby Avenue	\$725.00
4 Room House, Montgomery Avenue	\$725.00
4 Room House, Preston Street	\$850.00
8 Room House, Birch Street, South	\$2800.00
6 Room House, Elm Street, South, all conveniences	\$3100.00
6 Room House, Maple Street, North	\$1450.00
7 Room House, Main Avenue	\$1700.00
4 Room House, Elm Street, South	\$1450.00
1 Lot, Cellar, Water and Sewer on it, Elm Street, South	\$1000.00
1 Lot Tamarack Street, near 7th Avenue	\$525.00
1 Corner Lot, First Avenue	\$500.00
1 English Billiard Table, 6 x 12	\$450.00

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