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Believes North Land Will Be Great Dairy and Beef Centre

Country Still in the Transition Stage. Says Mr. Nixon, of the Ontario Department of Agriculture Branch at New Liskeard. Dairy Cows by the Carload This Year for the North.

That the North Land is in the transition stage between settling and real farming at present, but that it will eventually be a big dairy and beef centre, is the view expressed by Mr. W. C. Nixon, of the Ontario Department of Agriculture branch at New Liskeard. In a recent interview Mr. Nixon emphasized this idea, as well as giving many interesting sidelights on other phases of agriculture and agricultural development in the clay belt country.

"Hay is the big cash crop in this area," says Mr. Nixon, "and hay is very hard to sell. In some districts where there was a large acreage last year or where the farm is located well back from the railway, from 15 to 20 per cent. of last year's crop is still in the farmers' hands, and another big crop is being harvested right now with still poorer prospects of selling. While the demand from the construction and lumber camps has been decreasing production has been growing. The best price secured last winter was about \$10 per ton, with much going at less. Our big problem is to get a market for this stuff and the only solution I see is the introduction of more live stock.

"Some settlers have already tried marketing their hay through dairy and beef cattle, and have been satisfied with the results, but in a district short of cash, where the only collateral is hay, which no person seems to want, it is not easy to introduce cattle. Furthermore, the fire which swept the country in the fall of 1922 hit the live stock industry hard. Some animals were burned, but many more had to be sacrificed because feed was destroyed. However, there are more cattle in the country to-day than there were before the fire, and the present credit scheme of the Ontario Government to supply dairy cattle from the south is meeting with favor. Several carloads of milch cows and dairy heifers have gone into the Cochrane area in the past few weeks under this scheme.

Under the Northern Development

Scheme of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, 13 carloads of grade dairy cows and heifers have been shipped into Northern Ontario during the past two months. Three carloads went to Ramore, three to Cochrane, two each to Mattice, Hearst and Val Gagne, and one to Chelmsford. Most of these cows, according to L. E. O'Neill of the Live Stock Branch, who has been actively assisting the settlers' representatives in selecting the stock, were brought in the Hamilton-London district, where pastures have been poor this summer. A high percentage of the total has been grade Ayrshires, which are popular in the North.

This scheme is a co-operative one, both the Government and the settler being represented in its working. The cows are selected by an official of the Provincial Live Stock Branch and the settlers' representative travelling together. The cow goes to the settler at actual cost, plus \$12 to cover at least part of the general expense. The settler pays 25 per cent. of this cost in cash, and the remainder with interest at 5 per cent., at the rate of \$3 per month per cow. Most of the cows cost about \$75, with an occasional outstanding one up to \$100.

In the interview referred to, Mr. Nixon points out that with the clearing up of the bush there has been less trouble from frost. An excellent harvest of plump, heavy grain—some oats ran 42 pounds to the bushel—was secured last year, and this has encouraged farmers to believe that they will be able to finish cattle here on grain as well as carry them along on pasture and hay. It has been pointed out that stockers could be brought in cheaply from the West, and carried through on roughage the first winter, pastured during spring and summer and finished in the fall, being shipped south in carlots. With local consumption of dairy products very much higher than the supply, the future of dairying, once roads to mining and lumbering camps have been opened up, looks bright.

While much of what Mr. Nixon says has special reference to the area around New Liskeard, the fundamental ideas he suggests apply also to this area and to the area along the Transcontinental. Probably the chief problem of the settler may be summed up in the one word, "Roads." He needs roads to get to market, to church, to stores and to get his children to school.

After the roads are supplied, the settler might well listen to the advice given by Hon. Mr. Martin some weeks ago at Englehart. "Specialize," was Hon. Mr. Martin's suggestion to the farmers, with special emphasis on the probable value of specializing along the lines of poultry and dairy farming. Standardization of products will also help a lot in making it easier to get good markets.

KAPUSKASING FIELD DAY CALLED OFF FOR PRESENT

Extended reference has been made in The Advance to the Field Day which it was understood would be held at Kapuskasing Experimental Farm on August 5th. This event, apparently, has been called off owing to the unfavourable weather recently. It is regrettable that recent weather should prompt the cancellation of the event, especially in view of the fact that last Wednesday, Aug. 5th, was a specially fine day—an ideal day—for a picnic and field day. The chances are that now if any other day is selected this year, the Weatherman with his notorious type of sardonic humor will see that the day is dismal, dark, rainy, cold and miserable.

In reference to the Field Day and its cancellation, The Northland Post, of Cochrane, last week says:—

"Word received from Mr. Smith Ballantyne, Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Kapuskasing, gives notification that the proposed Field Day at the Experimental Farm has been cancelled owing to the bad weather. It is most unfortunate that at this late hour it has become necessary to take this step after all arrangements had been made for the special trains. There is no doubt but that a large number of people from this district would have taken in the picnic. The unfortunate part is that this was to be the first day of that kind at the Experimental Farm, and was expected to become an annual affair. With the falling through in the beginning, it will be harder to arouse enthusiasm for another time. But it cannot be helped. Under these circumstances the Civic Holiday, which was going to be proclaimed by Mayor Drinkwater according to a resolution passed at last Council meeting will also fall through, as the holiday was specially authorized on account of the Kapuskasing Field Day and no provisions had been made locally to make a holiday worth while, especially as Wednesday is early closing half holiday anyway."



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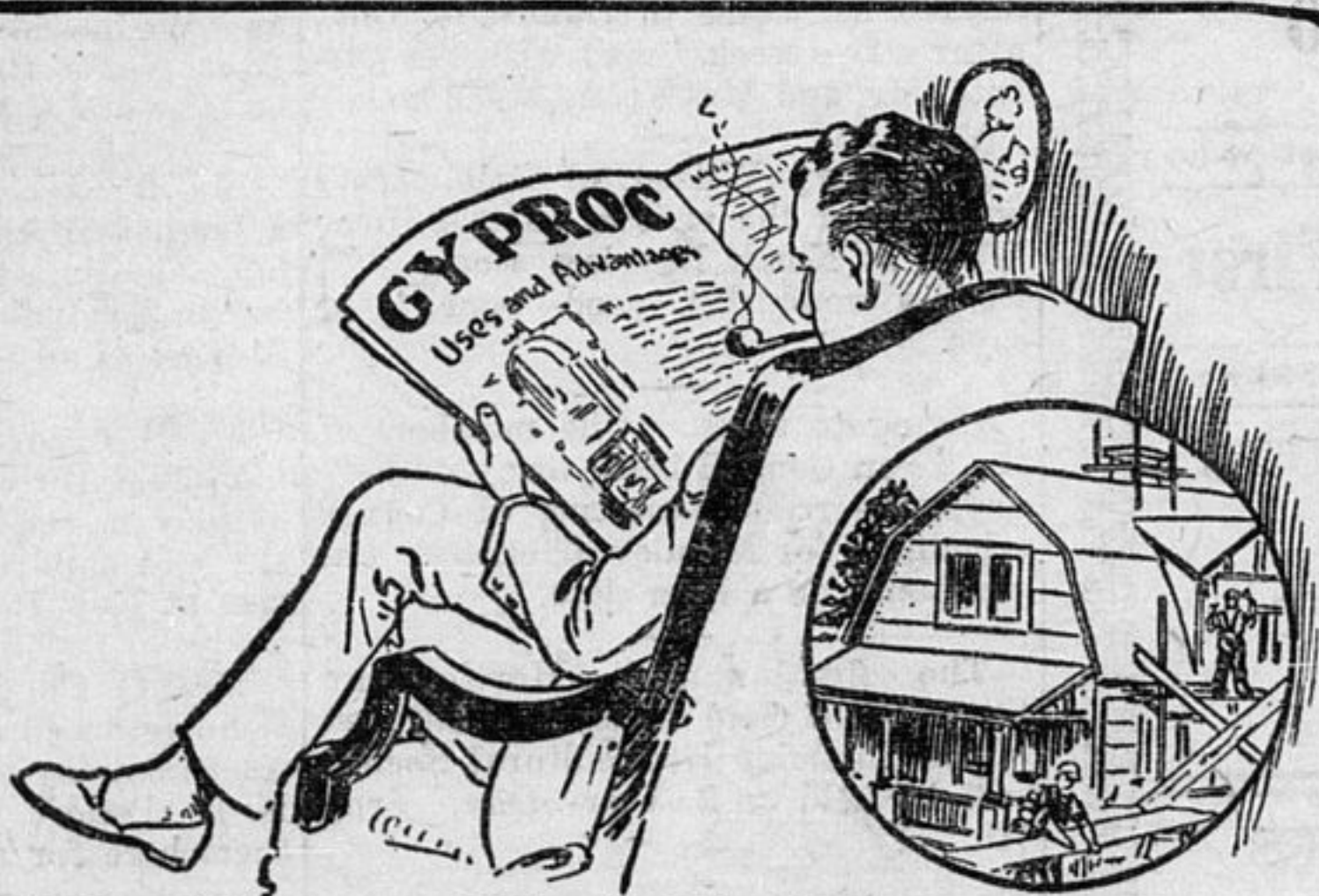
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