



The joy a letter gives
The link that binds friendship

FRENCH ORGANDIE
Writing Paper

Comparing the North of 1910 With the North Land To-day

Visit Fifteen Years Ago Recalled by Walkerton Editor. Crossing the Mattagami in 1910, and Now. The Growth of Timmins. A Land of Many Races.

For some time past Mr. John W. Eedy has been doing good work for the North Land by informative and interesting articles about this country published in his newspaper, The St. Mary's Journal-Argus. Now, his son, Mr. Lorne A. Eedy, Editor of The Walkerton Telescope, has start-

ed the same good work. These articles not only are valuable because they present facts about the North in very readable way to the particular readers of the papers mentioned, but also they are so informative and interesting to people in the South that they are widely copied by other newspapers. Thus the facts about this North Land are being widely circulated in intimate way among the people of the South. Mr. John Eedy has special interest in the North because his daughter, Mrs. Arch. Gillies, is resident in Timmins, and he has paid frequent visits here. Mr. Lorne A. Eedy also recently visited his sister here, and following this visit the following interesting article appeared in The Walkerton Telescope:—

"One of the pleasures of travelling in a new and expanding country like ours is to see the changes and improvements in a district since the last time you passed that way. The Telescope man had an interesting experience of this kind on his way home from Winnipeg last month.

"It was just fifteen years since we had visited the north country before. We kept track of the date by remembering an incident that occurred up there on our previous visit.

"It was the day of King Edward VII's funeral in 1910 that party of us press people journeyed out from the railway construction camp of Cochrane to the end of the rails on the new Transcontinental which was then being constructed. The rails had just been laid to a point 34 miles west of Cochrane at the crossing point of the Mattagami River. No bridge had yet been built over the Mattagami which is quite wide at this point. After journeying slowly through solid virgin bush on what was really a temporary road-bed we arrived at the river bank where one of the contractors had a big construction camp. There our party was invited to dine in frontier style off tin plates. After dinner Rev. J. A. McDonald, editor of the Globe, took out his watch and noted that it was the exact hour at which the funeral service of the King was being held in Westminster Abbey. The company was called to order and there out in the solid forest, hundreds of miles from civilization and not so far from James

Bay, the stentorian tones of Canada's greatest preacher rang out in the solemn stillness. The occasion was one that we will not soon forget.

"Our thoughts reverted to that service held fifteen years ago on the banks of the Mattagami as we crossed that stream a few weeks ago in a palatial, all-steel railway coach of the C.N.R., not this time a temporary trestle but on a permanent bridge connecting solid roadbed and through a country that had been transformed from a wilderness to a continuous settlement of farms, villages and towns. True, the improvements are yet crude. The dwellings are log shanties only a small space is cleared on some of the farms but there is evidence on all sides of incoming permanent settlement. The homesteaders are in most cases from Quebec province. These habitants are accustomed to the pioneer life. When they have made their little clearing and put up a log shanty big enough to contain their numerous progeny, they get what work they can from big construction companies that are putting in power or industrial plants in the district and thus make enough to keep the wolf from the door while they are developing their little pioneer properties.

"It is a big country up there. Cochrane is nearly five hundred miles north of Toronto and half of that distance beyond North Bay. From Cochrane west to Minaki, still in Ontario, the distance is over six hundred miles. A large proportion of this land along the Transcontinental is rock and lake but towards the eastern end of the journey for some hours you pass through country that has agricultural possibilities. It is in this land that the habitant of Quebec is the pioneer and has the place almost entirely to himself. Some of the larger settlements have fine big frame buildings of a permanent nature, including always the spire of a Catholic Church.

"At Cochrane we stepped off the main line for a brief visit to the Porcupine gold field. It is a surprise to some people to find that this mining district is not all rocks. As a matter of fact it is right in the Clay Belt of the north. The mineral of course is found in rock. Modern mining machinery has made it profitable to grind up low grade gold ore. We were somewhat surprised to learn that the Hollinger which is the second biggest gold producer in the world, bringing its shareholders annual profits of many millions, is a low grade proposition, its ore running about seven dollars a ton. The manager of this mammoth enterprise is a mining engineer from South Africa, a country where low grade mining has been highly perfected.

"Around the Hollinger mine has sprung up within the past eight years a gold camp which is being crystallized into a fine modern city. Eight years ago Timmins wasn't on the map. To-day it has a population of over 16,000. Over three thousand men, mostly heads of families, are employed in the Hollinger. A couple of other big mines, the McIntyre and the Dome, also have large pay rolls and among them all three neighbouring towns, Timmins, Schumacher and South Porcupine, all with a radius of four or five miles, support a population of about twenty-five thousand people.

"Timmins used to be situated on Gillies Lake but there isn't any lake any more. In the process of mining the rock is pulverized and the pulverized rock-refuse called 'slimes,' is pumped out in a muddy stream into Gillies Lake. In a few years the slimes filled the lake with the rock sediment which no doubt one day will be covered with buildings. Already they have built a big curling rink at Timmins on top of the slimes. The same thing has occurred at other mines in the district and as a result several lakes have disappeared or are disappearing off the map.

"One is surprised at the permanent appearance of what was just eight years ago the beginning of a mining camp. The heavy mud thoroughfares are being overcome by putting down several miles of new bitulithic pavement. Crushed stone roadways have also been laid on a number of the streets. A few months ago a very fine new hotel was opened which is proving a great asset to the community as a meeting ground for their local organizations, conventions etc. One of the finest Roman Catholic Churches in the north has lately been opened. Timmins has about all the religious denominations there are, although they are not all represented by churches. New Canadians of a score of nationalities are found there. The largest colony is that of the Italians who number about a thousand and from what we heard in Timmins are making a good class of citizens. As a rule the various nationalities are mixing freely and are quickly adopting Canadian ways. We were told that the leading grocer was a Russian but on meeting him you would not know that he wasn't a native-born Canadian. Many business men of foreign extraction occupy prominent places in the Board of Trade and other community organizations and hold the confidence of their fellow-

citizens to a high degree. In fact what we saw of the intermingling of races in the melting pot of the north, was somewhat encouraging to us from our Canadian standpoint."

HOW'S THE CHICKEN?
Finding a seat in a corner, he adjusted his glasses and glanced over the menu. Turning to the waitress, who was standing at his elbow, he asked:
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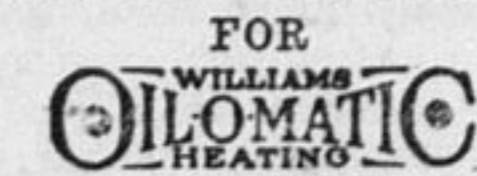
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