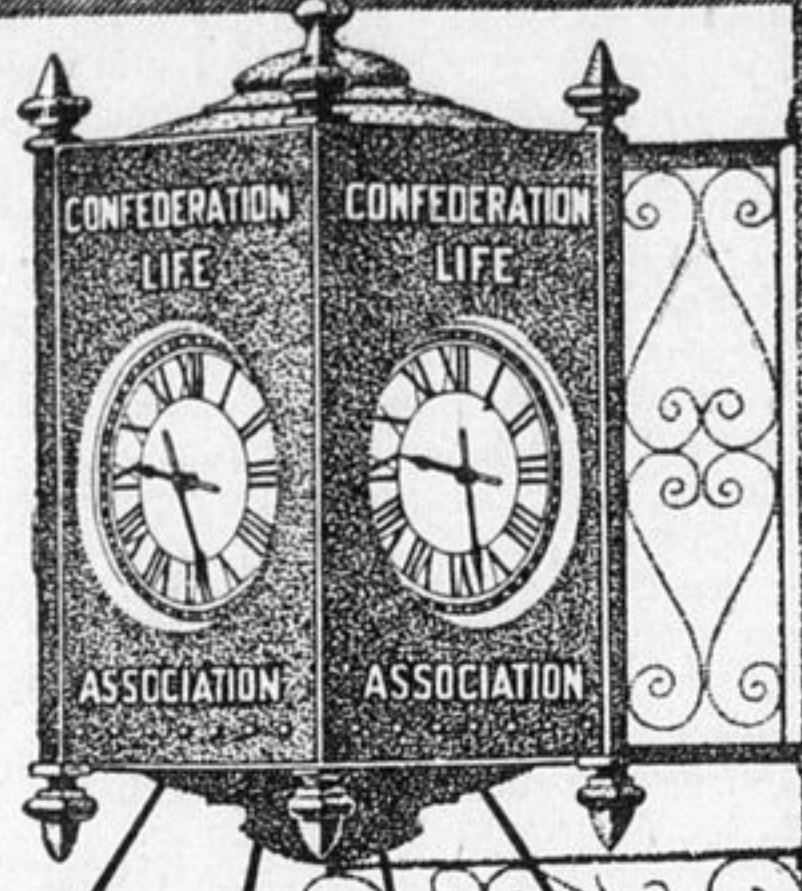


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## Real Farmer Needs at Least 160 Acres of Land for Success

Opinion on New Regulation Reducing Farms for Settlers to 80 Acres Seems to be General That the Change Will Retard Settlement and Injure the Development of This North Land.

The Advance is convinced that the recent change in Departmental regulations, reducing the size of farms for settlers to 80 acres, is a mistake and will work to the retardment of settlement in this North Land. Other newspapers, settlers in this North Land, and others interested are equally opposed to the new regulation. Here is a front page editorial from The New Liskeard Speaker last week, including a letter from a man in a position to know and who has given considerable study to the question. The following is the article from The Speaker:

"It is perhaps well that a public discussion has taken place concerning the departmental change in regard to the quantity of land a prospective farmer in the Clay Belt might purchase from the Government. The discussion may lead those who were fortunate enough to secure larger holdings to appreciate the advantages they enjoy, and it also may lead to a more thorough investigation into the alleged holding of good farm land for speculative purposes, and also to the alleged locating of land for its timber rather than for its agricultural value.

"We have said, and adhere to it, that the real farmer needs at least one hundred and sixty acres of land, and this was fully borne out in the letter we published last week, and is borne out by Mr. White's letter we publish below. However, the smaller farm idea has also been advocated, so that the conclusion we have arrived at is that the Department of Lands ought to meet the wishes of those who only desire a quarter section as well as those who want a half section. But provision might be made in the case of an applicant for half section by which he would be confined to the improvement of a quarter section until all requirements had been completed ere he be allowed to cut a stick of timber on the other quarter section. If the locatee fails to comply with the regulations on the quarter section he lives on within the time allowed, then he should forfeit all claim to the other quarter section, and it might again be sold. Or some other means of protecting the Crown might be adopted.

"An official of the Department seems to be under a misapprehension in regard to the class of farmers who settled in the Clay Belt. The statement that when a farmer cleared thirty or forty acres he thought he had a farm, as reported in the Star, ought not to have been made. If there be a difference in regard to enterprise between Northern Ontario farmers and Southern Ontario farmers the advantage is with the north, as we could easily show.

"In order to get at the facts as to the headway our farmers are making in clearing land we consulted the Township of Dymond assessment roll, and found as follows:

"In this township the roll shows that there are only 682 acres of bush land while there are 9,387 acres under cultivation. Of course, as is generally known, our townships are small, being but six miles square. We would prefer that each farmer had left more green timber. We also found that there are seventy-eight farmers who are cultivating fifty acres and over. There are thirty-two farmers who are cultivating eighty acre or over. And there are perhaps a score of farmers who are cultivating from one hundred to two hundred acres each.

"What applies to the township of Dymond applies to perhaps eight other townships. We doubt if one in twenty of our Southern Temiskaming farmers would be in favor of the quarter section limit recently imposed by the Department.

"Below we give a very strong letter on the subject by Mr. E. Newton White, for a time a township clerk-treasurer, and an active member of the Associated Boards of Trade.

November 9th, 1925.

The Speaker Office, New Liskeard, Ont.

"Dear Mr. Editor: If there could possibly be any advantage in the new regulation limiting the new settler to an 80-acre location it will be applied as many years too late as the period since New Ontario was first opened up for agricultural settlement. The most accessible and desirable locations in many existing settlement areas are already held so what inducement will there be to make a new settler pack in over hill, creek and muskeg past the existing locations of 160 acres to a mere half lot? In case, eighty acres mere half lot? In any case, 80 acres is not sufficient for successful farming; the physical features of the country are sufficient argument alone to prove that. On the average 160 acre lot there is usually sufficient diversity of conditions to allow of some balance to be struck between tillable flat land and broken land for pasture. We sometimes see farms where the land is too uniformly flat and others where the owners are hard put to find enough level land to work machinery on, but the rule holds good. Cut the lots in half, however; and the difficulty of finding farms well balanced as regards

physical features will be considerably more than doubled. As a means for promoting closer settlement the new rule will leave matters no better than they are. The choicest locations will be picked by the first comers and the less desirable passed over for an indefinite period. Who would want eighty acres of ravines for instance, while level land was available in another section? Besides the foregoing considerations there is the plain fact that eighty acres is an insufficient area upon which to farm in this North Country. To pay any kind of interest on the investment represented by building, stock and machinery and supply a living for the average family a larger acreage is absolutely necessary. The overhead is too great on the small farm. We know that a large proportion of the farmers in Northern Ontario are cultivating less than eighty acres of their lots but they have not yet reached the true farming stage. Already in Temiskaming there are instances where even the full 160 acres in cultivation is not considered too large by some owners or even enough by others.

"It might be conceded that farmers in the older settled sections of Northern Ontario who originally took up bush land and have now cultivation up to eighty acres or so of their properties would be in a position to know the land area requirements of the average farm. Testing the new order from this angle one might ask how many farmers with not more than half of their lands in use at present, would part with the remainder except at very fancy prices? It would seem that of necessity the turning of forested areas into first-class agricultural sections is a show process and proceeds by stages over which little control can be exercised, any arbitrary measures are likely to have the opposite effect to that intended. Closer settlement is something that will only come as conditions warrant and allow. There is a little difference between, say, the Niagara Peninsula and Temiskaming along the Transcontinental. When intensive cultivation is possible the lots will subdivide as a matter of course. Even here in South Temiskaming this tendency can be observed in the vicinity of towns. This last idea for closer settlement is even worse than the proposal we were hearing a year or so ago—that of restricting settlement to defined areas which had to be completely filled up before other areas would be thrown open. Both these measures would tend to dampen the enthusiasm which alone will lead men to endure the hardships incidental to striking out afresh in a new country for the sake of building up a farm and a home on a worth while scale.

"A little more patience on your part, Mr. Editor, and I am through. Perhaps, for the benefit of your interested readers, you will tell us where the idea for this revolution in settlement laws came from. Is it the result of representation from responsible bodies or persons of the part of the Province most concerned, or did it originate in the administrative office which looks after these matters and where the knowledge of North Country conditions is bounded (very much so) by their files and pigeon-holes? Yours very truly,  
E. NEWTON WHITE."

### KIRKLAND LAKE BAND WITH TWENTY SIGNED UP

In reference to the proposed brass band in process of formation at Kirkland Lake. The Northern News, of Cobalt, on its Kirkland Lake page, last week says:—The Kirkland Lake band is gradually becoming a reality, thanks to the indefatigable energy of "Chuck" Thieke. He has now some twenty names on his list—men who have all played in bands, and are anxious to do so again. The school board have given permission to allow practices in the basement of the school, and the first real meeting will be held there next Sunday afternoon at two o'clock.

"Why," people ask, "is Rideau Hall Coffee so strong, so fresh, so delicious?" The Vacuum Sealed tin supplies the answer.

# Rideau Hall COFFEE

CLARENCE THOMPSON HAS LEFT LISKEARD FOR SAULT

The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—Not only amongst New Liskeard sports but amongst our citizens generally, it will be much regretted that Mr. Clarence Thompson, the "Star" hockey player, has left town and has gone to Canadian Soo. It is quite likely that Clarence will be playing hockey with the Soo team in the league composed of The Soo, Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Winnipeg and Eveleth. We can assure Clarence that those who have radios will be straining every ear to hear the broadcaster say, "Thompson has the puck, he's coming down the centre—there—yes, he still has it—that big guy body-checked him—but he's up and going down the sheet like a flash, taking the puck with him." And we'll all be cheering. The fact that Clarence will be financially the gainer for his move, reconciles the friends here for the departure of himself and Mrs. Thompson. They left Friday last. The night before leaving a number of friends gave Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Thompson, a very pleasant surprise party in farewell.

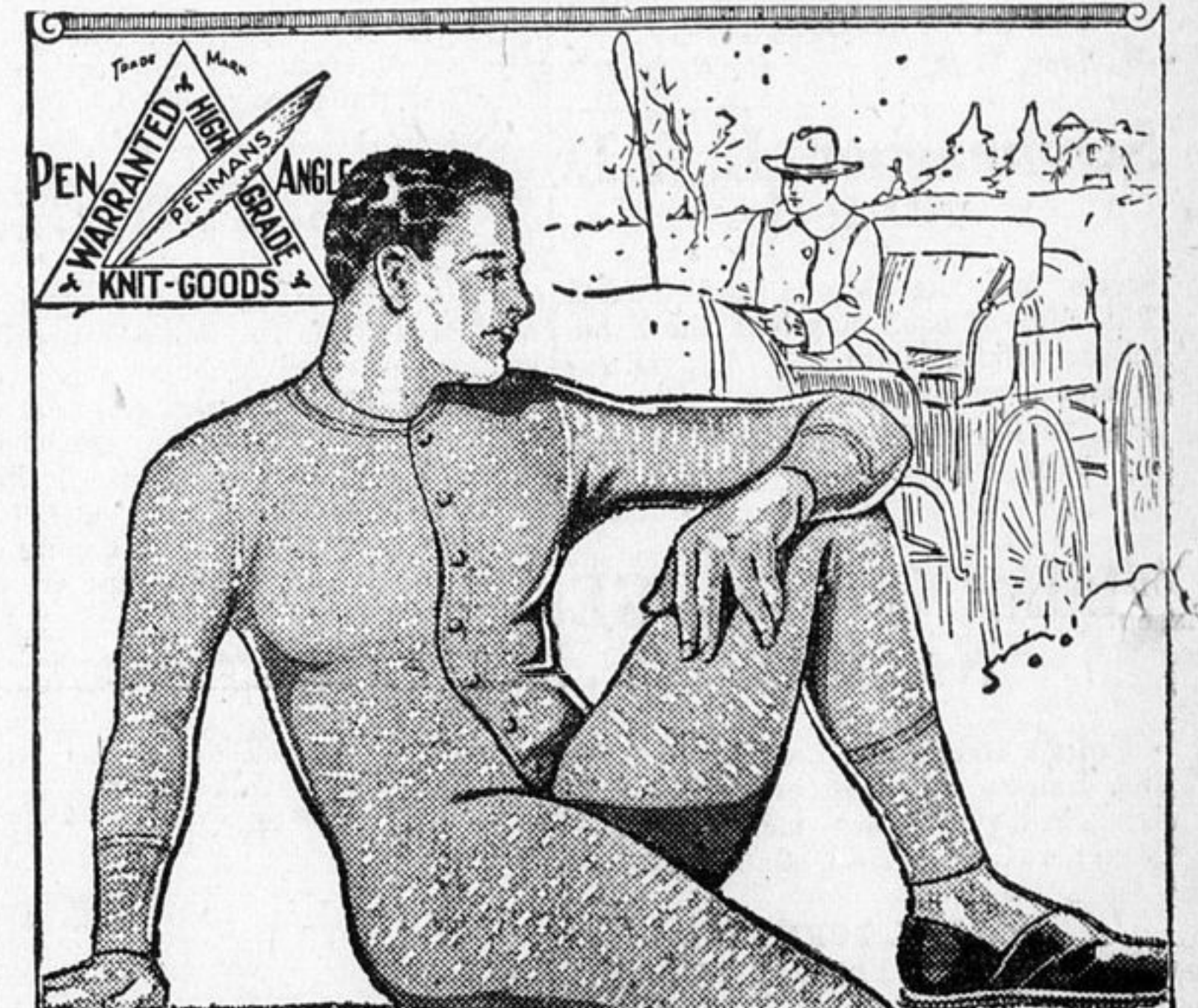
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